



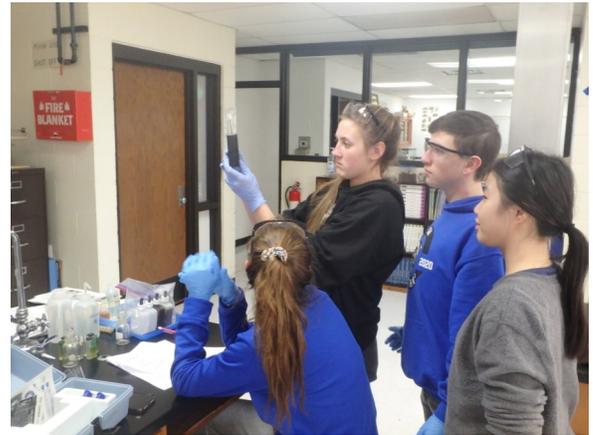
# Blue Thumb—In Pictures

## January 2020



### Mini-Academies for Monitoring

Only weeks into the new year, Blue Thumb has been busy. Two Mini-Academies took place in the western part of the state this month, one in Taloga at the Public School, and the other in Weatherford at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Mini-Academies are a good way for students of volunteers to learn how to monitor a stream, going through all of the chemical tests so that they can help their teacher or professor throughout the year.



Above: Students at Southwestern Oklahoma University (SWOSU)

Above: Students at Taloga Public Schools

## #bugcollection2020

Winter bug collections are here! It's time to brave the cold and wind and get out into the creek to get some bugs. Our winter collection season started January 1, and will last until March 15. When we meet with volunteers to collect winter bugs, we also complete our winter Quality Assurance (QA) sessions. QA sessions provide an opportunity to make sure volunteers are on the same page with regard to procedures; QA sessions are also a great time for volunteers to ask questions. Our nature-loving volunteers happily get in the creek, even during cold winter months, to get the work done!



Clancy Green, Administrative Programs Office for the Conservation Commission, joins David on Hog Creek in Cleveland County on a warmer day to kick for bugs. This was her first bug collection. In the second photo, they are looking to see what critters they were able to dislodge from the bottom of the creek.

## Education, Education, Education

Blue Thumb participated in several education events across the state this month. We had a booth at the Tulsa Farm Show, just before the holidays, where lots of people were able to stop by, grab some brochures and pamphlets, and learn about Blue Thumb. We also participated in the second annual Winter Fun Day in Tahlequah, as well as programming at several libraries throughout the OKC metro area.



Jahna, longtime Blue Thumb volunteer and stormwater manager for the City of Tahlequah, demonstrates the EnviroScape at the Winter Fun Day.



Muriel Sigenthaler and her grandkids Maggie, Maddie, Jackson, and Carter helped out at the Tulsa Farm Show booth.



Kids at the Bethany Public Library enjoyed Incredible Journey, Fish Printing, and Macorinvertebrate Mayehem at the library's first ever STEM night.