

Mission: to unite as citizens and actively engage in the preservation of the Spring Creek Watershed

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**Spring Creek Coalition
2434 East 56 Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105**

Spring Creek Watershed Landowners Winter 2011 Newsletter



THE MOST PRISTINE
LARGE OZARK STREAM
IN OKLAHOMA
MANAGED AND
PROTECTED BY
PRIVATE
LANDOWNERS

Phone: (918) 637-1449
Email info@springcreekok.org

SPRING TREE PLANTING

Save the Date!

**Saturday, March 26
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

- At the property of Chris and Marcia Robb near Luck Spring
- A reminder will be sent later with directions

Update to the Fall Newsletter Article on Feral Hogs

A longtime resident of the Spring Creek area supplied us some firsthand history on hogs. According to him, an outbreak of cholera wiped out the wild hog population in the area around 1960. No wild hogs were seen around Spring Creek for the next 40-45 years, until the last 5 years when their numbers have increased dramatically. Domestic hogs were also affected by the cholera in 1960 but only for a year or two, causing economic loss.

JANUARY 15 ANNUAL MEETING GREAT SUCCESS

- 24 landowners & friends attended
- Enthusiastic presentation by Dr. Kip Heth, SCC Science Advisor
- New bylaws were ratified
- Over \$700 raised at lively auction!

Winter Brings Bald Eagles to Spring Creek

By Mia Revels

The bald eagle is one of Oklahoma's most easily recognized and striking birds. Historically, they were present mostly in winter, but have become regular breeders in small numbers more recently. This is likely due to the creation of large reservoirs in the state, along with the introduction of hand-raised bald eagles between 1984-1990 by the George M. Sutton Avian Research Center. Over 100 bald eagle pairs nested in Oklahoma in 2009. For more information, please check out their website: http://www.suttoncenter.org/pages/bald_eagles_restoration_efforts.

Migratory bald eagles arrive in Oklahoma from their northern breeding grounds in early October, remain throughout the winter, and leave to head north again by the end of March. Some mated pairs remain in Oklahoma to

breed, mostly near large bodies of water. Most pairs in Oklahoma have nests located along the Arkansas River and its main tributaries. Care must be taken not to get closer than a quarter of a mile



Photo taken by Warren Williams of Sand Springs.

Eagles on the Creek

away from active nests, as bald eagles will abandon their nests when disturbed.

During the day, bald eagles are most likely to be found near water, where they search for and feed on fish and waterfowl. They also eat carrion. On smaller tributaries, such as Spring Creek, eagles are usually spaced out along the waterway. On larger bodies of water, such as reservoirs with more concentrated food sources, they may be found in very large groups.

At night, bald eagles use communal roosts that are generally fairly close to their feeding areas. Large trees are necessary to support the weight of these large birds. They leave these roosts at dawn, but may head back to them in the early afternoon if their feeding has been successful. Roosts will be used for many years unless disturbed or removed. If a bald eagle roost can be located, it is a good way to view a large number of bald eagles either at dawn or dusk, as they come and go from the area.

Keep your eyes peeled though, because you can see bald eagles nearly anywhere in northeastern Oklahoma during the winter. I have seen them flying over the Northeastern State University campus, perched on a utility pole in downtown Tahlequah, and sitting on a cow carcass in the middle of a pasture on Highway 62! They can be anywhere! Happy eagle watching!

Mia Revels is a Professor of Biology at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Fall Clean-Up — Thank You

Fall Clean-Up Event — Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for coming out on November 6th to the clean-up at Twin Bridges. The area and roads look so nice now. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Thanks again.



Sincerely, Just some of the 1,000 pounds
Donna & of trash collected that day.
Charles Drury

Seventeen hard-working people came out on a sparkling fall day in November to help us give back to the creek.

Mayes County District 2 Commissioner, Darrell Yoder, generously gave us the use of a county pick-up truck which we were able to fill with



Neal Russell helps keep Spring Creek beautiful.

about 1,000 pounds of trash. We worked so well at Twin Bridges that we had time to move to the Cave Springs area and clean up that site as well.

Meet Your Neighbors

Meet Your Neighbors — City Folks Move to the Country

Charles and Donna Drury are SCC Board Members. SCC held our clean-up event this past November on their land at Twin Bridges.

Charles and Donna Drury were living in their dream home in Tulsa, one Charles remodeled himself, when they decided to leave behind the crime that was encroaching on their neighborhood for the relative safety and privacy of country life. They found 315 acres on Spring Creek near Twin Bridges downstream from highway 82, which they later increased to 400 acres.

That was fifteen years ago. How have they made out? “It was a bit of a culture shock,” says Donna, “especially for our son Don who was in middle school and daughter Diana just starting high school at the time. But we love it.”

They found the privacy they were looking for, except in summer when they have issues with the many people who use Twin Bridges and their creek property downstream, not respecting private property and leaving lots of trash behind.

Charles took a four-room cabin on the property and remodeled it into a spacious, comfortable home. You can still see the stone walls of the original cabin integrated into the new. “Besides taking walks on the land and working in our garden and flower beds, one of the things I love to do is just being in my home,” says Donna.

Charles continues his work as a custom remodeler, buying places and fixing them up for resale, in the Spring Creek and Tulsa areas. Donna helps with the remodeling and keeps the

Time to Order Trees

books for the business.

Concerning our article, “Who Let the Hogs Out”, in our fall newsletter,



Charles and Donna at the fall clean-up.

Charles says they hadn't seen any wild hogs until a year ago. Now things have changed. “One night this year I looked out and saw nothing but solid pig backs, in every color—white, black, brown, spotted,” states Charles. “And all we were able to salvage from our garden this year were three squash and four tomatoes.”

Country life has its challenges. But worrying about gangs in your neighborhood isn't one of them.

TIME TO ORDER TREES AGAIN!

Oklahoma Forestry Services is taking orders for bare root and containerized tree seedlings to be planted for conservation purposes, including windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and erosion control. They offer over 30 species and will help you select the best choices. Trees cost less than a dollar apiece! Most trees are one or two years old and are sold in bundles of 50. Contact Oklahoma Forestry at 1-800-517-3673 or their website at www.forestry.ok.gov for more information, or follow the link on the SCC website.