

October 3-5, 2001

Gainesville site of annual water management conference

Gainesville will serve as host city for the 26th Annual Conference on Water Management, scheduled for October 3-5, 2001 at the University of Florida Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center.

This marks the first time the annual event will be held in north-central Florida.

The conference is sponsored by Florida's five water management districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information call 800.226.1066 (FL toll free) or visit: www.mcraeco.com/acowm_conf.html

Permits -- don't build without them!

If you live along the Suwannee, Santa Fe, Alapaha, Aucilla or Withlacoochee river, and want to build a house, deck, porch, dock, seawall, walkway, bulkhead or any other permanent structure, you must first get an Environmental

Resource Permit from the District.

Permits also are needed before making improvements or alterations to such existing structures.

Contact the Resource Management Dept. for details.



Little River Springs in Suwannee County will undergo restoration for shoreline erosion and improvement of public use and access areas. The Suwannee River Water Management District received \$1.2 million from the 2001 Legislature for restoration projects at Little River, Guaranto, Hart, Charles, Branford, and Lafayette Blue springs, and Rum Island.



SRWMD
9225 CR 49
Live Oak, FL 32060

RiverFronts



Serving communities in the Suwannee, Santa Fe, Alapaha, Aucilla, Withlacoochee and Coastal Basins July 2001

Regional system of parks planned along Suwannee

Groundwork is being laid for development of a regional system of parks and recreation areas along the Suwannee River and in Columbia, Hamilton, Madison, Suwannee, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy counties.

Under a concept being considered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the District, a number of local communities would become "hubs" within a regional parks system that would feature cabins and campsites along the river.

The "hubs" -- chosen for their existing clusters of recreational activity

centers and visitor services, as well as for their proximity to the river -- would provide a base for visitors to explore the surrounding areas by canoe, boat, bicycle, horseback or on foot.

Overnight travelers could opt for lodging at local motels, bed & breakfasts, vacation cabins, or at one of the more rustic cabins or campsites that would be built at intervals along the river.

DEP Secretary David B. Struhs says the project "would create a world-class eco-tourism destination and be a catalyst for stimulating local economies."

It would also "establish



Navigating the Suwannee River during a recent tour of the region are, from left, DEP officials Mike Bullock, Asst. Director of Recreation & Parks, and Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary, Division of State Lands.

a partnership between the private sector, the water management districts and state and local parks that would successfully marry rural economic development with nature and heritage tourism."

As envisioned, local businesses would benefit from the increase in tourism. Visitors would

benefit by having better access to goods and services and easier access to an array of activities in a single geographic area; recreational facilities would be operated and maintained with greater efficiency; and the environment would benefit from reduced intrusion on the more remote environmentally sensitive lands.

Cleanup begins after Mallory Swamp fire

Logging operations are underway to salvage timber on some 30,000 acres in Lafayette County that suffered extensive damage when a wildfire swept through Mallory Swamp early this summer.

The blaze, said to be one of the largest in

Florida history, consumed 62,000 acres, most of which is under private ownership. But 30,000 of those acres are part of a conservation easement acquired from the owners by the Suwannee River Water Management District in 1999.

Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc. of Gainesville is supervising harvesting and sale of the timber, which consists mostly of pine, with some cypress, titi, and hardwood mixed in.

Charlie Houder, District director of land acquisition and management

said of the decision to harvest the timber, "We acquired the conservation easement in order to preserve the forested wetlands. Now we just have to recoup as much of the value as possible, and begin restoration work."

Who CARES?

Ag producers honored for stewardship

Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson presented plaques to 24 farmers from Suwannee and Lafayette counties participating in the Suwannee River Partnership's CARES program at a dinner hosted by Florida Farm Bureau at the Wellborn home of Representative Dwight Stansel.

CARES stands for County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship.

Under the CARES program, farmers must implement nutrient management



George and Betty Poucher receive plaque from Commissioner Bronson, as Florida Farm Bureau President Carl Loop looks on.

best management practices approved by Suwannee River Partnership participating agencies.

Farmers in the Middle Suwannee Basin who have completed eligibility requirements are: Billy and Kathy Banks; Richard and Ronnie Boyd; Bill and Cassie Brewer; Walter and Debra Brown; Thomas and Shirley Carte; Donald and Dorothy Chauncey; Ron Denmark; Dean and

Amelia Durden; Chuck and Cindy Edwards; John and Gwen Evans; Raymond and Janice Fletcher; Martha and Julian Fundora; Joe and Carmen Gulino; Ernie and Carolyn Hoyt; Guy Hygema; Morris Jackson; Lamar and Hazel Jenkins; Verniel Johnson; Allen and Debra LaRose; Charles and Melissa Morris; Earl and Doreen Poncier; Moises Rodriguez; Butch Schobert; Jody

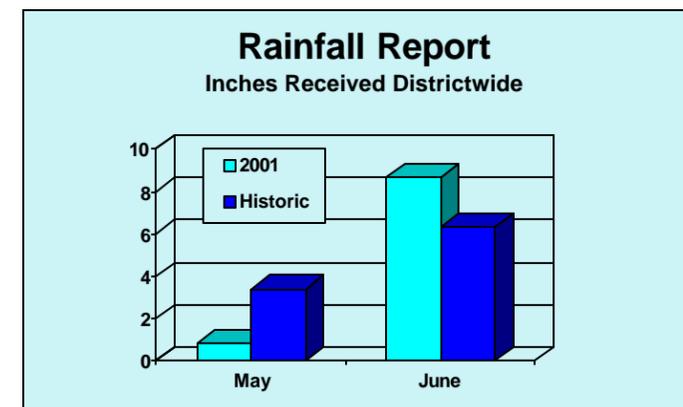
Sullivan; Ray and Lynn Touchton; Joe L. Walker, Jr.; Edward White; George and Betty Poucher; Paul and Kitty Haas; Des and Melissa Fennell; Tim Steichen; Lee and Debra Hatch; Billy and Faye Jackson; Eddie and Karen Barnhill.

