Newsletter

Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please feel free to share our newsletter with anyone who might enjoy reading it. To receive electronic notification of newsletter availability and general recycling announcements, sign-up for the OKRA list server on our website:

www.recycleok.org

Oklahoma Department of Human Services Continues Move Toward Being 'Green'

Oct. 28, 2009

In its continuing effort to become more eco-friendly and costconscious, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services received its first electric car from the Oklahoma Department of Central Services today.

"This is a no cost way for the agency to try out a brand new, green, innovative form of transportation," said Paula Hearn, chief administrative officer for OKDHS.

The 2009 e-ride Industries electric EXV4 Coach was acquired by OKDHS at no cost. The 4passenger vehicle, which is powered by 9 batteries (72 volts), runs for 30-40 miles between charges at a maximum speed of 25 mph. It is street legal on streets with a maximum speed limit of 35 mph, and is adaptable to travel on sidewalks between buildings.

The car, which has been assigned for

use on short-trip mail service and as a back-up shuttle for employees between state buildings, will help OKDHS save on fuel costs and avoid parking problems on short delivery trips.

Other facts about the electric car:

* It is equipped with a heater, windshield wipers, headlights, turn signals, and seatbelts and has a storage bin in the back;

* It plugs into a 220V outlet overnight;

* It costs approximately 5 cents per hour to charge;

* It requires filling the batteries once a month with distilled water; and

* It uses 4 regular 14 inch tires.

"This is a no cost way for the agency to try out a brand new, green, innovative form of transportation"

Adele Jack, director, OKDHS Support Services Division, said other ways OKDHS is making a difference are by incorporating hybrid cars into its car fleet when funds are

available, replacing light bulbs with high efficiency bulbs and installing programmable thermostats to conserve energy. Future projects include installing automatic faucets and flush valves to conserve water.

For additional information about the electric car, contact Brandy Winget at DCS (405) 521-2052, or Adele Jack, Support Services Division (405) 521-3095.

OKLAHOMA BOTTLE BILL UPDATE

The Oklahoma Deposit Beverage Container Recycling bill was not heard in committee and it doesn't look promising for passage this legislative session. The sponsors will be trying again next

We have many things in our favor next year to be positive about. For one thing, we'll have a full year to prepare and continue to take posi-

year and OKRA supports this effort.



In the meantime, OKRA is looking for more industries in Oklahoma that generate and/or will consider utilizing recycled materials, including beverage containers, to manufacture new products. If you know of any businesses that fit this profile, please send the information to <u>info@recycleok.org</u>





Oklahomans Gather for Recycling Seminar by Ilda Hershey

About 135 participants braved the cold weather to attend "Recycling through a Recession" on December 8 in Stillwater. The full day event was held at the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center at Oklahoma State University, which proved to be an accommodating and comfortable meeting site.

One of the most popular seminar sessions was Michael Patton's Recycling Market Update &

Economic Outlook presentation. In this opening session, "Recycle Michael," as we like to call him, reviewed recycling commodity pricing over the last two years. Michael is executive director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.) in Tulsa.

During the recycling operations panel, Michael discussed how to set up a program while keeping costs down in his talk, Recycling in Small Communities. The Collinsville Recycling Depot was featured as a case study. Michael's PowerPoint presentations may be viewed on the M.e.t.'s website:

www.metrecycle.com/media/presentationsspeeches/

Another well received session was the Oklahoma **Organics Diversion Panel speakers, Fred** Container Deposit Bill discussion panel, which cov-Rice, Scottie Williams, and Scott Baldridge. ered benefits of the proposed bill to Oklahoma's economy and fielded questions that ranged from the bill's effect on community recycling programs to what OKRA members can do to support the bill.

Evaluation comments indicated that the seminar was "informative and educational" and the networking opportunities and low registration fees were much appreci-

Coca-Cola, KAB partner in recycling bin grant program

The Coca Cola Co. and Keep America Beautiful have announced a new partnership for a recycling bin grant program aimed at supporting community recycling.

Grant recipients receive donated recycling bins and information on beginning community recycling programs. The bin program is part of a \$60 million investment by Coca-Cola in recycling initiatives in the U.S.

