

2013 Blount County Groundwater Festival

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Thanks to all the hard work from 80+ volunteers, the 2013 Blount County Groundwater Festival "Where Does Your Water Shed?" was a great success!

The festival was held February 15, 2013, at Wallace State Community College. Over 657 Blount County 4th graders and their teachers participated in two hands-on learning activities.

Even before the festival began, students helped prepare for the day when they had the opportunity to design a water festival T-Shirt. This year's winner was from Susan Moore Elementary School and received a \$100 gift card to Wal-Mart.



Students show off their water cycle bracelets.

The students participated in two hands-on learning activities. The Edible Aquifer and the Water Cycle Bracelet.

The Edible Aquifer is a fun and easy way to understand the geology of an aquifer. Students built a model aquifer with ice cream, lemon lime cola, fruit snacks, and sprinkles. All these items represented different components of an aquifer and were consumed by the students at the end of the activity.



Students enjoy their edible aquifer.

The Water Cycle Bracelet, showed the students how the water cycle is nature's recycling system. The students made their own bracelets using beads and string, with each colored bead representing a different step of the hydrologic cycle. After finishing the activity, the students were to wear their bracelets as tools to explain the water cycle to their families and friends.

After the students attended the two activities, they enjoyed a magic show. The "Fishin Magicians" are environmental educators that use magic and comedy to teach their audiences about water, conservation, and the environment. All of these reinforced the activities the students had completed earlier in the day.

The 2013 Blount County Groundwater Festival could not have happened without the members of the Festival Committee and the help of the Blount County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), community volunteers, area utilities, local businesses, and the staff at Wallace State Community College.