Community projects update

- Construction on a portion of the **Branford** Trailhead from Cemetery Road to US 129 was completed.
- Construction is underway on the **Live Oak** Marymac Street stormwater project.
- Cedar Key** stormwater project is about 60% complete.
- Columbia, Bradford and Union** counties received help from District GIS staff who provided technical assistance with quality control of parcel data.
- Work continues on **Steinhatchee** Greenway.

Trailhead is in design and engineering phase; clearing the trail is scheduled for late summer.

- Gilchrist County** School Board will receive \$10,000 to enhance the Environmental Education Center shared by the **Bell** middle and high schools. Funds will be used to acquire additional property for the facility.
- District conveyed title to 155 acres to the City of **High Springs** for its wastewater treatment project.



Permit fees on the easy-pay plan

Credit card payments are now being accepted for District permit fees. Applications for ERP, water-well, and water-use permits can be mailed to the District, or FAXed. Payment for FAXed applications may be made with a credit card over the phone.

To request any type of permit application, call the District. ERP applications also can be downloaded from the District's web site: www.mysuwanneeriver.com Completed applications should be returned to: SRWMD, 9225 CR 49 Live Oak 32060 or FAX: 386.362.1056.

No millage increase proposed

District staff propose maintaining the current rate of .4914 mills in the FY 2001-02 budget.

Public hearings on the budget are scheduled for September 11 and 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Live Oak.

U.S. Forest Service buys Pinhook property from District

District has sold 2,000 acres of the **Sandlin Bay** Tract in Columbia County to the U.S. Forest Service, which had agreed to purchase the **Pinhook Swamp** property from the District as soon as funds became available.

In other action, the District:

- Acquired a 938-acre **Monteocha Creek** conservation easement and 375-acre **Summers Tract**, both in Alachua County;

- Closed on the purchase of the 135-acre Barnett/Big Shoals addition in **Hamilton County**;
- Contracted with Panamerican Consultants, Inc. to perform an archeological survey at **Atsena Otie** island near Cedar Key. The study will document locations of any existing Native American burial and cultural sites, and develop a plan for the proper handling of any remains that may be uncovered in the future.

Stage set for flooding at Ft. White

A tentative flood stage of **24 feet** (above mean sea level) has been established on the Santa Fe River near Fort White.

Following recent public meetings in Columbia and Gilchrist counties, officials from the Tallahassee Bureau of the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Suwannee River Water Management District forwarded the recommendation to NWS

headquarters for final approval this fall. Daily **river level readings** are available by calling 386.362.6626 or 800.604.2272, or online: www.mysuwanneeriver.com If you've been looking up readings for the "Santa Fe River at 47 Bridge" you should now use the reading for "Santa Fe River near Fort White".

Before you dig a pond...

If you want to dig a pond, or drain or build in a wetland, the law requires that you first apply for an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP). District staff will be glad to guide you through the permit application process.

For more information,

call the Resource Management department at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



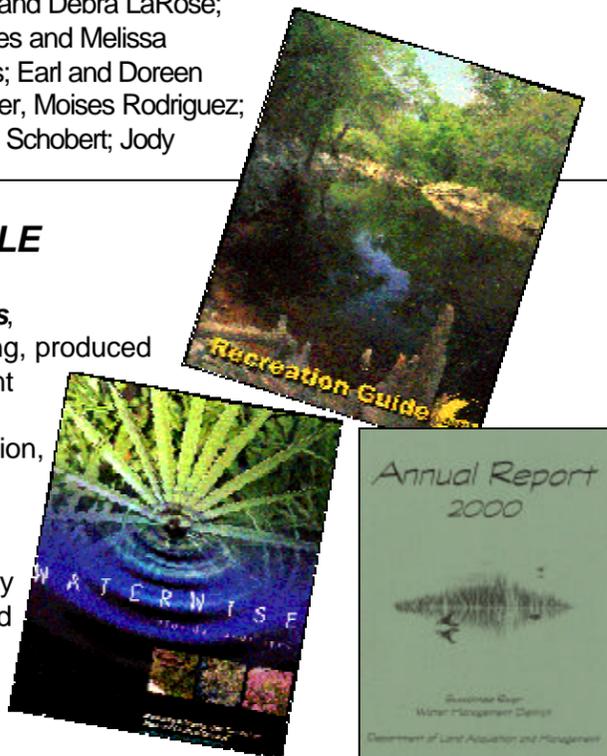
NOW AVAILABLE

Waterwise Florida Landscapes, a guide to conservation landscaping, produced by Florida's five water management districts.

Recreation Guide, updated edition, with maps and descriptions of District lands and recreational opportunities open to the public.

LAMP Annual Report, a summary of the District's land acquisition and management activities.

For free copies call 800.226.1066.



RiverFronts is produced by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Editor
Cynthia Johnson

Executive Director
Jerry A. Scarborough

Governing Board
David Pope, Chairman
Don Everett, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sylvia Tatum, Secretary
Kelby Andrews
Dr. Linden Davidson
Georgia Jones
O. J. Lake
J. P. Maultsby
Louis Shiver

9225 CR 49
Live Oak, FL 32060
800.226.1066 (FL toll free)
386.362.1001
www.mysuwanneeriver.com