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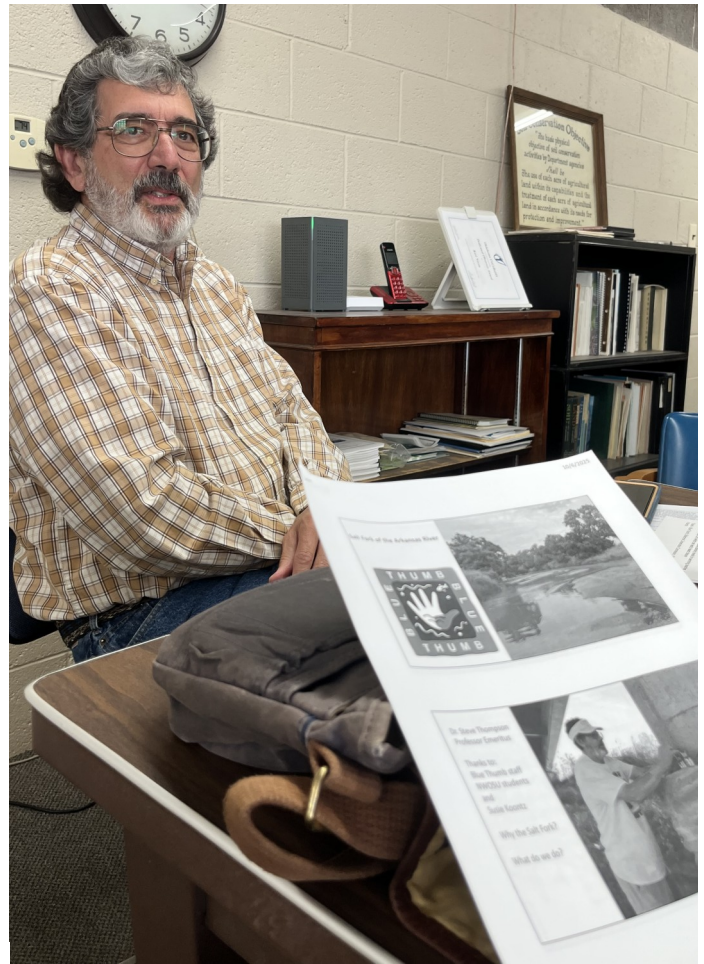


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| <p>Sand Shiner (<i>Ammocetes stamineus</i>)</p>  <p>https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=600</p> | <p>Fathead Minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>)</p>  <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fathead_minnow</p> | <p>Emerald Shiner (<i>Notropis atherinoides</i>)</p>  <p>https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutfishes/wafminnows/wafemeral</p> |
| <p>Plains Killifish (<i>Fundulus kansae</i>)</p>  <p>https://outdoornbraska.gov/learn/nebraska/nebraskafish/killifish/</p> | <p>Central Stoneroller (<i>Carplostoma anomalum</i>)</p>  <p>https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutfishes/wafminnows/wafcentralstoneh/</p> | <p>Inland Silverside (<i>Menidia beryllina</i>)</p>  <p>https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/freshwater/freshwaterconnecticut/silversides</p> |
| <p>Red Shiner (<i>Cyprinella lutrensis</i>)</p>  <p>https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutfishes/wafminnows/wafredshiner.html</p> | <p>Green Sunfish (<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>)</p>  <p>https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/freshwater/freshwaterconnecticut/greenfish</p> | <p>Orangespotted Sunfish (<i>Lepomis humilis</i>)</p>  <p>https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/dise/floridafishesgallery/orangespotfish/</p> |
| <p>Western Mosquitofish (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>)</p>  <p>https://programs.iowadnr.gov/bionet/Fish/Species/125</p> | <p>Longear Sunfish (<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>)</p>  <p>https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=388</p> | <p>Orangethroat Darter (<i>Etheostoma spectabile</i>)</p>  <p>https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/wildaboutpages/wildaboutfishes/wafperch/waforangethro</p> |

Woods County Conservation District Board Meeting

Steve reported on Salt Fork of the Arkansas River at the Woods County Conservation District board meeting on October 8, 2025. He handed out a report that covered all of the data collected since his monitoring began five years ago.

Steve's data concludes that at this time, Salt Fork, as compared to other streams of its size within the Great Plains ecoregion, is in good shape. In addition to making this report to the conservation district in person, Steve provided a handout, which is also available on the Blue Thumb website.



**Citizen Scientists of all Ages!
Learn About Protecting
Our Water and Creeks -
Especially our**



Own Salt Fork River

Saturday, November 15, 2025 9:00 a.m. – Noon
NWOSU Museum of Natural History

2nd Floor Jesse Dunn

Hosted by Blue Thumb Oklahoma and NWOSU Department of Natural Science
All Ages! Come and Go!

Learn about nonpoint source pollution, become a drop of water and go through the water cycle, make a colorful fish print to take home!



Learn about the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River!

Salt Fork Education Event at NWOSU Museum

Steve rallied the help of additional volunteers to provide stream protection information in association with NWOSU's Natural History Museum on Saturday, November 15, 2025.



Visitors to the education event at the museum take a look at creek bugs from Salt Fork.



Blue Thumb volunteer Riley Ott uses the EnviroScape watershed model to help attendees understand the relationship among runoff, pollution, streams, and aquatic creatures.



Volunteer Margaret Thompson is helping a young participant better understand the water cycle.



Another day is done for the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.

Stream Protection Education is not a “One and Done”

The Woods County Conservation District board members provided Steve with suggestions of accomplishing additional education to the citizens of Alva and beyond. An education plan is in the works for 2026 and is likely to include: 1) a Salt Fork Exhibit at the Alva Public Library (early January 2026) and the Alva High School Library; 2) an article written by Steve for the small regional newspaper (still in print); 3) presentations to the biology classes at NWSU; and 4) local presentations to civic groups and other gatherings. Discussions are also beginning to offer some type of education at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. Planned for January 13, 2026, Steve will offer information on the Salt Fork at the Alva Beer Company, which often hosts community gatherings.