



Blue Thumb—In Pictures

November 2019



Blue Thumb Training

We held our last Blue Thumb training of 2019 this month in Locust Grove. We had some dedicated people attend and learn all about stream ecology and how to monitor creeks. These hands-on trainings are a great way to introduce people to citizen science, stream ecology, and the biology of a stream.



Stewards of the Land

Blue Thumb has been working with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Soil Health Program to put together a joint training that highlights the interconnectedness of healthy soil and healthy water. We held a pilot workshop in Afton (Ottawa County) this month. Healthy soils and healthy streams support a diversity of organisms. Healthy soils have a much higher capacity to hold water than depleted soils. When healthy soils store water effectively, the need to irrigate is reduced, and nearby streams receive fewer pollutants such as sediment and nutrients. We are excited to schedule more of these workshops in the upcoming calendar year, so keep an eye out to sign up!



Testing, Testing, 1-2-3...

In case you didn't know, Blue Thumb offers groundwater screenings for Conservation Districts! This past month, Caney Valley held a groundwater screening event in Bartlesville, where seven volunteers tested 14 samples from private wells for pH, sulfates, nitrates, alkalinity, and chloride. Because of the type of soil and rocks in this area, most of the samples had high alkalinity. Alkalinity is the ability of water to resist changes in pH. All of the samples were low in nitrates.



Education, Education, Education

Oklahoma County Conservation District had several Natural Resource Days this month, where middle-schoolers were learned about every day activities that can contribute to pollution in local waterways. Despite the cold and the wind, they had fun making fish prints! As mentioned above, we held a training in Locust Grove this month. Locust Grove is also the current location for the Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit! Folks who stopped by on Opening Day were treated to fish printing as well! Go check it out; it's in Locust Grove until December 8!



Shelby Burrige, OCC's Environmental Projects Coordinator, uses the EnviroScape to teach about non-point source pollution at the Oklahoma County Natural Resource Day.



Fish printing is always fun and exciting, especially when you get to show off how beautiful it is! This happy person seems pleased with how hers came out.