



## Earth Team Volunteer Newsletter

May 2009



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

### **Resource Management Conference educates about Low Impact Development and Green Building techniques**

Eighty eight people attended the TCCD's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Resource Management Conference held at the Home Builder Association of Greater Tulsa. We had a lot of positive feedback and encouragement from the event. The headline speaker was Ron Jones, editor of Green Builder magazine. Ron traveled all the way from Washington to speak about the need to change perceptions about green building and the positive impact green building can have on the future of the US. His message was well received by the audience. The audience was made up of contractors, builders, realtors, city planners, engineers, water quality technicians, executive directors, storm water operators, and the general public.

Tim Busse, architect of St Charles New Town – a new urbanist community near St Louis – showcased his amazing Low Impact Development community. Keith Sterling and Jeff Bigby from the City of Broken Arrow talked about LID certification and the star system they will be integrating soon. Broken Arrow is rapidly becoming well known and respected in Oklahoma for the initiative they are showing towards Best Management practices and low impact development techniques.

Tim Armer from INCOG discussed green transportation and what the future of public transit may look like in Tulsa. We also had Shelby Navarro, principal of ONE Architecture in Tulsa. Many of you may have seen some of Shelby's work – he completed the first LEED platinum building in Oklahoma with his lofts at 15<sup>th</sup> and Rockford. Shelby spoke about green in Tulsa and about green building supplies. It was a very informative and interesting conference. We were very glad to have a wide variety of attendees and are excited about expanding to a wider audience with next year's conference. Stay tuned for info on next year's conference.

Thanks to all those who attended and to our sponsors: Greater Tulsa HBA, Tallgrass Resource Conservation & Development, INCOG, Brandon Perkins Development, City of Broken Arrow, PSO-AEP, Robson Companies, Secretary of the Environment, and the M.e.t. We'd also like to thank our donors: Panera Bread, QT Kitchens, Wal-Mart, Reasor's, Bella Faccia, Julie Grant, Oklahoma Blue Thumb, Royal Treatment, Great Harvest, All-American Fitness, Java Dave's, and the M.e.t. **WITHOUT OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS THIS EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE!**



# QA and Earth Team Volunteer Meeting

## Change of Date: April 23rd

We have had to change the date for QA and Volunteer meeting. Please mark your calendar. For those of you that have signed up ...Don't forget we will also be doing **bug picking** April 23rd and the 24th.

**April 23rd - QA - 10:00 am - TCCD office**  
**Volunteer Meeting - 6:00 pm - Water on The Run**  
**(on 51st just west of Memorial- next to Food Pyramid)**  
**QA - 7:00 pm - TCCD office**

### Environmental Word of the Month

**New Urbanism** is an urban design movement that arose in the United States in the early 1980s. Its goal is to reform many aspects of real estate development and urban planning, from urban retrofits to suburban infill. New urbanist neighborhoods are designed to contain a diverse range of housing and jobs, and to be walkable. New urbanists support regional planning for open space, context-appropriate architecture and planning, and the balanced development of jobs and housing. They believe their strategies can reduce traffic congestion, increase the supply of affordable housing, and rein in urban sprawl. The *Charter of the New Urbanism* also covers issues such as historic preservation, safe streets, green building, and the redevelopment of brownfield land. New urbanism is having a growing influence on how and where metropolitan regions choose to grow. At least fourteen large-scale planning initiatives are based on the principles of linking transportation and land-use policies, and using the neighborhood as the fundamental building block of a region. More than six hundred new towns, villages, and neighborhoods in the U.S. following new urbanism principles, are planned or under construction. Hundreds of new, small-scale, urban and suburban infill projects are under way to reestablish walkable streets and blocks. In Maryland and several other states, new urbanist principles are an integral part of "smart growth" legislation. In the mid-1990s, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) adopted the principles of the new urbanism in its multi-billion dollar program to rebuild public housing projects nationwide. A couple of the presenters at our Resource Management Conference spoke about this topic and it's rising popularity and functionality.



