

Alligator Lake stormwater restoration project moving forward

With \$1.15 million in funding from the 2001-02 Legislature, the District is moving ahead with stormwater restoration plans for Alligator Lake in Columbia County.

The District and City of Lake City have been cooperatively developing an Alligator Lake water quality and stormwater management plan that includes improved stormwater treatment and restoration of wetland and shallow lake areas that once were diked and drained for agricultural use.

The District plans to spend the legislative appropriation for land purchases or easements for stormwater systems; surveys, title work, property appraisals; berm construction to alleviate flooding; infrastructure and elevation survey; LIDAR; construction of a stormwater system on Harris-School Board property; installation of stormceptors; and water quality monitoring.



Aerial view of Alligator Lake in Columbia County

www.mysuwanneeriver.com

New look and features for District web site

A new look and added features will welcome visitors to the District's web site this month.

Readers will now be able to look up water well depths, groundwater levels at monitoring stations, daily rainfall totals

at various stations, and check the status of permit applications.

The site will also offer a search function, more links, Governing Board agendas and minutes, and more information about the District.

RiverFronts



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

June 2002

Renewing Fanning Springs from the bottom up

Fanning Springs in Levy County has received both recreational and environmental improvements through the state's Springs Initiative.

An estimated 400-500 cubic yards of sand and 6-8 dump truck loads of rock that were "choking" the spring vents have been removed. The rock was redeposited in the spring

run and the sand was pumped to an upland disposal site outside of the 100-year flood plain on park property.

The project resulted in improvements to the pool area, adding eight feet to its depth and tripling its diameter.

The District still plans to replant eelgrass to help

stabilize sand and sediments.

Before work began, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed an archeological survey to determine

depths at which it would be safe to perform the work without disturbing artifacts that might be buried.

The Department of State then issued the District a permit to work on State lands, and specified that the work must be done manually, without cranes or other machines.

Total project cost was \$155,000, funded by the Legislature through DEP.



Divers prepare to "airlift" rock using flotation device.



Fanning Springs

Alligator Lake Recreation Area marks opening with celebration

District officials were among the invited guests at a celebration marking the official opening in April of the Alligator Lake Recreation Area in Columbia County.

The site offers hiking trails around the lake, bank fishing access, picnic areas, playground, canoe launch and canoe trails, and restroom facilities.

The District, the City of Lake City, and other state

agencies have worked closely with Columbia County to acquire and manage the lands surrounding the lake.

The District also has been working to improve the lake's water quality, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has plans to stock the lake with fish.

Directions: Off of Old Country Club Road between Baya Rd. and CR 252 in Lake City.

Hours: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wed - Fri; 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sat & Sun; Closed Monday and Tuesday.



City of Perry celebrates purchase of land for wastewater sprayfield

The City of Perry held a fish fry in April to celebrate the purchase of land for a new wastewater sprayfield.

The 515-acre parcel, which lies west of the City of Perry (in Taylor County) and its current wastewater

plant, was purchased from Foley Land and Timber for a total price of \$515,000, or \$1,000 per acre.

The District contributed \$808 per acre; the City of Perry paid the balance.

Wastewater effluent now will be pumped west on U.S. 98 and south on Hampton Springs Road to the sprayfield site.

Previously, the city's treated wastewater had been discharged into a local creek.



Executive Director Jerry Scarborough, left, receives plaque in appreciation from Mayor Richard Frith, City of Perry.



SRWMD
9225 CR 49
Live Oak, FL 32060

Presorted
Standard
PostPd
Alachua FL
Permit #27

Lafayette County

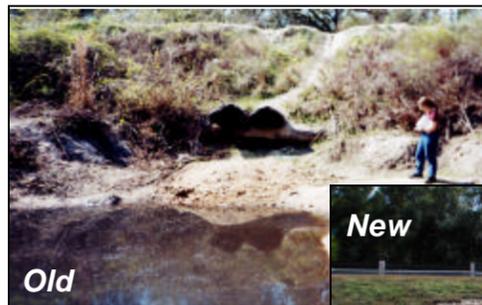
New culverts will help avert residential flooding

Construction of new stormwater culverts along the St. Regis grade in Lafayette County was completed in April under the District's Quality Communities program.

The culverts replace older, smaller culverts that were unable to accommodate floodwaters that drained from the northern end of Mallory Swamp into Picket and Adams lakes.

As a result, flooding often occurred in the

residential areas around the lakes. The new culverts will help prevent future flooding.



Old

Affairs, providing a \$43,125 Hazard Mitigation Grant; Lafayette County, providing matching in-kind construction services; and the District, providing engineering and technical assistance.



New

Partners in the project were the Florida Department of Community



SPRINGS CLOSINGS

Some local springs will be closed to the public at various times during the next 12 months while restoration work and general improvements are performed.

Following is a list of springs and the latest schedule of closing dates:

Little River - Closed until Jan. 1, 2003

Rum Island - 8/02 - 2/03

Hart - 11/02 - 4/03

Branford - 8/02 - 2/03

Charles - 10/02 - 12/02

Guaranto - To be announced

Lafayette Blue - To be announced

This schedule is subject to change.

