

The LEADer

GRAND RIVERKEEPER IN AIR AND ON THE WATER

Upon being hired, Martin Lively, LEAD's Grand Riverkeeper lost no time launching into his work.

He joined Waterkeepers from across the nation in the Waterkeeper Alliance's inaugural drone training program. After the training, Martin acquired a DJI Mavic 2 Zoom drone, passed the FAA's Part 107 exam, and now holds a commercial drone pilot's license, which allows drone operations in areas unavailable to recreational pilots and allows use of the drone for commercial purposes.



LEAD is extremely grateful for the generous donation from **James and Susan Aber**, which allowed us to acquire the new **Ga Du Gi** boat for our Grand Riverkeeper. Their generosity allowed us to purchase Robin Graham's "like-new" Jon boat with outboard and trolling motors and a trailer.

The gift also will cover maintenance and insurance for several years.

"This boat is a perfect tool for monitoring the Grand Lake Watershed both the lake and shallower streams and tributaries." ~ Martin Lively

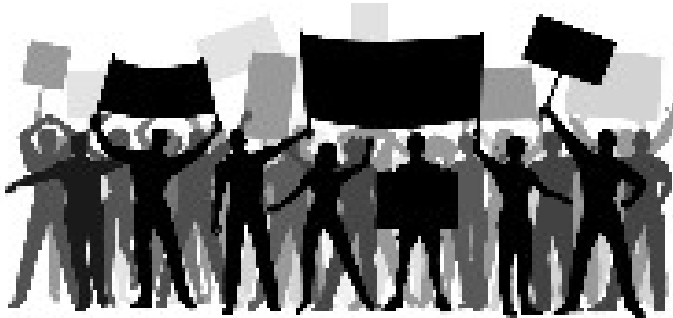


TAR CREEK CLEANUP & EARTH DAY EVENTS

Tar Creek got invited, well actually she inspired NEO Honor Society sponsor LaShawna Powers, Science Instructor Nina Eads and Rebecca Jim to work together on a cleanup along NEO's Tar Creek shoreline. Students, LEAD members and volunteers spent a great afternoon doing their part to make the face of the creek look better. Deborah Berry, a plein air painter and Meredith Ludwig a producer of Lives we Weave became part of the day's cleanup. The O Si Yo crew from the Cherokee Nation's series was also filming a segment for this season featuring Cherokee member, Rebecca Jim during the event.



LEAD held our now annual ZOOM EARTH DAY gathering with some of our many collaborating students and their faculty members and then our Waterkeepers split up and covered 2 more events. Martin Lively, our Grand Riverkeeper set up at Grove at a lake-side awareness event, meeting many of the GRDA and Lake of the Cherokees board members and the public. While Rebecca Jim, our Tar Creekkeeper attended and spoke at the Biggest Earth Day event in Oklahoma at Guthrie Green in Tulsa, which was weather challenged but well attended.



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**JUSTICE WILL NOT BE SERVED UNTIL THOSE WHO ARE UNAFFECTED
ARE AS OUTRAGED AS THOSE WHO ARE. Ben Franklin**

AIR—WATER—WORK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS

Oklahoma University WATER - WORK - AIR is an oral history project beginning at present collecting stories from former BF Goodrich employees and people who have experienced a local flood. But the project is broader, expanding these water stories with people who experience water, through swimming, fishing, boating as well as the flood experiences. Work will include those who had experiences with the mining processes or now those who may be involved in the cleanup restoration efforts that are currently occurring at the Tar Creek Superfund site.

Research is being led by Laurel C. Smith, a professor at OU and joining that team are Valerie Doombos, Moriah Bailey Stephenson with input from additional graduate students joining the team this summer.



One of the first visits included a tour of the former BF Goodrich site with County Commissioner Mike Furnas.



Children have been swimming in Tar Creek.

**Do all you can to convince children to WAIT.
Tar Creek is not safe YET.**

EMPORIA STATE STUDENTS RETURN

The first group of students to return to LEAD Agency after our office reopened was the "rock loving" geology, chemistry students led this year by professor Qiyang Zhang. They were joined by now University of Kansas professor Marcia Schulmeister and one of her graduate students. The highlight of the overnight in-door camping trip was again choosing specimens for their collections from the large canisters of ore samples donated by local retired teacher Dale Allen.



NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARY DONATED BY BRAD ANDERSON

Our original Little Free Library was built for LEAD by Gary Sherrard with the Miami HS Art Class painting ART all over it from the legs to the top. But it had aged and was no longer keeping the books safe from the weather.

