

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DEMANDED



SUMMER 2022

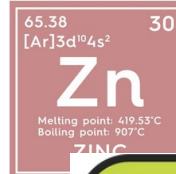
# The LEADer

## TAR CREEK INSPIRES FILM MAKERS AND WRITERS

### *Take Care, Tar Creek* SUPER 8 FILM TO BE RELEASED

. The title of the film, "Take Care, Tar Creek," is intended to provide a context in which a narrator presents from the perspective of "Tar Creek" at large. This will essentially act as an open letter from Tar Creek. It's not meant to linger on any one element but more to give a brief history - as in, this is what "I" (Tar Creek) have experienced. Present, as in, what the results of history were and where "I" am now, and most importantly, the current and future needs of Tar Creek - what "I" need from people in order to survive and thrive. Rebecca Jim was asked for the film to speak for Tar Creek, and signed off with the title: *Take Care, Tar Creek*.

This short Super 8 film produced by Aaron Gibson is unique from an artistic and editing point of view. There is no sync-sound so audio will be recorded either before and/or after the film footage and synced together (digitally) later. With this style of filming, once the trigger is pressed on the camera, those images are captured and will appear in the final product no matter what. No editing of the images or sequence but audio will be added. *Aaron Gibson came to the Tar Creek Superfund site twenty years ago and did his research on chat piles and particle size of the heavy metals found in it.* Aaron will be entering the film in international competitions this fall. Let's watch for the public release of the film!



<http://f47productions.com>

## AN ESSAY: GROUND GLASS – KATHRYN SAVAGE

*Groundglass* takes shape atop a polluted aquifer in Minnesota, beside trains that haul fracked crude oil, as Kathryn Savage confronts the transgressions of U.S. Superfund sites and brownfields against land, groundwater, neighborhoods, and people. Drawing on her own experiences growing up on the fence lines of industry and the parallel realities of raising a young son while grieving a father dying of a cancer with known environmental risk factors, Savage traces concentric rings of connection—between our bodies, one another, our communities, and our ecosystem. She explores the porous boundary between self and environment, and the ambiguous yet growing body of evidence linking toxins to disease. Equal parts mourning poem and manifesto for environmental justice, *Groundglass* reminds us that no living thing exists on its own.

Kathryn Savage's writing has appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *Ecotone Magazine*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *BOMB*, and the anthology *Rewilding: Poems for the Environment*. Recipient of the Academy of American Poets James Wright Prize, she has received support from fellowships and residencies including the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Minnesota State Arts Board, Ucross Foundation, and Tulsa Artist Fellowship. She lives with her family in Minneapolis and teaches creative writing at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Kathryn not only writes about Tar Creek but buying a book will send a small part of the proceeds to LEAD Agency to help in our advocacy efforts.



<https://coffeehousepress.org/products/>

*Could there be something humbling and revolutionary in understanding myself as a site of contamination?*

## TAR CREEK REMEMBERED...

"There are places you will remember"... are words from a song you may remember. But the places you remember, yours and mine, may differ of course, but if you have walked along the shores of a stream, a river or a creek, you will recall the sound and the movement of the water as it flowed past you and continued on its work to reach the ocean, like seeking its long lost mother. But seeing trapped water, held back and turning black, gathering and beginning to "scum" over can move you and others to action: To free that water and allow that water to move as it was created to do.

As a child, is Tar Creek a place you remember? If you were an NEO student, how did her proximity become layered into your memories? If you live along her, on the corridors we know as riparian zones did she rush into your home? lap onto your yard? enter your swimming pool like she and her teammate the Neosho River did with the BIG POOL in Riverview Park?

These waters flow and butt into the water stacked in the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees and never turns around to see which way they back up on us. Ever backed a boat down to the water? It isn't always pretty to watch and neither is that water backing up across the Steve Owens Blvd.

We bemoan and demean that lake and the people who operate the gates that keep our backwater coming back to us. Lots of other people have felt that same way. Many are way ahead of us with the anger, the disgust, and the drive they have to STOP that from happening again.

These waters remember how they flowed unrestrained, they sing it when they meet at Twin Bridges. Other rivers have known freedom, then containment and every year throughout the nation, these rivers are not singing loud enough, but there is a movement to free these trapped waters and let the forces they contain reach the sea.

