

# RiverFronts



Serving communities in the Suwannee, Santa Fe, Alapaha, Aucilla, Withlacoochee, Waccasassa and Coastal Basins September 2008

## TIP Unveils Plans and Bellamy Beaver

The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) in July unveiled an ambitious three-year work plan and budget for protecting the Ichetucknee River and springs.

The six-member TIP executive committee approved by consensus the 2008-2011 Action Plan and Budget that includes research and monitoring, best management practices, educational activities and outreach. The plan highlights year-one priority projects totaling an estimated \$480,000 with funding provided by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Priority projects for 2008-09 include: completing a Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Study for Columbia County; updating springshed land-use maps; completing minimum flows and levels for the Ichetucknee River; and developing, implementing and promoting more efficient irrigation and fertilization practices for farmers, homeowners, golf courses and others.

TIP plans to host a low-impact development workshop for local governments, builders and developers in Columbia County. A special certification and recognition program will be developed for "Ichetucknee-Friendly" products, practices and services.



Education and outreach activities will include development of a web site, public service announcements, workshops, promotional and informational materials, and an unspecified schools program. A TIP mascot named Bellamy Beaver was created to draw attention to the partnership and to help spread its message of springs protection.

TIP's mission is to promote the environmental and economic well being of the Ichetucknee Springshed through locally-led, voluntary, incentive-based programs.



TIP mascot Bellamy Beaver

## 11 Counties Receive Payments in Lieu of Taxes from District

Eleven counties qualified for payment this year from the District for tax revenues lost from land purchases made by the District.

Under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program the following counties are reimbursed: Bradford, \$6,088; Columbia, \$23,183; Dixie, \$7,229; Gilchrist, \$17,817; Hamilton, \$11,848; Jefferson, \$30; Lafayette, \$50,092; Levy, \$16,523; Madison, \$6,149; Suwannee, \$15,208; and Taylor, \$2,602, for a total of \$156,774.

PILT was implemented in 1992 to help offset the reduction in ad valorem tax revenue to smaller counties due to property acquired by state government and water management districts. Payments were calculated by averaging the amount of taxes paid on the acquired property for the three years prior to acquisition and paid for 10 years.

The 2008 Legislature eliminated the 10-year requirement. Therefore, property bought by the District will remain on the PILT schedule until a county exceeds the 150,000 population threshold criteria.

## District Staff Recognized for Outstanding Service



Barbara Peaden receives her 20-year service award from Governing Board Chairman Louis Shiver (left) and Deputy Executive Director Joe Flanagan.



Gloria Hancock accepts an award for her 20 years of service from Governing Board Chairman Louis Shiver (left) and Jon Dinges, director of Resource Management.



Mike Fuller receives his 10-year service award from Governing Board Chairman Louis Shiver (left) and Deputy Executive Director Kirk Webster.

## 4-H Fun at R.O. Ranch

Having fun and learning about the environment certainly go together at R.O. Ranch, and Lafayette County 4-H members were the first group to visit the ranch for a day of education and activities. District staff also joined in on the fun and offered their expertise in a variety of subjects.

The day began indoors with a presentation by Public Use Coordinator Edwin McCook on human's impacts on the environment and how to "leave no trace behind." Senior Hydrologist Carlos Herd offered information on water conservation and how the water cycle operates. The fun quickly moved outdoors as the hands-on portion of the trip began with a wagon ride through the various winding trails on the property. Environmental Specialist Beau Willsey pointed out invasive and exotic plants and species that were seen along the ride.

Although the wagon tour ended, the fun never stopped. GIS Coordinator Paul Buchanan met the group at the

end of the trip with global positioning equipment (GPS) and a treasure hunt challenge. The 4-Hers strapped on special GPS equipped backpacks and worked together in groups of two to use their knowledge of latitude and longitude to find the hidden goodies.



Pennie Flickinger, R.O. Ranch administrative assistant, explained that one major goal identified during R.O. Ranch's planning and development phase was to offer a fun, learning environment for children and to continuously promote educational outreach.

For information on visiting the ranch or scheduling a group visit, please contact the District or visit [www.roranch.org](http://www.roranch.org).

## • • • • • CALENDAR • • • • •

### Governing Board Meetings District Headquarters, Live Oak

September 9 3:00 PM -- Regular Monthly Meeting  
5:30 PM -- 1st Public Hearing on FY 2009 Budget

September 23 3:00 PM -- Governing Board Workshop  
5:30 PM -- Final Public Hearing on FY 2009 Budget



## Area Farmers Honored for Environmental Stewardship

Twenty-nine North Florida farmers were honored guests at the 8th annual CARES supper and celebration held at Dwight Stansel's farm and nursery in Live Oak on July 1. Farmers being honored represented five counties in North Florida: Jefferson, Lafayette, Suwannee, Hamilton and Madison.

An estimated 800 attendees gathered to recognize the farmers for their environmental stewardship.

