

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 Summer 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 CREEK COALITION FALL OUTING

Three Springs Farm
Saturday, September 29, 10 am to 1pm

Join us for a tour of Three Springs Organic Farm on upper Spring Creek.

Owners Mike Appel and Emily Oakley will give us a tour of their farm on Spring Creek near Oaks and provide insights into what it takes to earn a living through organic farming. We will end with a bring-your-own picnic lunch at the farm.



Three Springs Farm at the Tulsa farmers' market

SPACE IS LIMITED:

Reserve your place now for this field trip by contacting Beth Rooney at 918.906.6762 or scmail@tulsaconnect.com. We will reconfirm your reservation and provide directions in September.

SCC Picks Up Effort to Reduce Litter on the Creek

The Spring Creek Coalition sponsors a creek clean-up yearly. Now your SCC Board of Directors has been asking itself: "What can we do to

PREVENT this litter?"

Our answer:

We are going to post signs in public areas to raise anti-littering awareness such as "Please help keep our beautiful creek clean".

We will sponsor trash cans at low-water crossings where the public accesses the creek, June through Labor Day. This will give creek-users a place to dispose of baby diapers, Styrofoam, cups and cans, rather than just leaving them along the creek banks or stashing them beneath tree roots. Pickup will be once per week by local trash services. We are going to start at the Cave Springs water crossing, and we hope to expand to other sites if we can get landowner approvals.

Will the public use or abuse? Will the trash



Some of the trash collected from Spring Creek

be picked up often enough? Will the cans get swept away in floods? Time will tell. It's worth a try.

Tree Planting "Leaves" Creek Banks Improved

On Saturday morning, March 31, 12 members, family and friends, of the Spring Creek Coalition met at Chris Robb's property to plant bare-root trees. Chris was the winner

2012 Tree Planting

of the tree-planting at SCC's Annual Meeting auction in January.



It was a beautiful morning to work, and even board member Neal Russell's kids seemed to enjoy the adventure. About 2-1/2 hours were devoted to planting 100 Black Walnut and 50 Shortleaf pines. "The Black Walnut seedlings were unusually large with long tap roots and required more effort than did the pine seedlings," said Chris. Board member Donna Drury provided a nice lunch of sandwiches, chips and cookies, which the hard working group enjoyed.

"Even though it has been very dry this spring, the seedlings are doing well," notes Chris. "A couple of them have even leafed out."

Spring Creek—Recreation or Trespassing?

If you see someone fishing on your land, do you have the right to ask them to leave? Yes, they are trespassing.

How about if you see someone floating by in an inner tube? Yes and No. No if they wave or fish and float on by. You do not own the water flowing over your land. Yes, if they step out of

Recreation or Trespassing?

their tube and make contact with the creek bottom or banks.

Spring Creek is a private, non-navigable stream. There is no public access available to Spring Creek except for one or two commercial operations that allow swimming, picnicking and camping for a fee.

According to the district attorney for the 12th District, although landowners do not own the water flowing over the land, they do have the same rights and ownership to submerged lands as they have to land surrounding or adjoining the streambed. For example, they have the right to eject or take other actions against trespassers, those who make contact with the streambed or adjacent land.

Visit our webpage for the complete district attorney's legal opinion at:

http://springcreekok.org/landowner_rights/landowner_rights.htm

Construction Begun on New Bridge at Twin Bridges

The Cherokee Nation is funding and overseeing construction of a bridge downstream from the popular swimming hole and current low-water bridge at Twin Bridges in Mayes County. This water crossing is west of Highway 82, one of the furthest downstream



Can someone legally fish from your land?

Bridge Replacement

crossings.

Construction has begun and is to be completed by November 2012.



Site on Spring Creek where the new bridge is being built

Donna Drury. "The forest you see in the picture above is no longer there". We'll keep you updated in future newsletters.

Rapid Invader Quickly Decreases the Size of Grazing Areas for Livestock

Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), or nodding thistle, is one of the most invasive weeds in Oklahoma, and a serious invader of native lands throughout the U.S. Introduced in the eastern U.S. in the late 1800's as an ornamental, musk thistle has rapidly spread westward and now covers all of the lower 48 states and several provinces of Canada.

Musk thistle is an aggressive species that can form dense stands very rapidly. Infestations of these plants have the ability to reduce productivity of pasture and rangeland by suppressing growth of desirable plant species, including native species, and forage for livestock. Livestock won't graze around musk thistle plants or in heavily infested areas.

Control: For small populations hand pulling can be

Invasive Thistle Hurts Grazing

done throughout the year, but is most effective prior to the development of seeds.

Cut through the taproot at least 2 inches below the crown to prevent re-sprouting. Individual flowering heads can be removed but new heads will develop in the leaf axils unless the entire plant is dug and allowed to dry out. Flowering heads that are removed should be placed in a tight container and either buried or allowed to rot to prevent possible seed germination.

For large populations, mowing, chemicals and other methods can be effective. If you have a musk thistle problem you'd like to control, you can find many useful websites by searching on "musk thistle". Here are two:

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/publications/WS-19.htm>

http://oklahomainvasivespecies.okstate.edu/musk_thistle.html



The nodding musk thistle—one of OK's most invasive weeds