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LAKE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1 — JANUARY 2008

District

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Betsy Farner

USDA -NRCS Staff

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District Conservationist



Tree Give-Away

January 23

Where: Lake County Agriculture Center
1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares

When: Wednesday, January 23
11:00 a.m. until the trees are gone

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Florida Division of Forestry, will be giving away bare-root seedlings (approximately 6-18 inches) of the following trees, along with pine trees donated by the Division of Forestry. The trees are free (one of each variety), but donations will be accepted. For more information, contact 352-343-2481, ext. 6, or email brad.russ@fl.nacdnet.net.

Flowering Dogwood - One of the most popular ornamental specimen trees. It is a small tree, up to 30 feet in height, but typical size is more like 15 feet. Dogwoods are among the earliest springtime bloomers.



Pignut Hickory - One of the smallest hickories, the pignut usually gets no larger than 60-80 feet tall. The leaves are 8-12 inches long and have 5 or 7 leaflets. The nuts are an important food for wildlife, but are too bitter and encased in too thick a shell for most people.

Bald Cypress - A large tree can grow to over 130 feet, with a trunk diameter of up to 10 feet or more. Bald cypresses, especially when growing in or near water, produce tapered "knees" to 6 feet high that stick up from the roots. They are best suited to wet areas, but they will also thrive in normal to dry soils.



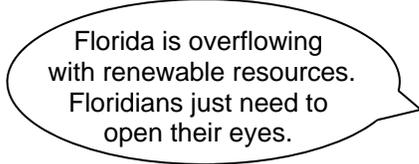
Green Ash - A fast growing tree reaching 50-60 feet in height and is very easy to grow. This tree is adaptable to many conditions. Green Ash is softly pyramidal when young, but grows into an upright spreading form as it matures. Great as a street tree or lawn specimen.

Source for tree information: www.floridata.com

Speech Contest Topic

What is the Future of Florida's Renewable Energies?

Jett Baumann, a Eustis High School Senior, won first place in the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored speech contest on November 14, 2007. Dakota Carson, a Freshman at Eustis High School, won second place.



*Jett Baumann
First Place Winner*

The contest is designed to develop leadership through participation in public speaking activities and stimulate interest in conserving natural resources, especially as it relates to agriculture.

Speeches were judged on content, composition, delivery, and time criteria.

After winning the local level, Jett will compete next at the Association of Florida Conservation Districts Area Four contest in the spring.



*Dakota Carson
Second Place Winner*



*Left to right, the judges were:
Cindy Barrow, Lake County School Board Member
Nancy Clutts, Mayor, City of Tavares
Lavon Silvernell, Trout Lake Nature Center*

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Awarded Grant from the Lake County Water Authority

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded the "Drop-by-Drop: You Make A Difference!" community mini-grant to purchase activity books for encouraging children's interest in conserving water and teach about Florida's springs, watersheds, wetlands, the Floridan aquifer, stormwater run-off, water pollution, and how to save water every day.

<u>Activity Book</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Water World	K - 1
Stop That Drop	2 - 3
Water Watchers	4 - 5

\$1,462.52

Cindy Strickland, Resource Conservationist, is dedicated to youth education in Lake County schools and supports the Board of Supervisors with their goal of encouraging children and youth to develop an appreciation of the importance of their participation in the conservation of water resources of Lake County.

We appreciate the Lake County Water Authority's generosity and support.

District Supervisor, John Harris, submitted the community mini-grant application that provides a Lake County teacher with educational materials purchased from Ducks Unlimited, Inc. This is the second year that this project has been funded by the Lake County Water Authority grant and matched by Lake Soil and Water Conservation District.

<u>Project Webfoot</u>
Educator's Kit
Student's Kit

\$300.00

The teachers that participated in the program last year provided positive feedback after using the materials.

*"I definitely like the Webfoot materials. I used lots of background/resource information and one specific activity that I liked was the filtering activity."
(teacher comment)*

We are pleased to offer the Ducks Unlimited Webfoot Program again this year.



Mobile Irrigation Lab

During October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007, the Mobile Irrigation Lab completed fourteen evaluations on citrus micro-jet systems. Two of the fourteen were follow-up evaluations. The systems evaluated had a combined area of 437.2 acres.

Potential water savings are based on first-time evaluations and estimates the amount of water that would be saved each year by making the recommended system improvements and/or following recommended irrigation scheduling guides.

Actual water savings are calculated from follow-up evaluations.

The fourteen completed evaluations represent water savings below:

Potential Water Savings

104.0 acre/feet 33,886,195 gallons/year

Actual Water Savings

18.4 acre/feet 5,995,250 gallons/year

<p>MIL Technicians can develop irrigation water management plans specific to your needs.</p> <p>Call 352-343-2481, ext. 6 to schedule your appointment.</p>	<p><u>Agricultural Producers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voluntary ● Non-regulatory ● Free public service ● Confidential
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Poster Contest Theme:



The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's annual poster contest was held on November 14, 2007 with close to 100 entries from students ranging from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Posters were evaluated on originality, conservation message, visual effectiveness, and universal appeal. Students of the winning posters were given prizes and their posters will be displayed at the Lake County Fair.



Left to right, posters were judged by:

Lavon Silvernell, Trout Lake Nature Center
 Cindy Barrow, Lake County School Board Member
 Nancy Clutts, Mayor, City of Tavares

Winning Posters By Category

K - 1st Grade

- 1st - Cheyenne Berlinger
- 2nd - Mia (no name given)
- 3rd - Brandon Jasko

2nd - 3rd Grade

- 1st - Brittany O'Berry
- 2nd - Shelby Racine
- 3rd - Madalyn Artimovich

4th - 6th Grade

- 1st - Mathew Rueter
- 2nd - Emma Rodriguez
- 3rd - Maris Gugel

7th - 9th Grade

- 1st - Danielle Eggerichs
- 2nd - Jan Erik O. Garey
- 3rd - Eduardo Urban

10th - 12th Grade Winners

- 1st Place - Sarah Laamal
- 2nd Place - Robert Serrano
- 3rd Place - Amanda Kleinfeldt

Conservation Slogans From Posters

Let the environment stay Save water today	Water is the Heartbeat of Life
Water is Life It keeps flowing	A drop of water Is a drop of life
Make waves Help save our water	Save water; Save your life
Water is life Love life	Save the water for the world
If you don't let the water run Maybe you'll save someone	Water is the most healthy drink you can have
Water is life for all creatures great and small Conserve it so there is enough for all	
<i>When you waste water It's like pouring money down the drain. If you save our natural resources, Look at all you gain.</i>	
<p>Water is -</p> <p>Largely</p> <p>Important</p> <p>For</p> <p>Everyone</p> 	

Upcoming Events—2008

January

- 18 - Florida Arbor Day
- 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 23 - Tree Give-Away Event
- 23 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

February

- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 18 - Presidents' Day
- 20 - Envirothon Competition
- 27 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

March

- 3 - Land Judging Competition
- 26 - 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.

Next Tree Give-Away January 23



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