



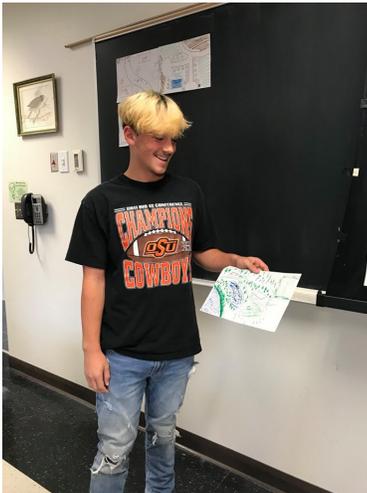
Blue Thumb—In Pictures



October 2019

Let's Get Down to Business

Blue Thumb hosted a new volunteer training in Alva at Northwestern Oklahoma State University this month! It was a small crew, but the students were engaged and excited as they learned about stream ecology and creek monitoring. Lots of great discussions were had, and nearly everyone who attended is planning on becoming creek monitors. This is especially exciting as these new Blue Thumb volunteers will monitor and help out with education events in counties that haven't seen much Blue Thumb activity in awhile. Welcome to the Blue Thumb family!



Hands On, Feet In

Blue Thumb was invited out to Northeast Oklahoma at the end of September to facilitate a creek experience for Lowrey 7th and 8th graders. The kids got to seine for fish, kick for bugs and learn about how land use and soil health affects water quality and life in a creek. The event took place at Spring Creek and was hosted by Charles and Donna Drury, in coordination with the Spring Creek Coalition. The kids were energetic, the hot dogs were tasty and the weather was beautiful. It was a fun day for everyone!



Left: Girls take a dip as they seine for fish.

Middle: Dragonfly larvae that were caught while seining for fish. These bugs are normally found in riffle kicks, but ones this size are often seined up with fish since they like to hide out in large woody debris; always a fun find!

Right: Boys get their hands dirty as they look at fish in the net.

Healthy Soil = Healthy Water

Land use is an important aspect of water quality. This month, Rebecca helped the Oklahoma County Conservation District prepare pollinator prairie experimental plots at Bickham-Rudkin Park in Edmond. Soil health expert, Kevin Mink (bottom left), provided guidance, encouragement and elbow grease. Not only will these plants support pollinators, but the plots will help improve soil health in the park and may improve the water quality of nearby streams.



Education, Education, Education

Blue Thumb staff and volunteers provide environmental education all over the state. This month staff and volunteers could be found in Edmond, Norman, Vinita, Perry, Buffalo and many places in between. We could not meet the educational demand without the help of our outstanding volunteers.



Top left: Becky uses the stream trailer at the Edmond Stormwater Openhouse (photo by Jordan Peebles). Bottom left: Volunteer Karen Chapman uses the EnviroScape at the Norman Monarch Fest.

Center: Rebecca presents the EnviroScape to students at Craig County Conservation District Environmental Day.

Top right: Becky and Rebecca teach 5th graders about erosion at H2Oklahoma. Bottom right: Kim leads volunteers in running groundwater screenings in Harper County.