As we know, a dam can be built to hold water back and while storing it, control flooding, and may even generate electricity. But outdated dams pose a threat to public safety. A recent UN report highlighted the growing risk of aging water infrastructure. <https://www.americanrivers.org/2021/02/69-dams-removed-in-2020/>

There was a "big dam" building phase in the US beginning in the early 1900's and President Franklin Roosevelt used dam building to put many people to work during the Depression. Our Grand Lake got in on the tail end of that era and is now over EIGHTY years old and GRDA is asking for a 30 to 50 year license to continue generating power. It is hard to believe that there are more than 90,000 dams blocking rivers in the U.S."90 dams in the US were removed in 2020. A total of 1,797 dams have been removed in the U.S. since 1912."

The movement to capture nature and USE her has met the challenge of old dams and trapped water also trapping sediment and pollutants, these aged-out infrastructures have gotten the attention of protectors: water protectors, the Salmon protectors, the flat heads and the cultures that have been spinning in place to reclaim their origin stories and follow the food that lives in the waters that flow through ancestral lands.

Our Grand Lake has been the stopped up sink catching the metals from Tar Creek for almost half her lifespan which is why DEQ posted the fish advisory for many of our fish for lead in 2007.

What happens to our flooding if not only the operation of the dam worked in our favor, or if the dam was removed? "There are places you will remember..." perhaps the lake when the water was clear? When you were allowed to swim in it as a child? Will we begin to consider what other communities have? Will we free these rivers? Or are we satisfied with the lake we have and the flooding that comes?

Leaving you with another possible way to prevent flooding.

~ *Your Tar Creekkeeper, Rebecca Jim*

## LEAD Agency, Inc.

**223 A. St. SE.**  
**Miami, OK 74354**  
 Phone: 918 542-9399  
 918-256-5269  
 leadagency@att.net  
 www.leadagency.org

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

## WHAT IS BIOCHAR?

Most folks think of the Amazon Rain Forest as a vast wilderness of forests and river systems where isolated tribal groups remain hidden from the modern world. We are not taught that for thousands of years tribal peoples practiced a rich agriculture there with large village complexes and rich cultural societies unknown today. These stories and how they accomplished this are now coming to light through archaeological discoveries and testimonies from tribal peoples. The soils of the Amazon are acidic and not well suited to agriculture as we practice it now, so how did those Indians figure out how to farm in that fast area? Biochar!

The Natives of the Amazon figured out how to make and sequester carbon into the soils to make rich agricultural fields for the harvesting of corn and other crops. Archaeologists are discovering deep layers of rich, black soils full of carbon which were the basis of their agricultural method of soil building. By heating wood at high temperatures, covered with earth to minimize oxygen they created something richer than charcoal, they created biochar, a substance harder and longer lasting than ashes or char from burned wood. This biochar lasts an extremely long time and is so porous that it collects and retains nutrients and water, holding them for a time-release as the soil needs them. It builds carbon into the soil and restores Ph. These were the elements they figured out they needed for healthy soils and rich healthy crops.

I have been working with James Gaspar of Biochar. Now for several years on how to use his biochar products on agricultural fields, as well as to clean up sites like Tar Creek and lakes like Grand Lake. Sounds fantastic, I know, yet it works and is working around the world where he has applied it to similar applications and has obtained EPA approval for use of his biochar for cleanup at Superfund Sites. The agricultural use has just been explained. The USDA is now accepting applications under it's NRCS program for use of biochar on pastures to improve soil health, sequester carbon, improve crop yields and water retention. Under this program, NRCS will reimburse the farmer for the biochar used on the pastures. Only one application is needed and lasts for years!

The porous quality of the biochar acts to attract and bind pollutants, such as, toxic heavy metals, petroleum wastes, PCB and much more. During the EPA certification process it was established that this company's product will bind pollutants for a half-life of over 20,000 years. The university that did the research found that it lasts much longer than that. LEAD Agency is working with Biochar. Now and another organization called Native Health Matters Foundation located in Adair County, OK to develop plans for the cleanup of the Tar Creek Site using biochar to clean up soils, water and sediments. We are working with the Quapaw Nation to establish this project by first developing pilot project studies on site, such as the placement of biochar in Elm Creek to assess it's effectiveness at absorbing metals from the water. Region 7 EPA is doing a similar project in MO on two streams there. We are working toward using it on the land cleanup to test it's effectiveness in cleaning up chat contaminated soils.

