



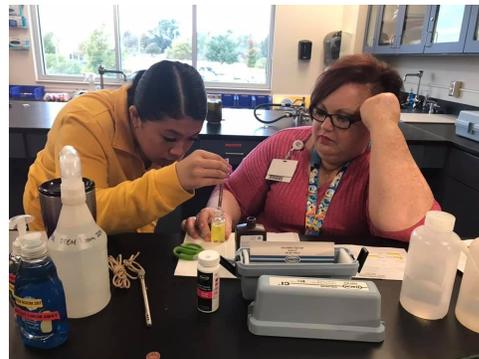
Blue Thumb—In Pictures

December 2019



'Tis the Season for Bug Picks

Bug pickings have been in full swing the past few months, with the last of them taking place this month. These are not only a good way for volunteers to get a closer look at the critters that live in their creek, but they get the chance to gather together and meet each other, an exciting thing for the numerous new monitoring volunteers that we've had the past few months. This time is also used for Quality Assurance sessions, to ensure that volunteers are performing the tests in the correct manner, and to make sure that all their equipment and reagents are operating as they should. It also allows staff to talk more with the volunteers, whether about their creek, their bugs, or just having a fun conversation.



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon!

The holidays are a time to appreciate what you have, and Blue Thumb is more than grateful and appreciative of our volunteers. To show how grateful we are, staff organized a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Creek County Fairgrounds, where those volunteers who showed up were recognized for their hard work and dedication. Dr. Dan Dvoretz led a fun game, as well as spoke about how volunteer data was used and why it is so important. Staff made homemade food and awarded those volunteers in attendance awards, whether it be monitoring for a specific amount of time, helping with more than three or more education events in the past year, or recently writing a data report.

Thank you to everyone who came, and thank all of you for all that you do for Blue Thumb!



Below: Volunteers came together for some good food, company, and prizes for all the great work that they do throughout the years!



Above: Volunteers listen as Dr. Dan Dvoretz, Technical Programs Director and Quality Assurance Officer for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, gives a short talk about how important the data they collect is.



Above: Friends of Blue Thumb, the non-profit associated with Blue Thumb, held a raffle at the luncheon. Lots of volunteers won some great prizes!

Education, Education, Education

The traveling Smithsonian Institution Water/Ways is still going strong! This month saw the exhibit end its time in Locust Grove, and it has moved to Fort Towson, where it will be until early February. Blue Thumb has consistently had a booth with the exhibit for the entirety of its time here in Oklahoma, featuring fish printing, informational posters, and data reports written by volunteers for that area. Volunteers have not only visited the Water/Ways, but also helped to man the booth.

