

**RiverFronts**  
is produced by the  
Suwannee River Water  
Management District.

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## Drought persists; burns suspended

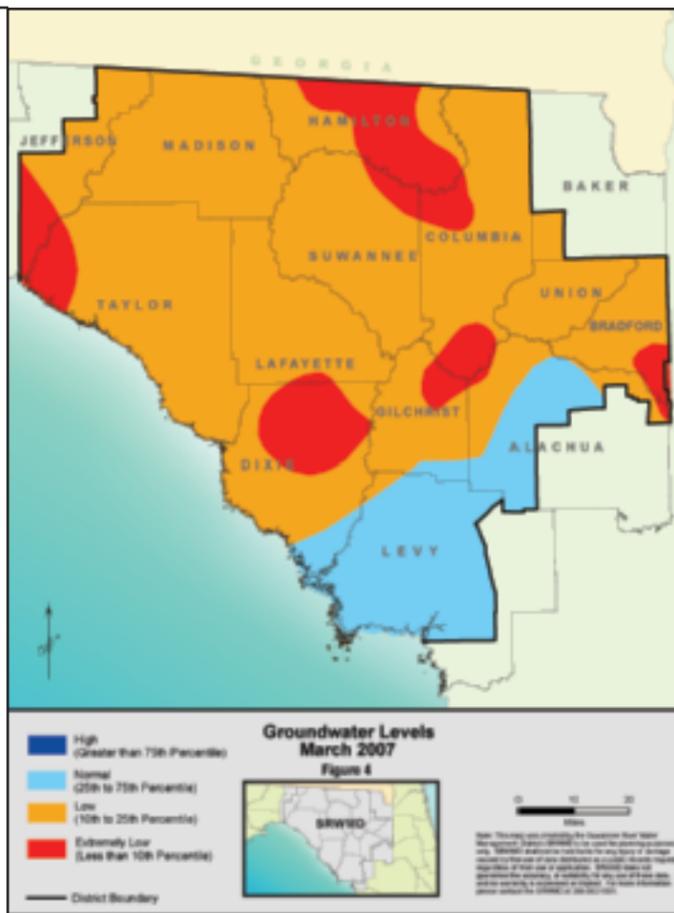
The District is entering the typically dry spring season with lower than average surfacewater and groundwater levels, and a 15.3-inch yearly rainfall deficit.

The 12-month period from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 was the second driest such period since 1932.

The District has not issued mandatory water restrictions, but encourages conservation.

Dry conditions have also prompted the suspension of prescribed burning on District lands.

As of the end of March, the District had conducted burns on 8,399 of the 13,256 acres it had targeted for completion.

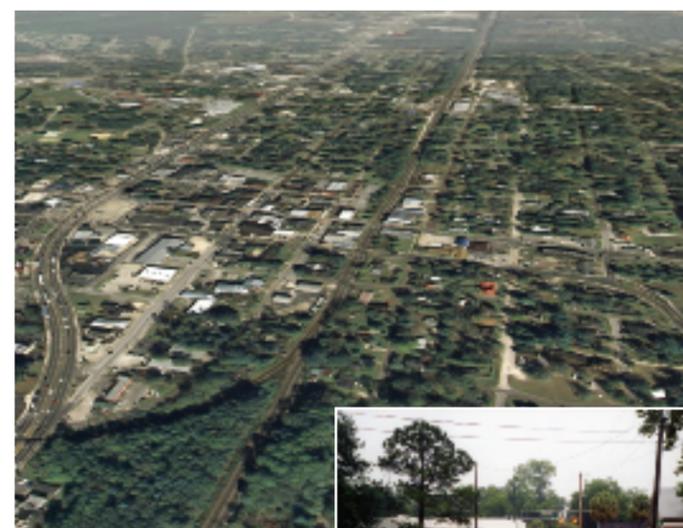


# RiverFronts



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

April 2007



Aerial view of Starke (above).  
Flooding on Pratt Street,  
looking east to U.S. 301.



## Governing Board OKs \$2.2 million for Starke stormwater project

Construction soon will begin on a \$2.2-million stormwater drainage project in Starke.

The "Pratt Street" project will provide drainage improvements for Pratt Street and U.S. 301, and for the new Bradford County Library.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May and to be completed within six months.

To alleviate flooding in the area, a two-acre wet

storage pond will be constructed next to the new library and a dry pond to capture overflow will be located nearby.

In addition, a drainage pipe will be installed to carry water from the new pond down Pratt Street to an existing tributary.

Joining the District as partners on the project are Bradford County, the City of Starke, the Florida Department of Transportation, BCI Engineers, and adjacent property owners.

Florida Fill and Grade will perform the construction.

## Coming soon: Changes to District permitting rules

The District is revising its rules for Environmental Resource Permitting/Works of the District (40B-4), and Water Use (40B-2).

Proposed changes to 40B-4, which governs construction in floodways, include new requirements regarding preparation of site plans and building plans; sizes and heights of structures; and construc-

tion or alterations to docks, decks, boardwalks and boat ramps.

Also under the revised rule, the use of fill material in the construction of driveways is prohibited within floodways.

