

The LEADer

*Thanks for signing
the petition for:*



TAR CREEK INITIATIVE GOT SUPPORT

Citizens in Miami, OK signed the petitions for the Right for Clean Water and for Tar Creek to have Rights too, but when the 664 signatures were assessed by the election board, there were not enough to trigger an election for the ordinance this fall.

The Petition Circulators:

George Briscoe, Kelda Lorax, Karen Fields, Jill Micka, Virgil Tartar, Eli Kreeger, James Walkingstick, Stephanie Addis, Cassandra Grant, Lynda Roten, Rebecca Jim, Cassandra Costner, Lois Lively with our proponents: James Couch, Jacklyn Robinson, John Holt and Paula Johnston also collected signatures. We are grateful for the positive support we received from each person who signed these petitions and to the possibilities for the future.

Thanks for the support for the initiative for Our Tar Creek.

LEAD will be considering next steps and listening to all the new friends Tar Creek has gained through this effort. The citizens of Miami still deserve the right to clean water and Tar Creek has rights, too.

PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS TO CLEAN WATER AND A HEALTHY TAR CREEK

LEAD Agency's 23rd TAR CREEK Conference

Each year for the last 23 years LEAD has hosted conferences. Last year LEAD partnered with the Western Mining Action Network for a combined conference that we held virtually due to the pandemic. It was a great success so we will host this year's 23rd Tar Creek Conference again virtually. Martin Lively, our current VISTA will be managing the technical aspects.

This event is being planned in partnership with the Quapaw Nation Environmental Department.

Community members will be participating in each session providing the interaction we would normally have at our in-person conferences of the past.

The 3 day event will engage federal, state and tribal presentations on the current state of the Tar Creek Superfund site. Water and how it is being used and how it is being protected and being treated will be another session. The grand finale will be a presentation by Harvard Professor Niall Kirkwood featuring the projects his students produced in the course he instructed last semester: Tar Creek Remade.

The arts are always part of our conferences and will be again this time. Maryann Hurtt has been invited to do a short reading from her book Mining Voices. Artwork from both Quapaw and Miami High Schools will be featured.

Drone photography by Jennifer Little will stun the viewers as she demonstrates her skill in finding the wounds in the earth and the damaged water throughout the land.

LEAD's flood map will be introduced and used throughout the conference to illustrate to the public what the presenters might be referencing as they speak.

Our conference provides information the public needs.



ALPHABET SOUP CAN'T SPELL H E L P

This year Tar Creek was number 6 of the 10 most Endangered Rivers in the US.

Through the summer she got lots of positive attention. Over 600 people signed the Clean Water Protection Ordinance petitions circulators carried in Miami to grant the citizens the Right to clean water and a Healthy Tar Creek and would give Tar Creek the Rights nature had bestowed to her. Those rights would allow her to flow...

Over 25 years ago, we crafted warning signs for bumper stickers *Don't swim or fish in Tar Creek* funded by the ATSDR and the Ottawa County Health Department. Then 10 years later we had them printed again, mindful that DON'T messages are a turn-off. So we did the same design but added **NOT YET**. But who wouldn't begin to wonder if NOT YET... THEN WHEN???? When happened this summer in a big way with the swimming and the fishing. Our children decided that message would not deter them in any way. The City was told at a City Council meeting that children were swimming in the creek. Not once but twice. Reclaiming that water showed their belief it was not harming them with exposures to it. They also claimed it by damming it. Trapping it as their own. They dammed to the north and put effort in constructing a bigger dam so the water would become deeper.

We discovered this before Labor Day and a small team of us breeched both of those dams so water could flow through. Many of the rocks that were used were heavy, taking me and another person to move. Our deconstruction continued until the syringe was found among the rocks. We had no protective gear so we stopped our actions.

We attended a public meeting held by the City about zoning, speaking before it convened to City representatives about the dam and the Clean Water Act violation it was, since restricting the flow of any stream in that way breaks the law. I stood at the microphone to say the same and that it had been reported as a complaint to the state.

We were sure the City would remove the dams and post signage to protect our children from the heavy metals we know are in Tar Creek. There was more evidence of use every time we have gone. More rocks on the dam, the trees had been hacked with a small ax to make footholds to climb for jumping into water. Later rope swings, steps hammered into a tree to leap in the water. More old trees are cut and injured, the very trees that are keeping the streambed from eroding in flood events. The fire circle and then the continued effort to dam under the BNSF railroad bridge, using the chat as fill. The very same chat that EPA is spending millions to rid from your county to protect children from lead poisoning.

