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LAKE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 — APRIL 2007

District

Supervisors

Nadine Foley

Terry Godts

John Harris

Frank Paulhamus

Betsy Farner

USDA -NRCS Staff

Joe Mustion

Acting District Conservationist



1st Place, Planeteeers, Leesburg High School
(L to R) Advisor Sandi Good, Matt Hicks, Advisor Joan Wukotich,
Beverly Coe, Ameer Rafeek, Mario Louis, and Thomas Malkiewicz

Lake Regional Envirothon

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the Fourth Annual Lake Regional Envirothon on February 13th at the Hickory Point Recreational Facility in Tavares with a total of eight teams.

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| 1 st place "Planeteeers"
Leesburg High School |
| 2 nd place "Tenacious Tree Huggers II"
Leesburg High School |
| 3 rd place "The Knights of the Round Planet"
East Ridge High School |

The five-member teams were given 25 minutes each at stations representing aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a selected current environmental issue, which was "Alternative/Renewable Energy." The competition included written exams and hands-on investigations in a field setting.

After the competition, Tami Grandy from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection talked to students about the hydrogen fuel cell electric car that was displayed at the event.

The Planeteeers will compete in the Florida Envirothon on April 14, 2007 at Jonathan Dickinson Park near Jupiter, Florida.

See *Envirothon*, pg 2



Tenacious Tree Huggers II
(L to R) Kryssa Johnson,
Desirae Wiley, and Erica Bass
Testing Soil pH



The Knights of the Round Planet
Josh Kimbro and Liz Ostenburg
Collecting Soil Sample



1st Place, Gold Team, East Ridge High School FFA, Advisor Danny Garner
(L to R) Casey Lewis, Anna Territo, Kristen Harrison, and Jacob Nyhuis

Land Judging

Students in Future Farmers of America participated in the land judging competition sponsored by Lake Soil and Water Conservation District on March 20th at the Palatka Environmental and Agricultural Reserve (PEAR) Park in Leesburg with a total of six teams.

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| 1 st place East Ridge High School, Gold Team |
| 2 nd place East Ridge High School, Blue Team |
| 3 rd place South Lake High School |
| Individual High Scores: |
| 1 st place Jacob Nyhuis |
| 2 nd place Casey Lewis and Kristen Harrison |
| 3 rd place Melissa Shutts |

The students judged soil from four pits that were selected by Richard Ford, Soil Scientist, USDA/NRCS, and dug by Lake County Public Works.

Individual scorecards were marked for evaluation of characteristics, planned use (foundations, lawns/shrubs/gardens, septic systems) and limitations.

See *Land Judging*, pg 2



Kayla Duckworth
Clermont Middle School
Grading Slope of the Land



Kristin Harrison
East Ridge High School
Determining Soil Texture

Envirothon continued

Our Partners supporting environmental education:

Lake County Water Authority
 Watershed Action Volunteers
 Florida Division of Forestry
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council
 USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Our Sponsors:

Lake County Water Authority
 St. Johns River Water Management District
 Ibini Tera
 Joiner Consulting Co.
 Sunshine Air Conditioning, Inc.
 Florida Hospital Waterman
 Florida Rock Industries
 Publix Super Markets
 Florida Native Plant Society, Lake Beautyberry Chapter
 Lowe's Home Improvement
 M & H Awards & Screenprinting
 Target Stores
 The Home Depot
 Oakwood Smokehouse & Grill

Entertainment was provided by Dave Fogler

We appreciate all the contributions that helped make the event a success.



Calvin Hubbard Retires

...After 31 years of service to USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services.

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District held a luncheon January 17th to honor Calvin Hubbard for 12 years of support and assistance as District Conservationist for Lake and Sumter Counties. John Harris, Supervisor and Artist, presented Calvin with framed original artwork.

Calvin expressed gratitude and gave credit to his hard-working father for supporting him and making it possible for him to succeed.

Land Judging continued

At the Florida State Land Judging Contest hosted by Polk Soil and Water Conservation District on March 30th, the following teams will represent Lake County:

High School Competition
 East Ridge High School, Gold Team

Middle School Competition
 Clermont Middle School, Blue Team

Tree Give-Away



The annual Tree Give-Away event was held at the Lake County Agriculture Center on January 17th. The room filled with citizens happy to receive five varieties of bare-root trees; Sugarberry, Southern Magnolia, Red Maple, Flowering Dogwood and Pine trees.

The Florida Division of Forestry partnered with Lake Soil and Water Conservation District by sharing the cost of the trees, and Chris Otremba, County Forester, participated by distributing pine trees and answering questions.

Handouts were provided with tree descriptions and information on how to plant a tree. Donations in the amount of \$248.22 were received and will be used towards next year's event.

Mobile Irrigation Lab

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- Free public service
- Confidential



"You can't make land or take it away, it can only be changed."

Speech Contest Topic

What are the effects of the Real Estate Boom on Florida's Agriculture?

J. Nelson Brown, a Eustis High School student, won first place in the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored Speech Contest on January 31st. His speech was judged on content, composition, delivery, and time criteria.

After winning at the local level, Nelson will compete next at the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD) Area 4 contest in May.



(L to R) J. Nelson Brown listens to three judges: John Harris, LSWCD Supervisor, Vice Chairman Cindy Hall, Lake County Manager Ann Griffith Lake County Water Authority Board Member

Poster Contest Topic

Conservation's Power

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's annual poster contest was held on January 31st. There were entries from students ranging from second through seventh grade. Posters were judged by John Harris, LSWCD Supervisor, Cindy Hall, County Manager, and Ann Griffin, Lake County Water Authority Board Member.

Students of the winning posters were given prizes and their posters will be displayed at the Lake County Fair. Please stop by and see the creative work of our students.

Winning Posters By Category

2nd - 3rd Grade

- 1st - Meghan Yates
- 2nd - Brooke Sanders
- 3rd - Abby Clouse
- HM - Ethan Garrett
- HM - Katie Cowham

4th - 6th Grade

- 1st - Rebeca Mauk
- 2nd - Shalynceia Miller
- 3rd - Audrey Owen
- HM - Zoe Klobus
- HM - Brittni Lanier

7th Grade

- 1st - Sam Maruniak

(HM = Honorable Mention)



*When you work as a ranger
You can save animals in danger
Animals can't enjoy
What humans destroy
So, please consider
Not to litter*

*By Rebeca Mauk
4th grade*

Conservation Slogans From Posters

Throw trash out of cars, and you'll be behind bars	Protect water and soil - the future is counting on you
Only you have the power to help mother earth	Give a day to conserve, to make the Angels feel so great
Its not cool to throw trash in the pool	When you pollute our rivers, you give us the shivers
Please don't pollute, its everyone's home	Don't litter, think about the critters
Recycling helps keep earth safe	Preserve the waters for our sons and daughters

Upcoming Events—2007

April

- 5 - Lake County Fair (through April 14)
- 8 - Easter Sunday
- 25 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

May

- 13 - Mother's Day
- 23 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 2:00 p.m.
- 28 - Memorial Day

June

- 17 - Father's Day
- 27 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

Newsletter Distribution

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter is available on the web at [lakegovernment.com/Lake Soil & Water](http://lakegovernment.com/LakeSoil&Water). Send an email to:

Patty.Fletcher@fl.nacdnet.net or call **352-343-2481, ext. 6**, and we will add you to our mailing list.

Lake County Fair

April 5 through 14

Come by our booth in the Horticulture Building at the Lake County Fair.

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Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

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