Mixing biochar with compost before placing it on the soils for remediation would also serve as an alternative soil builder, replacing the need for mushroom compost and poultry litter, which is now being used and adding nutrient loading to Tar Creek and Grand Lake. This new idea would help reduce the blue-green algae problem at the lake. In addition, bags of biochar hanging in the lake can absorb the nutrients in the lake and help clean it up. This has been done in several lakes and steams in the US and around the world. Why not here?

*LEAD Agency believes that using biochar in this way, especially combined with phytoremediation plants (hemp, kanaf) and fungi are solutions to the cleanup at the Tar Creek Site and downstream that will make tribal cultural practices, recreation, fishing, swimming, and our drinking water finally safe. We know that EPA's plan will leave soils with residual contamination and some areas, like floodplains and riparian areas may not be adequately cleaned up.*



Small pile of biochar

*We believe these proposed alternatives leave us with a better future.*

**~EARL HATLEY, BOARD PRESIDENT**



Biochar being installed into Elm Creek in the Tar Creek Superfund site 2022

**NET ZERO EMISSIONS IS NOT ENOUGH, WE MUST SEQUESTER CARBON FROM THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND REFORESTATION**

## WELLESLEY COLLEGE TAR CREEK SUMMER RESEARCH



Wellesley College is collected samples for their scientific research here in the Tar Creek Superfund site and where her contaminants come to reside. The value to us all is that others coming with questions may provide answers we had not known to ask.

Dan Brabander has a long history at this site, having accompanied teams of researchers in the 2000's who looked both at human health but also the substances lying in our environment that we know impact our health. He, as others who have worked here, we have learned, come to never forget us. You, by the way, in the amazing way you are you, have been part of the reason, too. When a community is open to meeting strangers and providing information, greetings on the sidewalk, casual conversations at a café. You are remembered. And our site gnaws at them, too. Respecting us impounds their need to come back to wrestle with their universities, colleges, foundations to fund work that can ease our load of toxins and help us have an environment that seasons bring joys to enjoy.

So one week this summer, Dan brought his team of female students: Iris Cessna, Alice Dricker, and Leslie Monzon and a former student, Claire Hayhow, who took her own vacation time from a job at the Silent Spring Foundation with actually another former researcher at our site. They are investigating for us the

things that are required for life on this planet. Air, water and soil. They are exploring how we measure what and how much and how big particulates are that hang in the air we breathe.

Samples are being taken at wetlands near chat piles, both of the plants that are thriving in them, but the sediment beneath and the water they release into our creeks. What about the orange staining on the trees we are now so used to seeing we don't even see it anymore? They are XRF-ing it in the field checking for the levels of metals that reside ON our trees.

Be kind to  
strangers,  
they come  
back to find  
the answers  
to what  
harms us

A fleet of vessels left one morning from Riverview Park with the Grand Riverkeeper boat, the Tar Creekkeeper kayaks, the 3-woman canoe, with Paige Hankins at the helm took off to take a core sample of the channel bar where Tar Creek meets the Neosho. Dan was with other researchers in those early years of this century and took a similar core there and brought it back to our other LEAD Agency office and laid it out on the floor of that building. It looked like a tiger-tail, with orange and black stripes, solid and tube like.



With the cool that morning, the team left with the O Si Yo film crew recording it all as we headed down the Neosho River and then with some assistance from Virgil Tarter were able to meet us when we arrived mid-way at a stop on Tar Creek where the team continued taking sediment and plant samples.

There will be many more opportunities for you and other researchers to join LEAD's 2 Waterkeepers future launchings and we would love for you to join us as we explore and try to better understand what lies beneath us, what we float upon, what our soils hold and what we are breathing.

