



Heartbeat of the Hickory

80th Texas Legislative Session

The 80th Texas Legislature will convene January 9, 2007 with 29 new members, five in the Senate and 24 in the House. As usual, we expect water to be a central issue. For this reason, water districts throughout Texas will closely monitor activities and represent their interests in Austin. The West Texas Regional Groundwater Alliance has even gone so far as to hire a lobbyist, Bob Turner, to work toward their

goals this session. Utilizing a system known as Telicon, groundwater districts will monitor the activities of the legislature from home offices. As situations develop, the District intends to update the public. Anybody interested in receiving regular legislative updates should contact our office at 325-597-2785 or hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com. The updates will be by email primarily but exception can be

made and briefings mailed 'snail mail.' This service is free to anybody owning land within the District boundaries.



One More Time...



With possible changes in State Water Law ahead, it is **IMPERATIVE** that well owners permit or register their wells. The process is quite simply at this time. All the forms are available on our website: www.hickoryuwcd.org. Of course, we will still supply forms the old fashioned way. Permits are for wells that produce more than 25,000 gallons

a day. These would be irrigation, municipal and industrial well. Other wells, such as those used for household and stock need only a registration form completed. Registering and permitting wells will aid the landowner in several ways. First, an accurate depiction of water actually used from the various aquifers within the District aids us in management. At this time we only know about a small percentage of wells; therefore, underestimating usage. This

creates an illusion that this area has a surplus of water, catching the attention of water speculators. Registering and permitting might also work to help landowners maintain water rights in the future, should the State take over. These forms could serve to establish historic use. The District is here **FOR** the landowners. We are supported by your property taxes. Our Directors are elected by you, the voters. **We work FOR you.**

Directors

- Owen Parks.....President
- Bill Sloan.....Vice-President
- Bert Striegler.....Secretary
- Wendell Moody.....Director
- Larry Lehmborg.....Director

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- David Huie.....Manager
- Caroline Runge.....Consulting Manager
- Audra Wilcox.....Secretary
- Angelina B. Deans.....Assistant Manager

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"You could write the story of man's growth in terms of his epic concerns with water."

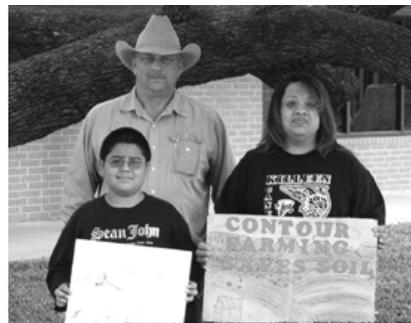
Bernard Frank

POSTER CONTEST 2006

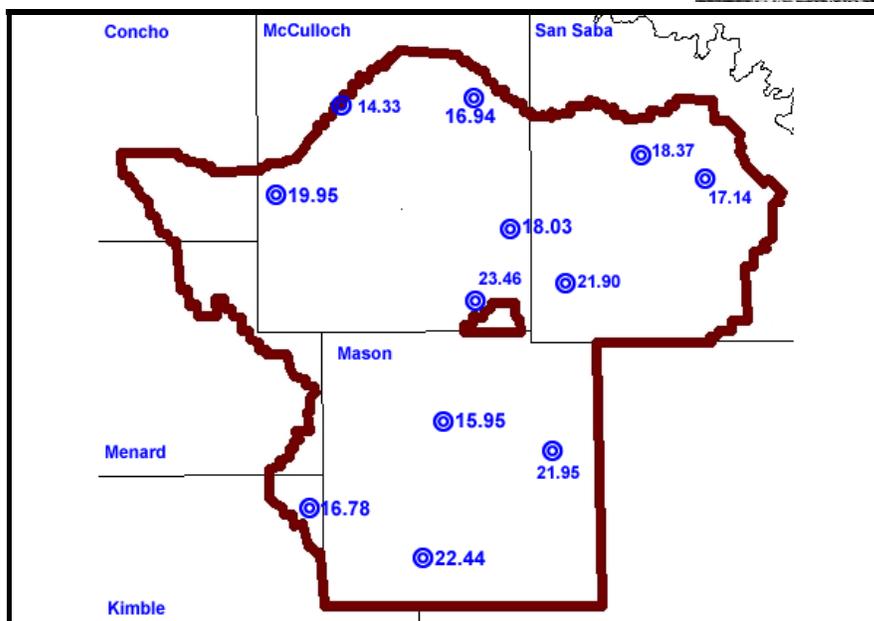


At the November 8, 2006 Board meeting, the directors judged 74 posters submitted for our annual poster contest. This year's theme, Water and Wildlife, stirred the creativity of these 4th and 5th graders. Judging this year was not easy but first prize went to Hailey Osbourn from Mrs. Glover's class in San Saba. Second went to J.R. Castillo and 3rd to Britney Rixse both from Mrs. Hibler's class in San Saba. Prizes were Walmart Gift Certificates valued at \$20, \$15, and \$10.

We spoke with the parents prior to taking photos and learned that J.R.'s mother, Norma Garza, won a soil and water conservation poster contest when she was in school. Creative genius runs in the family.



Rainfall 2006



If you have one of the Hickory rain gauges, don't forget to submit your rainfall report for last year. Thanks!