



Blue Thumb—In Pictures



March 2020

The Last of the Bugs

Staff were extremely busy this past month trying to complete bug collections before the winter collection season ended. Why do we only have a narrow window to complete bug collections? The community of macroinvertebrates in a stream varies seasonally. Some of these bugs spend months or even years as larvae or nymphs, but only a few days as winged adults. Because we compare all of our data to reference conditions, bug collections have to be completed during the same time periods each year to ensure we are comparing apples to apples and oranges to oranges when we analyze the data. The winter index period is January 1-March 15; the summer index period is July 1-September 15. Thank you for your hard work helping us complete the winter macroinvertebrate collections!



Screening the Ground...Water!

A groundwater screening took place in Oklahoma County this month. These events are an opportunity for private well owners to learn about the general chemistry of their drinking water. Well owners submit water samples and volunteers analyze the samples for alkalinity, sulfate, chloride, nitrate and pH. Well owners receive their results in a day or two.



MINI-ACADEMIES

Blue Thumb has two types of mini-academies: one for monitoring and one for education. The monitoring academy is a very condensed version of the chemical monitoring training offered during Day 2 of Blue Thumb Training. Monitoring academies are offered to students who will assist with monitoring under the direction of a certified Blue Thumb volunteer. The education mini-academy is for any Blue Thumb volunteer who wants to learn how to help out at education events. During an education academy, volunteers learn the ins and outs of helping at an event, some of the more popular activities that are used at events, and a little bit of a refresher on what they learned during training.



Left: Volunteers in Alva show off their own examples of the popular activity Fish Printing

Right: Okmulgee volunteers pose with the infamous EnviroScape.



Education, Education, Education

Education stops for nothing and no one! No matter the age or circumstance, Blue Thumb is committed to helping people understand the importance of protecting water, and what they can do to help.



Above: Cheryl was in Fort Towson for a Natural Resource Day, where she taught kids all about conserving water, and how important healthy soil is to clean water.

Right: Greg Scott uses the tabletop rainfall simulator to show water infiltration at an event called "Soil, Water, and Ways to Make a Difference."



Above: Kids look for some live creek bugs and learn about water quality at Bridgestone Intermediate School's first ever STEM Night.

