Tree planting offers future shade ... and knowledge

By Terrence Jefferies

FRANKLINVILLE — Franklinville Elementary held a Tree Planting Ceremony on the grounds of their playground Thursday.

The trees were planted as the school’s first step in renovating the playground to provide additional shade and also to help absorb water at and around the area.

Bob Langston, the North Carolina Zoo’s Sustainability and Conservation Outreach Coordinator, led the collaborative effort with the aid of the Arbor Foundation, Franklinville Mayor Perry Conner and honor students from Randolph Community College.

The event began with remarks, step-by-step instructions, information and a question-and-answer session as Langston and other zoo representatives engaged in conversation with fifth-graders at Franklinville Elementary. The students learned about the economic advantage of planting trees and why it matters.

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Planted
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— how doing so helps
the community, the en-
vironment and the over-
all climate.
Students were then
able to implement what
they have learned in the
classroom and at the
event about trees and
tree planting by assist-
ing in planting 23 trees
— including red maple
trees, river birch trees
and willow oak trees
— on the playground.
Franklinville El-

demary Principal
Debbie Sheron said
she thoroughly en-
joyed the event.
“I loved the con-

ection the kids were
able to make to the
curriculum,” she said.

“When students are
old, they can drive
by here and say to
their grandchildren, ‘I
planted that tree.’ ”
She also gave words
on her love of working
in the education field.
“I don’t know how to
quantify what I love the
most about being a prin-
cipal. I’m already excit-
ed about talking to the
kids about what they
learned today,” she said.
“I just love my job, and
I love working with kids
and trying to make a
difference in their lives.”

As well as students,
other attendees at the
event included the

HARD TEAMWORK — Fifth-
grade students at Franklinville
Elementary planted 23 trees
Thursday with the help of
workers from the N.C. Zoo and
other local organizations. Pic-
tured at right, the trees planted
at Franklinville Elementary
serve as the school’s first step
in renovating its playground,
to provide additional shade,
and also to help absorb water
at and around the playground
area at the school.

Arctic Ambassador
Team, made up of zoo
educators; the Randolph
Community College
(RCC) Honor Society;
the Rocky Coast Animal
Care Staff from the
zoo; and representa-
tives from the Randolph
County School System
(RCSS) Central Office.