

**NESHOPA SWCD CONSERVATION CARNIVAL**



Above picture by Sonya Smith



**ATV Safety** – Brad Staten with the MSU Extension Service. Pictured right



**Bugs** – MSU Entomology Department's Bug Blues Museum. Pictured right



**Enviroscape** – Deb Veeder with Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Adopt-A-Stream. Pictured below and right



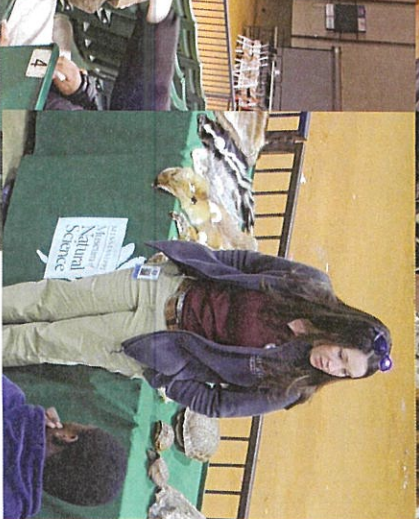
The Neshoba County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted their 28th Annual Conservation Carnival at the Neshoba County Coliseum on Tuesday, February 20th, Wednesday, February 21st and Thursday, February 22nd, 2024. Just over 350 fifth grade students from Bogue Chitto, Pearl River, Tucker, Neshoba Central and Philadelphia Schools took part in this year's carnival. The purpose of this event is to enhance our youth of tomorrow with the

importance of our natural resources and what they can do to conserve them. Nine educational stations were set up and students rotated through all stations. Local agencies participated in the carnival educating students on various subjects such as:

**Water Safety** - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with Tommy Miller and Matt Rigdon. Pictured below

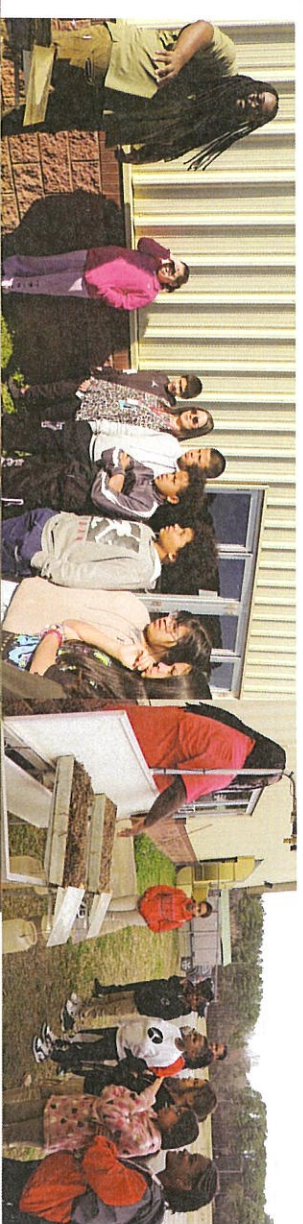


**Wildlife** –Meaghan Huseman with the MS Museum of Natural Science. Pictured below



**Rainwater Simulator**

– Lee Jones with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Pictured right



**Soil Tunnel** – Lydia Edmonson with the MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Pictured left



**Hunter Safety** – Justin Blackburn, Hunter Hall and Dustin Floyd with MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Pictured right



**Wildlife** – Russell Singleton with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Forestry** – Orlando Ellerby and Chris Burnham with the MS Forestry Commission

We would like to thank Brown Bottling for the donation of drinks for the kids and Jerry Smith and Harvin Hudson for cooking lunch for the presenters.

**DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY**



The Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District has appointed Mr. Deric Horne as deputy for District 5. Deric, and his wife Tomekia, have been married for 13 years and have one seven-year-old son, Dalen, who is a first-grader at Neshoba Central. They are active members of The Sanctuary of Philadelphia. He is the son of Billy Joe and Hattie Horne of Philadelphia. He is a lifelong resident of Neshoba County for 45 years. He has been employed for 22 years with the Philadelphia Fire Department where he now serves in the capacity of Fire Chief. He has been a licensed real estate agent for 16 years with Hill Real Estate Group.



## NRCS WELCOMES NEW TECHNICIAN

NRCS would like to welcome Scott Jackson as the new Soil Conservation Technician. He has been married to his wife, Olivia, for fifteen years and they have one daughter, Lexi, that is seven years old. He has an associate's degree in forestry with ten years experience in the forestry industry. For the last seven years he worked as a shop foreman at Windham Tractor in Philadelphia, MS. His wife and him own a small cow/calf operation in Neshoba County. They also raise Hangin Tree cow dogs, Miniature Dashedunds, sheep, chickens and ducks. He looks forward to working with Neshoba County Farmers.



## DISTRICT WINS STATE NEWSLETTER AWARD

The Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District received the Best Newsletter Award for the newsletter assembled by Erica Fortenberry. The award was presented to Neshoba County SWCD Clerk Erica Fortenberry by MACD President Nick Elmore at the Mississippi Association of Conservation District's Winter Meeting in Jackson in January.



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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Neshoba-County-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-District/361945633835625?ref=hl>

### COMMISSIONERS



BEAT 1 Nelson White  
BEAT 2 Lynn Copeland  
BEAT 3 Ross Williamson  
BEAT 4 Carl Mason  
BEAT 5 Jerry Smith  
Treasurer  
Vice Chairman

### DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS



BEAT 1 Glenda Winstead  
BEAT 2 Steve Cumberland  
BEAT 3 Mary Lundy Meruvia  
BEAT 4 Charlie Wilson  
BEAT 5 Deric Home



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
ERICA FORTENBERRY

### OFFICE STAFF:

Priscilla Williamson - NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist  
Jeff Fortenberry - NRCS Soil Conservationist  
Scott Jackson - NRCS Soil Technician  
Erica Fortenberry - SWCD District Administrator

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# NESHOBA COUNTY CONSERVATION NEWS

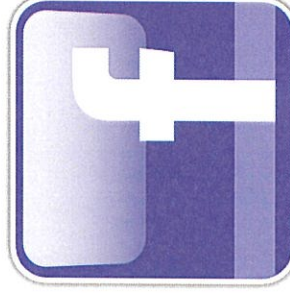
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## NESHOBA SWCD HOSTS ANNUAL TREE GIVE-AWAY



Russell Singleton and Lee Jones with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Erica Fortenberry with the Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District visited with third grade students from Philadelphia Elementary, Union Elementary and Neshoba Central Elementary. They taught them why trees are so important to our environment as well as the economic importance of the forestry industry. Just under 330 third grade students received a water oak seedling to take home. These seedlings were donated by Arborgen's Super Tree Seedlings.



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