

## Announcing the 11<sup>th</sup> National Tar Creek Conference

The public is invited to attend LEAD Agency's 11<sup>th</sup> **National Tar Creek Conference** held at the Miami Civic Center September 22 -24 in Miami, OK. Interested in the air you breathe? The fish and game you catch? Join us at the Tar Creek Conference this year, you will find as we have, ***"It's NOT JUST Tar Creek Anymore."*** The Tar Creek Conference occurs annually with efforts and support of the area tribal environmental departments.

**Tuesday, (9-5) September 22** the Tar Creek issues will be the topic for the first conference day, featuring federal, state and tribal reports on status of the on going projects to actually resolve and restore the land and the water. Tuesday will also feature a new scientific aerial approach used to view sites and an optional on-site tour of the passive water treatment restoration project in Commerce, OK. A photography workshop will be lead by Vaughn Wascovich for those interested. Tuesday evening will be an Indian Tacos and traditional Native American dancing all at the Civic Center. For those arriving early, an opening event will be held at the Dobson Memorial Center Monday evening to honor area school and college art instructors, and visit the museum and mining exhibits.

**Wednesday, (9-5) September 23** topics will be about the Air We Breathe, both outdoor air and our indoor air issues. Those interested in fishing and learning why the water bodies in our states have mercury advisories limiting the numbers of fish we should eat will learn WHY that has happened. If you have experienced a flood, or have asthma, the indoor air topics that day will be of great interest. Wednesday evening at the Coleman Theater view *Tar Creek*, the movie, produced by the former Vinita, OK resident, Matt Myers, listen to Meg Sullivan and learn about her use of dramatic interpretation of her own family history with mining. Join in her during the morning for an autobiographical writing and performance 2 hour workshop about history and home.

**Thursday, (9 until noon only) September 24** ties us all together with the use of land and water and how researchers have found links to the exposures to the health of our mothers and our children. A writing workshop led by Olive Sullivan is planned for Thursday. Each of the workshops will require a \$10 fee and can be indicated on the registration form.

Registration for the three day event is \$75, and a single day is \$40. The fee for residents in Ottawa County has been waived, though evening event \$10 donations will be required. Inquire at NEO College for one hour credit they are offering for attendance at this year's conference.

LEAD Agency is a non-profit organization focused on environmental and health issues. Contact us at 918-542-9399 for more information. [www.leadagency.org](http://www.leadagency.org) or executive director, Rebecca Jim at [rjim@neok.com](mailto:rjim@neok.com). We look forward to a successful conference and hope you will attend.