**"WHAT WISDOM CAN YOU FIND THAT IS GREATER THAN KINDNESS?"**

*JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU*

## AIR—WATER—WORK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Oklahoma University research project: WATER - WORK - AIR led by OU associate professor, Laurel Smith is an oral history project long in the making. The dream has been to collect these stories and then using GIS to share the stories, photos and maps which would become visual and auditory histories into the past of local residents with their memories of experiences with water, work and air. Stories collected this summer centered around BF Goodrich, type of work, where they worked in the plant, and what that work was like, and always, what day they were hired!

The Dobson Musuem has a trove of documents and photos they have allowed us to view, but if you have additional photos we would love to scan them so they are included. We have gone on home visits with others coming to the LEAD office for interviews. Additional work will be featured that centered around water, as well as the experiences many have had with local flooding. Valerie Doombos and Moriah Bailey Stephenson have scanned BF Goodrich documents LEAD had received from the state through Freedom of Information requests. And these documents will also be available in our final project.

If the reader would like to be interviewed or will recommend us to others, please contact us at 918-542-9399.

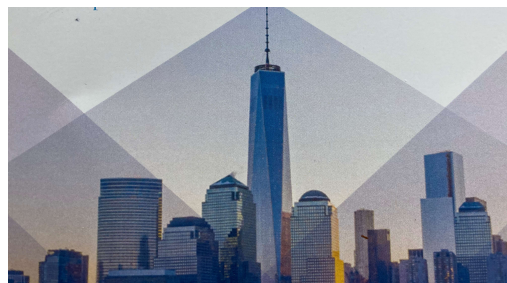


**O SI YO** The film crew from O Si Yo joined in launching LEAD’s first flotilla with the Wellesley research team. Their project featured Cherokee Rebecca Jim, but the team was inclusive, involving everyone equally in their days approach. GoPro’s were placed both on the Tar Creekkeeper’s kayak and the Grand Riverkeeper’s boat. Their team was then guided by local LEAD member **Virgil Tarter**, to a location on private landowner property he had contacted for permission to enter, in order to rendezvous with us when we landed part way down Tar Creek where they interviewed Dr. Brabander.



### EXPOSONE

Dr. Robert O. Wright who led the MATCH Project, the birth cohort at the Tar Creek Superfund site for a decade invited Rebecca Jim to attend the EXPOSONE in New York City in July. Exposone is the extended way to do research in the not too distant future. Where we lived as children, where our mothers lived as children may influence the health we experience now or later in our lives. The exposures whole cities may have could be tied to the epidemic of cancers in the decades to come. The meeting was eye opening in the way research may be conducted to answer the questions we all have: What makes us sick? We have been frustrated, but it was interesting to learn that the researchers are frustrated as well and are working together to find new ways to discover answers and put that to use to prevent illness later. The meeting was held across the street from Central Park, so every break was a beautiful walk in the park.



### WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

Both the former and current Grand Riverkeepers represented LEAD Agency at this year’s Waterkeeper conference held in Washington, DC

**COAL ASH LAWSUIT UPDATE - EARL HATLEY, LEAD BOARD PRESIDENT**

Last month (July 26<sup>th</sup>), the DC Circuit District Court ruled against our case, finding that we lacked standing on merits of our appeal. At issue was the lack of public participation within the Coal Combustion Rule (CCR) promulgated by the State of Oklahoma and approved by EPA, and Oklahoma's "permit-for-life" provision.

**In the lower court we won our part of the case requiring that all coal ash pits and landfills be required to have synthetic liners under them to protect groundwater**, however we lost on these other two provisions and sought this appeal in the higher court.

At issue is the EPA's 2015 CCR rule does not contain a public participation rule and that is why Oklahoma didn't bother to implement one in their program either. OK is the first state to apply for delegation of authority to manage their own CCR program in the country. Many other states are applying and watching this case. On this provision the three judges unanimously held that if they ruled in our favor, the EPA would have to rescind the State's CCR regulations, reverting back to the EPA for management under a provision that still lacks public participation, and, therefore would harm Oklahomans. The judges did not accept our attorneys' arguments that in this case the court should instruct the EPA to develop public participation requirements right away that would apply to Oklahoma and nationally. Oklahoma could re-apply for delegation of authority. Thus, we cannot meet the "redressability" prong of standing (what happens if we win?).

