

LAKE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 - JULY 2011

www.lakecountyfl.gov/lswcd

District Supervisors

Seat #1 open

Peggy Belflower

James "Buddy" Elmore

Frank Paulhamus

Betsy Farner

USDA -NRCS Staff

Renée Leech

District Conservationist

LAKE REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

The eighth annual Lake Regional Envirothon was held on Feb. 24, 2011 with 15 Lake County teams. Middle and High School students gathered at the Hickory Point Recreational Facility in Tavares to compete.



Participants of the 8th Annual Envirothon



Advisor Joan Wu-kotich, with her 1st place team, Down Pillows. (L-R) Jaclyn Tan, Nathan Odom, Mary Sligh, Graham Sligh, and Amy Odom

The Envirothon is a natural resource education program sponsored by Lake Soil and Water Conservation District. The five-member teams are led by an advisor in studying prepared resource materials on aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils and a selected current environmental issue, which for 2011 was "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries."

See Envirothon, page 2

LAKE COUNTY LAND JUDGING



Supervisor Frank Paulhamus with the 1st place team, East Ridge High, Blue Team (L-R) Jordan Oldham, Luke Caudill, Savanna Olson and Betsey Sharpless

The annual Land Judging competition was held on March 10, 2011 at Lake May Reserve, a Lake County public lands property located on County Road 44 in Eustis.

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District invited Future Farmers of America students to test their knowl-

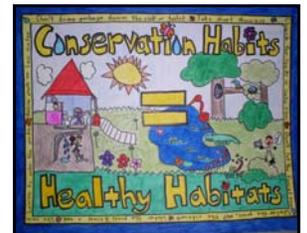
edge by judging soils from four pits selected by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

See Land Judging, page 2



1st place Clermont Middle School, Team 1 (L-R) Chris Brown, Alex Carlisle, Drew Mendoza, and Maegan Garner

NATIONAL WINNING POSTER



Hope Friedrich won first place four times with the poster she created for the fourth-sixth grade category in Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's poster contest.

The National Association of Conservation Districts determines the annual stewardship theme, which was Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.

As her poster won first place in a contest, it proceeded to the next level contest as listed below:

1. Local - November 2009
2. Area - May 2010
3. State - July 2010
4. National - February 2011



Hope was congratulated by School Board Member Rosanne Brandeburg during the February 28th School Board Meeting.

Envirothon continued



1st place Squirrel Scouts
Carver Middle School

Middle School Teams

Place	Team	Middle School
1 st	Squirrel Scouts	Carver
2 nd	Funguys	Lake Montessorri & Learning Institute
3 rd	Gray Gators	Gray

High School Teams

Place	Team	High School
1 st	Down Pillows	Leesburg
2 nd	Killer Tomatoes	Tavares
3 rd	Prowling Panthers	Eustis

Students work in teams to answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigations.



Land Judging continued

The contestants took turns examining the soil in pits dug especially for the contest to judge adaptability of land for various purposes; including farming, range management, and home site construction.

The skills the teens test at the contest involve principles that can be valuable in career fields like environmental and agricultural management, natural resources conservation, home building, engineering, and construction.



Drew Mendoza
First Place
Individual High Score
Middle School Division



Betsey Sharpless
First Place
Individual High Score
High School Division

Middle School Teams

Place	Team	Middle School
1 st	Team 1	Clermont
2 nd	Team 2	Clermont
3 rd	Gray FFA	Gray

High School Teams

Place	Team	High School
1 st	Blue Team	East Ridge
2 nd	Gold Team	East Ridge
3 rd	Silver Team	East Ridge

East Ridge High School students qualified to compete at the Florida Land Judging competition in Santa Rosa County on March 25, 2011. The team placed third in the state.

Individual score cards were marked for evaluation of characteristics, planned use, and limitations.



Tree Give-Away

The Lake Soil & Water Conservation District gave away close to 1,500 bare-root tree seedlings at the Lake County Agricultural Center in Tavares on January 20, 2011.

District Supervisors gave each person a tree of each variety: Dogwood, Southern Magnolia, Red Maple, Sabal Palm, and Redbud. Chris Otremba, County Forester, provided pine trees and was available to answer questions. Hand-outs with tree descriptions and how to plant a tree were available.

The event is held annually in honor of Florida Arbor Day, which was January 21.



The line formed outside the Horticulture Learning Center in the Discovery Gardens before the doors opened.



Speech Contest

Topic

What is the Economic Impact of Florida Forests?

Skylar Baumann, an eighth grade student at Eustis Middle School, won first place at the speech contest held by Lake Soil and Water Conservation District on November 30, 2010. Twelve contestants gave speeches that were judged on content, composition, delivery and time criteria.