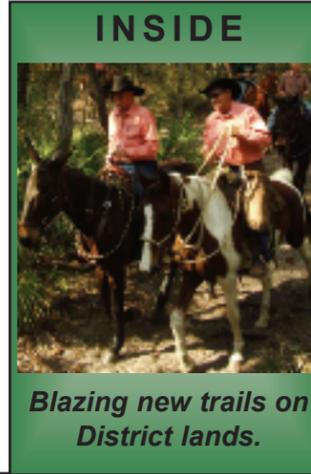
In its revisions to the Water Use Rule (40B-2) the District plans to require reporting and monitoring for those

permitted to use one million gallons or more per day; implement new conditions for getting a permit; simplify the permitting process for users of 100,000 gallons or less per day (small businesses, churches, housing complexes, etc.); and develop an applicant's handbook with instructions on how to get permits.

A draft revised water use rule will be presented to the governing board in May. Once the board authorizes staff to initiate rule development, the public will be notified and invited to comment.

The revised 40B-4 rule is already in the final adoption stage.

**REMINDER:**  
Governing Board Meeting  
May 10 - 9 a.m.  
Fiddler's Restaurant  
Steinhatchee, FL



Suwannee Middle School science students Allison Broxley, Vernon Stewart, Doris Vences and Rachard Thomas present framed poems they wrote about caves, water, lakes and droughts to Carolyn Purdy, District executive office coordinator.



SRWMD  
9225 CR 49  
Live Oak, FL 32060

Presorted  
Standard  
PostPd  
Gainesville FL  
Permit #702

## “Best of America by Horseback” films trail ride on District lands

Tom Seay, host of the RFD-TV Network’s “Best of America By Horseback” program, rode into Live Oak in March to film an upcoming segment featuring District lands and the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park. The program is scheduled for broadcast during the week of July 4.

About 150 riders, most from other states, joined the host on this local leg of his “Grand Tour of America,” which included travel on the District’s Fox Trail and Linville tracts.

The RFD-TV network serves the interests of rural America, horse lovers, farmers and ranchers with traditional, family-oriented television programming. RFD-TV is distributed on satellite systems including DIRECTV and DISH Network, as well as on some cable systems, and serves over 28 million U.S. homes.

For more information visit [www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com](http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com)



Tom Seay, host of RFD-TV Network’s “Best of America By Horseback”

## R.O. RANCH GRAND OPENING



A grand opening celebration on Saturday, April 28 will mark the official opening of Crossway Branch Trailhead, the first day-use trail at the R.O. Ranch Equestrian Center, located in Cooks Hammock near the Town of Mayo in Lafayette County.

The R.O. Ranch is a 2,500-acre equestrian park being developed by R.O. Ranch, Inc. and the Suwannee River Water Management District. The Crossway Branch Trailhead is a temporary trailhead designed to accommodate riders until the new permanent trailhead facilities are completed next year.

Gates will open at 7 a.m. Riders who bring their own horses or wagon teams are invited to participate in an organized trail ride led by ranch manager Ron Clayton, beginning at 9 a.m. (Proof of negative Coggins is required at the gate.)

No horse? No wagon? No problem. Take one of the wagon rides that will be offered to the public between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A free lunch will be provided at noon to those who make a reservation by April 20, by contacting Gwen Lord at 800.226.1066 or by email at [gal@srwmd.org](mailto:gal@srwmd.org).

For more information about R.O. Ranch or this event, visit [www.roranch.org](http://www.roranch.org) or phone toll free 866.813.1617.

## LAND MANAGEMENT



The Land Management Review Team, a large contingent of private landowners, staff from the District and other agencies, and other interested citizens, recently conducted a field trip of District-owned properties in the Aucilla and Econfina river basins to gather input on the District’s land management practices including timber management, prescribed fire, and recreation. The participants found the District to be in compliance with its management objectives for these properties.



### Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

Two more river camps are joining the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail.

Peacock Slough River Camp, located near Peacock Springs State Park, is now open for use. Construction is underway on a river camp on the Adams Tract, located near Mayo.

Nearly 2,000 visitors have used the Holton Creek and Woods Ferry river camp facilities since they opened in 2006.

For more information about the river camps and cabins along the Wilderness Trail, visit [www.suwanneeriver.com](http://www.suwanneeriver.com).

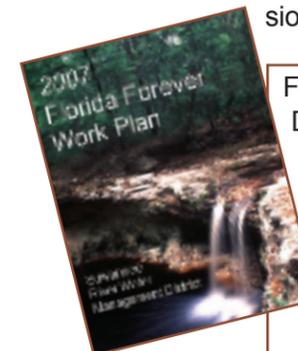


## LAND ACQUISITION

Closing on the Advent Christian Village/Suwannee River Wilderness Trail parcel took place on April 5. This 23-acre parcel, purchased for \$385,500, is located on the Suwannee River in Lafayette County and is the future site of a Suwannee River Wilderness Trail river camp.

In March the District closed on the purchase of an 820-acre addition to the Mallory Swamp property located in Lafayette County. Purchase price for the land bought from Land Timber and Cattle LLC was \$1,312,224.

The District also closed on the Hauber/Devils Elbow addition, a 10-acre lot in the Suwannee Forest subdivision purchased for \$98,000.



For a detailed report on the District’s land acquisition program, view or download a copy of the 2007 Florida Forever Workplan at the District’s website:

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



Keith Thornton, general manager for PCS Phosphate in White Springs, presents a ceremonial check for \$1,619,279 to District Governing Board Chairman David Pope (center) and Deputy Director Charlie Houder (right). The check represents PCS’s final contribution to a mitigation fund created to procure property in exchange for the right to use alternate reclamation standards for mining operations. The total cumulative amount of contributions by PCS: \$7,593,692.