The other provision we lost was on "**permits-for-life.**" Oklahoma's CCR rule does not allow for term limits on permits for pits and landfills like all other such units regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This fact sets a dangerous precedent for **right-to-know**. All of the coal ash units managed by Oklahoma's corporations that we have investigated have contaminated the groundwater and were established without public comments or hearings. Now, under the OK rule, they will never be up for renewal, meaning public comment and hearings. How are the citizens supposed to find out about these units in their areas? The court simply ignored our arguments.

Finally, the court struck down the lower court ruling on these two provisions, we lost on appeal, meaning that the lower court did not have the right to hear them because we did not have proper standing. However, **the provision we won regarding liners will stand!** In all, this was a very strange court ruling, but leaves us with no further action to take with the courts. In order to repair this damage to public participation and right-to-know and prevent this precedent from eroding into other areas of solid and hazardous waste management, a new national movement of organizing must take place to restore these provisions in the CCR rule and prevent the erosion into other arenas of waste management.

LEAD is taking this opportunity to thank our attorneys at Earthjustice, Jennifer Cassel and Charles McPhedran, as well as our attorneys at Waterkeeper Alliance, Kelly Hunter Foster and Daniel Estrin. We couldn't have had a better legal team for this effort and are very proud of our legal representation on this case. This was a complicated case with a lot of political implications that the court had to consider. We disagree with the positions they took, but now the ball is in our court as we strive to make our environment safe for all of us!!



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEPENDS UPON THE RIGHT TO KNOW  
WHAT WE ARE EXPOSED TO IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

# MEET OUR NEW VISTA

## LUCAS FREEMAN:

Hi, I'm Lucas Freeman, the VISTA member serving with the LEAD Agency team. I just moved back to Commerce after living in OKC for the past six years for school and work. I studied political science and interfaith studies while being involved in local politics and nonprofits while in OKC. I hope I can bring some of those professional passions into my life here, while also learning the electrical trade and enjoying the beauty of the area. In my free time, I love to read, work out, play with my dog Rigby, and go to concerts.



**CONSERVATION  
LEGACY**

## GREAT NEWS: LEAD BOARD MEMBER CERTIFIED ORGANIC



LEAD's Board treasurer, **Kelda Lorax** recently received the notice from the State of Oklahoma that Stardust Market Garden has been certified **ORGANIC** under the USDA National Organic Program. Congratulations!

Stardust Market Garden is located at 405 E. Church Ave. Fairland, OK.

*“Tar Creek used to be, a long time ago, it used to be clean. And when they abandoned it, it got dirty. When Tar Creek got dirty, they abandoned it. Do you know why?”*

## L.E.A.D. SUMMER CAMP 2022

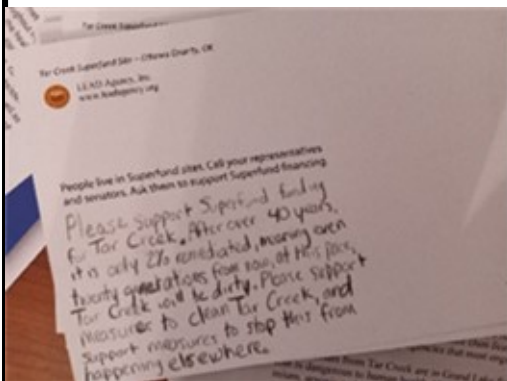
These are words spoken by a five-year-old child who attended L.E.A.D.’s Summer Camp 2022. He sat playing with playdoh while urgently talking with other children and adults about Tar Creek, repeating what he had learned: Tar Creek used to be a clean and healthy creek. But Tar Creek was polluted when lead and zinc mining sites were abandoned, leaving large mounds of mining waste that pollute groundwater and leaving flooded mine shafts that overflow into Tar Creek. As this five-year-old pointed out, the mining sites were not all that was abandoned by the mining companies and elected officials. Tar Creek was too.

Abandonment is a complicated concept to grapple with. How do we reckon with being neglected, forgotten, or left without care? Why are some places abandoned while others receive support, and what can we do about it?

L.E.A.D.’s Summer Camp 2022 offered children and youth the opportunity to explore some of these questions. Campers learned about the history of the Tar Creek Superfund Site, the BF Goodrich Plant, and other environmental issues in Ottawa County, OK. The camp also fostered a sense of love and care for Tar Creek and environmental connection.



