

Soil! Our Lives Depend on It How Can You Help??

MEETING DATE: August 31, 2015

TIME: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Community Center
18120 Hogback Rd.
Luther, OK



- ◆ Learn why your soil health is important
- ◆ Learn how to improve soil health on your farm
- ◆ Be part of a locally led group determining conservation needs in Oklahoma County

*For more information, please contact the Oklahoma County
Conservation District at (405) 524-4450 Ext. 5*



Rose State KIDS College Activities in June



This water molecule has landed in the ocean.



Showing off our bracelets!!!

Water molecules, rainsticks, soils, and wildlife were the highlight of activities when district staff Becky Inmon and Don Bartolina assisted with Rose State KIDS College in Midwest City on June 11. Students acted out the role of a water molecule in the water cycle traveling from the ocean to the clouds, back to the river or soil, plants and animals, and continually moving through the water cycle. Along the way, they made bracelets to log their journey of movement. The students, ages 7-11, learned about the importance of soils to products they eat, wear, and use every day. They also made an edible soil profile and learned about the ingredients used. Participants enjoyed hearing about the use of rainsticks in ancient cultures and each student designed their own rainstick to take home. Students completed the day's activities learning about the habitat needs of different wildlife species and getting to see and touch wildlife pelts. About 40 students from the Midwest City area participated in the event. Many thanks to teacher Sarah Fisher for inviting us to share her classroom.



Rain sticks unite!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

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| <p>August 31
Locally Led Meeting in Luther</p> <p>September 2
Board of Directors Meeting</p> <p>September 7
Labor Day —Office closed</p> <p>September 25-27
Annual Wildlife Expo</p> <p>September 30
NRD—Sunset Elementary</p> <p>September 28
Poster Contest entry deadline</p> | <p>October 6
NRD—James L. Dennis</p> <p>October 7
Board of Directors Meeting</p> <p>October 13
NRD—Jones Elementary</p> <p>October 15
Soil Health Assessment Training</p> <p>October 21
NRD—Rollingwood Elementary</p> <p>November 11
Veterans Day Holiday</p> |
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This edible soil is pretty good stuff!

DID YOU KNOW?
 Healthy soil should be "active" with live roots for as long as possible. Contrary to conventional thought, healthy soil should not lie "fallow" from time to time (that is, to lie bare without growing plants). Having plants grow all the time to capture energy and feed microbial populations helps improve soil health.

The Oklahoma County Conservation District Board of Directors holds its monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 1:30 p.m., at 4850 N. Lincoln Blvd, Ste B, in Oklahoma City. The meetings are open to the public. All programs and services of the Oklahoma County Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, marital status or physical impairment.

District 's Annual Poster Contest Underway

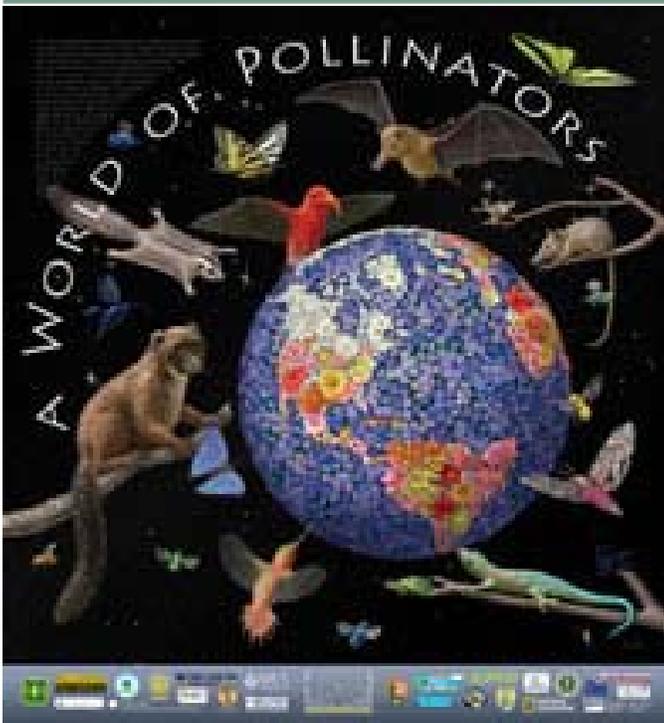
'Local Heroes, Your Hardworking Pollinators' is the theme for the district's annual poster contest. The contest is open to all students in grades K-5 including students in public, private or home school. Posters must be created by the student and must be 14"x22" in size. Students may use any media such as paint, crayon, colored pencil, markers, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials to create their poster. Posters must display the theme LOCAL HEROES-YOUR HARDWORKING POLLINATORS. Any poster of the wrong size or that does not display the proper theme will be disqualified. Posters are due in the district office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 28. Complete contest guidelines can be downloaded from the district's website: <http://www.okcountyconservation.com>. If you have questions, please call the district office at 524-4450.



Director Jan Kunze and secretary Becky Inmon attended the annual Statewide Women in Ag and Small Business Conference held at the Moore Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City on August 6-7. Keynote speakers included Carrie Mess 'Dairy Carrie' and Marjorie Alaniz of "Farm Her" in Iowa. Both women are advocates for agriculture. Carrie blogs about adventures on her dairy farm in Wisconsin and Marjorie uses her photography skills to document the lives of farm women all across the United States. The meeting included a number of very informative break-out sessions on topics such as Agritourism, social media marketing, food labels and what they mean, building soil health, equitable lease agreements, and agriculture application of drones and UAV'S. The meeting is sponsored by many agriculture agencies and organizations including the American Farmers and Ranchers, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma, USDA Risk Management Agency, USDA-NRCS, USDA Rural Development, USDA-NASS Oklahoma Field Office, OSU-OKC Horticulture Department, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, National Livestock Credit Corp, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Team, the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, plus numerous other contributors.

Attention: Educators

Educational posters *A World of Pollinators* and *What's the Buzz, Join the Conversation about Native Bees* are available at the district office. Call 524-4450 to reserve a copy for your classroom.



Follow us online at:
[Wwww.okcountyconservation.com](http://www.okcountyconservation.com)
<https://www.facebook.com/oklahomacountyconservationdistrict>

Join us for the annual Wildlife Expo at the Lazy E Arena on Sept 25-27. We will be at the *Soil & Water—Our wildLIFE Depends on It* booth in the NW corner of the arena. The booth is sponsored by the Rogers County CD and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. We hope to see you there!!

