

Good Samaritan Award

Okeechobee Field Station employees Robin Barber and Mike Dodson are being recognized for their willingness to assist two stranded contractors.

On August 22, 2006, two contractors were in the reservoir at Ten Mile Creek when their drill rig broke down. They attempted to wade out of the reservoir to get their airboat, but got tangled in some nearby hydrilla.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. when Mike Dodson arrived at Ten Mile Creek, he heard someone calling for help. He looked in the reservoir and saw the two men in the water. He reported the incident to Robin Barber who went down to the edge of the water, retrieved a life jacket from their airboat and threw it to one of the men still trying to swim back to the edge of the dike. One man had already reached the edge and was exhausted. Robin then grabbed a rope from the airboat while Mike retrieved another life jacket from his vehicle. Mike and Robin assisted both men out of the reservoir, gave them water and asked if they required medical attention. Robin assisted in launching their airboat enabling them to rescue the others from the drill rig.

We commend Robin and Mike for their quick action and dedication to the public we serve.