The week of camp included an introduction to environmental issues in Ottawa County, the collaborative construction of a garden sculpture, gardening activities, banner and sign making, dancing and music, activist art, an ecotour of Ottawa County, and letter writing.



Campers visited Picher, OK and learned that in Kansas, just north of Picher, there used to be chat piles, but Kansas cleaned them up. The campers asked: *Why haven't they been cleaned up here?* Campers took action and wrote letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies. One camper wrote, "Please support Superfund funding for Tar Creek. After over 40 years, it is only 2% remediated, meaning even twenty generations from now, at this pace, Tar Creek will be dirty."

*“Please support measures to clean Tar Creek, and support measures to stop this from happening elsewhere.”* Another camper stated:

*“You guys have the power to clean Tar Creek, but you haven't done it yet. If you would do it, that would help the world.”*



As camp ended, each attendee received a button with their name, a waterproof notebook, and a lizard-shaped bookmark that contained warnings about lead poisoning. Campers left with the message that Tar Creek is not safe to play in, but one camper lamented how their older brother swims in the creek regularly, "He jumps off the bridge into the creek all the time!" Another camper chimed in, "He lives right along the creek." Tar Creek has been polluted and abandoned by mining companies, governing bodies, and elected officials, and the families and children who live, work, and play along the creek's banks have been abandoned too. But abandon has another meaning: enthusiasm, exuberance, eager recklessness.

Children and youth who know the dangers of Tar Creek and still play in the creek's waters are showing a kind of reckless abandon, arguably a kind of love. Love for the feeling of cool water on hot days. Love for the sound of trickling water. Love for the waters of home. It is a cruel reality that Tar Creek's water is unsafe.

Children and youth who attended L.E.A.D. Summer Camp 2022 learned why Tar Creek is polluted, who has the

power to create change, and how they can take action to advocate for the waters near their homes. Through the camp, a new question emerged: If we are still here caring, hoping, and taking action for Tar Creek, is Tar Creek really abandoned?

Children, youth, and adults worked together to identify ways that we can advocate and care for Tar Creek so that Tar Creek might not be so abandoned after all.



# CLEAN WATER ACT<sup>50</sup>

As the only Environmental Justice organization in northeast Oklahoma, our phone rings with concerns, questions and pleas for help.

Many times these calls concern air quality, but we recently received a call from a neighboring county about the drinking water in Welch, OK. At first we responded by attempting to locate bottled water for an apartment complex and both the city and the Cherokee Nation responded with, "we know there is a problem and we are working on it." Further inquiries revealed both, there was a water quality problem and yes, many entities were working on improving the water quality in the whole town. We will be featuring Welch, OK at the Tar Creek Conference as an example of how the Clean Water Act can both provide the pressure to make improvements, but pull the agencies: the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Department of Environmental Quality, the EPA and the Cherokee Nation together to find the resources for this small city to have good drinking water.

**THE CLEAN WATER ACT TURNS "50" ON OCTOBER 18**

## UPDATED VERTICAL FILES RESHAPES TOXIC LIBRARY

Through the years several people have worked on the vertical files in what we call LEAD Agency's Tar Creek Toxic Library, They have been on the back burner for several years, due to COVID.

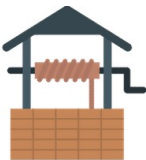
This year we got to open up the office and things that had been in storage were dug out and dusted off. We found ourselves needing a little help. We got that help, with Paige Hankins an Undergraduate student studying Natural Science at NSU and Margery Berk working through an AARP program.

The two of them went through newspapers, documenting and categorizing them. After many hours and weeks of hard work the vertical files are up-to-date. The vertical files run from 1993 through 2022. The newly updated vertical files include articles about floods, Tar Creek and mining history, and other important local issues.

These vertical files are part of our Tar Creek (Toxic) Library, which is open to the public, if you just want to look at some historical facts or do a research paper. The library also contains: maps, superfund documents, government reports, student research papers and academic papers. Many of these items through the years have been gifted to us to share. Not too long ago a package came in the mail from a local resident who had sent a collection of photos, with a set of original photographs of miners from both 1927 and 1943. Margery Berk painstakingly has created greeting cards that are also available in the library.



