



# RiverFronts

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

August 2007

## RiverFronts

is produced by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

### Editor

Cynthia Johnson

### Executive Director

Jerry A. Scarborough

### Governing Board

Louis Shiver, Chairman

J.P. Maultsby,

Vice Chairman

Georgia Jones,

Secretary/Treasurer

Kelby Andrews

Donald R. Curtis, Jr.

N. David Flagg

O. J. Lake

Sylvia Tatum

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## \$1-million project to restore Santa Fe headwaters

The District has allocated \$250,000 from the Florida Forever Trust Fund to perform restoration work at Santa Fe Swamp, headwaters of the Santa Fe River, to



Before



After

restore the natural flow of the river.

Wildfires burned 14,000 acres at Lake Alto and Santa Fe swamps in May, forcing emergency officials to cut firelines to prevent the flames from spreading.

The project consists of clearing debris, salvaging timber, and

restoring emergency firelines.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service is providing an additional \$750,000 through the Emergency Watershed Protection program to help with the restoration work.

## Rain does little to ease drought

Nearly 7 inches of rain fell Districtwide in July, but a 14-inch deficit remains for the 12-month period.

Low and near-record low river levels were recorded at some sta-

tions on the Alapaha, Suwannee, Econfina, Steinhatchee, and Withlacoochee.

New monthly or historic record lows were recorded at 34 groundwater monitoring wells.

## Governing Board elects officers, welcomes two new members

The Suwannee River Water Management District governing board elected new officers and welcomed two new members in July.

The new officers are Louis C. Shiver, chairman; John Paul "J.P." Maultsby, vice chairman; and Georgia C. Jones, secretary-treasurer.

All three are at-large members, meaning they do not represent any particular river basin.

Shiver is a resident of Mayo and is president of Shiver Dairy Farm, Inc. Maultsby resides in Madison and is general manager for Florida Plywoods, Inc.



Louis Shiver  
Chairman



J.P. Maultsby  
Vice Chairman



Georgia Jones  
Secretary-Treasurer

Jones lives in Lake City and is employed as Chief Credit Officer with First Federal Savings Bank of Florida.

The new board members are N. David Flagg, of Gainesville, representing the Santa Fe and Waccasassa basins, and Donald R. Curtis, Jr., of Lake Bird (near Perry),

representing the Coastal Rivers Basin.

Flagg is a government relations consultant and equity partner in Banyan Biomarkers, Inc. He is a former state legislator and mayor



David Flagg

of Gainesville, and a former director of government relations for Shands HealthCare.

Curtis is president of The Forestry Company, in Perry, and is a former assistant director for the Florida Division of Forestry. He also is a former director of land acquisition and management at the District.



Don Curtis

Remaining board members are Sylvia Tatum, of Lawtey; Kelby Andrews, of Chiefland; and O.J. Lake, of Lake City. One vacant position remains to be filled.

## Atsena Otie Key: Students plant vegetation to help restore shoreline



Students from Cedar Key High School's marine lab class replant vegetation along the shoreline at Atsena Otie Key, an island owned by the District and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It was a great end-of-year activity for Cedar Key High School students yearning to be outdoors.

In May, about a dozen students traveled by boat to Atsena Otie, and under the supervision of staff from the Levy County Soil and Water Conservation District, the youths planted vegetation along the island's northern shoreline to help repair erosion damage caused by recent hurricanes.

The work was made possible by a \$140,000 grant to the District from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other partners on the project are the Department of Environmental Protection's Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve, the Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Division, the Suwannee River Resource Conservation District, and the University of Florida's Shellfish Extension Program.



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# NEWS

## EMERGENCY AID

The governing board approved a lease agreement to transfer six acres to the Dixie County Board of Commissioners for management and construction of a new emergency operations center (EOC) near Cross City.

The site is part of a 443-acre tract purchased by the District. Wastewater treatment and disposal facilities are in operation on a 200-acre leased portion of the tract.

The six acres for the EOC are located in uplands on U.S. 19 frontage. Dixie County

will be responsible for management of the leased property.

