



# Blue Thumb—In Pictures



## May 2018

### Volunteer Spotlight!



Bob Coffey is a high school teacher in Wyandotte who recently returned to Blue Thumb and monitoring a creek that he previously monitored all the way back in 2000. As with many of our long-term volunteers, Bob continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of the program, one who has always prioritized his students' involvement with and education through Blue Thumb monitoring. Read more about Bob at [www.facebook.com/bluethumbok](http://www.facebook.com/bluethumbok)



### Bug Picking Sessions Continue

While this is a very busy time of year for educational events (see page two for more on that!), it's also bug picking season. That means we're travelling throughout the state, working with volunteers to pick through creek samples they collected this winter. It's a great time to catch up with our volunteers while they have fun learning even more about the ecology of their stream. These are just a few examples of bug picking events in Edmond (left), Howe (center), and Lawton (right).



### Volunteer QA

Along with bug picking, volunteers like our team from Brookhaven Creek in Norman, pictured below, are taking part in their quarterly quality assurance sessions.



### Groundwater Screening

Kim was in Buffalo this month, where local students tested 34 well water samples from around the area. This activity teaches them important science lessons while getting them involved in the monitoring and protection of their community's water resources.



## 2018's Second Blue Thumb Training



Jean and Candice were in Tulsa this month, hosting a Blue Thumb training for new volunteers. Participants collected bugs, seined for fish and learned all about the educational activities they can use in their community.



## Blue Thumb Volunteers at Educational Events

During April and May, 13 Blue Thumb volunteers assisted with educational events across the state. They worked at natural resource days, outdoor classrooms, water festivals and Earth Day events, bringing water quality education to more people than the Blue Thumb staff would have been able to on their own. This included Ashleigh Barnett at Caney Valley Conservation District's natural resource day (left) and Shelly Gaines at the Oka Institute Water Festival in Ada (right).



## Education, Education, Education

This has been a very busy two months for education, with over 7,000 people reached in April and May combined. Just in May alone, we've been to 16 educational events in 13 different counties. Below are just a few examples of the events we've been to but you can read all about where we've been and what we've accomplished by checking out our latest blog at

[www.bluethumbok.com/the-blue-thumb-blog](http://www.bluethumbok.com/the-blue-thumb-blog)



Rob and Becky were in Caddo County, along with soil health educator Blane Stacy, where they educated kids with live creek bugs, the EnviroScape watershed model and the stream trailer.



Rob brought live creek bugs to Cotton County for their outdoor classroom. Live creek bugs also made an appearance this month at educational days in Ottawa County and Pawnee County.



Candice and Becky were in Noble County, where kids got to make fish prints and learn about bugs by playing Macroinvertebrate Mayhem.