



Earth Team Volunteer Newsletter

July 2009



*Tulsa County Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tulsa County Blue Thumb*

It's Summer! - Wright and Grissom Day Camp Presentations Begin

While summer may not officially begin until June 21st, it has begun for lots of kids that are now out of school. The district is doing presentations for kids at the day camp programs at Grissom Elementary and Wright Elementary. On June 11th, I gave a presentation about trees to kids at both day camps. Topics included what products we get from forests, what animals live in forests, why forests are important, and what we can do to help protect forests. I brought some props with me to show the kids exactly what parts of the tree we were talking about. The props, called tree cookies, are slices of the trunk of the tree that show the rings, bark, pith, heartwood, sapwood, xylem, phloem, and cambium. The kids were very enthusiastic and had lots of great questions.



Made another trip out to Wright and Grissom today to talk about plants. One of our volunteers, Leah Sutton, came to help make dirt babies. The kids were excited to make something that they were able to take home. They also loved the idea of being able to give their dirt babies a hair cut. We discussed why plants are important, how many things we get from them, and about some plants native to Oklahoma. Chelle will be talking on June 25th about her specialty - wildlife and native animals. I'm sure she will have some of her interesting props including skulls, bird nests, rocks, feathers, and furs.

Calling All Applicants

The Conservation District is looking for a motivated person to fill the full time District Secretary I position. Applicants must have working knowledge and experience with general office procedures, computer software applications and bookkeeping. Experience with QuickBooks, payroll, and accounting recommended. Starting salary is \$10.50 per hour plus health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave. Applications can be obtained from the district office or our website www.tulsacountyconservationdistrict.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted by **June 29th** to the district office.



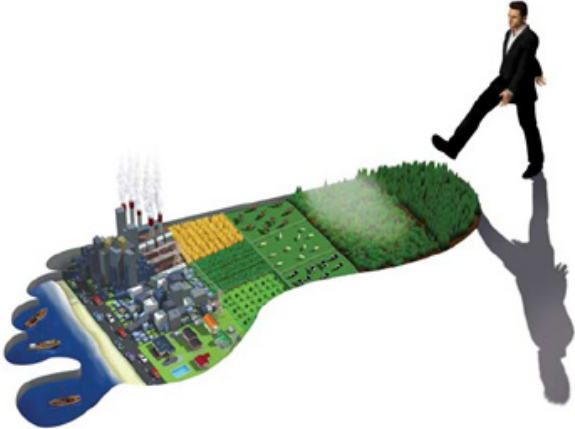
There will NOT be an Earth Team Meeting on July 2nd; however, there will still be Blue Thumb QA sessions from 10-11 AM and 6-7 PM. Please make sure to mark the next Earth Team meeting, October 1st at 6 PM, on your calendar. Chad Burden, featured in last month's newsletter, will be giving a presentation about green building and remodeling. It will be a very informative talk. I hope to see lots of you there.

Environmental Term of the Month

Ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems. It compares human demand with planet Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to regenerate the resources a human population consumes and to absorb and render harmless the corresponding waste. Using this assessment, it is possible to estimate how much of the Earth (or how many planet Earths) it would take to support humanity if everybody lived a given lifestyle. For 2005, humanity's total ecological footprint was estimated at 1.3 planet Earths - in other words, humanity uses ecological services 1.3 times as fast as Earth can renew them. Every year, this number is recalculated - with a three year lag due to the time it takes for the UN to collect and publish all the underlying statistics.

Ecological footprint analysis compares human demand on nature with the biosphere's ability to regenerate resources and provide services. It does this by assessing the biologically productive land and marine area required to produce the resources a population consumes and absorb the corresponding waste, using prevailing technology. Footprint values at the end of a survey are categorized for Carbon, Food, Housing, and Goods and Services as well as the total footprint number of Earths needed to sustain the world's population at that level of consumption. This approach can also be applied to an activity such as the manufacturing of a product or driving of a car. This resource accounting is similar to life cycle analysis wherein the consumption of energy, biomass (food, fiber), building material, water and other resources are converted into a normalized measure of land area called 'global hectares' (*gha*).

