



County 5th and 6th graders enjoy 2011 Conservation Day Outdoor Classroom

The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) welcomed 5th and 6th grade students from Robert Lee and Bronte Elementary to the Wildcat Mountain Ranch for the 2011 Conservation Day Outdoor Classroom on October 19.

Assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, San

Angelo Nature Center and both Robert Lee and Bronte Volunteer Fire Departments also made the field day a success.

Students were welcomed by Donna Waldrop, Coke County SWCD technician, and NRCS District Conservationist Mark Sides before beginning to make their way through five educational stations.

A special twist to this year's event was the Nature Center reptile exhibit. With a variety

of both venomous and non-venomous snakes, students were able to explore education through an experience with a live species. Even though most snakes are not lethal to humans, many people are still terrified of these slithering reptiles. The program, presented by Travis Fisher, illustrated how venomous snakes bite humans only in self-defense and would much rather not con-

front us. Snakes also provide a valuable service by controlling the rodent population.

NRCS employees Sam Schiwart, Grant Teplicek, Jim Bob Ellisor and Jaime Tankersley were part of the quail habitat restoration station. Wildcat Mountain Ranch was directly in the path of the Wildcat inferno that engulfed nearly 160,000 acres in Tom Green and Coke Counties. This made it a key location to edu-

cate students about conservation, rehabilitation and rebuilding after the blaze.

After completing all stations, students were treated to a hot dog lunch provided by Coke County SWCD and friends.

If you are interested in participating in next year's field day or other SWCD/NRCS activities you can contact them at 325-453-2623 ext. 3 or visit them at 214 East 7th Street in Robert Lee.

... Amendments

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Proposition 2 - SJR 4

"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding."

Proposition 3 - SJR 50

"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students."

Proposition 5 - SJR 26

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or

counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund."

Proposition 6 - HJR 109

"The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund."

Proposition 9 - SJR 9

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person

who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision."

Proposition 10 - SJR 37

"The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office."

Propositions 4, 7, and 8 failed to pass. They are listed below.

Proposition 4 - HJR 63

"The constitutional amend-

ment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates."

Proposition 7 - SJR 28

"The constitutional amend-

ment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."

Proposition 8 - SJR 16

"The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity."

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