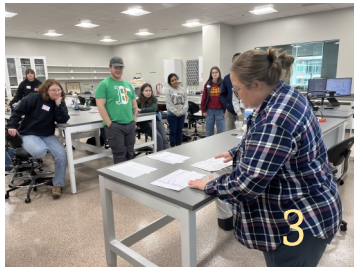




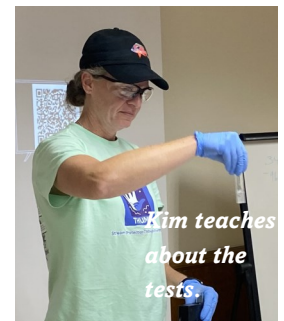
Blue Thumb in Pictures

February, 2025



Blue Thumb Training Stillwater , January 25 & 26, 2025

1) The new group; 2) class in Boomer Creek learning about aquatic larval insects; 3) Candice helping the group graph “flow” information; 4) Hunter sharing about the amount of water that covers the earth’s surface.



Blue Thumb Training Ada

January 29 & 30, 2025

The Chickasaw Nation received an Environmental Justice Government to Government grant and is partnering with Blue Thumb and the Oka’ Institute to establish water quality baselines and develop early warning systems for water quality impacts on stream sites within the Chickasaw Nation. This is a unique, first of its kind endeavor for Blue Thumb.

Winter Bug Collections

Winter 2025 has kicked off with seasonal bug collections. Sometimes people wonder how the bugs survive in the cold, but these creatures are cold blooded. Also cold water can hold more dissolved oxygen than warm water, making it a happier and healthier home for the benthic macroinvertebrates. So long as conditions allow, every Blue Thumb stream will receive a winter collection, and volunteers will complete an onsite quality assurance check.



Volunteer Kevin with Hunter, Sanborn Hazen Lake Creek, Payne County



OSU Environmental Science Club, Duck Creek



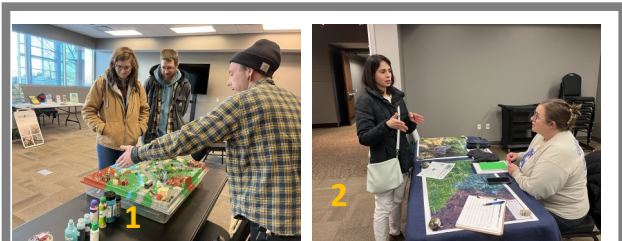
Megan and Hunter, Boomer Creek, Payne County



Haley and Illi Feather Creek, Payne County



Val, Katherine, and Alex—Beaty Creek, Delaware County



Green Country Watersheds Coalition

The City of Glenpool hosted the Green Country Watersheds Coalition on January 21 to provide an opportunity for Blue Thumb volunteers and local citizens to plan for activities in their watersheds.

- 1) Blue Thumb volunteer Patrick demonstrates pollution prevention with the EnviroScope.
- 2) Volunteer Alejandra talks with Candice about visiting her school with a presentation and
- 3) City of Glenpool employees learn about Blue Thumb through participating in fish printing (along with Cheryl)

Another Great Blue Thumb Training! Alva—Woods County CD, 2/15&16/25

This just in...The Blue Thumb training in Alva brought eight new cheerful volunteers into the Blue Thumb fold! Are these new folks afraid of a little frigid weather? These photographs are proof that “No, they are not!”

Watch for additional photographs from the Alva in your March Blue Thumb Pictorial Report!



Blue Thumb Training in Alva!

Watch for more Photos in the March Report!

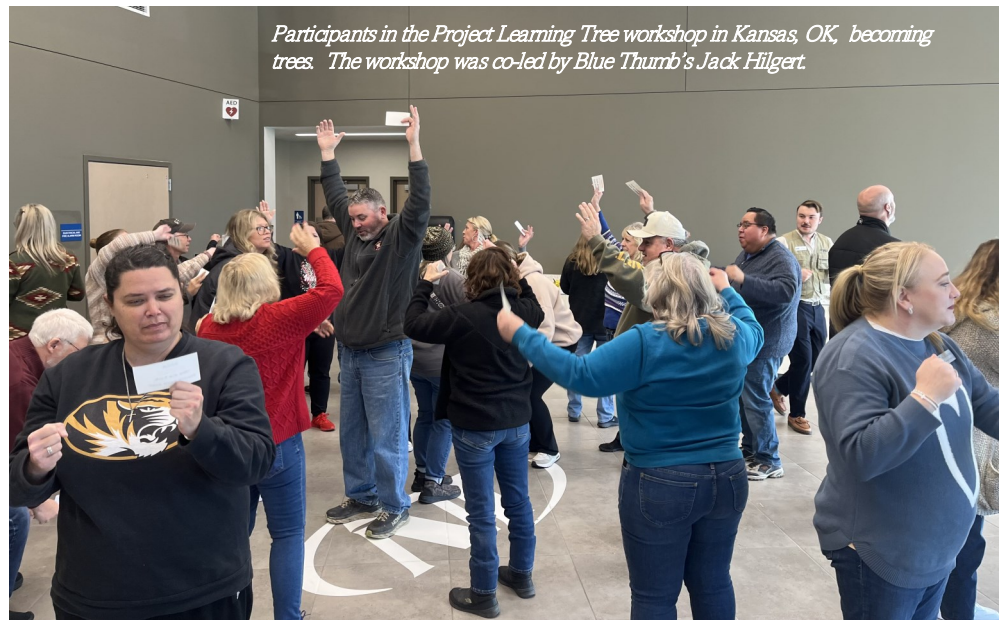




City of Yukon Receives Stream Protection Training

The new year kicked off with the Blue Thumb Program and the Soil Health team providing a stream protection training in Yukon. This training is geared to show how water becomes polluted and how pollution can be reduced, how healthy soil will contribute to infiltration, the importance of protecting riparian zones, and recognizing sediment as a pollutant.

- 1) Hunter uses the EnviroScope to demonstrate how water becomes polluted and how we can take actions to reduce pollution.
- 2) Marcus discusses soil texture and uses the effective “sandbox of soils” so that participants can feel for themselves.
- 3) Marcus uses the tabletop rainfall simulator to offer a primer on runoff and infiltration.



Participants in the Project Learning Tree workshop in Kansas, OK, becoming trees. The workshop was co-led by Blue Thumb's Jack Hilgert

Environmental Education Expo

The annual Environmental Education Expo was attended by Jack, Hunter, and Cheryl and Blue Thumb volunteers. Top: Volunteers Patrick, Cailyn, and Terrie helped to work the exhibit.

Bottom: Jack facilitated a round table in which evaluating environmental education programs was discussed.

New Blue Thumb Education Coordinator Jack Hilgert co-led a Project Learning Tree

workshop in Kansas, Oklahoma on January 6. Working with Tony Pascal from Oklahoma Forestry Services, the workshop was for five rural school districts and was attended by 52 teachers who will use the environmental education curriculum with a projected 2,086 students. All of the participating schools receive Title I funding, meaning many of the students are from low-income families.

Project WET and Project WILD, both curriculum offered through the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, are offered in tandem, and often Jack works with Project Learning Tree so that additional resources are provided to educators.

“This is probably the BEST professional development course I have ever had! Very Interesting, great job, very engaging,, participating teacher quote.