

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DEMANDED



The LEADer

SEPTEMBER 2019

21st National Environmental Conference

at **TAR CREEK**

**WE ARE
SAVING YOU
A SEAT!**

SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2019 2018
NEO A&M COLLEGE MIAMI OK



Forty years ago this fall mine water began discharging into Tar Creek at a rate of 13 tons of heavy metal every day. We have been patient, we have waited for Tar Creek to flow clean again, and yet we may be only halfway there to that reality.

EPA, DEQ and the Quapaw Nation will update us at this conference on progress at our superfund site. The new work will be the actual streams from bank to bank. Individual yard cleanup in the county has been ongoing, but MORE is needed to ever get to halfway on OU2.

Thirty-three years ago BF Goodrich closed. We have again been patient waiting for cleanup of the site. So far we have seen delays on the benzene then we learned about the asbestos release that has been ongoing for 5 years because of a botched "cleanup" of the site. EPA will report the status on the asbestos and what comes next, if anything.

What about our children? How did we discover they were lead poisoned? And what happened once that was reported? Find out at our conference.

Listen to a journalist who has been covering our site for decades. What did she see? What can she vision for our future?

How do birds cope with the toxic metals in the Superfund site? Will butterflies flourish, and can we help that to happen?

What can individuals do about climate change? We may not have all the answers but we will give you the opportunity to ASK yours.

*Special Thanks
for conference support:*

Water Protectors:

CHEJ

Quapaw Nation
Environmental Department
Intertribal Council
Miami Dental Care
Afton Masonic Lodge #76

River Guardian

First National Bank

Creek Believers

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2019 Planning Committee:

*Martin Lively, Craig Kreman,
James Walkingstick, Deborah
Dodson, Tammy Arnold, Tim
Jones, Keesha Bunch, Elaine
Irvin, Lois Lively, Linda Sue War-
ner, Ben Bingham, Grace
Goodeagle, Earl Hatley, Cathy
Sloan, Rebecca Jim, Kit Waters*

40 YEARS OF BAD WATER

WE'RE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

With a VISION for the FUTURE



*EVERYONE LIVING IN THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE
OR LIVING DOWNSTREAM SHOULD ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE!*



WHY COME TO THE CONFERENCE?

Months go into the planning of each of the 21 Tar Creek Conferences, each done to provide an opportunity for our community members, just regular folks to have a chance to meet the people who are doing the work on what is known as the largest Superfund site in the Nation. We have a chance to see the science, see the results, question the techniques and the reasoning that went into the decisions that are made to make our environment cleaner and safer. Some years we have big crowds of people, some years lots of people, but scant local faces. We want to change that. It is your face in the face of regulators that will make this cleanup as good as it can be. It is your questions that make federal, state and tribal officials re-examine the methods and even the practices that actually may not be practical.

Come early Tuesday morning Sept. 17, walk right up and pick up your packet and walk into the Ballroom at NEO in the Student Union, choose a seat where you can see THEIR faces, follow the speakers after their presentations and meet them and ask the question you wished you had asked aloud. We will save you a seat. You can bring a sack lunch or buy a ticket to eat in the college cafeteria at lunch, which is another great time to meet the regulators and deciders who are charged with cleaning up our mess. You will also have easy access to other scientists doing research here, for US, as they learn what happens to our water, how our birds are faring if they live in chat piles, and what happens to those birds when the land is remediated and what kind of birds like a clean environment.

You will LOVE hearing Jane Breckinridge from the Euchee Butterfly Farm. If you have some questions on how much water all these HUGE poultry houses might be consuming you will definitely want to hear about the study two agencies are doing on the Roubidoux and the Boone aquifers. I will be taking notes on that.

We all have been waiting all summer to find out how the cleanup on the asbestos at BF Goodrich has been going and Mike McAteer with EPA will give an update and welcome questions. DEQ will let us know how the benzene cleanup is going, too. There is much more. The days are packed and we look forward to seeing you there.

