

* 10th Edition *



July 2011

Conservation Considered

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District's Newsletter

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

David Gunter, **Chairman** Robert Adair, **Vice Chairman** Marvin Carter, **Supervisor**
Lex Kromhout, **Treasurer** Bobby Lindsey, **Supervisor**

DISTRICT STAFF:

Brenda Davis, **Staff Assistant II**

USDA/NRCS STAFF:

Kay Nickel, **District Conservationist**

Elwood Holzworth, **Conservation Technician**



Major events and contributions for 2010/2011

- The Board sent a letter to the President of the AFCD objecting to the proposed change to the Area boundaries. The Board suggested changing the boundaries to coincide with water management districts.
- The Board welcomed the new Soil Conservationist with NRCS, Trenton Rader.
- The Board actively followed the new Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) as it pertains to food safety.
- The District's Arbor Day Free Tree Planting Event gained national attention by the NACD Forestry Notes publication. A story and photograph was published in their July, 2010 issue.
- District Staff coordinated a successful food drive for the USDA and donated 60 pounds of donated goods to The Source in Vero Beach.
- Brenda Davis was appointed as Secretary to the Indian River Lagoon Envirothon Board as well as the County Coordinator.
- The Board continued to track the TMDL changes that the EPA and DEP are proposing.

Major events and contributions for 2010/2011 (Continued)

- The District had two posters place in the State Contest. One came in first place for the K-1st grade category and one came in third place in the grade 2-3 category.
- The Board met with the IRC Property Appraisers about taxes and exemptions for abandoned citrus land that has not been replanted.
- The Board voted to assist local water control districts with obtaining authorization to access pumping equipment during storm event curfews.
- The Board sent a letter to Doug Bournique at the IR Citrus League asking him to endorse the continued use of agricultural water for all citrus irrigation and foliar applications.
- The District had their sign replaced by FDOT on Route 60 that went missing during the repaving project.
- District Staff successfully recruited another new team for Envirothon from Gifford Middle School and was successful in fund raising for the event.
- The District coordinated with the St. Lucie Mobile Irrigation Lab to complete evaluations in citrus groves in Indian River County.
- The District contacted the County to partner with them on the Fellsmere Greenway project. Staff would like to continue the plan to install a soils kiosk.
- District Staff sold a record-setting 1,800 bald cypress tree liners in the annual sale.
- Donated extra Ag. in the Classroom books to NACD for Tennessee libraries damaged by hurricanes.
- The Board approved a budget to submit to FDACS for the possible funding of an Urban MIL through St. Johns WMD.
- District participated in both the County Fair and the Earth Day Celebration.
- The Board held a Local Area Workgroup meeting with the District Conservationist with NRCS.
- District Staff participated in Ag. Literacy Day.
- The District's tree planting program qualified for FNGLA CEU credits for volunteers.
- District Staff created and sent a survey to all Indian River County teachers for feedback on contests.

Major events and contributions for 2010/2011 (Continued)

- The Board and District said “Goodbye” to Soil Scientist, Kevin Sullivan and wished him well in his new position in Spokane, Washington. Kevin had worked with the District for 15 years.
- The Board and District welcomed Ed Page with NRCS. Ed joined the Vero office after the RC&D program ended.
- District Staff created a slideshow about educational opportunities to be aired on the government channel.
- Staff diverted 60 pounds of reusable items from the landfill by donating them to KIRB.



Statement of Nondiscrimination for the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program..

2011

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Meetings

The Indian River Soil & Water Conservation District meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 1:00 PM in Conference Room B1-501 of the Indian River County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL.

The meeting dates are as follows:

January 10 th	May 9 th	September 12 th
February 14 th	June 13 th	October 10 th
March 14 th	July 11 th	November 14 ^h
April 11 th	August 8 th	December 12 th



Water Requirements/Savings

Crown Flood	930,296 gallons/acre/year
Micro Irrigation	275,616 gallons/acre/year
Water Savings	654,680 gallons/acre/year

Soil Surveys are now available on the Web!!

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service has completed The Web Soil Survey (WSS).