So the alphabet soup of federal and state agencies have been notified ATSDR ODEQ EPA USFW OCC OWRB GRDA including Army Corps. If we use these letters like the game SCRABBLE we can spell many words like: GREED, DROP, DEAD, SOAP, FEE, but we cannot spell the one word we need which is HELP.

42 years this community has waited to use their Tar Creek. It is time EPA does their work.

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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NOTICE: Louis "Red" Mathia, LEAD Agency President of the Board passed away shortly after signing the petition for Clean Water. "Red" served as Board President for the years 2003—2021.

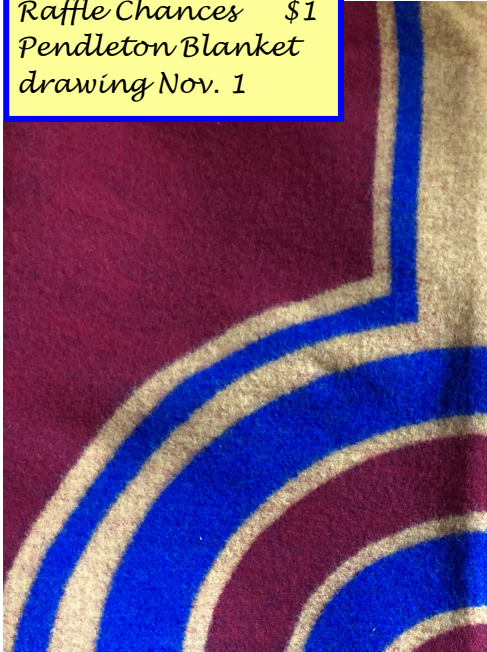
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42 YEARS IS LONG ENOUGH TO WAIT FOR CLEAN WATER

Raffle Chances \$1
Pendleton Blanket
drawing Nov. 1



WORLD RIVER DAY CITIZEN SCIENCE AT TAR CREEK

Lauren Haygood, PhD student at OSU conducted a water quality training session for LEAD Agency on the banks of Tar Creek as our way of recognizing World River Day. Our Tar Creek is listed #6 as America’s Most Endangered Rivers this year.

Engaging the participants in the sampling process each learned the techniques of safely collecting samples and were able to help in the process of analyzing them.

LEAD is currently developing a sampling plan and protocols with the Waterkeeper Alliance and this was a first step in building a committed stream team that will be needed for that project to be successful in the future.



our
RALLY FOR TAR CREEK
During the 23rd Tar Creek Conference

BOB NAIRN FEATURED SPEAKER

Both of the passive water treatment projects in Commerce have been successfully changing “bad” water into water that can sustain aquatic life. OU Professor Nairn has directed the work at both sites and will inform the public on the progress and the possibility of future projects in our superfund site. On a recent visit he viewed the damming of the creek in Miami and saw first hand man-made damage to water quality. Water he had cleaned in Commerce was slowed to a standstill and trapped by dams just a few miles later.

LEAD AGENCY BOARD AND MEMBER MEETINGS RESUME

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE ZOOM OR CALL-IN #'S AND WANT TO PARTICIPATE MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK



LEAD CONTINUES TO PROMOTE SAFE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO PROTECT US ALL.

Board Policies on COVID-19

LEAD’s Board directs our staff to remain masked in the office when working together, regardless of vaccination status. Visitors will be provided masks during the pandemic. Employees must act in ways that protect the broader community.

LEAD ELECTIONS ARE HELD EACH OCTOBER

MEMBERS ARE ASKED
TO RETURN YOUR
BALLOT VOTE FOR 8

NOTE: THERE IS ROOM
FOR A WRITE-IN
BALLOTS IN NEWSLETTER
FOR MEMBERS

RETURN BY MAIL OR
EMAIL leadagency@att.net
DUE OCTOBER 21ST

PROTECTING OURSELVES PROTECTING OTHERS

PARTNERSHIP FOR COMPOST BEST USE GUIDANCE

The Wellesley College Geosciences Department (MA), LEAD Agency and JM Farms analyzed “fresh” compost and found the compost has similar nutrients to other commercial composts and low levels of lead and other toxic metals.

