

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

“Tuskegee Public Elementary Hosts it's First Water Festival”

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Students, instructors, and sponsors of Macon County Water Festival.

March 18, 2013, was an historic day at Tuskegee Public Elementary School, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Macon County held its very first “Water Festival” at the school. Over 227 sponsors, volunteers, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students helped make the event a success.

Sponsors included:

- United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - Forestry Service (FS)
  - Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO)
- Macon County School District
- Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)
- Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- Tuskegee Utility Board
- Blue Bell Ice Cream

The students participated in different activities involving the water cycle and conservation of natural resources. These include Water Cycle Bracelets, Edible Aquifers, and the Filtration Process.

Water Cycle Bracelets showed the students the Hydrocycle or Earth Water-Cycle. The students made bracelets using beads and string. Each colored bead represented a different step of the hydrologic cycle. After finishing the activity, the students wore their bracelets as tools to explain the water cycle to their families and friends.

Each color bead represented the following function in the cycle;

1. Precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, and hail) = Blue
2. Evaporation = Red
3. Transpiration = Green
4. Condensation = White

The Edible Aquifer activity is a fun and easy way to understand the geology of an aquifer. Students built a model aquifer with ice cream, sprinkles, and chocolate syrup represented different components of an aquifer. At the end of the activity the students consumed their experiment.

The students also learned about water filtration through a hands-on exercise using coal, soil, rocks, water, and a soda bottle.

### **Students at the water festival learning exercises/activities:**



(l-r) Presenters Rory Stephens, NRCS-Soil Conservation Technician, Montgomery, and Khalis Giles, NRCS-Soil Conservationist Technician, Tuskegee, instructs students on the development of water cycle bracelets for “The Hydrocycle” exercise.



Teachers from Notasulga School and students (not pictured) participated in this historical event.



“Smokey Bear” stopped in to support and encourage the students to continue good stewardship.



Students enjoyed fun-filled educational exercises. (l-r) Louis Maxwell, Chairman of the Macon County Commission and Wil Golden, Extension Coordinator, assisted the students in building their water cycle bracelets.



Edible Aquifers received smiles from students. Ice cream, sprinkles, and chocolate syrup was used to demonstrate the filtration process. Each student created their exercise and was able to eat it afterwards.



Tuskegee Utilities employees demonstrated the water filtration process. Students created a filtration system using coal, soil, rocks, water, and a soda bottle.



(l-r) Christopher Joe, NRCS District Conservationist, Macon Co.; Joseph Asberry, Principal of the Elementary School; and Khalia Giles, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Macon Co.



Malcolm Moss, Tuskegee Public School, placed first among his peers in the festival T-Shirt Design contest.



Rodney Stone, USDA 1890 Liaison , Tuskegee University, displays Malcom's T-shirt design.