The WSS provides agricultural producers, agencies, Technical Service Providers, and others electronic access to relevant soil and related information needed to make land-use and management decisions.

This web address for this information is:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

Visit our new website!

www.irccdd.com/swcd

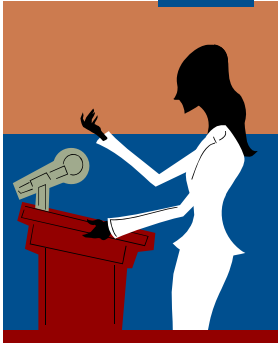
Are you Planning on Purchasing Property/Building?

With the owner's permission, we can do on site evaluations of the property. Here are some of the questions we can help you answer.

- ✓ What soil types are on this property?
- ✓ How can I locate this property on a soils or wetland map?
- ✓ Where is the best location for structures?
- ✓ Does this land have adequate drainage?
- ✓ Is this property located in a flood zone?

The service is free of charge to the community. If we can assist you, please call or come by.

Public Speaking Contest



The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District's Public Speaking Contest was held on April 11, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the County Commission Chambers of the Indian River County Administration Building. This contest is open to all Indian River County students in grades 6 through 12 and the topic for this year was "What is the economic impact of Florida Forests?"

1st Place for the 10th -12th grade category:

Eugene Wolff, a junior at Sebastian River High School. Eugene was presented with a check for \$500!

1st Place for the 6th grade to 9th grade category:

Lauren Kenney a 7th grader at St. Helen's Catholic School. Lauren was presented with a check for \$100 in prize money. Lauren was also chosen by the judges to advance to the Area IV level of competition. Lauren went on to win 1st place at the Area Level and will compete at the State level in August at the AFCD Annual Meeting in Ocala. GOOD LUCK LAUREN!!

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



Eugene Wolff accepts the \$500 grand prize check from IRSWCD Chairman, David Gunter at the 2011 Annual Public Speaking Contest.



Sixth Grader Lauren Kenney accepts her \$100 prize check from Chairman David Gunter.



Front row, first on left is Lauren after she won first place in the Area Contest.

Great
winners!

Poster Contest

The Poster Contest is offered to all Indian River County students in grades K through 5. This contest is held in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and is based on their annual stewardship theme. This year's topic was "Forests for People – More than you can imagine!"

Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place winners. This year's winners are:

K-1st Grade Division:

- 1st Place - Payton Norris, Beachland Elementary
- 2nd Place – Alexa Soderman, Beachland Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Grayson Dellaporte, Beachland Elementary School

2nd Grade:

- 1st Place – Grace Britt, Beachland Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Julianna Joyce, Beachland Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Tie – Richard Leffew and Aubrey Schlitt, Beachland Elementary School

3rd Grade:

- 1st Place – Elise Blendheim, Treasure Coast Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Logan Lott, Pelican Island Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Cody Urbanczyk, Pelican Island Elementary School
- HM – Sade Hold and Riley McDonald, Pelican Island Elementary School

4th Grade:

- 1st Place – Riley Eady, Pelican Island Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Zion Wilson, Pelican Island Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Jaden Kebbel, Pelican Island Elementary School
- HM – Ashley McSparren, Pelican Island Elementary School

5th Grade:

- 1st Place – Emely Shadis, Pelican Island Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Olivia Grimmich, St. Helen Catholic School
- 3rd Place – Savanna Williams, Pelican Island Elementary School
- HM – Katelyn Wahl, St. Helen Catholic School

The pictured posters advanced to the State level of competition to be judged in August at the AFCD Annual Meeting. They are from the first place winners in 1st, 3rd and 5th grades.



Congratulations!

Poetry Contest

The Poetry Contest is offered to all Indian River County students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. This contest is designed to increase the students' awareness of the need to conserve all of our natural resources. This year's topic was "Forests for People – More than you can imagine!"

Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place winners.