—Your Tar Creekkeeper, Rebecca Jim

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Waterkeeper Alliance, 20 Waterkeeper Warriors were showcased. These amazing women and men are at the heart of a global movement of more than 300 Waterkeeper groups who have dedicated their lives to protecting clean water and irreplaceable water sources for nearly a billion people on six continents. I am proud and humbled to have been chosen to be a Waterkeeper Warrior ~ Rebecca Jim, Your Tar Creekkeeper

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 (1st Yr. VISTA Completed)
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 (LEADON / Artist in Garden)
 Berkeley Ulrey, Volunteer
 Kit Waters, Volunteer

Grand Riverkeeper Tar Creekkeeper Programs

Tar Creekkeeper - Rebecca Jim
 Grand Riverkeeper - Earl L. Hatley

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKS WHEN YOU DEMAND IT

L.E.A.D. AGENCY COMMUNITY GARDEN

A Health Literacy Project

The 5th season in our Community Garden produced vegetables, forbs and pollinator friendly plants, but it produced even more. It produced gardeners, more Ottawa County Boys and Girls and local volunteers learned new ways to garden, some for the first time ever. Other master gardeners like June Taylor, Elaine Irvin and Kelda Lorax gave valuable time to our garden.

This season also produced great partners and support. LEAD became a partner in the Health Literacy Project, receiving a new raised bed, more plants and a great new sign for the garden! LEAD's Community Garden also was awarded funding through TSET, the Northeast Tribal Health Services. J. Michael Scruggs produced Garden Art to accent the variety of plants throughout the front and back gardens. We added a pumpkin patch, trying bucket gardening.



June Taylor's Butterfly Gardeners



DEQ REMEDIATED OUR GARDEN



There was a small patch in the LEAD Community Garden that was loaded with lead and DEQ arrived one day and found more than dirty dirt, they found bushels of asphalt shingles and toxic railroad ties. It took them a matter of minutes to remove it all, leaving us clean dirt.

Boys learned to use the "wheel" and plowed the ground and planted a row of corn in the new soil.

PLANT A GARDEN TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW - AUDREY HEPBURN

WANT TO HELP LEAD AGENCY?

LEAD Agency operates with volunteers and donations. You can help our organization by participating in our fundraisers, donating your time, your talent, or by making a personal cash donation or asking your business, your team or family to contribute. LEAD can do more for our community with your support. We have levels of support we recognize: Water Protectors, River Guardians, and Creek Believers. We Appreciate all your support!



MIAMI DENTAL CARE
DR. CHRIS ROBINSON



Will FRAYSER GAVE US A WEEK



The Cisco Corporation allows their employees to volunteer with a non-profit of their choice for a week, and get paid for doing it. Will Frayser chose LEAD Agency and encourages other employees to do the same. Will had a Toxic Tour when he was just a child, but when he came back this chat pile was still there. Many others are gone now and we are pleased with that progress, but there is more to do in the superfund site. Will found out non-profit organizations do good work in their communities, but with an extra hand, more can be done!

SELECT Local Environmental Action Demanded on [amazonsmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) & each purchase helps

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STARTS WITH YOU

**EPA
 REGIONAL 6
 ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
 AND
 CHIEF OF STAFF
 ////
 LEAD AGENCY
 DEQ officials
 &
 OKLAHOMA
 SECRETARY
 OF ENERGY AND
 ENVIRONMENT
 AND STAFF**

Site Visits to LEAD Agency



Acting Region 6 Administrator and Erin Chancellor made a visit to LEAD Agency during the Youth Activist Training and were surprised by the love they received.



LEAD Board President Louis "Red" Mathia and member Kelda Lorax, Martin Lively, Rebecca Jim, and 5 year old Gela Lorax met on the front porch with DEQ representatives Kelly Dixon, Dustin Davidson, Executive Director Scott Thompson and Secretary of Energy and Environment Ken Wagner and staff members.

PEOPLE IN POWER MEET OUR PEOPLE

Stewards Awards LEAD with 2nd Yr. VISTA



Martin Lively and Steward's Representative Patricia Silva

LEAD has been awarded a second year VISTA. Martin Lively has committed to filling that position for LEAD beginning in November.