CARES (County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship) is a program developed by the Suwannee River Partnership and Florida Farm Bureau to promote sound environmental and agricultural practices that help save water, prevent pollution and conserve energy.

Farmers honored this year are: Dewayne and Kevin Leslie; Charles and Michael Roland; Willie and Bo Agner; Neal Baer; Joe Sherard; Arthur Burkett; Marian Ramsey; Myles McNierney; Napoleon Honeywell; Norman Otis; Phillip, Dale and Chuck Hackle; Wayne Lane; Jerry Herring; Erwin Stansel; Michael Boatright; Ryan and Reed Moore; Hal Land; Randall and Pam Dasher; Scott and Iris Wynn; Joe Mathis; Clevie and Luke Selph; Harrell Reid; Robert and Eric Culbreath; John Mac Finlayson; Allen and Cissy Boyd; Herbert and Linda Demott; Everett Kerby; Scott McAdams; and J.W., Earl, Paul and Jack Byrd.



Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson (far left) and Florida Farm Bureau President John Hoblick (far right) present Scott and Iris Wynn of Hamilton County with a CARES plaque. (Also pictured, Scotty and Caroline Wynn.)

## District Acquisitions

### Adams Tract

The District has acquired 267 acres along the Alapaha River in Hamilton County. Acquisition of the property from seller John Anthony Adams will provide additional protection of approximately four miles of frontage on the river.

Under District ownership, this entire parcel, which lies almost entirely within the floodplain, will remain undeveloped and unchanged.

Protection of and natural systems enhancement will be the primary management objective. The tract will provide public access for recreational opportunities along the Alapaha River.

The acquisition was fee simple, meaning that Hamilton County will receive PILT funding from the purchase. Purchase price was nearly \$1.1 million.

### Otter Springs

The District's governing board has approved the purchase of Otter Springs, a 636-acre tract in Gilchrist County, in a deal that requires the current owners to relinquish a bottled-water permit that would have allowed withdrawal of 400,000 gallons per day.

Acquisition of the property, one of the few remaining parcels of its size left on the Suwannee River, will expand the corridor of protected habitat along the river. The property also serves as an exemplary recreational and environmental investment that will offer protection to two freshwater second-magnitude springs, over a mile of river frontage, and high quality natural communities.

The purchase price is \$6.8 million.

## RiverFronts

is produced by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

## Editor

Holly Stalvey

## Executive Director

David Still

## Governing Board

Louis C. Shiver, *Chair*  
J.P. Maulsby, *Vice Chair*  
Georgia C. Jones,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Dr. C. Linden Davidson  
Heath M. Davis  
N. David Flagg  
Oliver J. Lake  
Donald J. Quincey, Jr.

9225 CR 49

Live Oak, FL 32060

386.362.1001

[www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com)

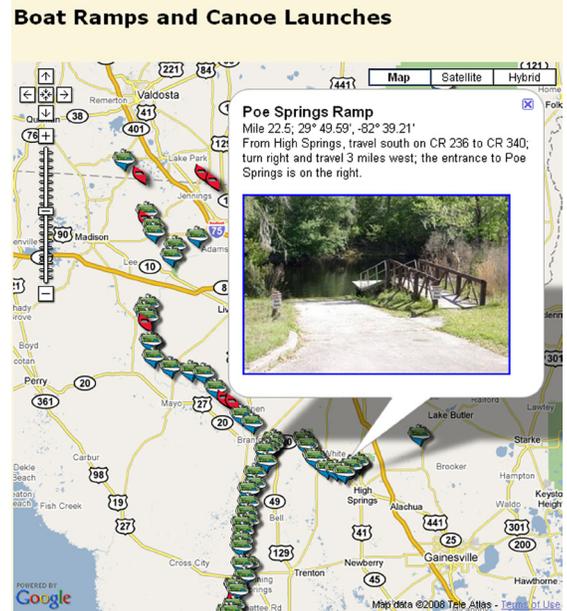
# Interactive Boat Ramp and Canoe Launch Map

Locating canoe launches and boat ramps along the Suwannee and other area rivers has never been easier, thanks to a new interactive map, a recent addition to the District's web site.

The new map shows all boat ramps and canoe launches located within the District for the upper and lower Suwannee River, plus portions of the Alapaha, Santa Fe and Withlacoochee rivers. It also provides current and detailed information for trip planning purposes including river miles, GPS coordinates, driving directions and photographs.

The creation of the map is part of the District's ongoing commitment to improve recreational activities on public lands and waterways.

The map can be accessed from the home page at [mysuwanneeriver.com](http://mysuwanneeriver.com). Click on the "Recreation" button, then on the "Boating & Canoeing" link. Some explanatory text and a link titled "Interactive Map of Boat Ramps and Canoe Launches" are located toward the bottom of the page.



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GAINESVILLE FL  
PERMIT NO 702

SRWMD  
9225 CR 49  
Live Oak, FL 32060

