

Soil and Water Sentinel

News from the Highlands County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fall 2003

Natural Resource Conservation Service Events

RC&D New to Central Florida

Resource Conservation and Development Councils, a program of the USDA overseen by the NRCS, are located throughout the United States to conserve natural resources, increase economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living. The Councils require local involvement to determine which projects would most benefit the local community.

We now have a RC&D in Central Florida, and they are looking for local representatives and project suggestions. Some past project examples are wheelchair accessible boat ramps, school lunch programs, wetland/pond restoration, downtown revitalization, and septic system and central sewer funding assistance. Project proposals are submitted to the RC&D, which then assists in finding funding for and implementation of the project, creating partnerships in the process. Our Contact is Lenora Haynes at 863-678-0523.

For more information on any NRCS program, contact our office at 402-6545.

District Staff:

Jackie Bailey - Office Manager

Jennifer Brunty - Natural Resource Specialist

Clell Ford - Lakes Manager

NRCS Staff:

Larry Sharpe - District Conservationist

Eric Harper - Soil Conservation Technician

Fun Florida Water Resource Facts

*The Floridan Aquifer covers 82,000 square miles in 4 states

*Florida has over 300 springs - one of the largest concentrations in the world

*With 1260 miles of shoreline, Florida has more coast than any state except Alaska

*Florida ranks second in average annual rainfall, at 55 inches per year

*The largest river in the state is the Appalachicola in the panhandle, with an average flow of 24,800 cubic feet per second (cfs), compared to 1200 cfs for the Peace River

Calendar of Events:

November 9: Lakewatch volunteer appreciation picnic

November 11: Veterans Day Holiday

November 13: Friends Of Istokpoga meeting

November 15: Lake Jackson Clean up

November 18, December 2, 9, 16: HSWCD Lakes for the Homeowner classes

November 20: Persimmon Restoration Committee

November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2: HSWCD Board Meeting

December 4: Lake Istokpoga Management Committee meeting

December 9: Highlands County Board of County Commissioner Workshop on Central Sewer Study

December 13: Booth at Sebring Circle Saturday Night

December 25: Christmas Holiday

January 1: New Years Holiday

January 6: HSWCD Board Meeting

January 19: MLK Jr. Holiday

January 7, 14, 21, 28: Master Conservationist classes

February 19, 26 and March 11, 18, and 25: Florida Master Naturalist Program - Coastal Ecosystems course