← St Charles - New Town outside St Louis

→ Prospect New Town in Longmont, CO has a mix of housing options



## TCCD Assists Envirothon Teams

Teacher Frances Dodd invited us to come and talk to her Envirothon team on this year's special topic of "Biodiversity in a Changing World." This is a very broad topic that can be related to many different things. One must consider genetic, species, and landscape biodiversity. The Canon Envirothon is an annual competition in which winning state/provincial teams compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The teams, each consisting of five high school-aged students from participating US States and Canadian Provinces, exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on four universal testing categories (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife) and a current environmental issue.

Training for the Envirothon begins well in advance of the actual event. The Envirothon program is an effective educational tool, capable of supplementing environmental education both inside and outside the classroom. Led by a volunteer teacher advisor, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for Envirothon competitions.

Team training includes field trips to natural resource sites, museums, or other areas of interest; listening to presentations given by natural resource professionals; and careful study of natural resource materials. Through these learning activities, teams increase their knowledge of and ability to understand complex environmental and natural resource issues. Teams from Tulsa County include Owasso, Tulsa Memorial, and Edison High School.

These three teams competed in the State competition on April 6-8th at Beaver's Bend State Park near Broken Bow, OK. Unfortunately, none of our teams won the competition, but they all gained valuable experience that will help them in future competitions. The team from Lawton High School won again this year; they have won the competition many times in recent years.



An albino trout caught by the Memorial Team

# Calendar of Events

## **Earthfest at the Tulsa Zoo**

We will be making fish prints  
April 18th 9 AM—5 PM  
Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum

## **Down Town Environmental Expo**

April 22nd 10 AM - 2 PM  
Main and 4th Street

## **Earth Team Volunteer Meeting and QA**

New format - morning QA session from 10-11  
ET meeting from 6-7 PM & evening QA from  
7-8 PM on April 23rd

## **Bug Picking**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11AM – 6 PM  
April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM – 10 PM  
We will be sorting through samples taken in  
the winter collections a few months ago

## **St John's Earth Fest**

April 29<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 PM

## **Okmulgee Natural Resource Days**

May 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 2 PM

## **Tulsa County Free Fair**

Join 4-H for this free fair in the summer  
July 22-24  
Tulsa State Fairgrounds

## **15th Annual Creek Clean Up & Water Festival**

The morning will begin with a run followed  
by a creek cleanup. Then a fair-like water festi-  
val with food vendors, kids zone, art show,  
earth friendly vendors, a live auction and  
much more.

September 12th  
Tulsa River parks from 21st to 41st  
Tentatively scheduled from 7 AM—7 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 Opportunities**

**We are still in need of help at all of the below events.  
If you can help with any of them please let us know!**

- ⇒ Down Town Environmental Expo
- ⇒ St John's Earth Fest
- ⇒ Okmulgee Natural Resource Days
- ⇒ Free Fair



**We are still looking for volunteers to assist in the planning of  
our first ever Watershed Festival.**

Thanks to everyone who came and helped at Earthfest  
including: **John, Nathan, ShaQuysta, Kacey, Alexis,  
Devan, Kourtney, Katja, Cassidy, Stephen, Kendra,  
Kory, Taryn, Cale, Terry, Catelyn, Cara, Taylor,  
Alex, Kristen, Connor, Chris, Ashley D, Ashley A,  
Ashley L, Tabitha, Becki, Tasha, Sara, Jonathan,  
Jessica, Ashlee H, and Julie**

**Don't miss out on an opportunity to help plan  
TCCD's first Water Festival and Creek Cleanup  
on Crow Creek. We have a wide variety of tasks  
that need your help to get completed. Please call us  
at 280-1595 to assist - THIS EVENT WILL NOT  
BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!**

*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](mailto: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](http://www.tulsacountyconservationdistrict.org)*