

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

Please contact SCC to be removed from or added to this mailing list

Spring Creek Coalition
2434 East 56 Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

Spring Creek Watershed Landowners

Spring 2012 Newsletter



Est. 1994

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
SATURDAY, MARCH 31
RAIN OR SHINE
10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
DELICIOUS LUNCH PROVIDED

- At the property of Chris and Marcia Robb near Luck Spring
- A member of the OK Department of Forestry will be on hand to provide free consultation on tree planting

Bring: gloves, long pants, sturdy shoes

Directions: ½ mile south of Peggs on highway 82, turn east on E 650 road at the First Baptist Church of Peggs on the east, across from Peggs Grocery and Hardware. Proceed 1 & ½ miles east to the intersection of N 460 road. Turn left (north) on N 460. ½ mile further, at the saw mill, the road turns right and becomes E 645 road. Continue down the hill a few hundred yards. You will pass a trailer house on the right.



Planting trees along the creek at the 2011 event

the right. Turn in at the gate across the road from the brick house. "SCC Event" signs will be posted along the route.

Order Your Own Trees for Under \$1.00 Each!

Oklahoma Forestry Services is currently accepting orders for bare root and containerized seedlings to be planted for conservation purposes. They offer over 30 different species and will help narrow down the best choices based on your specific intent and region. Most trees are one or two years old and sold in bundles of 50. Contact Oklahoma Forestry at 800-517-3673 or their website at www.forestry.ok.gov for more information. Better hurry – orders are accepted through March and supplies are limited. SCC has planted over 2,000 trees in the watershed through this program!

CALL FOR 2012 DUES AND DONATIONS!

Your contributions help us publish this newsletter, plant trees, organize trash clean-ups, hold coalition meetings, and fund our website. Mail recipients – check your mailing label to see when you last renewed, listed directly after your name (example: Joe Smith 2011).

Please contribute today. Categories are: \$20, single; \$40, family, \$100, lifetime; or donations of any amount. Make checks payable to Spring Creek Coalition, and send to:

2434 E 56th PI
Tulsa, OK 74105

Thank you for contributing!

SCC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

A Special Remembrance

Spring Creek...A Special Remembrance

By Wes Combs

The summer of '36 was bad and the worst one she had seen in her ten years. Her father said it was the worst he'd ever seen too. She was glad they lived on Spring Creek, having moved there the previous February. Spring Creek was clear and cold, even in the hot summer. Where they lived before, over in Wagoner County, the creeks weren't clear at all but were full of gar and other things you couldn't see. In Spring Creek, you could see your toes standing in five feet of water.

There were springs coming out of the sides of hills. Her father diverted the water out of one to irrigate the garden. She thought her dad was a good farmer. He needed to be as that was their livelihood. She was the daughter of a sharecropper and moved almost every year. She wasn't sure why they left Wagoner County where she was born and the farmland was better, but she liked Spring Creek. She and her brother swam and even got chilled sitting by the water against an always shaded bluff, even though it was a hundred and something degrees. That summer it hit a hundred and fifteen in Tulsa and fifteen states set all time high temperature records. And the previous five summers had been hot and dry. Times were hard all over, but especially for an Oklahoma sharecropper. She was glad they lived on Spring Creek.

At the site of the school she attended is a spring under which someone built a basin to hold the fresh cold spring water flowing from a metal pipe stuck into the side of the hill. The school kids floated their milk jars in the water to have

Lucky Springs



Beula Ward next to Lucky Spring

The school building is gone, and the basin is broken, but out of the pipe flows cold fresh water just like it did in '36. I filled my water bottle. She was all smiles. We were up that way because I bought a couple acres on Spring Creek, about four miles upstream from her old swimming hole. Just upstream from me is Graveyard Bluff, always shaded.

Last summer, when heat records were set and my porch thermometer read 116° one day, I saw my toes in five feet of water and got chilled sitting under the bluff. I thought of her when it happened, and I reflect on how things have changed in our lives. I don't have to sharecrop and I only have a conception of hard times, but I know for certain that I, like my mother before me, am glad I live on Spring Creek.

Lucky Springs Has Interesting History

By George Kamp

When the Lucky Springs property was sold to George Kamp of Tulsa in 1971, clear title could not be obtained to one acre of Indian land. This acre lies in the steep, hilly portion and was donated many years ago for the purpose of building a school. However, when the school was actually built it was constructed on a low, flat area near the creek and road instead.

cold milk for lunch. She often talked about feeling lucky to go to Lucky school.

A few years ago she and I stopped at the school site. The school building is gone, and the basin is broken, but out of

Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry

Lucky was named for Dan Lucky, a sawmill operator who also ran the small post office there. Daniel Redbird owned the original Cherokee land grant. When he sold the property, the judge required a translator explain to Mr. Redbird that he would no longer have the land, as Mr. Redbird spoke only Cherokee. At the time of this original sale, there were two "long houses" on the land, for Mr. Redbird and for his children. Remnants of one of these remains.

The one room school house on the property was built approximately 1910. It was still operated as a school until the 1950's when it was annexed into the Peggs school system. When purchased in 1971, desks and original blackboards were still in the building. The owner restored the school in the 1970's, but repeated acts of vandalism took their toll, with thieves even stealing the potbellied wood stove. The school house was destroyed by fire in 2006. The storm shelter near the school house was built after the historic Peggs tornado of 1920.



Old Lucky Spring school

The property is listed on the Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry, a project of the University of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry

The Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry is a voluntary program that encourages the protection of our natu-

Meeting a Success

ral places. Three Spring Creek landowners currently participate in this program, and we thought you might like to know more about it.

Since 1984, the Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry has worked with over 100 landowners to assist them with the protection of more than 44,000 acres. Currently, the largest registered site is over 9,000 acres, and the smallest site is an important two acres. The Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry encourages citizen-based conservation of these special natural areas. Registration in the program is voluntary and non-binding. It simply reflects the owner's intent to protect their piece of Oklahoma heritage.

Spring Creek is a prime example of Oklahoma's natural diversity, showcasing many wonderful, and sometimes rare, plants (Ozark spiderwort) and animals (Plains topminnow), high water quality, and natural beauty.

To learn more about the program and see a photo gallery of the Lucky Springs site on Spring Creek, go to their website at: <http://www.oknaturalheritage.ou.edu/registry/photogallery.htm>.

JANUARY 15 ANNUAL MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS

- 26 landowners & friends attended
- Lively presentation given by NSU professor, Dr. Mia Revels
- New board members elected: Danny Cole, Chris Robb & Robin Tait
- \$749 raised at our auction