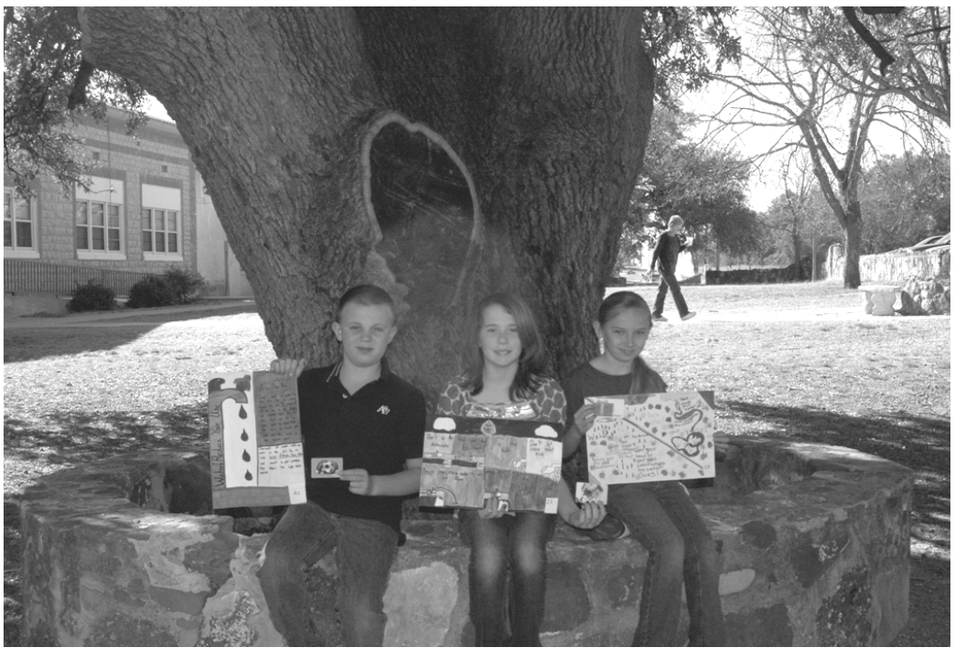
Heartbeat of the Hickory

SPRING 2013

Poster Contest Winners

This year's them was "Water: Reduce Your Use!"



This year we received 85 posters for our annual water-themed poster contest. The directors and others attending the February Board Meeting voted on the posters.
First prize went to Colton Coleman, 2nd to Anna Stidham, and 3rd to Bethany Vineyard. All three winners were students of Dixie Pitcox, Rochelle Elementary.
Winners received Walmart gifts cards: $25 for first, $20 for second, and $15 for third.
We want to thank all the teachers and students who participated.

40 Gallon Challenge

Take a pledge to conserve water. There's a wonderful new program kicking off across the US called the 40 Gallon Challenge. The challenge calls for residents and businesses to reduce daily water use by 40 gallons a day. The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension became involved in the program in 2011. They have been able to educate more thant 1,050 people attending 80 programs in 89 Texas counties.

You can sign up to participate at the 40 Gallon Challenge website, http://www.40gallonchallenge.org. The website also shows the most popular practices being pledged, the practices that are saving the most water daily, and counties and states that are pledging the most daily savings.

Currently, the top water savers in Texas are "reduce irrigation station runtimes by two minutes," "use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks," and "fix a leaky toilet." In Texas, the three counties registered to save the most gallons are Collin, Ellis and Dallas.

Why not participate?

To start saving water and take the challenge, go to the website and complete the checklist of water-saving practices, The checklist includes both indoor and outdoor water-saving tips.

