

## Riverkeeper? What's that?

A Riverkeeper watches the rivers and, in our case, will watch not only the Neosho and Spring Rivers, but also Grand Lake o' the Cherokees. This will mean watching and reporting pollution that is found, and tracing it back to the source to find the responsible parties.

LEAD Agency member Earl Hatley serves as our first "Grand Riverkeeper" and the 117th member of the Waterkeeper Alliance. Waterkeeper Alliance connects and supports local Waterkeeper programs to provide a voice for waterways and their communities worldwide. Each Waterkeeper program reflects the needs of the water body and community it represents. The common thread is that for each waterbody and community there is a full-time person who serves as the public advocate for that body of water.

Waterkeeper programs must have organizations behind them. LEAD Agency, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, is proud to be sponsoring Oklahoma's first Waterkeeper program.