"Our company is committed to designing packages that are recyclable and resource efficient," said April Crow, sustainable packaging manager for The Coca-Cola Co. "We also are focused on ensuring that there are strong end-markets for our packages by investing in commercial recycling and community collection programs like RecycleBank and the Recycling Bin Grant Program. We hope this program will encourage communities to expand recycling as we continue to close the loop for our products as well as other valuable recyclables."

ated. Several commented that the exhibits were very informative as well. An astounding 100% of the 45 survey respondents answered yes to the question: "Did you walk away with the information you had hoped to receive."

Although we were happy to hear positive experiences, the best survey information we received were answers to

the question, "What topic would you like to see addressed at a future seminar?" With over 34 different top-

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ics suggested, we have our work cut out for next time!

Recycling through a Recession was hosted by the Oklahoma Recycling Association and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and OGE Energy Corp.

> Applications are due March 12

Busch Systems International provided recycling bins for the event. For 2009 speaker and exhibitor contact information, download the final program at the Oklahoma Events & Activities Section of the OKRA website (www.recycleok.org). Be sure to check back later for news about the next seminar.

Grant applications can be submitted at 'h t t p : bingrant.org through March 12. Eligible grant recipients include government agencies, civic organizations, schools and nonprofit groups. Successful applicants will be notified on or before April 22.

Since its inception in fall 2007, the Bin Grant program has placed more than 5,700 recycling bins in 150 communities in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Recipients have included municipalities, colleges, Native American tribes, and community-based NGOs. The National Recycling Coalition previously sponsored the program with Coca-Cola.

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OKRA President Traci Phillips at the 2009 Recycling Seminar



Round Trip Recycling Local Teens Make Recycling Good Business! By

By Trudi Logan

A new recycling service is available to residents of Nichols Hills. The service, aptly named Round Trip Recycling, is the brainchild of Max Federman, a Senior at Heritage Hall High School. Max founded Round Trip Recycling (RTR) after he learned that Nichols Hills had considered a curbside recycling service, but had failed to pass a tax or bond issue to fund the program. To address the need for a recycling service, Max became the owner/operator of RTR, offering curbside pick up and disposal of recyclables. To generate business, Max began educating his neighbors about how easy and beneficial recycling was. Most of his customers were first-time recyclers who



had not recycled before because they thought it took too much time and effort.

Max applied for and received an official license as a recycling contractor for the City of Nichols Hills. He built a website and went door to door in order to attract customers.

Max's customers reported that their garbage volume cut in half after they started recycling, and they felt good about their efforts. The company continued to grow by word of mouth and soon Max was able to break even, and eventually make a profit. In late July 2009, Round Trip Recycling received many new customers after Max was featured on a local TV news segment entitled "making a difference."

In October 2009, Max sold RTR to a friend, Jeffrey Caston, also a Senior at Heritage Hall. Jeffrey has continued the service, and provides weekly pickup of plastics, glass, cardboard, newspaper, and aluminum cans from his customers. The charge for the service is \$15/month.

Like Max, Jeffrey is very committed to making a difference for the environment. His primary focus with Round Trip Recycling in not on making a profit, but simply to encourage recycling in his community. His goal is to make recycling convenient and easy so that individuals that haven't recycled in the past are motivated to recycle. Jeffrey donates a portion of the monthly proceeds from RTR to charity.

In addition to operating RTR, Jeffrey also works at the Saturn Grill and is concerned about the inconvenience of restaurant recycling. Recycling centers in Nichols Hills have changed locations and are no longer available 24/7. Jeffrey believes that many restaurants that were previously able to recycle their plastic and glass bottles after hours are now throwing them away. He would like to see recycling centers with extended hours and locations that are convenient for area businesses.

The Round Trip Recycling service is available for residents of Nichols Hills. If you live in Nichols Hills and are interested in the service, please contact Jeffrey Caston at jeffreycaston@hotmail.com.

