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Central Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wayne Dykes, District Board Chair Jan. 14, 2012

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**Laurens County students learn about water conservation**

**during annual Indian Pow Wow in Dudley, Ga.**

**ATHENS, Ga. –** Learning to preserve and protect Georgia’s natural resources cannot start too early.

That view is behind the Central Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District’s recent participation in North West Laurens Elementary Pre-K and Kindergarten kids annual Indian Pow Wow held at the Tomlinson Farm in Dudley, Ga.

Keegan Malone and David Hall, from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, demonstrated to 250 students and parents an enviroscape to show how water is needed to sustain life and how it can become polluted. Conservation pencils were given to each class as a reminder of the importance of water conservation.

Other activities during the daylong event included demonstrations on how corn meal is ground and made into corn bread and how sugar cane is ground. Students saw an assortment of arrowheads and spears and were entertained by storytellers.

Staff from the state’s Department of Natural Resources showed animal hides and talked about the animals they represent.

The Indian Pow Wow is an annual event that gives the youngsters hands-on opportunities to learn about the history of their local area.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts were created in 1937 by the Georgia General Assembly to protect the state's soil and water resources following the Dust Bowl of the 1930's.  Districts provide a way for citizens to set local resource priorities for state and federal assistance programs. At the state level, the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) supports locally led soil and water conservation districts through education, technical, financial and planning assistance and through program oversight.

Local conservation project funding is provided by the State of Georgia, along with grants from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, USDA-NRCS and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

More information is available at [www.gaswcc.org](http://www.gaswcc.org) or by calling (706) 552-4470.

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