



# Blue Thumb in Pictures

## APRIL 2024



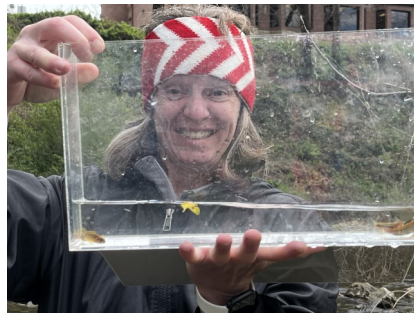
### Blue Thumb and Soil Health at work in Moore and Stillwater

Rebecca Bond, Briant Nguyen, and Cheryl Cheadle of Blue Thumb and Marcus Long of the Soil Health Team provided a three hour training for the City of Moore (March 13) on how municipalities can protect streams flowing through their communities. 1) Rebecca's presentation was a local look at Little River as it flows through Moore, and is also her and Briant's monitoring site. At one point there was a large hole carved in the eroding bank, just large enough for Rebecca. 2) Briant talked about pollutants and impervious surfaces with the EnviroScape; and 3) Marcus provided an up-close look at infiltration and runoff with the tabletop rainfall simulator. *Could such a training be useful in your community?*

Photographs 4 & 5 again show Briant and Marcus, this time at work with the City of Stillwater on April 9.







## Oklahoma's Intertribal Environmental Council (ITEC)

invited Blue Thumb to Tahlequah to provide a day of introductory stream ecology information for tribal staff members around the state. The workshop was indoors and outdoors and included Blue Thumb staff and Rotating Basin water quality specialists. The day included presentations on nonpoint source pollution, healthy soil, fish and bug collection techniques, fish identification, and habitat assessment.



## Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds

Every year Blue Thumb has an exhibit (and usually offers a presentation) at the famous Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association annual conference. This year Blue Thumb highlighted volunteer education efforts but also brought along the “healthy soil infiltration model” which was quite a hit. The model uses real pieces of the earth and allows visitors to experience how healthy soil pulls in precipitation which is a lesson not that often available to urbanites.

Blue Thumb's Rebecca Bond serves on the OCLWA board and was a session moderator. Both Shanon Phillips and Greg Kloxin provided presentations, as did Nathan Carter, a water quality specialist.

## SpringFest at the Tulsa Garden Center

provided a great opportunity to encourage protecting Crow Creek. Blue Thumb staff, partners, and volunteers came together to engage with both children and adults at the fancy and fun spring garden market. Both photos directly above are from SpringFest, April 12 & 13.





## Bug-picking and Quality Assurance Sessions

Pictured are volunteers from Oklahoma County performing the bug-picking for bug collections made on their streams this winter. The bug-picking sessions are held in conjunction with quality assurance checks—opportunities for volunteers to run chemical monitoring tests against a “known standard”.”

## Sister Initiative to Yard by Yard

The “Grounds by Grounds” aspect of the Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project is available to businesses, churches, schools, and parks.

Signs appropriate for these specific properties and the checklists/guidance information are available. For more information go to:

[okconservation.org/groundsbygrounds](http://okconservation.org/groundsbygrounds)



## OCC adds Project WILD to Workshop Curriculum

The Commission’s Water Quality Division is home to Project WET (water education today) that is offered statewide through the Blue Thumb Project. Now Project WILD is a part of the educational offerings through Blue Thumb!

Stay tuned for more information about workshops that include certification in Project WILD. For more information contact Blue Thumb staff member Candice Miller, who serves as the state coordinator for both Project WET and Project WILD.

## Blue Thumb Training for New Volunteers!

### Tishomingo, June 1 & 2, 2024

Join the Blue Thumb crew for two days of learning about nonpoint source pollution, watersheds, stream ecology, and running the tests that are the foundation for the volunteer efforts on their streams.

[www.bluethumbok.com](http://www.bluethumbok.com)

[kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov)

**LOVE SCIENCE AND THE OUTDOORS?**

Attend training and become a volunteer stream monitor. Learn about stream ecology and water chemistry in an interactive, hands-on training event! Join a community of like-minded people working to protect natural resources in Oklahoma.

**We Need Monitors For:**

- Little Sandy Creek
- Mill Daube Creek
- Lower Pennington Creek
- Pennington Creek: Turnaround
- Pennington Creek: W. Rd Trail
- Pennington Creek: Upper

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[WWW.BLUETHUMBOK.COM](http://WWW.BLUETHUMBOK.COM)

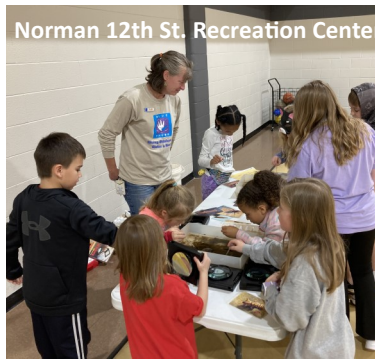
**JUNE 1-2**  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
**Tishomingo**  
1301 S Airport Rd

Contact Us:  
[kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov)





Bristow Public Library



Norman 12th St. Recreation Center



Norman 12th St. Recreation Center



Glenpool 6th Graders



Glenpool 6th Graders



World Water Day



Okmulgee Democratic Women's Club



Tulsa Zoo



Native American Student Science Fair at OSU  
Native American Student Science Fair at OSU



BT staff & Student Volunteers at Mill Creek in Tulsa



BT staff & Student Volunteers at Mill Creek in Tulsa



Chandler Park Earth Day



Watercress Festival

## Keeping track of all the events that take place

from mid-March through mid-May isn't easy, but the Blue Thumb staff and volunteers make a great effort! The photographs on this page represent some of the many places and different groups of people who we have worked with so far this spring. From earth day events to plant sales and to tree plantings and creek visits, spring is a great time to participate in outdoor learning.