



Blue Thumb in Pictures

August 2023



Teaching about Climate Change

Blue Thumb staff members and several Blue Thumb volunteers attended an informative workshop “Teaching about Climate Change” on August 5. Held at the National Weather Center in Norman, our own Project WET (Water Education Today), Project Learning Tree, South Central Climate Adaptation Center, and the Oklahoma Mesonet provided instruction.

LEFT: Candice Miller prepping participants for an activity about soil and carbon sequestration.

Summer Field Work that joins Blue Thumb Staff with Volunteers is the highlight and the biggest Blue Thumb accomplishment of each summer.

Staff members and dedicated volunteer Harrison are making a bug collection at Little River, Cleveland County. A fish collection has been made as well.

Little River in this location is very urban and is monitored by Blue Thumb Director Rebecca and new volunteer Adam Lewis.



This photo documents the bug collection from Little River. Fish collections and summer bug collections both fall within the same time frame



Libraries Love Lakes

Kim supported Norman's Central Library on July 29 as she was a speaker and leader for a workshop and local stream litter collection.



Woolaroc Summer Camp

Four groups of excited children visited the Blue Thumb station at Camp Woolaroc on July 26. The children very gently held the fish with moist hands—most had never held a fish before.



First Yard by Yard Participant in El Reno!



Blue Thumb training recruitment in Garfield County

Blue Thumbers Briant and Cheryl took to the road August 10 & 11 to let folks in Garfield County (and beyond) know that a Blue Thumb Training for new volunteers will be held there September 30 and October 1. If people are aware that Blue Thumb is coming to town, the trainings tend to do well.

The Icing on the Cake is when a new volunteer begins monitoring.

Tulsa area volunteer Michelle Merchant is now monitoring Rock Creek in Sapulpa. Rock Creek has a large amount of historic data on file.



Coal Creek in South Tulsa County

now has an informative exhibit at the Glenpool Public Library. The exhibit includes handouts that offer a brief interpretation of the stream data, photo summary of the fish collected, and how to protect the stream.





Crow Creek—Mosey in the Meadow

Held on August 3rd, The Crow Creek Community got together at the meadow in Tulsa and visited with neighborhood folks about changes taking place to improve the Crow Creek Meadow.

It was nice and hot, attendees got free t-shirts, and they learned about efforts to make the meadow more inviting.



Spring Creek in Oklahoma County Fish Collection

Spring Creek as it flows through Martin Nature Park is a longtime Blue Thumb monitoring site with volunteer Debbie Adams at the helm! The fish collection held on August 16 included a nice gathering of OCC staff and the dedicated volunteer Harrison. Debbie has had knee replacement surgery so she is not back on site yet.

Many species were documented, including: silversides; pimephales minnows, suckermouth minnow; stonerollers, channel catfish; bass; crappie; longear sunfish; orangespotted sunfish; bluegill sunfish; red shiners; and a very feisty longnose gar. Among others.



Karla and Garla

Illinois River Watershed Partnership & Blue Thumb Monitoring in the Illinois River Basin

Quick benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments continue to be completed on several tributaries to the Illinois River in NE OK. Using D-nets staff and volunteers collect the “creek bugs” and then sort them into categories and record the results. Blue Thumb and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership work together to gain this data. Streams pictured below are left: Battle Creek and right: Flint Creek.



Candice & Suzanne (IRWP)



Briant & Candice