

**Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors:**

Wayne Zahn, Interim Chair  
 Ida Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer  
 John Causey, Supervisor  
 Gregg Hartt, Supervisor  
 Jimmy Wohl, Supervisor

**District Staff:**

Jackie Bailey - Office Manager  
 Clell Ford - Lakes Manager  
 Erin McCarta - Lake Management Assistant  
 Corine Burgess—Natural Resource Specialist

**NRCS Staff:**

Carlos Torres—District Conservationist  
 Jennifer Abbey - Soil Conservationist

*We are located at the west end of the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center at US 27 and George Blvd., 3 miles south of Sebring at the flashing yellow light.*

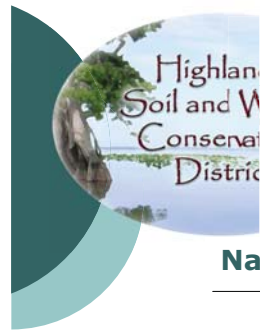
*When rain falls does it ever get up again?*

*Yes in dew time. :-)*



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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.highlandsswcd.org](http://www.highlandsswcd.org)



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**Event Calendar**

- January 1 Happy New Year
- January 5 HSWCD Board Meeting
- January 8 Holiday Luncheon
- January 9 Air Potato Exchange Day
- January 18 Martin Luther King, Jr - Holiday
- January 31 through February 3 NACD Conference
- February 2 HSWCD Board Meeting
- February 15 Washington's Birthday
- March 2 HSWCD Board Meeting
- March 23 Florida Ag Literacy Day

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 See you at the  
 NACD conference  
 January 31 through February 3 at the Hilton in the Walt Disney Resort  
 Orlando!  
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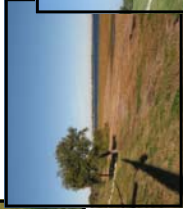
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### Lake Jackson Shoreline Project



August 2007

These pictures are the before, during and after shots of the Lake Jackson Shoreline Project. Rank vegetation was removed and the native seed bank was promoted.



November 2008



October 2009

Following completion of the initial vegetation removal, there was a noticeable increase in user activity by anglers and nature enthusiasts as well as a major spike in wading bird activity.

### Lake August



Staff members and Lake Placid residents released an additional one hundred Triploid Grass Carp into Lake August to help control the hydrilla.

### MRRP Fishing Line Recycling



Dan Wilson, our newest Earth Team Volunteer, has been collecting fishing line from the twenty bins in Highlands County. The Mono-filament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP) encourages recycling fishing line through a network of bins and drop off locations.

Berkley Manufacturing accepts the recycled fishing line to make fish attractors and tackle boxes. Dan, who is also a Ridge Ranger Volunteer, has been resourceful in making mono-filament bin collection easier and efficient.

### Northern Everglades CARES Recognition



Ed Pines pictured (above) and the Karlson family (below) were honored at the CARES event.

The second annual Northern Everglades County Alliance for Environmental Stewardship (CARES) award dinner was held at the Agri-Civic Center in Okeechobee on October 8, 2009.

Among the 20 producers honored at the dinner, three from Highlands County were Pines Ranch, Ray Parker Ranch and Karlson Ranch.

To be considered for the CARES program a producer must participate in the FDACS Water Quality BMP program.

Charles Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Denise Grimsley, State Representative were among the many speakers congratulating the producers.



### Southwest Gu

On December 4, 2009 the Southwest Gulf Coast Regional Envirothon competition was held at the Caloosahatchee River Regional Park in Alva. Twenty-one teams from Collier, Lee, Charlotte and Highlands participated for cash prizes.

The Envirothon is a hands-on team effort competition teaching critical thinking in the areas of forestry, aquatic resources, soils, wildlife and a current topic.

The Awesome Opossums from Avon Park will represent Highlands County at the state competition.

### Air Potato Ex

Air Potato Exchange Day will be 2010. Bring in at least one grocery store potato bulb in exchange for a free prize. Prizes will be awarded for the most and most unique air potatoes.

The exchange will take place in the Avon Park area. Bert J. Harris, Jr., Agricultural Commissioner will be the guest of honor.

The person bringing in the most potatoes will be awarded a free rain barrel.