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News Release

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Lake Eufaula Recognized as an Oklahoma Clean Community

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in partnership with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB), will recognize Team Up to Clean Up for its efforts in making Lake Eufaula an Oklahoma Clean Community during a special ceremony scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, October 15th, 2015. The ceremony will be held at the Legacy Building, 224 N. Main St., Eufaula, OK.

Team Up to Clean Up has a longstanding commitment to cleanup, beautification, and recycling in and around Lake Eufaula. The group has held six community cleanups annually for the last seven years. Additionally, Team Up to Clean Up participates yearly in the Great American Cleanup, Adopt-a-Highway programs, and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Trash-Off. Further, this year the group held its first ever Styrofoam cleanup, which resulted in 120 square yards of Styrofoam being removed from the lake and surrounding areas. In total, Team Up to Clean Up collected 150 tons of material this year, including 1,680 tires that may have otherwise ended up in illegal dumpsites.

Team Up to Clean Up is involved in cleanup and beautification activities in Haskell, McIntosh, and Pittsburg counties. The group focuses on rural areas in addition to the City of Eufaula. Team Up to Clean Up installed trash bins in areas used by tourists and locals alike, which is an important part of beautifying the lake by preventing illegal dumping. Team Up to Clean Up also contributes to the beautification of the area by maintaining planters with shrubs and flowers along Main Street in Eufaula, and painting and restoring playground equipment in area parks.

DEQ and KOB recognize entities that participate in at least one tire collection event annually and other environmental service projects. DEQ encourages entities to coordinate a community-wide cleanup of used tires. DEQ's Tire Indemnity Fund will pay to haul off old, unused, or abandoned tires. Tire piles can be an eyesore and attract unwelcome pests, such as mosquitoes and rodents. After cleanup is complete and all criteria for other service projects are met, a community can be recognized as an Oklahoma Clean Community.

More information on the Used Tire Recycling Program is available at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/TireRecyclingPrg.htm> or by contacting Ferrella March at ferrella.march@deg.ok.gov or 405-702-5175.

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