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LAKE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4 - OCTOBER 2009

District

Supervisors

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Peggy Belflower

James "Buddy" Elmore

Frank Paulhamus

Betsy Farner

USDA -NRCS Staff

Kesha Martin

District Conservationist



Frank Paulhamus
Board of Supervisors
Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

1979 was a very good year. Frank Paulhamus made the decision to become a Supervisor on the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Board. He was appointed and began his service on February 2, 1979 and immediately accepted the position of chairman of the Land Judging Committee.

Frank has served on the Board as chairman, vice-chairman, and was a member of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts Board as Area IV vice-chairman.

When asked what aspects he found most rewarding in the past 30 years, he responded, *"Seeing youth interested in conservation, and helping small agriculture businesses with water issues through the Mobile Irrigation Lab."*

Frank's longevity on the Board has provided a steady, dependable foundation for conserving and protecting our natural resources, and supporting local agriculture.

"Being in the agriculture industry, I was concerned about the continued influx of rules and regulations threatening the future of agriculture, and it still concerns me today."
Frank Paulhamus - The reason he joined the Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Carol Johnson
Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District congratulates Carol Johnson for reaching 20 years of service as the Soil and Water Conservation Field Representative for Lake County. She has also served approximately 23 other Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Central and South Florida.

When asked what changes she has observed in soil and water conservation in Lake County in the past 20 years, she responded, *"The Board of Supervisors used to be comprised of people in occupations related to agriculture. The Supervisors now are very diverse. Conservation has always been a top priority, but even as far back as 1990, the district was involved in a water quality study on run-off coming from muck farms."*

Carol is a wealth of knowledge and helps with all our annual events without hesitation. She consistently contributes at Board meetings by sharing information and making suggestions. She is a pleasure to work with and we are grateful for our continued partnership.



Tree Give-Away



Envirothon



Poster Contest

"The main focus was on water conservation because citrus groves were converting from overhead irrigation to low volume irrigation, but soil conservation has been an ongoing effort due to the sloping land found in this County."
Carol Johnson

Incentives and Cost Share Funding Availability

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Florida has set a cutoff date of **October 30, 2009**, to submit applications for several voluntary conservation programs that may help eligible participants pay for conservation practices to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, restore wetlands and provide habitat for wildlife.

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** is a voluntary program for developing or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to private and Tribal landowners for the development of upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat.

The **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture.

The **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)** is a program for landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands.

NRCS encourages interested parties to visit with our staff as soon as possible. Applicants who apply early have more time to resolve any program or land eligibility issues.

Interested landowners can visit their local USDA - NRCS field office at 1725 David Walker Drive, Suite C, Tavares, call Keshia Martin at 352-343-2481, ext. 3, or go to www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs for more information on these programs.

*Applications Now Being Accepted for 2010 Farm Bill Programs.
Cut-off for initial funding is October 30, 2009.*

Mobile Irrigation Lab

As of July 1, 2009, the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Mobile Irrigation Lab began their fourth year of providing free on-site evaluations of agricultural irrigation systems.

The information collected during the evaluations is analyzed to identify potential problems with the system design, operation, and maintenance. Follow-up assistance is offered, usually as a re-evaluation, after recommended improvements are completed.

MIL Technicians can develop irrigation water management plans specific to your needs. Call 352-343-2481, ext. 6, to schedule your appointment.

Voluntary
Non-regulatory
Free public service
Confidential

Most common problems

- Different pressure between manifolds
- Mixed sprinkler/emitter sizes
- Mixed sprinkler/emitter brands
- Missing/malfunctioning emitters
- Leaks and broken lateral lines
- Clogged emitters
- Operating time too long
- Operating time too short



Broken lateral line



Missing emitter



A project of the Florida
West Coast Resource
Conservation and
Development Council

At www.FloridaFarmlink.org, you can access free business management tools for your farm, find restaurant and consumer buyers, and connect with other area farmers.

Online features include:

1. Networking with other local farmers and with potential direct buyers, like restaurants.
2. Business management tools designed specifically for selling in a local market.
3. Free classified posting for supplies, land, employees and growing opportunities.
4. Direct connections to potential markets and consumers.

It is a meeting place for all those involved in the food system, whether you are a farmer, local restaurant, consumer, ag-related business, job seeker, or land owner.

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

The Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is a partnership of various interested community groups and government agencies that manage invasive exotic species with the goal of protecting Florida's biodiversity and natural landscapes. The focus is to look for ways to reach across the boundaries of land ownership and share collective knowledge for meeting the challenges of invasive exotics head on.

Work days and low cost/no cost training workshops are a part of this initiative of eyes, ears, and hands. On November 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., there will be an Aquatic Invasives workshop at the Lake County Agricultural Center. Work days and workshops are open to the public.

To participate in upcoming work days, or for further information, contact:

Lauren Brothers, Environmental Technician
Public Lands Management
Lake County Department of Public Works
352-253-4971 or lbrothers@lakecountyfl.gov

The Traveling Poster Wins Again!



This poster submitted by Viktoria Friedrich has won first place in the 4th-6th grade category at the local, area, and state levels. It continues on its journey by being entered in the national competition in December 2009.

The National Association of Florida Conservation Districts (NACD) establishes the poster theme each year. Victoria's poster was related to the theme, "Dig it! The Secrets of Soil." The national poster contest winners will be announced in February 2010 at the annual NACD meeting.

Announcing The Next Local Poster and Speech Contests



Lake Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their annual poster and speech contests on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

Poster theme:

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

Speech topic:

How can conservation habits = healthy habitats?

Flyers for the contests can be found on our "Events & Contests" pages at www.lakecountyfl.gov.

Deadline: October 19, 2009

Contests: November 4, 2009

Upcoming Events - 2009

October

28 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 3:00 p.m.

November

4 - Annual Speech and Poster Contests

11 - Veterans Day

14 - Lake County Green Fair

26 - Thanksgiving Day

*No Board Meeting
in November*

**Board meetings are held at
the Lake County
Agriculture Center
1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares**

December

2 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 3:00 p.m.

25 - Christmas Day

Newsletter Distribution

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter is available on the web at [lakecountyfl.gov/Lake Soil & Water](http://lakecountyfl.gov/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.

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Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

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