Ecological footprinting is now widely used around the globe as an indicator of environmental sustainability. It can be used to measure and manage the use of resources throughout the economy. It can be used to explore the sustainability of individual lifestyles, goods and services, organizations, industry sectors, neighborhoods, cities, regions and nations. Since 2006, a first set of ecological footprint standards exist that detail both communication and calculation procedures. They are available at www.footprintstandards.org and were developed in a public process facilitated by Global Footprint Network and its partner organizations.



Calendar of Events

Summer Camp at Wright Elementary

June 25th from 1-2 PM

We will be making dirt babies/life box presentation, talking about tree cookies, and doing a wildlife pres.

Summer Camp at Grissom Elementary

June 25th from 2:45-3:45PM

We will be making dirt babies/life box presentation, talking about tree cookies, and doing a wildlife pres.

Oxley Grand Opening of Nature Center

Saturday June 27th from 1-3 PM

We will be making soil paintings or fish prints

Tulsa County Free Fair

Join 4-H for this free fair in the summer. We will be passing out literature and will also have the sewer-in-a-suitcase or the Enviro-scape.

July 23-25

Tulsa State Fairgrounds

Summer Macroinvertebrate Collections

Sometime in July and/or August - We should be getting the exact dates in the very near future

15th Creek Clean Up & Water Festival

The morning will begin with a creek cleanup. Then food, a kids zone, art show, earth friendly vendors, a live auction and much more.

September 12th

RiverParks from Pedestrian Bridge– 36th St
Tentatively scheduled from 9 AM - 3 PM

Blue Thumb Training

Become a certified Blue Thumb monitor

September 26th-27th 8 AM—4:30 PM

TCCD Offices

5401 S Sheridan Tulsa, OK 74135

Volunteer Notes

The Creek Clean Up and Water Festival is quickly approaching. We need your help to have a successful event. We are looking for volunteers for the Water Festival committees. We are ramping up our efforts as we get closer to the event. You can make a big difference by just helping out for a few hours a month.

We also need volunteers for the Tulsa County Free Fair coming up in July. We will be talking to the public and will also have the sewer in a suitcase. It lasts 3 days so we need your help if you are able to work!

“Each man is locked into a system that compels him to increase his herd without limit—in a world that is limited. Ruin is the destination toward which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons. Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all.”

~ Garrett Hardin: Tragedy of the Commons

“...Each species occupies a unique niche in a rich and complex, but delicately balanced ecosystem. By destroying a single species, we upset the balance of the whole system.”

~ Lilly-Marlene Russow: Why Do Species Matter?

“Unless current trends are reversed, Americans will gradually be living in a nation that has fewer warblers and ducks and more starlings and herring gulls, fewer native wildflowers and more noxious weeds, fewer swallowtail butterflies and more cockroaches, smaller herds of elk and bigger herds of rats, less edible seafood, less productive croplands, less dependable supplies of pure fresh water, more desert wastes and dust storms, more frequent floods and more uncomfortable weather.”

~Paul Ehrlich

“Biodiversity cannot be maintained by protecting a few species in a zoo, nor by preserving greenbelts or even a few national parks. To function properly nature needs more room than that. It can maintain itself, however, without human expense, without zookeepers, park rangers, foresters or gene banks. All it needs is to be left alone.”

~ Donella H Meadows

The Earth Team Newsletter is published by Tulsa County Conservation District, 5401 S. Sheridan Rd., Suite 201, Tulsa, OK, Phone: (918) 280-1595. Tulsaccd@conservation.ok.gov Tulsa County Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are equal opportunity providers and employers. Visit the web site at www.tulsacountyconservationdistrict.org