This year's winners are:

3rd grade division:

- 1st Place – Monica Malits, St. Helens Catholic School
- 2nd Place – Kevin Swords, St. Helens Catholic School
- 3rd Place – Elizabeth Kenney, St. Helens Catholic School
- HM – Hannah Hedin, St. Helens Catholic School

4th grade division:

- 1st Place – Michael French, Highlands Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Quinton Martin, Highlands Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Kelly Spears, Highlands Elementary School
- HM – Brooke Simmons Highlands Elementary School

5th grade division:

- 1st Place – Tatyana Ceant, Highlands Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Matthew Maloney, Pelican Island Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Allyson DiMarco, Pelican Island Elementary School
- HM – Lucy Heady, St. Helen Catholic School



Teach our
children about
their
environment.



Conservation Education

The District sponsors a variety of educational programs for the students of Indian River County.

Staff participated in:

- The IRC Firefighters' Fair
- Indian River Lagoon Regional Envirothon
- Agriculture Literacy Day
- Arbor Day
- Earth Day
- Local school science fairs



The Envirothon team from Gifford Middle School won first place in the Lagoon Category.



The team from St. Edwards Upper School won first place for Indian River County.



The team from Storm Grove Middle School won first place in the Soils Category.



District Staff, Brenda Davis scores tests with Misty Spada at the Envirothon.

The Third Annual Arbor Day Free Tree Planting Event

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District's Third Annual Arbor Day Free Tree Planting Event proved to be another huge success! One hundred Bald Cypress trees were planted around local storm water retention ponds in five different subdivisions in Indian River County and **ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED** additional seedlings were sold to residents for personal planting!

Exciting new partnerships were formed in the community that helped to make this project a success. The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District teamed up with the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service for the planning and coordination of the event. Help with the hard work of planting was received from professional landscaper, Neil Lagin, and NRCS Intern, Brandon Russakis.

The trees were planted in Woodfield, Pine Creek, Ashley Lakes, Lake Temple and Masters at Citrus Springs.

This conservation based Arbor Day Project was approved for two additional years by the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. We will be planting trees in Indian River County until 2013! The next project is slated for May of 2012.



FARMERS' TAX GUIDE:

IRS Publication 225 Cat. No. 11049L: If you are in the business of farming on property in the U.S.A., you can choose to deduct your expenses for soil or water conservation, or for the prevention of land erosion of land used in farming. Otherwise, these are capital expenses that must be added to the basis of the land. The deduction cannot be more than 25% of your gross income from farming. For more information, obtain a copy of IRS Pub. 225, Farmer's Tax Guide at your local library or on the Internet at www.irs.com

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- ◆ On-site soil investigations
- ◆ Excavated pond designs
- ◆ Conservation planning assistance for agricultural property, (a free service)
- ◆ Irrigation and drainage designs that improve water quality or quantity
- ◆ Free consultation of, and/or copies of the Indian River County Soil Survey
- ◆ Historical aerials

The Indian River Soil & Water Conservation District office has a reference library of Soil Surveys of 48 Florida Counties available. **The Indian River County Soil Survey now comes in CD form!**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011/2012

2011:

Aug 4: Envirothon Meeting
Aug 12-13: AFCD Annual Meeting and Speech Contest.

Sep 9: Envirothon Meeting

Oct 7: Envirothon Meeting
Oct 19: Envirothon Teacher Workshop

Dec 2: Envirothon Meeting
Dec 5: Open Annual Tree Sale order taking
Dec 14: Poster contest deadline for submissions

2012:

Jan 9: Poster Contest Judging
Jan 25: Citrus Show in Ft. Pierce

Feb 24: IRL Envirothon
Feb 29: Deadline for Poetry contest submissions

Mar 9-18: IRC Firefighters' Fair
Mar 9: Deadline for Public Speaking Contest entries.
Mar 12: Poetry Contest Judging
Mar 14: Kidz Daze @ the Fair

Apr 9: Public speaking contest
Apr 21: Earth Day Celebration in Sebastian
Apr 23: Ag. Literacy Day

TBA: Area VI Meeting and Public Speaking Contest
May 16-18: 4th Annual Arbor Day Free Tree Planting Event

June 1: Annual Envirothon Start up Meeting and Retreat

Visit our web-site at www.irccdd.com/swcd to learn more about our services, programs, and activities. You may also come by our office or phone for more information and/or for a soil survey.

The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.



Chinese Proverb