



# NEWSLETTER

March, 2025

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Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District

# Conservation Carnival

The Neshoba County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted their 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Carnival at the Neshoba County Coliseum on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Just under 400 fifth grade students from Bogue Chitto, Pearl River, Tucker, Neshoba Central, Union 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.

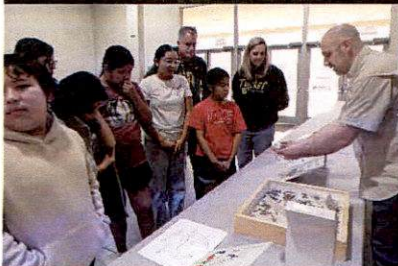


Pictured above is one of the Neshoba Central classes. Pictured below is NRCS's Russell Singleton presenting at the Wildlife station for Philadelphia students

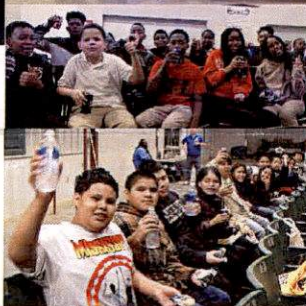




# Conservation Carnival



Pictured above (Tucker) and right ( Neshoba Central) is the MSU Entomology Department's Bug Blues Museum



Pictured above presenting on ATV Safety to Neshoba Central is Brad Staten with the MSU Extension Service



Pictured far left (Neshoba Central) and left (Union) is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Boating Safety station with Tommy Miller



Pictured above left (Union) and above (Neshoba Central) and above right (Tribal schools) is Meaghan Huseman with the MS Museum of Natural Science



Pictured above top left (Union), above top right (Philadelphia), above left (Neshoba Central), above right (Tribal schools) is Deb Veeder with Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Adopt-A-Stream



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tree Give Away



Tree Planting Week is celebrated in February each year and was established in 1974 as an annual event to recognize the importance of trees to the environment. The Neshoba County Soil and Water Conservation District celebrated Tree Planting Week with third grade students in local schools this February and March.



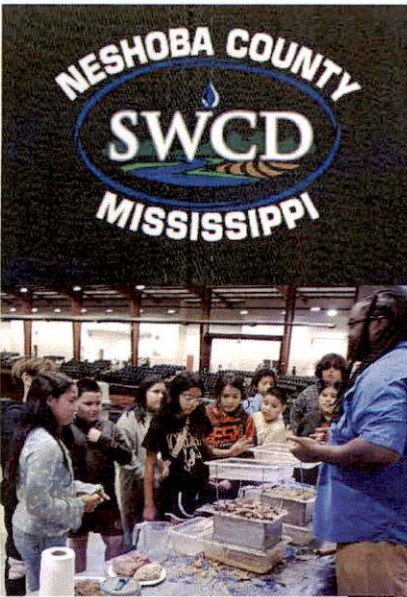


# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tree Give Away



Damion Hegwood 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 360 third grade students received a Loblolly Pine seedling to take home. These seedlings were donated by Arborgen's Super Tree Seedlings.



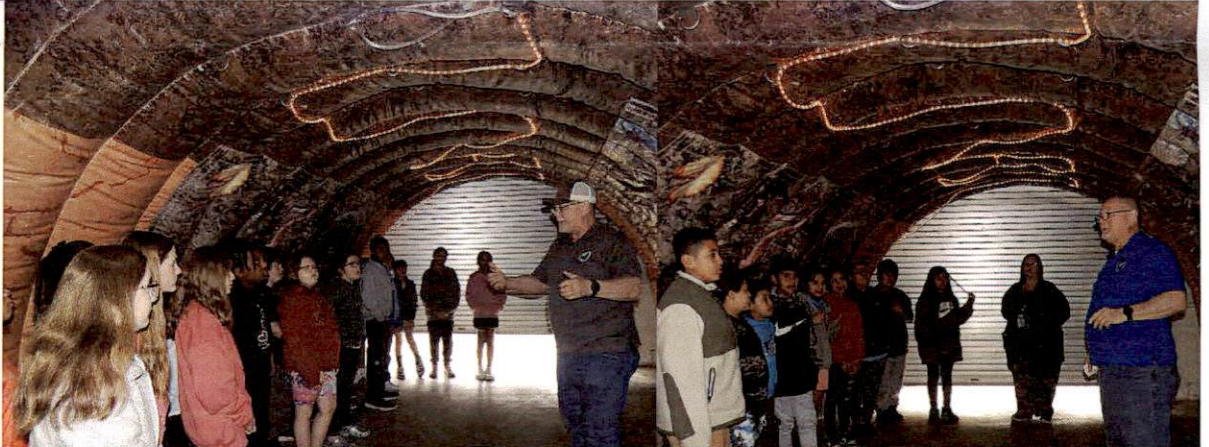


# Conservation Carnival



Pictured left (Tribal) above left (Philadelphia) and above right (Neshoba Central) is Lee Jones with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service demonstrating the Rainwater Simulator

Pictured right (Neshoba Central) and far right (Tribal) is Ray King with the MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission demonstrating the Soil Tunnel



Pictured above left (Neshoba Central), above (Philadelphia) and above right (Union) is Chris Burnham with the MS Forestry Commission



Pictured above right (Neshoba Central) and above left (Tribal) is Brandon Clark with MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks demonstrating firearm safety

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.

# MACD Winter Meeting



Pictured above top left is Erica Fortenberry and Leake SWCD's Nancy Cain presenting on how to have a successful tree sale. Pictured above bottom right is Kay and Lynn Copeland, who, along with 6 other Commissioners and Deputies, participated in the meeting. All above pictures were taken by MSWCC's Justin Polk.

The Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts held their Winter Meeting / Training in Jackson on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Pictured above is Erica Fortenberry receiving the District Employee of the Year Award for the state. The award was presented by MACD President Gip Carter. Picture by MSWCC's Justin Polk.

## COMMISSIONERS



Nelson White   Lynn Copeland   Ross Williamson   Carl Mason   Jerry Smith  
Treasurer   Vice Chairman   Chairman

## DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS



Glenda Winstead   Steve Cumberland   MaryLundy Meruvia   Charlie Wilson   Deric Horne



District Clerk  
Erica Fortenberry

## WHAT IS A SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

The Neshoba County Soil & Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the State of Mississippi located in the Third Congressional District. The formation of the Conservation District was authorized by the MS legislature on April 4, 1938, through House Bill 454. The Neshoba County SWCD was organized by citizens of Neshoba County on October 30, 1939.

The Neshoba County SWCD is governed by five commissioners. Three are elected in a district (county) wide election by landowners. Two are appointed by the MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission upon recommendations of the SWCD board of commissioners. Each District is authorized to appoint five deputy commissioners. These commissioners serve without pay to carry out a cooperative program that addresses the natural resource concerns of the District.

## OFFICE STAFF:

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

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