



# Blue Thumb in Pictures

## June 2023



### Blue Thumb welcomes New Volunteers from OKC Training!



Left, the newest Blue Thumb volunteers who attended Blue Thumb training in Oklahoma City on June 3 & 4.

Below—look closely and you will see that the new volunteers are in two groups. The ones in the background are getting an education on creek bugs. The volunteers in the foreground are learning about fish. On day two the new volunteers focused on the chemical testing.



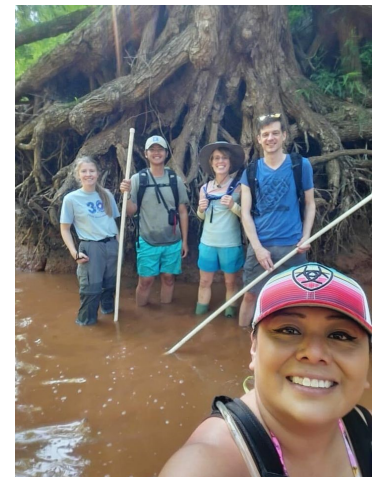
Left, first fish collection of 2023! Intern Lillian with Blue Thumb's newest staff member Briant.

This is Chisholm Creek in Oklahoma County. Fish below:

Orangespotted sunfish, red shiner, bluegill sunfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, longear sunfish.



Beverly Rebecca



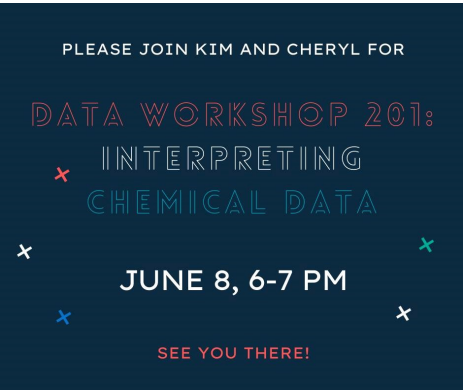
Dave Blue Creek, Cleveland County...Thank you Bert (foreground) for coming out to the stream for a fish collection!

Background Blue Thumb intern Lillian and staff members Briant and Rebecca, and volunteer Dan Brobst.





Recent educational activities in the Tulsa area have included Briant and Cheryl: far left heading to Crow Creek with students from Tulsa's DiscoveryLAB, and at Ray Herral Nature Park with summer campers. Both events featured an introduction to aquatic insects and fish.



Blue Thumb volunteers can be counted on to help young people understand how water can become polluted and how everyone can protect our streams and rivers. Recently Zack Henson, Stillwater, and Patrick Hays, Tulsa, borrowed an EnviroScope watershed model and used the model with summer camp students. Left are children from Stillwater, and right are children from Tulsa.

Blue Thumb's second webinar devoted to understanding data was held on June 8. QA officer Kim Shaw focused on providing information about the chemical data—the data generated each month by volunteers as they test their stream water.



Blue Thumb staff joined the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and Chandler Park/Tulsa County to bring two STEM Professional Development workshops to teachers throughout the Tulsa area on June 9 & 13. One activity was the demonstration of a hand-made rainfall simulator. Using pop bottles and landscape net, the bottles were transformed into holders for different landscapes, including lawn, prairie, forest, and construction site. Also in use was a small replica of a parking lot.

The teachers were able to hold the models and rain on them, and witness firsthand how the healthy soil of the prairie and forest produced little runoff and encouraged deep infiltration of the rain...and they learned how easy it is to make the models. Engaging lessons on the value of healthy soil is just as important for students as it is for adults.

**BELOW...** Farm Camp is a little like summer camp, except it has some more rural themes. These students at AC Farm in Jones, OK, spent time with dogs, goats, chickens, and even fish in the farm pond! They all took turns with the seine and then they all freed the scaly specimens!

