

Good Samaritan Award

Jim Lappert – Scientist Technician 3

Water Quality Bureau

On May 30, Jim was traveling to work when he came upon the scene of a collision where two cars were involved. One person had exited her car and appeared to be unhurt. In the other car which had rolled over and was upside down, a woman was trapped inside.

Jim assisted the woman to talk to her and hold her hand until help arrived. At the request of the first police officer on the scene, Jim remained with the woman until the paramedics arrived and prepared to remove her from the vehicle.

We commend Jim for his selfless act as a Good Samaritan.

25 Years of Service Recognition

Scott McNabb, Regulatory Professional 4

Regulation Division

Over the last 25 years, Scott has become known as a vault of knowledge in the world of Environmental Resource Permitting -- from Surface Water to Natural Resource Management review to ERP compliance/enforcement.

Well-known throughout the District, especially along the Treasure Coast, Scott's knowledge of properties in Martin and St. Lucie counties is legendary. He knows the permitting and drainage history, who owned it, who they are related to, who they went to school with and what they did for a living.

A great technical source for wetland science/regulation, Scott had his own personal e-permitting data vault long before today's e-permitting system was even a thought.

Impressing his supervisors with his adeptness to retrieve information quickly from permits, Scott was infamous for having two computers in his office for a while. He proved he could do the work of two people by writing letters, reviewing permits and uploading data in record time.

Congratulations, Scott, for 25 years of hard work and dedicated service.

30 Years of Service Recognition

Lou Toth, Principal Scientist

OMC Division

Lou joined the District in July of 1982 when he was hired to evaluate storage and removal of phosphorus by belowground tissues of sawgrass and cattail. From 1984 to 2003, Lou was an integral member of the District's Kissimmee River Restoration Team and a leader in the effort to evaluate river restoration alternatives.

Lou was the District's lead environmental consultant for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1991 Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement which provided the basis for federal authorization of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project in the 1992 Water Resources Development Act. In recognition of his contributions to the Kissimmee River restoration project, Lou was selected as the 2001 South Florida Water Management District's Employee of the Year.

In 2003, Lou joined the Vegetation Management Section, adding a new dimension by improving monitoring techniques with an objective scientific methodology for enhancing wetland resources. He conceived and implemented major efforts to establish the requisite vegetation cover needed to maximize and sustain phosphorus uptake in the STAs.

Lou has authored more than 30 publications and has been invited to speak on wetland ecology and restoration projects to a variety of audiences in scientific as well as non-technical forums. Lou's consistent collaborative actions provide an exemplary model for the integration of the District's missions for natural systems, flood protection, water supply and water quality protection.

Congratulations, Lou, for 30 years of dedicated service to the South Florida Water Management District.

July 2012 Employee of the Month

Ximena (*He-mina*) Pernet

Engineering Specialist 4

Everglades Regulation Bureau

Ximena served as the technical lead in permit renewals during the C-139 Basin and EAA permit renewal process which takes place every five years under the Everglades Source Control Program.

She was assigned the most complex C-139 Basin permits and worked cooperatively with stakeholders to successfully issue permits that included the more stringent requirements of the recently amended C-139 Basin rule.

In addition, Ximena worked as the lead coordinator to cross-train staff and standardize permitting requirements. Applicants complimented the application process and encouraged using it for future efforts.

Due to her technical expertise and efficiency, Ximena has been assigned as lead reviewer for the EAA permit renewal process which is currently under way.

We recognize and thank Ximena for her exceptional work, professionalism and enthusiastic attitude.

July 2012 Team of the Month

The Reclaimed Water Policy Work Group

Team Members:

- Jennifer Bokankowitz (*Bo-KAN-ko-witz*)
- Thomas Colios (*CO-li-os*)
- Richard Nevulis (*NEV-u-lis*)
- Steven Memberg

The Reclaimed Water Policy Work Group was established three years ago for utilities, FDEP and the water management districts to work collaboratively in addressing policy challenges regarding reuse of reclaimed water.

Topics addressed included impact offsets and substitution credits, mandatory reuse zones, enhanced coordination and optimization. The final report, completed in May, was the basis for the passage of two laws during two legislative sessions and proposed changes to the State's Water Resource Implementation Rule.

Legislators, agency heads and utilities have acknowledged the process and progress of this group. Their efforts exemplify how to work through issues and reach consensus. Congratulations on a job well done!