

CONSERVATION Showcase

By [Kathy Walker](#), District Administrative Coordinator, Madison County SWCS, Huntsville, AL

How many folks have such great Earth Team Volunteers (ETVs) as we do in Huntsville with Ray and Inez Whiddon?

On March 3, 2014, it was 27 degrees with a wind chill of 12 degrees in Huntsville. The Whiddons still came out to help with the Martin Luther King Elementary School's "Read Across America Program." This is a couple of our most active ETVs--Mr. Whiddon will be 82 this year and Mrs. Whiddon will be 80!

We met with 180 students in grades K-2 that were ready to kick off an art contest in their school with prizes for one student and their teacher! In honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday we read "Flap Your Wings." For the art contest, students were able to draw anything that we talked about with the book.

The book is about an alligator egg that got put into the wrong nest, but the birds felt a responsibility to take care of it until it hatched. Even when the birds discovered that it was the "strangest bird that they had ever seen," they still cared for it until they found its right home. The alligator, a puppet stuffed into the egg, hatched at just the right time!!



The Whiddons are already scheduled to come back to judge the entries in the art contest. I wish I had many more ETVs like these wonderful folks!



Kathy Walker (center) talks to the students as the Whiddons hold a measuring tape to show just how long an alligator can get--19.2 feet, and it can weigh as much as 2,200 pounds!