Brad Anderson looked it over and decided he had the perfect answer: A SMALL WINE COOLER that no longer cooled! AND could be repurposed for us. You will see it in front of our office. Books are free.

Take and share back, but KEEP READING.

We all benefit when we share.

TAR CREEK THESIS RESEARCH - JAMES WALKINGSTICK

You can participate in the thesis research one of LEAD's Board members is conducting on Tar Creek. James Walkingstick will be a senior next year at Harvard College as is A.B. candidate in Social Anthropology/Ethnicity, Migration, Rights.

The survey is about water and the social relations we have with water in Northeast Oklahoma.

I have spent most of my life living on Grand Lake, and hope to bring a little piece of home to Harvard.—James Walkingstick

CLIMATE CHANGE/RENEWABLE ENERGY: THE RUSH TO MINE: IS THERE A “JUST TRANSITION?” By Earl Hatley, LEAD Board President

The current Administration is being pushed in two directions. As a result, Biden is seen as speaking with a forked tongue. Out of one side he is responding to the push for increasing solar and wind power for energy production and EV transportation in order to reduce the use of fossil fuels. This effort is bringing the lobbyists for the mining industry to push for increased exploration, fast track permitting and relaxed environmental reviews of mining permits and production because the metals/minerals used for the production of these technologies as well as the batteries are needed to store the energy produced (cobalt, lithium, copper, nickel). Depending on the metal just mentioned, 70-97% of these metals are located on Indigenous lands in North America.

Out of the other side of his mouth, comes Environmental Justice! Here he speaks of a “Just Transition” for workers and communities of color and low income as we transition out of fossil fuels and an extractive industry to a “renewable energy future.” But, one must ask, “how is this a just transition for the tribes and communities impacted by the mining?” If we are ignored, then it is only a just transition for everyone else, and therefore business as usual for the rich, and perhaps upper to middle class, **for a while!** Mining, by itself, is estimated to contribute over 10% of GHG emissions, however are more contributions related to mining that add to that calculation raising the contribution, such as transportation costs to milling, milling of the ore and manufacturing. Silica for solar panels and all electronics, are made from high grade mined quartz and melted at high temperatures with coal to make silica metal. All done in ovens fired by coal. Our current configuration of solar and wind technologies are neither sustainable nor renewable!

Western Mining Action Network’s Indigenous Caucus is opposed to new mines, mine reform efforts, or so called “responsible mining.” We are fighting for the “Right to Say NO to Mining!” Free, Prior and Informed Consent, which is sanctioned by UN Charter and approved by the US and Canada means little to these governments or the corporations that operate on our Turtle Island. Free and Prior can mean any type of contact to say they are claiming a mining operation, and consent means YES. It is rare, time consuming and expensive to win a fight against a mine proposal.

WMAN-IC is proposing this alternative: **Conservation First!** Not just energy efficiency, but using less energy. The rich are using 80% of the energy while the Indigenous Peoples whose lands are being destroyed by the mining are getting little of it. The Dene’ (Navajo) Peoples struggle for electrification and travel long distances to fill water containers while watching the mining on their lands (coal, uranium and other minerals), just as other tribal peoples do throughout the western states and Canada. Even here in Ottawa County look at how much economic loss we have realized because of our contamination issues from the abandonment by the mining industry after taking their profits and leaving Ottawa County behind. It is us, the taxpayer that are struggling to clean it up. So we are saying **Conservation: energy efficiency + energy use reduction, along with Mass Transit.** In 10 years we could save up to **50%** of our energy use.

Recycle, Reuse and Remanufacture (Circular Economy) Save the metals that have already been mined. Research from the European Union shows that 25-50% of these metals can be saved through this process. So, if we take the subsidy Pres. Biden is proposing with the Defense Authorization Act for rare earth minerals and instead use it for all this, including the funding already found in the Infrastructure Bill passed last year that covers a lot of this, we can finally get our priorities straight.

Conservation, mass transit and circular economy funded well over the next 15 years could get us to the point where we may not need any, or very few of the mines now being proposed. It takes about that long (10-15 yrs) to stake out a mine site, build a permit, get the permit, start the mining process and get the ore to the refiner. So, if we flip Biden’s process and do it this way, wouldn’t that be a more Just Transition, for everyone? Also, wouldn’t that just be a way that could actually get us out of this climate crisis?