



Blue Thumb—In Pictures

October 2017



New Volunteer Trainings Continue!



Blue Thumb volunteer trainings have continued at a remarkable pace, with three trainings in one month. First, Kim, Candice and Rob were in Ada for the second training this year in that city, a training which was requested by members of both the Chickasaw Nation and the Institute for Math and Science Education at East Central University. Then, Kim and Rob were in Tahlequah for another great training which included a group of students from Northeastern State University. A number of people at both trainings expressed an interest in creek monitoring and it will be exciting to get them started on a creek in the very near future!

Groundwater Screening Events

Kim has been traveling the state to lead groundwater/well water screening events with local conservation districts and residents. First, she and OCC Water Monitoring Coordinator Jason Ramming were with the North Caddo Conservation District and their volunteers, testing 49 samples of local groundwater. After that, she was in Bristow with Blue Thumb Director Jean Lemmon and the Creek County Conservation District. Forty samples were tested for lead and other chemicals, with all samples showing very low lead levels.



Fall Bug Picking and QA Begins!



The rainy summer did not put a damper on bug collections, with plenty of samples now needing to be picked through by Blue Thumb volunteers and staff. Bug picking (or subsampling) will be happening through early December at many locations around the state, where volunteers will find out what is living in their creek while also taking part in their quarterly Quality Assurance session. These photos are a few of the first volunteers to pick here at our office.

Education, Education, Education



Top Left—Jeri and soil health educator Blane Stacy brought the stream trailer to Steed Elementary 2nd graders and taught them all about erosion.

Bottom Left—On her last day with the Conservation Commission, Jeri was in Locust Grove, with 7th and 8th graders from Peggs School.

The kids got to use a seine and kick net to find fish and bugs in Spring Creek.



Top and Bottom Right—The Oklahoma County Conservation District has been holding Natural Resource Days at Arcadia Lake. Kim and Rob utilized the wetland education area to teach students about watersheds, nonpoint source pollution and wetlands.