For announcements of changes, visit us on the world wide web at: mysuwanneeriver.com.

Quality Communities

Starke stormwater study underway

The District will spend up to \$72,000 to conduct a stormwater study for the City of Starke in Bradford County.

A team of local citizens, and representatives from the District and the Florida Department of Transportation, will work with Singhofen and Associates engineering firm to compile current and historical regional flooding information.

By way of a questionnaire made available through the local newspaper and at City Hall,

the team is asking citizens to help identify areas that have the most flooding or water quality problems.

Over the next few months, Singhofen and Associates, Inc. also will be inspecting and photographing drainage structures and channels in the area to help identify locations that may need repair and/or maintenance or may require field surveys in the future.

The Starke Stormwater Study is a Quality Communities project.



2002-03

Type II WMAs Hunting Schedule

District conservation areas are open to hunting for the 2002-03 season according to the following schedule:

Little River (Suwannee County)

Archery -- Sept. 21-23 and 28-30; Oct. 5-7
Muzzleloading Gun -- Oct. 25-27
Small Game -- Nov. 30 - Dec. 4; Dec. 21-25

Middle Aucilla River (Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties)

Archery -- Sept. 21 - Oct. 20
Muzzleloading Gun -- Oct. 26 - Nov. 3
General Gun I -- Nov. 9 - Dec. 3
General Gun II -- Dec. 6 - Jan. 5
Small Game -- Jan. 6 - Mar 2
Spring Turkey -- Mar 15 - Apr 20

Troy Springs (Lafayette County)

Small Game -- Nov 9 - Jan 5, excluding Sundays (Hunters may need to sign in at kiosk.)
Note: Walker and Ruth Springs tracts closed to hunting.

Trapping, dog training and camping/campfires are prohibited. Fishing is permitted year-round at river access points. Permits are available at county tax collectors offices on first-come first-served basis beginning in first week of June.

District trails open for bicycling, other outdoor recreation

Summertime is the perfect time to hike or bike trails on District lands, and plenty are available.

District lands are open to the public every day during daylight hours.

Fat tire bicycles are recommended for use on these unpaved trails, and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited.

Marked single and double track trails provide riding opportunities for all levels of riders. Service roads also are open for bicycling, but typically are unmarked and not maintained as well as trails.

The best opportunities for fat tire bicycling are the 70 miles of trails in the White Springs Recreation Hub and the 16-mile trail at the Holton

Creek entrance to the Upper Suwannee conservation lands.

For maps and additional information about recreational opportunities on District lands, visit our web site at: www.mysuwanneeriver.com or contact Edwin McCook, District public use coordinator, at 386.362.1001.



Hydrologic conditions

The District has experienced a rainfall deficit of 27.7 inches over the last 2 years through the end of April.

Rainfall deficit over the past 4 years is 52 inches District-wide.

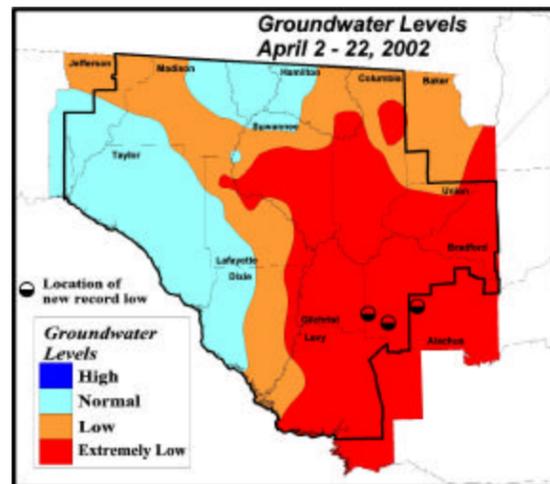
Over the past 2 years, record low levels have been recorded at 66 percent of the District's long-

term groundwater monitoring wells, and at 56 percent of its long-term river monitoring sites.

April rains totaled 1.9 inches District-wide. The long-term monthly average of 3.3 inches.

For the past 30 days ending May 14 there was no rain recorded at most District precipitation stations.

Major river systems are once again approaching the record low levels set in 2001.



News Briefs

• District closed on the fee interest purchase of 29,463 acres in **Mallory Swamp** in Lafayette County for a purchase price of just under \$2.6 million.
• Closing on the 317-acre Versatility tract in **Dixie County** occurred in May.

• District closed on the 12,854-acre Suwannee Swamp portion of the **Plum Creek** conservation easement at a cost of \$430 per acre for a total \$5,527,220.
• Work began last month on erosion control and improvements to parking lot at Usher Landing boat ramp in **Levy County**.

CALENDAR

Governing Board Meetings

June 11 -- 9 AM -- District Headquarters, Live Oak
July 9 -- 9 AM -- District Headquarters, Live Oak

RiverFronts

is produced by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

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