

Conservation Connection Day

Mark your calendars. On June 25th, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Agri-Civic Center on George Blvd. in Sebring, many environmental agencies from all over the state will join Highlands County's environmental departments to meet the public. Hosted by the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District, the event will include exhibits from Highlands County's Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Keep Highlands County Beautiful, Recycling, Landfill, Extension and 4-H. Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District will be joining with the Division of Forestry, Southwest Florida Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, Highlands County Lakes Association, Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District, South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District, Highlands County Citrus Growers Association, and Highlands Hammock State Park.

Some of the displays will include a port a boat, airboats, hydrilla tanks, a shower head exhibit, composters, rain barrels and much more. Audrey Driggers, Conservation Technician from the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District will talk about the Tropical Soda Apple beetle and the many programs that they have. Morgan Levy and Bill Townsend from South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District will display the different types of compost they are working with. The Highlands County Citrus Growers Association will have their citrus tree and give out free orange juice. There will be free hand outs, give a ways, lots of people to talk to and get your questions answered and of course, yummy refreshments.

This is a chance for you to meet and greet the people that work so hard to keep Highlands County's natural resources protected. We are excited for the opportunity to talk to you and let you know what we do and how we do it. It will also present an excellent occasion for you to find out what you can do to help the environment.

Each of us needs to do what we can to conserve and protect our natural resources. The first step in being part of the solution is information. You need to understand your natural area and the challenges and dangers that face it. This is your chance to find out about your surroundings and the people who work in them.

It is always important to utilize conservation techniques, but now more than ever, we all need to do our part. Since we have been in a severe drought for the past two years, it's important to understand what steps can be taken and are being taken to help us through this difficult time.

The whys and hows of the different programs that are being implemented; understanding of complex projects; what department does what and who to contact for information are just some of the subjects that you can learn more about by attending this exciting event.

We hope to see you there.