



# Blue Thumb—In Pictures



## May 2017

### Recognizing Volunteers!

May Volunteers spotlight - This month we wanted to highlight Susan and Bill Henning! Susan went through Blue Thumb training several years ago but it wasn't until she retired from the Kay County Conservation District that she teamed up with her husband to monitor Turkey Creek in Bartlesville. She enjoys monitoring with her husband, who is a retired chemical engineer, not just because he loves the chemistry part, but he gets her out of her comfort zone. He has her wading into the deepest pools and holding such things as frogs and fish! They report their testing results both to Blue Thumb and the City of Bartlesville. They use their past data to look for changes and with an upstream bridge replacement, they will be on the lookout for any changes.

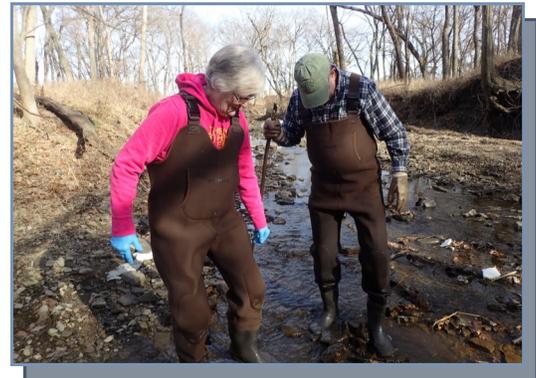
They have been surprised but pleased with their stream's water quality considering all the lawns, a golf course, park and highway along the creek. They do notice rapid changes in water levels after a rain due to the highway, confirming that impervious surfaces increase the amount of runoff into streams. Susan and Bill are enjoying monitoring together, it gives them something to do as a couple.

Monitoring isn't all that Susan does! She loves teaching children about protecting our water with Project WET activities, taking homeschool families to the creek and giving presentations to various clubs. Thank you, Susan and Bill, for all you do to help protect Oklahoma's water resources!

Great volunteers going above and beyond!



Summer or winter, Bill and Susan are happy to go to their creek!



### We are print and tv stars!



Fresh food sprouts up at the Norman Farmer's Market - Photo Gallery

Kim Shaw, Blue Thumb Water Pollution Education Program, sets up a water run off project in the demonstration garden area at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds...

NEWSOK.COM

Left—Kim was featured in the Daily Oklahoman for talking about run off and soil health in Norman.

Right—Jeri is working with News 9 on different education segments every 6 weeks. First it was watersheds, and in May it was erosion.



m.news9.com

Jeri Fleming with the Conservation Commission talking about erosion, and brings a demonstration.

M.NEWS9.COM

## Education, Education and More Education!



Top left—Wes Shockley helped Rob in Lincoln County seine for fish and bugs. Center—Jeri was in Norman for their Earthfest. Top Right—Rob was in Dewey County for a NRD. Bottom left—Jim Leach pitched in to help Rob, Jeri and Kim at ScienceFest. Bottom right—Ben Pollard helped demonstrate the stream trailer at ScienceFest. In all Blue Thumb staff reached over 5,000 people the end of April through the first of May! And yes, they all lost their voices!

## Spring Bug Picking and Quality Assurance!



Top left—Norman volunteers going through their quality assurance session. Top right—Edmond North High school students picking through their bug sample. Bottom left—Seward County Community College Students pick under the watchful empty eye sockets of skeletons. Bottom right—Bug picking continues in the Commission offices.



Bug picking and quality assurance are a very important part of what our Blue Thumb volunteers do!