Jeffrey and Max are two local teens committed to making a difference in their community. Jeffrey plans to continue his focus on the environment by studying environmental engineering in college. Max has plans to meet with the Nichols Hills Sustainability Committee to discuss the need for a community wide curbside recycling program.

FYI from Susie Shields: Another subscription "houseside" recycling service (City of Nichols Hills will not allow recycling bins at the curb) has been underway in Nichols Hills for a couple of years now. Contact: Rahe Oldham at orahe@msn.com.

America Recycles Day PSA Contest Winners Announced Stillwater, Perkins-Tryon and Ada High Schools Come Out on Top

Congratulations to the 2009 winners of OKRA's Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest. OG&E and OKRA sponsored the contest to celebrate America Recycles Day, which is November 15th





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every year. The contest was open to students in grades 9-12 and students throughout Oklahoma were encouraged to participate.



The first place winner was Stillwater High School, with a 30 second PSA titled "Beyond

the Bin." Second place went to Perkins-Tryon High School with a 60 second PSA titled "Let's All Recycle." The third place award goes to Ada High School with their PSA titled "Ada High School Recycling Awareness." OKRA would like to thank everyone who submitted PSAs in 2009. Look for information about the 2010 PSA Contest to be announced later this year.

Live Earth Oklahoma - Run for Water set for April 2010

Oklahoma City – February 10, 2010

The management team at Live Earth Oklahoma announces that on April 17th and 18th, 2010, a 2-day Eco-Festival and the international Run for Water will be held in Oklahoma City throughout the city's Adventure District (<u>www.okcadventure.com</u>). The actual 6K Run for Water will be set for April 18th at 9:00am. The festival and village is designed to be the largest eco-statement in state history. The purpose is to bring education and awareness of how precious our natural resources are – especially water. The educational and entertaining indoor/outdoor village will also showcase companies and organizations that are involved in reducing waste and pollution, supplying eco-friendly products and services as well as fun educational things that everyone can do to be more environmentally friendly.

Executive Director Jeffrey Kidder states, "When I was approached to do this run for water from the international organizing committee, I saw so much more we could do here in Oklahoma than just have a run. I wanted to provide the State Oklahoma, our people and our companies the opportunity to showcase itself and have an entire festival and village so that our people and companies can show that we belong in the national and international conversation when it comes to resource management, becoming more ecofriendly and other addressing substantial environmental issues, like clean energy." Kidder continues, "Our efforts with using the internationally acclaimed Live Earth Brand are to encourage our citizens, companies and governments to reduce, reuse and recycle. Everyone can do something to help protect our resources and environment for our children and their children. We owe them that."

ABOUT LIVE EARTH OKLAHOMA – RUN FOR WATER 2010

Live Earth Oklahoma is a 2-day festival with the 6K Run for Water, live music and the state's largest ever Eco-Village. The Oklahoma City Adventure District will be the host of the event with Remington Park hosting the eco-village and festival as well as the concert venue, OKC Zoo with the Kids run and educational fun zones and the run in and around the Softball Hall of Fame Complex with runners finishing in the stadium. Water scarcity and resources are a focus, however, the eco-village is designed to showcase and educate Oklahomans on energy and alternative energy resources, eco-friendly vehicles, eco and environmentally friendly products and services - as well as other organizations and governmental agencies that are focusing on conserving, protecting, reducing, reusing and recycling programs. The educa-

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tional components are designed to bring focus and attention to issues that both individuals and companies face as we pursue our lives. For more information be sure and visit www.liveearthoklahoma.com

A portion of the proceeds from the Live Earth Oklahoma Run for Water will go to two local Oklahoma based water resource organizations - SafeWater4Kids <u>www.safewater4kids.org</u> and Water4Foundation <u>www.water4.org</u>.

