

Down the Road: The Green Team is hosting a Green Fair on Nov. 1 at Tavares' Wootton Park. The event features and displays about environmental issues. Parks & Trails will celebrate in April 2009 with activities, such as bird-watching

Color of Conservation

Sage Advice

*Stop buying bottled water.
Invest in a pitcher water filter to
save money and the environment.*

educational programs

hikes and planting native vegetation.

Prism of Protection

Introduced in 2008, 40 groups signed up for the new Lake County Adopt-a-Lake Program. It encourages the citizens to adopt a segment of a lake's shoreline and participate in the program's three components:

- Informing others through distributing brochures and speaking at neighborhood meetings of how their daily activities can affect the water quality of lakes in their community,
- Gathering water-quality samples, which are analyzed at the Lake County Department of Environmental Utilities, Water Resource Laboratory, and which provide data to a collection of information available on the Lake County Water Atlas (www.lake.wateratlas.org); and
- Preventing pollution by removing and properly disposing of litter from a lake's shoreline.

Verdant Visage

To bring Lake County Government and the community to the forefront of conservation awareness and practices, several new initiatives were set into motion to protect Lake County's natural resources. An employee group, called the Green Team, was formed to bring new green ideas and programs to County Government. The Green Team presented an ordinance that encourages developers to use green building practices and requires those practices of County construction projects. The ordinance was adopted and hailed as a first of local government. The team also celebrated Earth Day by asking fellow employees and local residents to challenge themselves to be more eco-friendly at home and in the workplace.

Palette of Preservation

The Public Lands Management Section acquired more than 580 acres this past fiscal year to add to its inventory of nearly 1,240 acres of pristine lands for environmental preservation. With the acquisition phase from the voter-approved 2004 referendum nearly complete, the Division transferred to the Department of Public Works where it is partnering with other divisions, such as Parks & Trails, to enact land management plans. The proposed plans include a variety of improvements, such as eliminating invasive exotic plants and providing passive recreation opportunities.