



Blue Thumb—In Pictures

September 2020



New Volunteers!

This month we welcome the new volunteers that attended a training at East Central University in Ada! Structured a little differently from a normal training, we had the group split into two groups to adhere by CDC guidelines. What this meant was that about half of the people attending experienced the Monitoring Training portion of the training (which typically occurs on the second day of training) on the first day. The second day, we switched groups, so that everyone was able to experience both days of training. We had a wonderful group of attendees who were excited to learn and become a part of the Blue Thumb family!



Top Left: 2 new volunteers discern their result for their Ortho-Phosphate test during their monitoring training.

Top Right: Cheryl uses the EnviroScope to talk about nonpoint source pollution.

Bottom Left: Cheryl shows off a fish during an outdoor portion of the training that these volunteers seined up.

Bottom Right: A new volunteer explains how to clean up the pollution that she made.

The Last Bug Collection

This month wrapped up our summer bug collection season! This was a tough summer to get collections done because of the weather. We had a lot of dry days, which means no water for bugs to live in, and therefore, no bug collection. According to our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), if a stream is dry, we have to wait for rain, and then an extra 30 days before we can get a bug collection done, so that bug colonies are able to re-establish themselves in that body of water. We also had the issue of rain; while we didn't get much of it, when it did rain, it poured. Our SOPs state that when it rains, we have to wait 7-10 days after the creek returns to base flow (normal) before we can sample. This means that if we get another big rain event in those 7-10 days, we have to start our wait over.



Left: Candice, Patrick, and Brian kick in a riffle for the bug collection on Spunky Creek in Rogers County.

Right: Candice and Cheyanne get their site observations done on Dog Creek in Claremore.

Education, Education, Education

With the new school year underway, however possible, Blue Thumb is happy to be back doing education.

While we work with schools and teachers to provide the best activities that we can during COVID times, being outside is always a better alternative. Just ask the students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University! We have a professor there who is a Blue Thumb volunteer, and we were able to provide him and his class a wonderful experience in the creek looking for bugs and fish and discussing water.