After winning at the local level, Skylar went on to win second place at the Area 3 Association of Florida Conservation Districts' contest hosted by Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District in May 2011.



(L to R) Skylar Baumann, speech contest winner with Nadine Foley, District Supervisor



Students from Eustis Middle School, Lake Montessori and Learning Institute, Mount Dora Middle School, and Homeschool.

“ Our forests provide us with biomass. At the moment, biomass only provides the state with 1% of its energy, even though it could generate much, much more. As stated by IFAS News, there are now 23 biomass power plants. Plus bioenergy is one of the cheapest forms of energy, and its renewable”

~Skylar Baumann

Place	Speaker	School
1 st	Skylar Baumann	Eustis Middle
2 nd	Matthew Staples	Gray Middle
3 rd	Jason Lykins	Homeschool



Judges at work: (L to R)

John Harris - Lake County Water Authority Trustee

Jennifer Hill - Lake County Commissioner

Chris Otremba - Florida Division of Forestry

Lake Regional Science and Engineering Fair

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District provided an award for the Agriculture and Natural Resources category of the Lake Regional and Engineering Fair and gave support for students to attend the State Science and Engineering Fair.

"Micheala did an excellent job explaining her project."

Betsy Farmer, Supervisor

District Supervisor, Betsy Farmer, presented Micheala McLean from Windy Hill Middle School with the first place \$100 award in the environmental category. Micheala's project was titled, "A comparison of Organic and Synthetic Fertilizers and Their Nitrogen-Leaching Effect on the Florida Aquifer."

Poster Contest

Theme:



The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's annual poster contest was held on November 30, 2010 with over 160 posters entered.

Posters were evaluated on originality, conservation message, visual effectiveness, and universal appeal. Posters were judged by Lake County Commissioner Jennifer Hill, John Harris, Lake County Water Authority, and Chris Otreмба, Division of Forestry.

Category
K - 1st Grade

Posters were displayed and judged at the Lake County Agriculture Center.



First Place Posters

To view the second and third place winning poster designs, log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov/lswcd.



Rha'Niyah Cody
Christian Home and Bible

Category
2nd - 3rd Grade



Amelia Garback
Homeschool

Category
4th - 6th Grade



Emily Leto
Christian Home and Bible

Category
7th - 9th Grade



Ivan Barrett
Gray Middle

Category
10th - 12th Grade



Ashley Buck
East Ridge High

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Exhibits at Community Events

Lake County Fair

April 7 through 16, 2011
Eustis



Lake County Green Fair

November 13, 2010
Tavares



Lake Louisa Nature Fest

May 21, 2011
Clermont



Mobile Irrigation Lab

As of July 1, 2011, the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's Mobile Irrigation Lab began their sixth year of providing free on-site evaluations of agricultural irrigation systems.

The previous contract was fulfilled with a total of 93 evaluations and 31 follow-up evaluations completed. The evaluations represent 2,258 acres and water savings below:

Potential water savings	145 million gallons per year
Actual water savings	46 million gallons per year

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

Agriculture Producers

- Voluntary
- Free Public Service
- Non-Regulatory
- Confidential



Nadine Foley honored for 11 years of service on the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

It was a Board meeting scheduled like any other month, when Nadine Foley walked in on December 8, 2010 and was greeted by a celebration of current and past Board members, staff, and guests who were there to honor her for eleven years of dedicated service on the Board of Supervisors.

Peggy Belflower, Board Supervisor, addressed the group with words of appreciation for Nadine's passion and commitment to conservation. She stated, "Nadine is a true inspiration to others."



Past Supervisor, John Harris, presented Nadine with artwork and plaque.

Nadine Foley was appointed to Seat #1 in August 1999 and completed her term January 2011.

Request for E-mail Addresses

Lake Soil and Water Conservation District would like to move as many newsletter recipients to e-mail address format as possible to be considerate of the environment and save on costs. Please sign-up to receive the newsletter by e-mail at www.lakecountyfl.gov/lswcd or write to patty.fletcher@fl.nacdnet.net. If you do not have computer access, please call 352-343-2481, ext. 6 to let us know you would like to continue getting a printed newsletter.

Upcoming Events

August

12, 13 - Association of Florida Conservation District Annual Meeting
24 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 3:00 p.m.

September

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

October

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

November

11 - Veterans Day
24 - Thanksgiving

No Board Meeting
in November

December

7 - Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting - 3:00 p.m.
25 - Christmas

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

Newsletter Distribution

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter is available on the web at www.lakecountyfl.gov/lswcd.

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