



Blue Thumb in Pictures

November 2023



Mickey (Rebecca took the photo) Susary Bill Brian Adam Lillian Briant Kim

Final Regional Trip for the Year

Nine volunteers and three Blue Thumb staff members enjoyed the “Kite Trail” at the Wichita Mountains on October 28. The regional trips were part of the celebration activities held in 2023 to recognize thirty years of Blue Thumb!

BELOW: Briant and Cheryl worked with the Pushmataha Conservation District to offer a stream ecology lesson for 4-H students in late October. The students met aquatic larval insects and fish that live in the Kiamichi River.

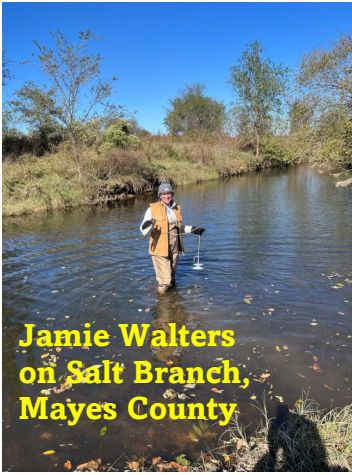


Bistow (Creek County) Public Library invited children to become water drops and take an “Incredible Journey” through the water cycle. Blue Thumb was happy to assist! (photos to the left)



Blue Thumb Volunteer Cheyanne Olson, assistant professor at Rogers State College, Claremore, participated in a field day for girl scouts on October 14. Cheyanne engaged some of her own students to help the girl scouts gain knowledge of the life in Cat Creek, Rogers County. They also did fish printing and scouts received a lesson about reducing nonpoint source pollution through an EnviroScape demonstration. Forty scouts and six adults participated.





**Jamie Walters
on Salt Branch,
Mayes County**



**Alejandra Nolte (and
friend) on Haikay Creek
Tributary, Tulsa County**



New Blue Thumb Sites

- 1) Baron Fork, Adair County (Laura Embry and Nicole Lupardis)
- 2) Coweta Creek, Wagoner County (Hayden Blan)
- 3) Maynard Bayou, Cherokee County (Rhonda Stanley)

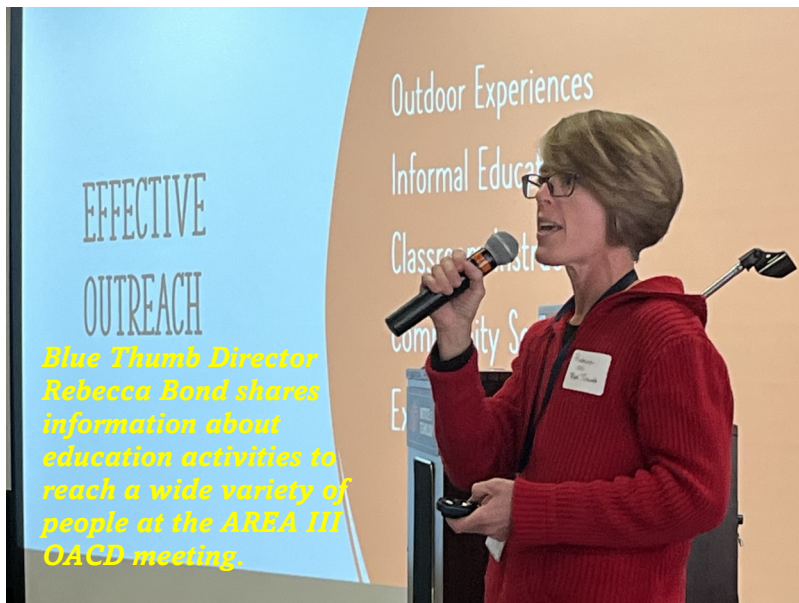


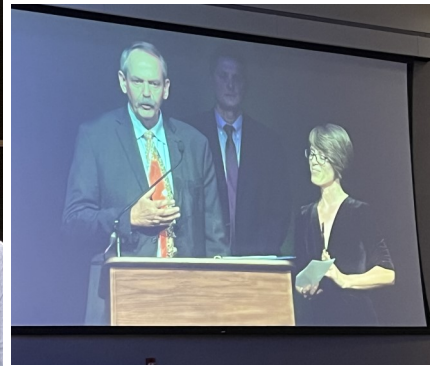
Third and Final Data Webinar of 2023

Blue Thumb staff began planning for data webinars in 2022. Our goal with these has been to help volunteers to better understand the data that they collect and even take important steps to use the data for education within the watersheds where they monitor. ***“Your Stream, Your Data, Your Experiences,”*** was held on 11/14/2023.

Blue Thumb Participation in OACD Area Meetings

Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Program staff members provided not only the 2024 highly sought after Blue Thumb calendars at the meetings, Director Rebecca Bond also provided a presentation: ***“Beyond Natural Resource Days.”***





Blue Thumb receives Visionary Leadership Award. Keep Oklahoma Beautiful recognized the Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Program during their Environmental Excellence Banquet on 11/17/2023. Both volunteers and Oklahoma Conservation Commission staff members attended the celebration. Another project in which Blue Thumb takes a lead role, the Crow Creek Community, was a finalist for a team builder award. Above names in blue reflect OCC staff, names in purple are Blue Thumb volunteers.

Blue Thumb and Illinois River Watershed Partnership

Blue Thumb staff members and volunteers met with Suzanne of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership four times in November to complete benthic macroinvertebrate surveys of nearly a dozen streams that contribute water to the Illinois River, Oklahoma's most popular scenic river.

- 1) Candice, Cheryl, and Suzanne (IRWP) and Jeffrey (Tulsa County Blue Thumb volunteer) remove living creatures from stream water at Peavine Hollow.
- 2) Candice is the primary Blue Thumb staff member to work with the IRWP to arrange timing and secure volunteer help for the sampling events (Flint Creek).
- 3) Cheryl striking a mighty pose at Caney Creek as she prepares to disturb substrate so to dislodge the creek bugs.