ABOUT THE RUN FOR WATER INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

The Dow Live Earth Run for Water – to take place April 18, 2010 – will consist of a series of 6 km run/walks (the average distance many women and children walk every day to secure water) taking place over the course of 24 hours in countries around the world, featuring concerts and water education activities aimed at igniting a tipping point to help solve the water crisis. Jessica Biel, Alexandra Cousteau, Pete Wentz, Angelique Kidjo and Jenny Fletcher will lend their names and their time in support of this important cause. www.liveearth.org

GLOBAL WATER FACTS

- Water is the #1 global resource affected by climate change
- One in eight people don't have access to clean, safe drinking water
- Access to water is the most severe problem in the developing world
- Women and children walk 6K (3.73 miles) on average every day in developing world to obtain drinking water

By 2025, two-thirds of us on this planet will be living in water stressed areas (even here in the United States).

Oklahoma Student Wins National Radon Poster Contest!

Alec Smith, an eighth-grader at Guthrie Junior High School won first-place in the <u>National Radon Poster</u> <u>Contest</u>. The contest was organized as part of National

Radon Action Month to raise awareness about the risks of radon, a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that exists in homes, schools and buildings. Radon comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in soil. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/. Congrats Alec!





Ada Celebrates America Recycles Day Mayor Cupps Proclaims November 15 "America Recycles Day in Ada"

For America Recycles Day 2009, Ada Recycling Coalition (ARC) encouraged Ada residents to buy more recycledcontent products (like recycled office paper), to increase their recycling efforts at home, school and work and to mulch (not bag) their lawn clippings and leaves. Below is Mayor Cupps with members of ARC and the America Recycles Day proclamation.



Front: Trudy Nevland, Garmon Smith, Mayor Roger Cupps, Glenda Deshazo Back: Tylene Teel, Ambrie Walker, Dana Nickell, Stan Fullingim and (Photo by Richard Barron) Jeremiah Hamilton

Each year ARC celebrates America Recycles Day by sponsoring a poster contest for area elementary school students. The 2009 winners are:

- Mikeal Johnson, Glenwood Pr-K
- Rylee Jo Fisher, Konawa Kindergarten
- Elizabeth Acree, Latta 1st Grade
- Florence Lucille Wise, Konawa 2nd Grade Kaitlyn Willson, Vanoss 3rd Grade Lanie Hicks, Vanoss 4th Grade

- Rhiannon Camp, Konawa 5th Grade Ashlynn Priest, Latta 6th Grade





ARC Poster Contest Winners (Back) Lanie Hicks, Ashlynn Priest, (Front) Mikeal Johnson, Elizabeth Acree, and Kaitlyn Willson with ARC members Trudy Nevland (left) and Marilyn Ellis (right)

Many of the winning posters are featured throughout this newsletter.

ARC also sponsored an America Recycles Day pledge card drawing to encourage Ada residents to make a commitment to recycle. The winner of the pledge card drawing was Tim Lankford, who was presented with a new mulching mower.



ARC Poster Contest Winner KAITLYN WILLSON VANOSS ELEMENTARY, 3RD GRADE



ARC POSTER CONTEST WINNER RHIANNON CAMP KONAWA ELEMENTARY, 5TH GRADE





ARC POSTER CONTEST WINNER ELIZABETH ACREE



ARC POSTER CONTEST WINNER LANIE HICKS

Greenstar Presents Environmental Goals to EPA, Highlights Benefits of Recycling at Climate Leaders Partners Meeting

HOUSTON, (December 2, 2009)

Houston-based Greenstar North America (<u>http://www.greenstar-na.com</u>), the country's fastest growing recycling company, has been recognized by the EPA as a goal setter in its Climate Leaders Program. Greenstar set a goal for a 10 percent emissions reductions at its 15 recycling facilities within the next five years. The EPA made the announcement at its Climate Leaders Conference today in Washington D.C.

"Greenstar is committed to reducing emissions and preserving the environment," commented Mike Wynne, CEO of Greenstar North America and Chair of Greenstar Boards. "We are honored to participate in the EPA's Climate Leaders Program and highlight the impact that recycling can have on combating climate change."

"We applaud Greenstar North America for setting a goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions," said Susan Wickwire, Chief of EPA's Energy Supply and Industry Branch. "As a Climate Leaders partner, they're proving that they can be both industry leaders, and leaders in the fight against climate change."