Directors	
Precinct 1	*Owen Parks, Board President*
Precinct 2	*Bill Sloan, Board Vice-President*
Precinct 3	*Gay Nesloney, Director*
Precinct 4	*Wendell Moody, Director*
Precinct 5	*Bert Striegler, Board Secretary*
Staff	
Manager	*David Huie*
Consulting Manager	*Caroline Runge*
Assistant Manager	*Angelina Deans*
Lab/Field Technician	*Ronnie Moore*

BLUEBONNET

TEXAS

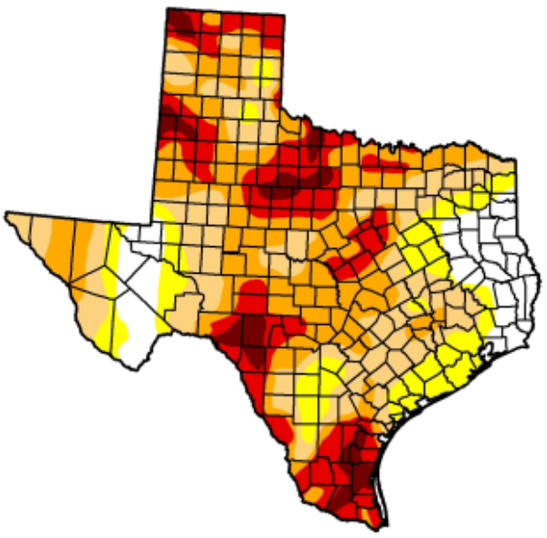
U.S. Drought Monitor

February 26, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.29	88.71	75.11	49.85	22.02	5.17
Last Week (02/19/2013 map)	12.01	87.99	73.58	49.06	25.80	7.89
3 Months Ago (11/27/2012 map)	6.16	93.84	80.51	54.47	24.50	7.63
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (02/21/2012 map)	6.05	93.95	85.21	67.48	38.68	13.93



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Released Thursday, February 28, 2013
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

DON'T FORGET – ALL WATER USE REPORTS ARE DUE BACK IN THE OFFICE MARCH 15, 2013. THIS IS FOR PERMITTED WELLS ONLY. IF YOU HAVE A DOMESTIC OR STOCK WELL, YOU DO *NOT* HAVE TO SUBMIT ONE OF THESE REPORTS. ALL PERMIT HOLDERS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED PAPERWORK IN THE MAIL EITHER THE END OF DECEMBER OR FIRST PART OF JANUARY.

Water Testing

One of the services the District provides to area residents is water quality testing. We test for bacteria (coliform and e. coli) as well as other constituents such as TDS, Conductivity, pH, Nitrates, Sulfates, Iron, Chloride, and hardness. If you need a test, contact the office for instructions on how to collect the samples. We provide special containers for bacteria tests. If you prefer, one of our employees can draw the sample for you.

Many people panic when their wells come up positive for coliform. Coliform bacteria are organisms that are present in the environment and in the feces of all warm-blooded animals and humans. Coliform bacteria will not likely cause illness. However, their presence in drinking water indicates that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) **could** be in the water system. ***E. coli*** is a sub-group of the fecal coliform group. Most *E. coli* bacteria are harmless and are found in great quantities in the intestines of people and warm-blooded animals. Some strains, however, can cause illness.

To treat, pour bleach into the well at wellhead. The amount of chlorine needed is determined by the amount of water standing in the well. The standing water depth in the well will be the well depth minus the static water level. For example, a water well 110 feet deep with a static water level of 90 feet would contain a standing water depth of 20 feet (110 feet - 90 feet = 20 feet). See the table below for amount to use. Once you pour bleach into system, turn on water at several faucets especially the one farthest from the well until you can smell the bleach. Then turn off and let it sit at least overnight without running water. If possible let it rest for 24 hours. Then turn on water until you can no longer smell the bleach. Wait two weeks and retest. If you're using any kind of water treatment, check manufacturer's instructions before treating.

Amount of Chlorine Bleach Needed for Shock Chlorination

	Laundry Bleach (unscented) about 5.25% hypochlorite				
Standing water depth in well (in feet)	***Casing Diameter***				
	4 inches	6 inches	8 inches	10 inches	12 inches
10	½ cup	1 cup	1 ½ cups	1 pint	2 pints
25	1 cup	1 pint	2 pints	3 pints	4 ½ pints
50	1 pint	1 quart	2 quarts	3 quarts	1 gallon
100	1 quart	2 quarts	1 gallon	1 ½ gallons	2 gallons
150	3 pints	3 quarts	1 ½ gallons	2 gallons	3 gallons