We are continuing to test samples in collaboration with J&M this fall and will share results with the community through LEAD Agency’s Facebook page.

This guidance will help those using the compost have the most productive gardens and will protect the environment from excess use and runoff into our watershed.

Compost Best Practices

For garden and raised bed applications:

We recommend:

1 part compost to 2 or 3 parts growing soil.

For use as a soil amendment:

We recommend:

no more than 1 inch compost to the topsoil

As with any soil amendment, we recommend protection from airborne dust and washing hands after handling spent mushroom compost.

PEORIA TRIBAL HOUSING RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

LEAD received a grant with the assistance of the Anthropocene Alliance from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation to address excessive rainwater runoff. We have partnered with the Peoria Tribal Housing Authority to construct a series of rain gardens to help alleviate the flooding in a portion of their property that occurs after heavy rains. The tribe has a Community Garden nearby and with this project a container will be provided to be a source of rainwater for garden use. The plan is being developed by Kelda Lorax, a LEAD Board member and should be installed in the spring of 2022.



AGU THRIVING EARTH
EXCHANGE

BUILDING THE BEST MAP

AGU American Geophysical Union has assisted LEAD in our quest to build a map for our community. AGU provided a Community Science Fellow, Jessica Tran

who was able to locate Kate Meierdiercks, Siena College in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences and Jim Kuipers, an engineer who joined our team and began in earnest to collect the information needed for the layers a map like this would require. A layer came from DEQ, the Ottawa County Assessor’s office and another valuable layer from the Quapaw Environmental Dept. We are reviewing the map that has been created and as the layers are being made more “user friendly” we have seen more is possible from the map than we first believed was needed.

Yes, community members will be able to use it to answer pressing needs as flood waters rise, but as we zoomed out to look more broadly, it is obvious when looking at the whole county how much contaminated chat and chat bases are affected when flooding occurs. We will use this tool to demonstrate the risk to human health each flood brings to the people and the environment when the mine waste is disturbed by waters.

This map will be shown to federal, state and the Quapaw Nation to help guide the way cleanup of the site moves forward. Moving chat and chat bases away from the watershed will be more protective for all of us. We are extremely grateful for the assistance AGU’s Thriving Earth Exchange has given LEAD.

THE MAPS OF THE SOUL HAVE NO BORDERS. ~EDUARDO GALEANO

TAR CREEK CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS PRESENTED BY NIALL KIRKWOOD DAY 3

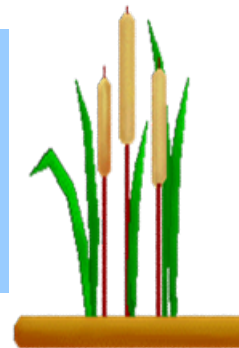


The story of the long-term reclamation of the forty square mile Tar Creek Superfund Site is presented here as a case study of future planning and design strategies that utilize the resources of local residents, stakeholders, and environmental organizations with the assistance of academic research institutions. I will argue that local-based transformations of the site, as opposed to 'top-down' actions, have the potential to act as a framework to unite community desires, address environmental cleanup, and regenerate sequentially over time the entire landscape of a polluted area.

The focus of this work is broadly concerned with the reclamation of derelict land, where the cleaning of land, water and soils becomes a sustainable infrastructural investment for the communities and stakeholders rather than just a selected environmental technique to be applied to a polluted site. The former mining works at the Tar Creek Superfund site although under scrutiny since the early 1980's is still in its very early days of recovery and planning – serves as a useful model for this approach.

Niall Kirkwood is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Technology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the GSD. His work over the last thirty years has mainly focused on the post-industrial landscape globally and the remediation, regeneration and reuse of sites including lands of mining extraction, waste landfills, former industrial manufacturing and steel plants. Kirkwood has carried out research and design practices on abandoned, polluted and idled mining lands in Asia, North America and Europe as well as spent time on the Tar Creek Superfund Site between 2004-2005 as part of the joint GSD/Harvard School of Public Health Project titled- 'A Community-Based Study of Lead-Exposure Pathways, Biomarkers of Dose, Health Effects and Phytoremediation Strategies' funded by NIEHS RFA ES-99-001, Superfund Hazardous Substances Basic Research Program.