As a part of the program, Greenstar has calculated its current emissions levels and has identified efficiency projects within its operations that can decrease the use of energy. Greenstar's current emissions levels are below the mandatory reporting level of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E) at all of its individual facilities, so it will not be mandated to report its emissions to the EPA every year. Instead, the company is voluntarily reporting its emissions levels and voluntarily committing to a 10 percent reduction.

At the EPA's Climate Leaders Conference, Greenstar is highlighting the environmental benefits of recycling. Sara Conte, Director of Corporate Development for Greenstar will participate in an industry case study that will discuss the emissions reductions achieved by recycling paper. The study will demonstrate

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how emissions are saved across the business value chain with insight from Greenstar (paper recycler), Boise Paper (paper mill) and Staples (paper retailer).

According to the EPA, 83 million tons of paper is generated every year in America with 45 percent still ending up in landfills. For every million tons of paper recycled, 3.5 million MTCO2E of emissions are saved – the equivalent to taking 840,000 cars off the road.

Recycling is still one of the best, most cost-effective ways to combat climate change. Greenstar is referencing McKinsey's 2009 study, "Pathways to a Low Carbon Economy", in its EPA case study. McKinsey highlighted recycling as one of the activities that not only has significant abatement potential, but will pay for itself over time through reduced energy consumption. Recycling was placed in the same category as changing to efficient light bulbs and properly insulating your home.

Annually, Greenstar recycles two million tons of recyclables. Based on EPA estimates, Greenstar is reducing emissions by approximately six million MTCO2E per year, or the equivalent to:

- Removing 1.3 million cars from the nation's roads
- Eliminating the energy use of 182,000 households
- Saving six million barrels of oil, 275 million gallons of gasoline
- Preserving four million cubic yards of landfill space

About Greenstar North America

Greenstar is America's fastest growing recycling company backed by one of the world's largest private recycling companies. Greenstar provides sustainable recycling solutions in the recycle processing, commodity upgrading and commodity trading sector of the solid waste market. Greenstar entered the U.S. market in 2007 and guickly established a platform for growth by partnering with some of the leading companies in the industry. The company handles two million tons per year of recyclables through a network of 15 processing fa-For more information visit cilities.

www.greenstar-na.com.

About NTR plc

NTR plc, the international renewable energy group, builds and runs green energy and resource-sustaining businesses. Founded in 1978, NTR has evolved from being a developer and operator of infrastructure in Ireland to an international developer and operator of renewable energy (wind, solar and ethanol) and sustainable waste management businesses in the USA, UK, and Ireland. The company employs over 4,100 people. For more information visit www.ntrplc.com.

About Climate Leaders

Climate Leaders is an EPA industrygovernment partnership that works with companies to develop comprehensive climate change strategies. Partner companies commit to reducing their impact on the global environment by completing a corporate-wide inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions based on a quality management system, setting aggressive reduction goals, and annually reporting their progress to EPA. Through program participation, companies create a credible record of their accomplishments and receive EPA recognition as corporate environmental leaders.

For more information visit www.epa.gov/climateleaders.



OKRA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY				
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Ellen Bussert (DEQ)	Secretary	ellen.bussert@deq.ok.gov		
Michael Patton (The M.e.t.)	Treasurer	recyclemichael@yahoo.com		
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Kathy Moore (OK Composting Council)	At-large	anichinimoore@hotmail.com		
Garmon Smith (EPA/Ada Recycling Coalition)	At-large	smith.garmon@epa.gov		



If you would like to join OKRA, please complete our online membership form at http://www.recycleok.org/ formembership.php.

Questions? Please contact Ilda Hershey, OKRA Membership Chair, 405-744 -9806 or ilda.hershey@okstate.edu.



is April 22nd

Celebrate by attending one of the many Earth Day events planned for Oklahoma



newsletter.

Keep an eye out for recycling!

Send photos of Oklahomans recycling to trudi.logan@us.af.mil and we will include them in subsequent issues of the OKRA





ASHLYNN PRIEST LATTA ELEMENTARY, 6TH GRADE

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Recycle

ARC POSTER CONTEST WINNER FLORENCE LUCILLE WISE Konawa elementary, 2nd grade



ARC Poster Contest Winner MIKEAL JOHNSON Glenwood Pre-K

Winning entries from the Ada Recycling Coalition's 2009 Poster Contest are featured on pages 5-7 of this newsletter. See article on page 5.