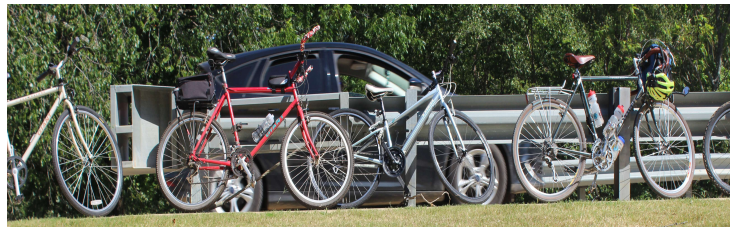
This position is partially funded through Steward's and OSMRE Office Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. LEAD Agency is responsible for funding the match. If you would like to help us make that match, please know we would be most appreciative for your contribution..

Stewards' representative came for a site visit this summer. Martin was able to give Patricia Silva a toxic tour of the area and introduce her to the serious issues LEAD deals with daily. She left impressed with what we do with so little and impressed by Martin's VISTA projects and has invited him to speak at their next conference in the fall.

2019 RECYCLE TAR CREEK BIKERIDE

July is a hot time to have a Bike Ride, but we Recycled Tar Creek and Rallied for her cleanup.

Bikes and riders crossed Tar Creek Bridges in Miami and paused along Tar Creek at NEO to plan future outings when wading in the creek and a quick swim would feel perfect on a hot July day. Paula Johnson met us with donuts! And Virgil Tarter served as our SAG for the event.



MARTIN LIVELY FINISHES YEAR WITH BIKE RIDE



After spending a year in service to America as a VISTA, Martin Lively decided to go see more of America. After some of the rains ceased, he left Miami, OK on his bike, right out the back door of the LEAD office and headed straight north through the plains states: Kansas and Nebraska, through the Black Hills of South Dakota and over to Devils Tower in Wyoming. He had a medical emergency which caused him to decide to cut his trip short. He celebrated a well earned chance to experience the states in the middle of our country up close. But 1,200 miles in a month, that is seeing a lot of America from the seat of his bike.

YOUTH ACTIVIST TRAINING ~ KIT WATERS



THESE STUDENT ACTIVISTS
ARE ABSOLUTLEY AMAZING!



LEAD Agency Youth Activists spent three days actively learning about environmental justice.

LEAD Agency's three day training for Youth Activists was held the last week of June. The history of activism pertaining to a theme of soil, water, and air as well as the use of art in message and scientific experiments were incorporated in the training.

We discussed the Earthrise photo which changed our perspective of our place on this planet. No longer were we isolated by geography, we were all riders on the same planet in this solar system. Out of this picture resulted in the creation of EPA by Richard Nixon in July 9, 1970; and the burning of the Cayuhoga River in 1969 led to the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972. Even though for many years residents were not disturbed by the Cayuhoga River catching fire for decades with the Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes and students who marched for the water to be cleaned up changed the perception of the need for clean water.

We simulated littering in water and how one would go about cleaning it, and even used hair donated by a salon to clean up an oil spill in the water. We discussed how there are organizations that produce hair mats to clean up oil spills.

James Walkingstick, an Afton graduate who attends Harvard University discussed his experience as a part of a delegation to address the United Nations on Indigenous peoples' issues.

Heather LaPage an OU research graduate student studying the effects on heavy metals in songbirds in the Tar Creek Superfund site shared her presentation with our curious activists.

We studied ph balance of different soils and discussed the benefits of composting and creating a space to welcome our pollinators. The activists learned about different plants growing in the community garden as well as the innovative way LEAD's garden reduces water runoff. They painted rocks, some with positive messages and left them throughout the garden to be discovered by others.

EPA conducted a site visit and the children created sidewalk chalk welcome messages to them.

I believe it is essential to expose youth to science and empower them to make positive changes to things that are destructive to our environment. I love giving a safe space for them to ask questions, learn and be curious.—*Kit Waters*

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Here's Your Open Invitation...

LEAD Agency invites you to attend our annual conference. Your attendance matters. When you are more informed and the Federal and State regulators charged with protecting our health and our environment know you are listening and learning and able to question their efforts and next steps... We all benefit with you in a seat.



Register early, check the agenda, come for both days or choose what most interests you. But come. (HAVEN'T REGISTERED? COME ANYWAY)

Call 918-542-9399 to register or you may register on-line at www.leadagency.org and click on the tab: *conferences*.

See you at the 21st National Environmental Conference at Tar Creek!



**WATERKEEPER[®] ALLIANCE
MEMBER**