As outsiders,
we have to be careful when thinking about a landscape



23RD TAR CREEK CONFERENCE

OUR RALLY FOR TAR CREEK
During the 23rd Tar Creek Conference

Defining Our Toxic Flood	Surface Water & Aquifers	Superfund Progress	Future Tar Creek
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Make plans to attend our virtual conference. Take notes and learn with us. The people who are doing the work will be presenting. We have a right to know how it is proceeding and what is planned for the next phases of work. We won't all be in the same room but we will gather safely and bring information to you in your living room, office or school. Be ready. The links for registering will be posted soon. Check our website and Facebook for this information. Schools and college classrooms in this state and others will be attending. Tar Creek is our home, but it is of great interest to a wide range of people from around the country.

LET US LOOK FORWARD TO THE PLEASING LANDSCAPE OF THE FUTURE.
~ CHIEF JOHN ROSS

CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE - REDUCE IT ELIMINATE IT

During the Critical Developmental period between birth and age 6 years, lead exposure may reduce cognitive ability.

As a result, children who have been exposed to lead tend to perform below their potential in school. This way, lower educational attainment reduces an individual's earning and increased welfare dependency.

Lower educational attainment and lead-induced neurobehavioral changes have been shown to increase criminal behavior and incarceration rates. These social deprivations may adversely affect health and longevity.

-Taken from The Social Costs of Childhood Lead Exposure in the Post-Lead Regulation Era by Peter Muennig, MD

Lead plausibly produces a wide variety of direct and indirect social effects. These include effects on medical costs, schooling cost (special education or grade retention), teen pregnancy, low-birth-weight infants, child abuse, crime, earnings and adult health.

What is clear from his study is that the public health battle against childhood lead exposure is not yet over.

The call from a man concerned about a 2 year old who is important in his life. He had just learned the child was diagnosed with a blood lead level of 13 and he wondered what caused it and what to do about it. Years ago I was licensed by the State of Oklahoma as a Lead based paint Investigator/Risk Assessor. LEAD Agency is licensed as a lead abatement firm. We could do this as a business that would be quite lucrative, but the reason we are trained and state approved is to answer the calls from people who need help determining the cause of their children's poisoning. We got used to hearing our children here had high lead levels. But what that means is these children are poisoned. And the primary ways children are poisoned with lead in Ottawa County are from old peeling, deteriorated lead paint And the other source is chat, of course. That material is loaded with lead and other heavy metals and is dangerous enough that the EPA is spending \$millions a year to remove it from all over the county. They remove it for FREE. The Ottawa County Health Department may have a person trained soon that will also be able to do these investigations.—Rebecca Jim

OTTAWA COUNTY RESIDENTS:
 GET YOUR YARD TESTED FOR LEAD AND CLEANED UP FOR FREE
 DEQ Hotline
1-800-522-0206

“ARRRG...NO SWIMMING”



TAR CREEK CONTAINS DANGEROUS HEAVY METALS

LEAD Agency is asking the public to get on board with reducing the lead level in our children.

LEARN what you can do. Be active in protecting your children.

Lead poisoning is the only childhood disease that is totally preventable. This may be harder when living in a superfund site, but it is do-able and the children are worth the effort.



- Shamira Forster 8th Grade Quapaw

INVESTING IN IMPROVING HUMAN CAPITAL - THE BRAINS OF MILLIONS OF OUR CHILDREN - COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST WAYS OF ENRICHING OUR FUTURE. HERBERT NEEDLEMAN

QUAPAW PENDLETON BLANKET RAFFLE

FUNDRAISER FOR LEAD AGENCY, INC.

Name _____

Address _____

Ph/Email _____

Drawing will be held November 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Blanket will be delivered or mailed to the winner

Thank you for your support. Return to LEAD 223 A St SE Miami, OK 74354

\$1 per chance

Proceeds will fund
LEAD scholarships for
graduating HS Seniors

LEAD Agency, Inc.

**Leading the Way for
Environmental Justice**

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223 A. ST. S. E.
MIAMI, OK 74354

HELP US WITH OUR FUNDRAISER BY PURCHASING
RAFFLE CHANCES ON THE PENDLETON BLANKETS



Save the Date
VIRTUAL
OCTOBER
26-27-28
2021
Registration Open Soon

TAR CREEK
Conference
VIRTUAL FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Defining Our Toxic Flood	Surface Water & Aquifers	Superfund Progress	Future Tar Creek
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*For more information Check out our web-
site or our Facebook page.*

WWW.LEADAGENCY.ORG