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PO Box 521154 Tulsa, OK 74152

www.recycleok.org

We need your help to grow OKRA...Join us online!

OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH - APRIL 2010

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFO
MAR 1-13	Shawnee Celebrates Water Conservation Week (various events)	Shawnee, Oklahoma	www.sustainableshawnee.org
Mar 17-19	Ardmore Go Green paper shredding event Mar 17 (11am-2pm) / Mar 17-19: (10am- 4pm) Collection of electronics & chemicals	Citizens Bank and Trust, 1100 N. Commerce, Ardmore	Norma Lynne Paschall, abc.ardmore@sbcglobal.net
MAR 26	Wyandotte Nation Environmental Festival (10am-3pm)	Twin Bridges State Park, Pavilion #4	Earl Salisbury, esalis- bury@wyandotte-nation.org]
MAR 27	Edmond Arbor Day Celebration (11am-2pm)	Mitch Park Amphitheater, Edmond	leigh.martin@edmondok.com
MAR 27	Ecofest at Tulsa Community College NE (9am—3pm)	NE TCC Campus, 3727 E. Apache	Mike Limas 918-633-8134
MAR 27	Ponca City Arbor Day Celebration (1-3pm)	Cann Memorial Garden, Ponca City	heidlcl@poncacityok.gov
MAR 27	Ada Phone Book Contest (9am-noon)	Ada Recycling Center	trudy@adaok.com
MAR 27	Muskogee Free Dump Day	Muskogee Landfill and Brush and Limb Site	mmar- tin@muskogeeonline.org
MAR 28	Compost Bin Sale - for City of Tulsa Resi- dents (11am-3pm)	TCC Metro Campus, 11th and Bos- ton, Tulsa	The M.e.t. 918-584-0584
APR 17	Earth Fest at the Tulsa Zoo (9am to 5pm)	Tulsa Zoo , 6421 E. 36 St North	MCOLEY@cityoftulsa.gov
APR 17	Yukon Recycling Event (9am-2pm)	111 Ash, Yukon	awaggoner@cityofyukon.gov
APR 17	Ardmore 14th Annual Earth 1st Expo (10-2)	BankFirst Plaza, 310 W Main	abc.ardmore@sbcglobal.net
APR 17-18	Live Earth Eco-festival—Oklahoma City	OKC Adventure District (see pg 4)	www.liveearthoklahoma.com
APR 17-18	Pollutant Collection Event (10am-3pm)	Tulsa Fairgrounds (Gate 7 on 15th)	The M.e.t. 918-584-0584
APR 18	Kids for Kindness-Earth Day Fest (12-6pm)	Reaves Park, Norman	Debra.smith@normanok.gov
APR 20	Up With Trees Arbor Day Banquet (6-9pm)	Tulsa Convention Center (cost \$65)	Up With Trees 918-610-8733
APR 21	UCO Earth Day Fair (9am-2pm)	Univ. of Central Oklahoma, Edmond	(405) 974-2363
APR 22	ARC Earth Day Meeting (11:30am-1pm)	Elks Lodge, Ada (public invited-\$10)	trudy@adaok.com
APR 22	Ponca City Earth Day Event (10am-1pm)	Hutchins Memorial Auditorium	heidlcl@poncacityok.gov
APR 22	Green Day at the Drillers -each attendee gets free recycled tote bag (7:05pm)	Driller Ball Park, 4802 E. 15th, Tulsa	The M.e.t. 584-0584
APR 22	12th Annual Enviro-Expo (10am-2pm)	Main and 4th Street, Tulsa	The M.e.t. 584-0584
APR 24	Household HazWaste Collection	Lloyd Noble Center, SE Parking Lot	Debra.smith@normanok.gov
APR 26	Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge Cleanup (8:30am-1pm)	Lake Overholser, meet at pavilion near dam	karen.miles@deq.ok.gov