

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 Summer 2014 Newsletter



Est. 1994

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

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www.springcreekok.org

SCC 20th Anniversary Field Day Celebration (rain or shine)!

Saturday, June 21
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Timberlake Ranch

9:00-11:45 AM - Archery, ages 8 to adult

- Safety and How-To Class - required for archery, begins at 9am

10:15-11:45 AM - **Events:**

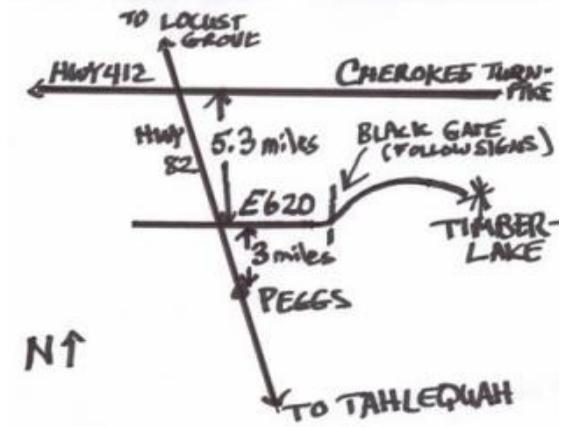
- **Wildflower Walk**
- **Birding**
- Maps, **aquarium**, information
- **Ceramics** - ages 4-15

12:00-1:00 PM - **Free smoked-pig Lunch**

1:15-2:30 PM - **Biology Creek Walk**

20 Years—Come Celebrate!

Spring Creek Coalition was incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in 1994. Over the past 20 years the Spring Creek community, through the leadership of its board, has planted over 2,000 trees to help stabilize stream banks. We have removed tons of trash from the creek through yearly clean-ups, encouraged use of the creek for research and field studies by local universities, communicated on issues and events regularly through our newsletters, and held educational outings and events such as



Directions to Timberlake Ranch.

Smart Growth and Archeology and Artifacts Forums. In 1995, SCC worked with the Grand River Dam Authority to clean up one of the largest illegal dumps in Cherokee County. In 2006, SCC was instrumental in winning a lawsuit against the introduction of non-native species into high-quality water creeks.

To help us celebrate these many accomplishments and more, we are hosting a special field day event. **Please RSVP by Monday, June 9th**, via enclosed card or email, so that we can adequately plan for food and equipment. **Event descriptions:**



Enjoy archery practice at the celebration.

9:00-11:45 AM Event - **Archery – ages 8 to adult**

We are excited to offer Archery as part of the Anniversary Celebration! You must be present at the 9:00 AM Safety & How-to Course to participate.

The Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) is supplying 20 Universal Draw Length Bows and Foam Target Mats. Everyone will get plenty of target-shooting in before we break for lunch at noon. ODWC sponsors the [Oklahoma National Archery in The Schools](#) program (see wildlifedepartment.com/out_ed.htm) that helps introduce archery to students statewide in their classroom. “We like to say, You don’t have to be tall, strong, fast or pretty to have success in archery,” says Roy Grimes, ODWC.

10:15-11:45 AM Events **Wildflower Walk**

Join Connie Murray, President of the Green Country Chapter of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and Botany Professor at Tulsa Community College, on a walk to identify wildflowers and other plants. Long pants and deet spray are recommended. Treating clothing with permethin has been shown to significantly reduce tick bites.

Birding

Spring Creek is a wonderful place to learn more about the fast-growing hobby of birding. Whether you have never really tried birding before or are an experienced birder, our short outing will have something for

you. Spring Creek Coalition board member, George Kamp, will give some brief comments about birding technique and binoculars. Then, he and Jim Deming, a birder with great experience in Oklahoma, will lead an outing to let you use your skills in a beautiful stream side habitat. A few loaner binoculars will be available, but bring your own if possible.

Ceramics – ages 4-15

Boys and girls will be able to paint a nature-themed ceramic piece of their choice. Finished pieces will be spray protected so that they can be taken home that day. Paints, brushes, aprons and other equipment come from Purple Glaze Studio in Tulsa and are provided free by instructor and SCC board member Emily Hyde.

Noon-1:00 PM – **Free smoked hog lunch and celebration - bring your own drinks**

1:15-2:30 PM - **Biology Creek Walk**

Blue Thumb Coordinator Cheryl Cheadle will lead Coalition members and friends on a short, fun stroll in Spring Creek. We will capture and identify fish, seek out interesting aquatic larval insects, and make observations of the good (and bad?) land use practices that make Spring Creek what it is. The beauty of a Creek Walk is that it allows citizens of all ages and all levels of knowledge to get to know a little something about the stream being visited.

Participants need to dress to get wet. Close-toed shoes are suggested. Hats, sunscreen, and a towel could come in handy. Children participating will receive the gift of a bug box which will allow them to see our finds a little more up close. Don’t miss this chance to get to know Spring Creek a little better.

Temperature Loggers to Provide Long-term Data on Spring Creek

It seems like every year someone says it’s the hottest, coldest, wettest or driest year they can ever remember, but in 2012 it really was the hottest year anyone could remember. In fact, according to the National Climatic Data Center, 2012 was the warmest year for the entire United States since record keeping began in 1895. In Oklahoma, we saw above normal temperatures for 11 months in 2012, with March temperatures averaging approximately 10° F above normal.

In addition, most of our region has seen below average rainfall for the past 3 years, which combined with the higher temperatures, reduced even our most persistent streams to a trickle.

What effect these higher temperatures are having on our streams is unknown. According to Jim Burroughs, fisheries supervisor with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), “We really don’t have much temperature data on small streams, so even though we think they’re probably getting warmer we really don’t know for sure”.

One thing we do know though is that warmer stream temperatures can spell bad news for stream fish. A recent study in Missouri found that above about 27 degrees Celsius (80F) a one degree C increase in stream temperatures during the month of August resulted in a ten percent decline in body weight of adult small-mouth bass. In addition, many of the fish species found in northeast Oklahoma streams like Spring Creek are temperature sensitive and absolutely must have cool water to survive.

The Spring Creek Coalition is pleased to have been able to make a donation to ODWC recently which helped them pur-



chase four HOBO temperature loggers (above, right). “The temperature loggers are waterproof and record a temperature reading every 15 minutes for up to six years” said Burroughs. “Maintenance is minimal and once a month we simply upload the data to a computer. (picture above, left)”

The temperature loggers are located in the Twin Bridges, Thompson Slab, God’s Mountain and Rocky Ford areas. They were put in in 2013 but removed in late October to avoid high water events. Once data is analyzed, we’ll let you know the results.

Summertime! Where Can I Swim?

You can swim and camp for a fee at:

- Littlefield’s and Cave Springs - off Old Cemetery Road, near Peggs
- Smokey Valley Campground, downstream, off Cavalier Road:

See our website, SpringCreekOK.org for directions and cost .