



Conservation Day! Bronte and Robert Lee students traveled to Wildcat Mountain Ranch for the 8th annual event on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Ryan McClintock and Wade Day discussed deer populations (top right photo), while Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Michael Jaramillo assisted students on a BB gun course (bottom right photo).



Coke County Students enjoy Wildlife Conservation Day 2015

The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted the eighth annual Coke County Conservation Field Day on October 14, 2015. The event was co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Agri-Life Extension, The Coke County Underground Water Conservation District, The First National Bank of Sterling City in Bronte, Robert Lee State Bank, Bronte Grocery, Super H, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Albertson's. NRCS personnel from the San Angelo team and the Zone Office, with the help from volunteers, hosted the learning stations of the outdoor classroom. Through the gracious monetary donations from our co-sponsors; students and adults were provided a Conservation Field Day T-shirt and a hotdog lunch.

Bronte and Robert Lee students met at the beautiful Wildcat Mountain Ranch owned by Tony and Hollis Farris. Their day of hands on learning began at 9:00 a.m.

Ryan McClintock, NRCS Wildlife Biologist, with the assistance of Wade Day and Clent Bryan, hosted Station 1. At this station, students learned about controlling, maintaining, and growing deer populations. They played "Oh, Deer" to demonstrate how the changing availability of shelter, water, and food can alter the populations of our local deer herds. They were also able to see how hunting can be used as a tool to control the number of deer in a certain area.

At Station 2, Phillip Truitt represented the Texas Forest Service. He had a display of various items firefighters use and carry with them while fighting fires in areas that vehicles are unable to reach. Mr. Truitt had each student lift a typical backpack that can weigh 45-70 pounds! He also informed the students how fire can be used to

fight fires with a drip torch and back burns. Mr. Truitt gave each student a Texas Forest Service Frisbee that was a huge hit with the children.

Morgan Runyan, Texas Agri-Life agent, with help from Grant Teplicek, NRCS-GLC and Jim Bob Ellisor, NRCS hosted Station 3. At this station, Mrs. Runyan talked to students about quail. She gave them information on how they forage and store food and their habitat. She used the game, "Run for your Life", to show students how quail protect themselves from predators while searching for food. Each little quail left this station with a bag a candy!

Station 4, was the inside of the Farris Lodge where the students were treated to a tour from local taxidermists Mark Wright and Ty Corley. Mr. Wright and Mr. Corley showed students mounts of various animals; including a buffalo, greater and lesser Kudu from Africa, and a bear. Here the students were able to observe the skulls of several animals and learn about how their distinct features help them in the wild. They also were shown the teeth of deer and how they are used in determining the age of the animal.

At Station 5, Game Warden Jim Allen and Texas Parks and Wildlife Officer Michael Jaramillo hosted a mini gun safety course using BB guns. Each student wore protective eye wear and were assisted by an officer on the proper handling and firing on a BB gun. The children were able to show off

their shooting skills by taking aim at targets. They demonstrated there are many great shooters in Coke County!

After lunch the students settled down to a visit from Kat Bunker and Diane Faulkner from the San Angelo Nature Center. Mrs. Bunker brought a fun variety of creatures with her; including a large, orange lizard named Cheeto, a 7 foot bull snake, and a tiny turtle. Mrs. Bunker explained to the students how to properly pet each animal and how to be a good steward in taking care of all animals. The most popular animal was a skunk named Luke Skywalker! Luke Skywalker had been descended and was working on storing up fat for the winter.

All the students, teachers, and volunteers seemed to have really enjoyed their day of outdoor learning. As a result of all the happy faces, Coke County SWCD is looking forward to hosting next year's event.

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in a regular session Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 9 am. Present were Roy Blair, County Judge; Troy Montgomery, Commissioner, Pct #1; Paul Williams, Commissioner, Pct #2; Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct #3; Joe Sefcik, Commissioner, Pct #4 and Clerk Mary Grim.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by Judge Blair.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve the minutes for September 8th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pitcock, motion carried.

No action taken on burn ban. No changes to the 2015-2016 budget.

Commissioner Montgomery moved to adopt the general budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pitcock, motion carried. Voting for were Commissioner Pct #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Pct #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner Pct #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner Pct #4 Joe Sefcik and Judge Roy Blair.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to adopt the road and bridge budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Montgomery, motion carried. Voting for were Commissioner Pct #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Pct #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner Pct #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner Pct #4 Joe Sefcik and Judge Roy Blair.

Commissioner Williams moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.640837, which is effectively a 0.66 percent increase in the tax rate for the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pitcock. Voting for were Commissioner Pct #1

(Continued on Page 11)

Finding Solutions for Your Financial Needs



Tommy E Neal, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
2412 College Hills Boulevard
Suite 102
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-223-8244
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

FLOYD C. PETITT INSURANCE

**LIFE • HEALTH • GROUP HEALTH
LONG TERM CARE • ANNUITIES
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS
AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL**

WE PUT YOU FIRST!

YOU'RE NOT A NUMBER TO US, BUT A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY!

**(325) 453-4551 (325) 223-1563
PO Box 184 • 715 AUSTIN 5002 KNICKERBOCKER
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945 SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76904**

floyd@floyddepetitinsurance.com