## RURAL WATER WELL SURVEY BEGINS



In an effort to determine which agencies that will be responsible to sample a segment of the rural water wells in the northeastern part of Ottawa County, LEAD is conducting a survey for the Indian Health Service and DEQ. With assistance from Mount Sinai Hospital, a digital method of collecting the information was designed to enable sharing the data as we collect it with IHS. Wells recently near the survey area that had previously been providing safe drinking water when tested were found to contain the metals associated with the metals associated with the Tar Creek Superfund site. Indian Health Services has funding to build and connect Indian homes to safe drinking water. The summer heat and staffing slowed the start of the survey but when Paige Hankins joined LEAD this summer we began and made great progress on the project. WMAN grant funding will provide Brita pitchers and filters for participants.



### OTTAWA COUNTY RESIDENTS:

GET YOUR YARD TESTED FOR LEAD

AND CLEANED UP FOR FREE  
[DEQ Hotline](#)

**1-800-522-0206**

## OU - CREWS ASSISTS LEAD

In a partnership made more formal with grant funding through the American Rivers Organization, OU's CREWS faculty leader Bob Nairn and many of his graduate students, LEAD's dreams of establishing Stream Teams is becoming more of a reality. With their assistance our hydrolab has been correctly calibrated and a "user friendly" handbook created for our volunteers to be able to use to begin measuring the health of Tar Creek and later, the Neosho River and Grand Lake.

**"WATER IS THE DRIVING FORCE OF ALL NATURE."** – LEONARDO DA VINCI

*You can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness.* Anne Frank

**LEAD is grateful to our funders and to the generous gifts from old and new friends. Just this summer we received a gift from a researcher who began working here over 2 decades ago, and a newer friend who has gifted our organization since she moved from the area . And Marilyn Power Scott who edited one of the Tar Creek Anthologies published in 2092, donates \$10 on the first day of every month through PayPal.**

*Thank you all and thank you for the kind thoughts and encouraging words we receive as we do this work. All are appreciated!*

**The Rose Foundation** has supported LEAD Agency's work previously, and recently awarded us the opportunity to be part of a second cohort of grantees. The Rose Foundation envisions a future where nature is protected, people's rights are ensured, and environmental justice is advanced, and where these three values are deeply interconnected. We support grassroots initiatives that help build a world in which individuals, organizations, and communities are empowered to promote stewardship of nature, inspire people to take action, and hold government and corporations accountable.



The Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation continues Dr. Ron Naito's legacy of compassionate healing by supporting nonprofit organizations that are strengthening, protecting, and transforming our communities and our planet. RWN recently awarded LEAD Agency a grant for \$20,000 for general operating expenses. This will pay the rent and keep the lights on!

## OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN RECEIVES GRANT

LEAD's Community Garden applied and has received a \$5,000 grant which will allow us to install a grape arbor with trellises, get a tiller that WORKS and a multitude of other materials and tools we have needed to be able to have numbers of volunteers at the same time working in tandem to see just how well our garden can grow.

Through the constraints of the grant we must inform the public that it is

from an anonymous source through the Emerson collective. We will be putting these items to use in our garden and thinking grateful thoughts to those who choose to give and want no recognition for doing so. IT IS IN THE GIVING WE RECEIVE means a great deal more now to us than before.



**“MY GARDEN IS MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MASTERPIECE” — CLAUDE MONET**



**LEAD AGENCY, INC.**  
**223 A. ST. S. E.**  
**MIAMI, OK 74354**



[www.leadagency.org](http://www.leadagency.org)

# CLEAN WATER ACT<sup>50</sup>

*Will be acknowledged and celebrated during LEAD's:*

**24th National Environmental  
Tar Creek Conference**

**NEO College Student Union**

**October 12-13, 2022**

Pre-conference events Oct 10 & 11

Recognizing: The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

*Aspirations for Restoration*



Additional LEAD Actions:

- Dam Busting  
Sept 8
- Droning the super-fund site  
Sept 4
- Flotilla Tar Creek & Neosho River  
Sept 17
- CLE Oct 11
- Tar Creek Wading  
Oct 11