

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

To all our friends and customers...

This is the first of what I hope to be a regular letter to report on the many activities of the OWRB and to discuss our continuing commitment to serve you as well as we possibly can.

When we talk about Quality Oklahoma at the OWRB, we really mean it. Quality is our operating principle and improving our service to you, our customers, is our basic goal.

First, through a process that included all our employees, we have written a mission statement and posted it throughout our offices. We declare:

"The mission of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is to manage and protect the waters of the State and to plan for Oklahoma's long-range water needs in a responsive, innovative and professional manner to ensure that all Oklahomans have adequate quantities of good water."

We at the OWRB recognize the importance of trust you place in us.

Second, everyone in our organization has undergone 32 hours of Quality Oklahoma training, setting us among the first agencies to have done this.

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Court Decision in Franco Case Clouds Water Rights Issues

"A blow to economic development." "Chaos in water rights." "Where do we go from here?" This was just a sampling of sentiments expressed by members of the Water Law Advisory Committee. The group met on April 19 to explore the implications of the April 13 Oklahoma Supreme Court decision on the Franco water rights case, one of the most controversial to come before the Board.

OWRB Executive Director Patty Eaton said the committee was shocked at the order. "The opinion may be pivotal in determining how Oklahoma will regulate use of water from rivers, streams, lakes and springs in the future. We are studying options on what to do next," said Eaton.

Based on what the majority of the Supreme Court said in its 1990 ruling which was readopted and reissued on April 13, owning land adjacent

to a water source may be the most important requirement of cities, towns, industries, irrigators and others to get water rights.

The case of Franco-American Charolaise, Ltd. v. Oklahoma Water Resources Board and City of Ada began in 1980 when Ada applied for a permit to increase the amount of water taken from Byrd's Mill Spring located about five miles south of town. After a hot, dry summer in 1980, Ada had used nearly all the water allowed by an earlier water right from the spring.

Several landowners downstream complained that if Ada increased its take from the spring, the stream running throughout the landowners' property would be jeopardized. The Board granted Ada's stream water application, but for less water than the city had requested.

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Citizens of Drumright awakened to high waters and property damage Sunday morning, May 2. The National Weather Service estimated 4-5 inches of rain fell between midnight and 2 a.m., damaging 17 homes and 10 businesses and buckling asphalt paving.

(See May 8 flooding pictures on page 5.)



Students Visit OKC Office April 30

Fifty students from Classen Fifth Grade Center in Oklahoma City got an inside look at the Water Resources Board on April 30. Noel Osborn, Bob Fabian, Mark Belden and Jeanette Bennett of

how water pollution happens. Bob Fabian and Mark Belden showed them how a submersible pump draws water from an aquifer and how water gets into their home taps.

importance of OWRB stream studies in compiling Water Quality Standards and showed them slides of polluted streams, healthy streams, fish and other aquatic life.

Keith Owen, coordinator of the OWRB Water Watch Citizens Moni-



Water Board Geologist Bob Fabian showed the students how a submersible pump brings water from the well to the surface where it can be used in their homes or gardens.



Geologist Noel Osborn, right, demonstrated the permeability of different soils by having the students pour water on samples of various types. She explained how groundwater is held in the pores between particles of soil and sand.

the Water Management Division explained where groundwater comes from, how it's pumped from the formations in which it is stored and

Jeanette Bennett showed slides illustrating water conservation tips.

Phillip Moershel of Water Quality Programs told the students about the

toring Program, showed the students that oxygen can take three forms, then demonstrated how to test a water sample for dissolved oxygen. He explained

Continued on page 5

Pesticides, continued from page 3

ticide may not work properly and may be more likely to run off.

6. Calibrate your sprayer. Too little won't work. Too much may damage the environment.

7. To protect groundwater, select pesticides with low leaching potential. To protect surface waters, consider runoff potential.

8. Where possible, substitute low-toxicity, short-lived chemicals for highly toxic and long-lived chemicals.

9. Use spot treatments instead of broadcast application.

10. Be careful when handling and disposing of leftover chemicals.

-- OSU Cooperative Extension Service

New Environmental License Tag Now Available

The colorful new environmental license plate is now available for sale through the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The plate submitted in the design contest by Tulsan Christine Vincent was announced the winner on Earth Day in April. Vincent is a teacher in the Jenks School District in south Tulsa. The plate features a bright yellow orange sun rising in a blue sky over a green horizon. Eaton pointed out that proceeds from the sale of the special environmental tags will fund environmental education in the state. She said that the program can raise a significant amount of money to be used to print an environmental resource guide, provide scholarships for teachers

and make grants available to classrooms and nonprofit organizations for teachers and make grants available to classrooms and organizations. According to Secretary of Environment Patty Eaton, the special tag can be purchased for \$25 over regular vehicle licensing costs and can be ordered from the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For information on ordering, call the OTC at (405) 521-2467.



