

**MARCH 2008**

# Okmulgee County Conservation District

719 E. 8th, Suite B Okmulgee, OK 74447 Phone: (918) 756-8111 FAX: (918) 756-0716



**The New Okmulgee County Plat Books are now available for \$45**

## OCCD and DEQ Team up to help with Ice Storm Clean-up in Beggs

The Okmulgee County Conservation District and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality worked together to assist with the clean-up of downed limbs in Beggs after the December 2007 ice storm.

District employees Bill Grammer and Bobby Fain took the DEQ chipper as well as several pieces of District equipment to the site for assisting with the chipping of the piles of tree limbs.



“They were bringing in fallen limbs as fast as we could shred them,” said Bill Grammer, OCCD Equipment Manager.



The Okmulgee county sheriff's office also provided some volunteer labor to help with the efforts.

## New staff members pledge their assistance to Okmulgee County



2007 saw the addition of Rishell Bowler to the USDA-NRCS team for Okmulgee and Okfuskee Counties as a Soil Conservationist. Rishell has had the opportunity to work within six different field offices across the state. Rishell has worked with the various Farm Bill Programs including EQIP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, GRP and CRP. Rishell has also assisted the many districts within her duty locations with the State Cost-Share Programs as well as Outdoor Classroom Projects and activities. While providing customer assistance, Rishell has had the opportunity to work with a diverse clientele base across our state. Rishell continues to enjoy servicing both the Okmulgee and Okemah field offices and looks forward to meeting our many producers in the county.

Rhnea Whitworth came on board to the Conservation District as the new district secretary. “It is my goal to get the conservation message out to the citizens of Okmulgee County and to make sure they know that the conservation district is here to provide assistance to them.” Rhnea is also working to expanding the conservation education program. She has already written and been awarded a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality for conservation education materials.

## OACD State Meeting Provides Valuable Information

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's annual meeting. State legislators and conservation leaders discussed issues relevant to Oklahoma and conservation at the OACD state meeting held in Oklahoma City on February 24—26.

Some of the speakers included Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Terry Peach and the Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition, Dr. Dan Sebert.

Directors who attended this meeting were Chairman Dwane Thompson and board member Elmer “Butch” Burgess. Staff who attended were Equipment Manager Bill Grammer, Equipment operator Bobby Fain, District Secretary Rhnea Whitworth and District Conservationist Ronald Goedecke.

## District Website in the Works

District Secretary, Rhnea Whitworth and Green Country Vo-Tech instructor, Teresa Pinkston are collaborating on building a website for the District. “We want to provide a site that will provide information about the district and our services in one central and easy to use location,” says Whitworth. They are hoping to have the website completed and ready to use by June. For more information contact the district office at 756-8111.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dwane Thompson, Chair  
Janet Koziol, Vice-Chair  
Tom Porter, Secretary-Treasurer  
Robert Pinkston, Jr., Member  
Elmer 'Butch' Burgess, Member

## Conservation District brings "Exploring Rocks" to Girl Scouts

In February the Okmulgee County Conservation District presented Elece Hollis' "Exploring Rocks" program to Girl Scout Troop 793. Mrs. Hollis brought her vast collection of rocks, minerals and fossils for the Scouts to examine. Through hands on activities with the rocks and fossils scouts observed how some rocks change in appearance when wet, how rocks may look in various other conditions, and how they may have "hidden treasures" inside. Mrs. Hollis explained the difference in igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.

This presentation is part of the Okmulgee County Conservation District's on-going conservation education program with the troop. Each month the district provides instruction and activities to raise awareness of the need to preserve our natural resources for future generations.

"The girls really enjoy these guys coming out and bringing their conservation activities," said Tina Nail, Troop 793 leader. "Part of our Girl Scout Law is to 'make the world a better place.'" If you are interested in a conservation education program such as this you may contact the coordinator, Rhnea Whitworth, at 756-8111.



Above: Elece Hollis demonstrates sediment  
Left: Scouts examine the various types of rocks.

## Conservation Assistance

Our locally-based Natural Resources Conservation Service staff works directly with farmers, ranchers, and others, to provide technical and financial conservation assistance. Our guiding principles are service, partnership, and technical excellence.

NRCS helps landowners develop conservation plans and provides advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance, and evaluation of the recommended, voluntary conservation practices.

NRCS activities include farmland protection, upstream flood prevention, emergency watershed protection, urban conservation, and local community projects designed to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions.

NRCS conducts soil surveys, conservation needs assessments, and the National Resources Inventory to provide a basis for resource conservation planning activities and to provide an accurate assessment of the condition of the Nation's private lands.

## Christmas Tree Chipping Program

OCCD and DEQ once again provided the Christmas tree chipping service to the residents of the district and once again the program is declared a success. Residents drop off their Christmas trees in the first week of January for chipping.



Only pine and cedar trees are accepted. The resulting pine and cedar chippings was then distributed to those interested in using it for mulch.