## MAPPING JASPER

As part of the District's Geographic Information System Partnership Program, staff installed a computer and mapping software for the Town of Jasper.

## RIVER CAMP OPENS

The Peacock Slough river camp, located in southwestern Suwannee County on the Suwannee River, is now open to the public.

The river camp, accessible only by river, provides

five sleeping platforms, a picnic pavilion, restrooms with hot showers, and a tent-camping area.

The river camp is part of the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, a cooperative venture of the District, the Florida Parks Service, and other public and private partners.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

A revised guide to recreational opportunities on District lands is now available.



Printed copies will be mailed upon request, and the entire guide or its individual sections may be downloaded from the District's website:

www.mysuwanneeriver.com

Also available for viewing and downloading

is a new technical report, "Trends of Nitrate Concentrations in Waters of the Suwannee River Water Management District 2007."

## Proposed FY 2007-08 Budget at a glance

**Total:** \$87.2 million

**Millage rate:** 0.4399 mills (rollback rate; lower than last year's rate of 0.4914). This equates to about 44 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

**Staff:** No increase

**Key Projects:** Land acquisition/management; water use monitoring; alternative water supply; stormwater systems; springs protection.

## MEETINGS CALENDAR

### FY 2007-08 BUDGET

1st Public Hearing: Tuesday, Sept. 11 - 5:30 PM

Final Hearing: Tuesday, Sept. 25 - 5:30 PM

### GOVERNING BOARD

(Please note special times for September)

Monthly meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 11 - 3:00 PM

Workshop: Tuesday, Sept. 25 - 3:00 PM

The District will close on Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day.

# CELEBRATION



## FOUR FREEDOMS GREENWAY TRAIL

To celebrate the opening of Madison County's Four Freedoms Trail, the District and the County co-hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and luncheon for citizens and elected officials in May. The 6-mile trail is paved for walkers and bicyclists, and a parallel, unpaved trail offers riding opportunities for equestrians.

The project was made possible through the cooperation of the following partners: Suwannee River Water Management District, Madison County Board of Commissioners, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Department of the Interior, and private landowners.

District Executive Director Jerry Scarborough is pictured at far left.

# OUTREACH



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEONS** were held in Gilchrist (left) and Dixie (right) counties to bring together local civic and business leaders, elected officials, District staff, and other interested citizens to discuss partnership opportunities for protecting the natural resources and expanding local economies. The District plans to complete its goal of meeting with every chamber organization within its boundaries by the end of this year. District Deputy Executive Director David Still (center) addresses Dixie County audience; Executive Director Jerry Scarborough responds to questions at both events.



**UPDATED FEMA FLOOD MAPS** were available for Columbia County residents to view during an open house in July, hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Columbia County, the City of Lake City, and the District. More than 100 people took the opportunity to determine whether their property falls within flood zones designated on the new maps, and to learn about the National Flood Insurance Program. Property owners who disagree with a designation were instructed on the procedure for filing a review. Local governments now have six months to update their ordinances, based on the new flood-zone maps. District GIS Coordinator Paul Buchanan (blue shirt, foreground) and Peter Hubbell, a consultant with Water Resource Associates of Tampa (top right), assist local residents with using the technology.

## FOOD, FUN and FELLOWSHIP

were served up by governing board members and staff at the 7th Annual CARES Appreciation Dinner held this summer to honor local farmers participating in the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship. Event hosts were the Suwannee River Partnership, Representative Debbie Boyd, and the Dwight Stansel Farm and Nursery near Live Oak.



**OUR SANTA FE**, a citizens group dedicated to protecting the Santa Fe River, sent members to meet with staff to discuss current District programs and issues relating to the river and its springs. Following a District overview presentation, the group participated in a lively information exchange with staff.



Kirk Webster, SRWMD



Mark Farrell, Water Resource Associates, Inc. of Tampa



## PROPOSED MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS (MFLs)

for the Upper Santa Fe River were presented at a final public hearing held at the Union County Courthouse in Lake Butler. The governing board was expected to authorize staff to initiate rule development for the MFLs at its August meeting.