



## **Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District**

1028 20<sup>TH</sup> Place, Suite A · Vero Beach, FL 32960 · (772) 770-5005

Contact:  
Brenda Davis  
Indian River Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Phone: 772-770-5005  
Fax: 772-563-4926  
Email: [brendadavis@ircgov.com](mailto:brendadavis@ircgov.com)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

(Vero Beach, FL), August 15, 2011 – Congratulations Lauren Kenney! Lauren won first place in the Association of Florida Conservation District's (AFCD) State Level Public Speaking Contest! The State contest was held on August 13<sup>th</sup> during the Association's Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn and Suites Conference Center in Ocala. The topic for this year's contest was "What is the economic impact of Florida forests?"

Lauren's speech discussed the many ways that forestry contributes to the economy of Florida and included important topics such as conservation, hunting, and tourism. Lauren concluded her speech by encouraging everyone to plant a tree. Comments from the judges included, "Very nice presentation!", "Very sincere and well delivered.", "Great stage presence".

Lauren is thirteen years old and entering the eighth grade at St. Helen Catholic School. She competed and won against competitors from around the state who were eighteen years old. Lauren was presented with a certificate and a \$500 cash award from the AFCD for winning the competition. She was accompanied by her proud parents, Scott and Denise Kenney and her brother and two sisters.

In April, Lauren won first place in the local Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District's public speaking contest qualifying her to compete at the Area level in Fort Pierce. Two weeks after winning the local contest, she won first place in the Area contest, which made it possible for her to participate in the State contest.

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District holds their annual speech contest every April. All Indian River County students are encouraged to participate. The top prize in the local contest is \$500 for grades 10-12 and \$100 for grades 6-9. Please visit the District's website for more information as it becomes available at [www.irccdd.com/swcd/](http://www.irccdd.com/swcd/).

