

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 Winter 2013 Newsletter



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SCC ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, January 11
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Peggs Community Center
Peggs, Oklahoma**

Season's Greetings, Members and Friends of Spring Creek Coalition.

This is YOUR annual membership meeting! Why come?

Learn. Our featured speaker, Dr. Van Brahana is a renowned hydro-geologist and an expert in Arkansas' and Oklahoma's karst geology. His presentation promises to be extremely interesting and informative.

Socialize. Get to know the many interesting people who live or own land along Spring Creek, from Oaks to Cedar Crest.

Share your views. Talk with your regional representatives on the board. Let us know what issues matter and why the creek is important to you.

Stay informed. Learn about what's been going on up and down the creek in 2013 in our "State of the Coalition" presentation.

Vote. Cast your vote for our three new board member nominees.

There will be snacks and an auction benefiting Spring Creek Coalition.

Location: the Peggs Community Center is on the east side of Hwy. 82 in Peggs. Look for the "Spring Creek Coalition" banner.

Speaker Knows His Geology

Spring Creek is special. It is known for diverse fish, some of them rare such as the Arkansas Darter and the Plains Topminnow. It has an incredible amount of sensitive insect groups with over 49 species of mayflies. It is the only body of water to receive a Category 1 rating in the DEQ's 2010 water quality assessment. Our Annual-meeting speaker, Dr. Van Brahana, has devoted his life to studying the type of spring-fed geology that makes much of this possible.

Dr. Brahana discovered his passion for geology, caves, and karst early in life, and considers himself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in the field for almost 50 years. His fourth-grade teacher ignited the initial geologic spark.

Brahana's professional career includes more than 28 years with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a research hydrologist, and 23 years as a professor at the University of Arkansas where he held a joint appointment as USGS researcher and teacher. "The classes I felt most strongly about," notes Brahana, "were Geology in National Parks and Environmental Justice".

Now retired, Brahana spends some twelve hours a day doing pro bono consulting work.

"My presentation will discuss the interaction of water and rocks and how that creates karst landscapes, how springs are integrated into that and influences on water quality. I'd like to give Spring Creek Coalition members specifics to

Geology Speaker

help them understand the science behind geological happenings on Spring Creek.”

Bring Your Rock Samples:

Do you have interesting rocks or fossils from your Spring Creek-area property? Or pictures of creek geologic formations? Dr.



Brahana said he would be glad to look over the items you bring and tell you what he can about them.

SCC 2014 Board Nominees

We are pleased to present three outstanding nominees for your consideration at the annual meeting.

Also, **Robin Tait** is leaving the board one year early due to travel and time commitments. Robin has been a valuable board member, helping with his ideas and his manpower in every creek clean-up and event. Thank you, Robin. Your service is appreciated by all on the board.

George Kamp: George Kamp has had a long time interest in Spring Creek. He has owned approximately 240 acres along the creek, including the Lucky Springs area, since the early 1970's. He is a retired physician and enjoys two hobbies, birding and fly fishing, in Oklahoma and elsewhere. His

New Board Nominees

conservation activities include the Nature Conservancy and Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Tom Alexander: Tom Alexander is president of Alexander Consulting, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. A PhD hydrologist and geologist, Tom is a welcome friend of Spring Creek. In 2012 he donated over \$3,000 of work helping us understand the source of Peggs Water Company water withdrawal and its impact on Spring Creek water flows.

Emily Hyde: Emily Hyde is new to the history of spring creek but very excited about getting to work with the board. She is a senior at Holland Hall and planning to major in Water Resources at OSU next fall. She has a strong interest in water preservation and became involved in Spring Creek after hearing about it having the healthiest waters in Oklahoma. Emily is involved in her school's environmental science club and is currently in a water quality independent study. She will be an active member of the board until her graduation.

Dump Site Tackled with Help of Cherokee Nation

On Tuesday, October 29, the Cherokee Nation joined with Spring Creek Coalition to tackle a long-standing dump site at the Rocky Ford area. Trent, Virgil and Steve of the Cherokee Nation used a backhoe to fill a very large 15 cubic yard dump truck twice with debris from the dump.

Meanwhile, several members of SCC soured the park area and steam banks to fill sacks by hand. “I must have picked up 15 baby diapers”,

Dump Site Tackled

lamented Martin Rooney.

The next Saturday, 10 members turned out to fill over 30 bags with trash in the Cave Springs area. They picked their way along both sides of the low-water bridge crossing. Working in teams, they cleaned up both sides of the dirt road leading into the area.

Some of the best parts of a fall clean-up are the beautiful weather - colors close to peak - and the fellowship. After two hours of work, we enjoyed hot dogs and chili cooked over an open fire, bean salad, and home-made brownies. Before heading home we worked as a team resurrecting our Spring Creek Watershed sign on highway 82. Tired and well-fed, we left with a real feeling of accomplishment.



SCC members re-erect our watershed sign on Hwy 82

Oklahoma's Mound-Building Cultures

Have you happened upon arrowheads, knives, or spear points in the Spring Creek area? Although we are in the heart of Cherokee Nation, these items were most likely made and used by the ancestors of the Caddo and Wichita people.

On Saturday, September 28, Dr. Scott Hammerstedt of the OK Archeological Survey and OU

Where Eagles Fly

talked about the Reed site, now under Grand Lake and first excavated in the 1920s. It is part of a larger mound-building tradition that includes Spiro Mounds.

Dr. Hammerstedt talked about how burial mounds were built layer upon layer to maintain the power of the deceased chief and his family and how copper sheet from as far away as the Great Lakes indicated a culture that forged metal and participated in trade.

SCC members displayed their artifact collections. After his lecture, Dr. Hammerstedt held up manos, spear points, and scrapers, told us how the tools were typically used and estimated their ages. “It is amazing to think,” marveled one SCC member, “as you pick up an arrowhead on a dirt road near Spring Creek, that it might have last been touched by a human hand 5,000 years ago.”

Where Eagles Fly

Look for bald eagles along Spring Creek from October to March. Migratory bald eagles arrive from their northern breeding grounds in early October and remain throughout the winter.

During the day, bald eagles are most likely found near water where they search for and feed on fish and waterfowl. They also eat carrion. On smaller tributaries such as Spring Creek, eagles are usually spaced out along the waterway. Their powerful wings can be heard as they fly down the creek corridor.