



Water Quality UPDATE

Newsletter of Extension Water Quality Programs

December 2003

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

This fall has been full of water quality information sessions.

On October 19-22, nine members of the OCES Water Quality team traveled to Ruidoso, New Mexico for the **Southern Region Extension Water Quality Conference**. The group presented two posters (**The Oklahoma State Water Quality Program** and **The Green Country Watershed Education Project**) and four talks:

- *Blue Thumb Volunteer Monitoring Program*
Presented by Mitch Fram
- *OK Litter Market*
Presented by Jason Hollenback
- *Youth and Minority Drinking Water Programs*
Presented by LaDonna McCowan
- *Creek on Wheels*
Presented by Alan VanDeventer

The team hauled one of the Stream Trailers to the event, reinforcing Alan VanDeventer's talk. In addition, three youths and the Director of REYAP (*Retired Educators for Youth Agricultural Programs*) accompanied LaDonna McCowan on the trip. All the team members benefited from workshops, networking, and the opportunity to share the latest news and methods for improving water quality education programs.

Oklahoma Water 2003, a symposium co-sponsored by the OSU Environmental Institute and the Oklahoma Section of the American Water Resources Association, was held on October 29-30 in Stillwater. The workshop brought together water resource professionals from around the state to present their research and discuss future needs. Topics included climate studies from the USDA-ARS at El Reno, the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer, phosphorus issues, and water quality education.

OCES Water Quality Coordinator, Mike Smolen, presented a talk on *Using the P Index Approach to Protect Surface Water Quality*, and NE District Water Quality Specialist Mitch Fram spoke on *OSU Extension Education Impact on Protection and Management of Water Resources*. OSU Biosystems & Ag Engineering Professor Glenn Brown, chair for the event, said "total attendance was approximately 80 people – not bad turnout for the first year of an annual event."

Water Quality Related In-service Training

CCA Advanced Training will be held on campus January 7-8, 2004. Eight to ten Extension Specialists will be presenting information on **Soil & Water Management, Nutrient Management, Crop Management and Pest Management**. Some non-traditional concerns will be addressed at two of the workshop sessions. The first is devoted to familiarizing attendees with useful online resources. Instructors will show how to take advantage of these time-saving tools. The second is a professional development session designed to meet this year's new expanded CCA program requirements. To reserve your spot, contact Ag Conferences at 405.744.6489.

January 22, 2004 - **Storm Water Phase II In-service Training** will be held at the Chandler Fair Grounds (replaces OKC and Tulsa). Educators from urbanizing communities, particularly Metro-OKC and Tulsa, as well as the Lawton, Stillwater, Bartlesville, and Muskogee areas are encouraged to attend. Contact Mike Smolen (405.744.5653, smolen@okstate.edu) for more information.