Students, continued from page 4

how important oxygen is to all organisms that live in a stream.

The visitors were accompanied by their teachers, Joann Harding and Michael Rodgers of the Classen Fifth Grade Center and a parent, Lynette Glenn.



Phillip Moershel, OWRB environmental specialist showed the students slides of fish native to Oklahoma and told them the importance of clean water.



Keith Owen of the Water Quality Programs Division, puts a lab coat on one of the students in preparation for experiments with water, chemicals and oxygen.

"Atlas" Fishermen's Delight

The 350-page "Oklahoma Water Atlas" contains 145 maps and a variety of other information on 4,300 Oklahoma lakes. It is a perfect companion for fishermen, teachers, students and tourists -- anyone with an interest in Oklahoma's water resources.

The Atlas is filled with color and black-and-white photos, graphs and interesting text which examines Oklahoma history, climate, groundwater and stream water resources.

It can be purchased for \$8.50 at OWRB offices, 600 N. Harvey or by mail for \$10.50 by writing the OWRB at P.O. Box 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150. Please pre-pay orders and make checks payable to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.



Kingfisher homes were set awash by floodwaters of Kingfisher and Uncle John Creeks. Floodwaters in central Oklahoma inflicted the highest damages in more than 30 years to roads, bridges, crops, residences and commercial properties.

Rains on Saturday, May 8 caused floodwaters to invade thousands of homes and businesses in central Oklahoma. Red Cross workers at Guthrie said 32 mobile homes and 45 houses, including this Guthrie neighborhood, were engulfed by floodwaters of Cottonwood Creek.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE
Approved at April and May Board Meetings

Loans (3.072%; 30-year maximum term)			
Henryetta MA			\$1,350,000
Blackwell MA			\$1,725,000
SRF Loans			
Norman UA			\$6,800,000
Bethany-Warr Acres PWA			\$9,523,800
Totals as of 5/11/93			
	FAP LOANS	FAP GRANTS	SRF LOANS
APPROVED	125	296	13
AMOUNT	\$132,155,000	\$17,183,104	\$65,934,529.03
FUNDED	110	273	11
AMOUNT	\$117,475,010	\$15,849,060.15	\$49,610,729.03

**STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES & RESERVOIRS
AS OF APRIL 27, 1993**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE		PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE	
			conservation	flood				conservation	flood
SOUTHEAST					EAST CENTRAL				
Atoka	124,100	123,475	99.5	N/A	Eufaula	2,314,600	2,314,600	100.0	3.2
Broken Bow	918,070	918,070	100.0	6.7	Tenkiller	654,100	654,100	100.0	4.2
Hugo ¹	187,603	187,603	100.0	1.7	Wister ¹	58,601	58,601	100.0	7.0
McGee Creek	113,930	113,930	100.0	8.3	NORTHEAST				
Pine Creek ¹	73,346	73,346	100.0	3.5	Birch	19,200	19,109	99.5	0.0
Sardis	274,330	274,330	100.0	8.7	Copan	43,400	43,400	100.0	0.5
CENTRAL					Eucha	79,600	79,600	100.0	N/A
Arcadia	27,520	27,520	100.0	0.3	Fort Gibson	365,200	365,200	100.0	3.1
Hefner	75,400	75,400	100.0	N/A	Grand	1,672,000	1,672,000	100.0	5.9
Overholser	15,900	14,558	91.6	N/A	Heyburn	7,105	7,105	100.0	1.3
Stanley Draper	100,000	96,796	96.8	N/A	Hudson	200,300	200,300	100.0	0.7
Thunderbird	119,600	119,600	100.0	0.2	Hulah	31,160	31,160	100.0	0.6
SOUTH CENTRAL					Oologah	553,400	553,400	100.0	15.1
Arbuckle	72,400	72,400	100.0	0.7	Skiatook	322,700	322,700	100.0	1.1
Texoma ¹	2,740,000	2,740,000	100.0	5.9	Spavinaw	30,590	30,590	100.0	N/A
Waurika	203,100	203,100	100.0	0.6	NORTH CENTRAL				
SOUTHWEST					Kaw	428,600	428,600	100.0	2.6
Altus	132,830	132,830	100.0	4.5	Keystone	557,600	557,600	100.0	4.1
Ellsworth	72,490	72,490	100.0	N/A	NORTHWEST				
Fort Cobb	80,010	80,010	100.0	0.3	Canton	111,310	111,310	100.0	0.1
Foss	178,410	172,799	96.9	0.0	Fort Supply	13,900	13,900	100.0	0.2
Lawtonka	58,327	58,140	99.7	N/A	Great Salt Plains	31,420	31,420	100.0	2.1
Tom Steed	88,970	88,594	99.6	0.0	STATE TOTALS				
						13,151,122	13,139,686	99.9	3.0

¹Seasonal pool operation
N/A -- not applicable; no flood storage allocation.

Data courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office and City of Lawton.

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