

*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 Spring 2016 Newsletter



Est. 1994

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

**Phone: (918) 906-6762**  
**Email [info@springcreekok.org](mailto:info@springcreekok.org)**  
**[www.springcreekok.org](http://www.springcreekok.org)**

### CALL FOR DUES & 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 - 2014).

Please contribute today: \$20, yearly; \$100, lifetime; or donations of any amount. Contribute electronically via our website or make checks payable to Spring Creek Coalition and send to:

2434 E 56<sup>th</sup> Pl  
Tulsa, OK 74105

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

### SCC Hosts Hydrologist Dr. Russell Dutnell: What Streams Do!

Have you ever wondered why stream banks erode? Or why a creek is the size that it is and can't handle a flood? Don't miss the Spring Creek Coalition educational seminar **10am Saturday, April 16th, at Peggs Community Center, Hwy 82.**

Dr. Russell Dutnell will present "What Streams Do! A Brief Introduction to Fluvial Geomorphology". Afterward we will adjourn to the creek where Dr. Dutnell will give demonstrations on one of OSU Extension's stream simulation trailers showing how streams react to different scenarios. He'll then point out features he sees in Spring Creek, like flow patterns, bank erosion and

sediment movement.

Dr. Dutnell has been working in Oklahoma's creeks and rivers for the past 28 years, studying them, restoring them,



What streams do—Spring Creek near Lucky

and generally enjoying being in them. He has done projects on Spring Creek, the Illinois River, and numerous other streams in Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, Kansas, California, and Canada.

**Bring your questions, your lunch, and a folding chair** for creek side. Please note that we are not offering solutions to erosion problems. But Dr. Dutnell's talk will be invaluable for understanding why streams such as Spring Creek do what they do.

### Member Feedback!

The SCC board asked in a recent poll about your concerns. We received great feedback. Every comment is valuable.

## Member Feedback

We will address them, a few at a time, in our quarterly newsletters.

Comments:

1. "Work with realtors who sell property in the watershed so that they provide information to new landowners."
2. "It appears much land is being purchased by those outside the area with little understanding of the fragility of this pristine creek...Outreach to these persons."

Response:

The board is working on a hand-out about the uniqueness of our creek and the work we do together within the watershed. We will get these to local businesses, realtors, and community centers.

Comments:

1. "Physical changes such as erosion of stream banks"
2. "How much gravel movement and deposition is natural?"

Response:

We have quickly put together an educational meeting April 16 on stream dynamics by Dr. Russell Dutnell. An understanding of how streams work is basic to future SCC efforts.

## Annual Meeting a Success

It was cold and rainy. Snow flurries were in the air. Our speaker Trey Lam, who had to drive up from OKC, ran into treacherous roads and cancelled for safety reasons.

## Annual Meeting Recap

Still, we had 31 adults and 6 children turn out for an informative, interesting meeting. We discussed the results of our recent member's poll, and showed a video about SCC's work that we created for our meeting with GRDA CEO Dan Sullivan and five others. Thomas Russell, a longtime SCC contributor, graciously volunteered funding for our newsletter publishing. A great success in spite of the weather!

### Meet Your Neighbors - the Bylers

Most people move because of a job opportunity; then they join a community in their new location. Ed and Bonnie Byler, Mennonites from Missouri, moved to Spring Creek to help build a church community; then they looked for a job.

Ed and Bonnie bought 150 acres on Spring Creek in June of 2010 on the south side of the creek near Thompson's Slab crossing. "I love it," says Ed, "the creek was a big factor for me



Ed and Bonnie Byler

since I had one flowing by my home in Pennsylvania where I grew up." They had driven around looking for a place with no luck; then their son, Austin, found the acreage on Craig's List. "It was all grown up, brushy and wooded," says Bonnie. "An old camper had a tree grow-

## Meet Your Neighbors

ing out of it."

Ed and Bonnie cleared the land and built a house with one side into the earth. "It's called a walk out basement house. We had built one like it in Missouri." They laughingly call the place Copperhead Trails Ranch because of all the snakes they stirred up. "At least two a night," says Bonnie. Luckily, no one got bit. Now the property has pastures, open spaces and a spring running through it. The Bylers have horses, cows and chickens; they love to trail ride.

Next came looking for work. "We had been in construction all our lives," says Ed, "so I thought we would do that. But then my daughters started talking about baking. With four girls (one boy), we ended up going in that direction."

In 2013 they opened Trail's End Kountry Market/Bakery on highway 82 just north of Tahlequah. They feature their own grass-fed beef, country fresh eggs, non-GMO, gluten-free, and organic foods. All their baking (breads, cookies, pies, and special orders) is done from scratch. Ed makes pulled pork sandwiches. The girls create soups, chicken salad, and pineapple cake. You can build your own deli sandwich or enjoy a toasted Reuben. Hungry yet?

On their Facebook page they have received a rating of 4.7 stars for 107 reviews with comments like "Good food, good atmosphere, and one of the cleanest places I have ever eaten in." and "Awesome home cooking! The best frozen beef on the market. And the coffee, now let me tell you, this is the best part of visiting Trail's End, the gourmet coffee!"

## SCC on Facebook

The Bylers are happy with their move to Spring Creek. They describe their community as non-traditional Mennonites whose mission is to reach out to people rather than keeping to themselves. Their Kountry Market helps them do that. It's a family project which is also something they highly value. "It's so important to be able to work together as a family," notes Bonnie.



### Kountry Market Special for SCC

Through April, receive 10% off lunch on your first visit to Trail's End Kountry Market, 15188 OK-82, Tahlequah. Just show the Byler's your copy of this newsletter or other proof of SCC affiliation.

### Spring Creek Coalition on Facebook

We are now on Facebook. To get timely reminders and information, 'Like us' on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Spring-Creek-Coalition-675057642638305/?fref=ts>