

January 2011 Employee of the Month  
Renee Hammett, System Engineering Specialist  
SCADA Installation & Support Division

Sometimes less really is more. Renee recently demonstrated that truism by finding a way to reduce the complexity of a project and save money, too.

While reviewing plans for a key new pump station related to the stormwater treatment area Compartments B and C Buildouts, Renee recognized that the design of the station's complex computer monitoring system -- called SCADA -- could be simplified without compromising safety or functionality. The new pump station will house a SCADA "Regional Command and Control Center. " These command centers are located at key pump stations throughout the South Florida Water Management District. They are a way to monitor and manage complex water control operations while allowing water managers to retain full control of the 70 more structures planned at Compartments B and C -- as well as structures throughout the District.

By applying Renee's suggestions for improvement, the District saved more than \$400,000 on contracted work. When the simplified computer architecture is used in future Regional Command and Control Centers, more money will be saved through lower operation and maintenance costs.

Thank you, Renee, for sharing such valuable insights. Congratulations on being recognized as this year's first Employee of the Month!

## January 2011 Team of the Month

### The River of Grass Documentum Migration Team

#### Team Members:

- Jackie McGorty
- Patti Freije
- Charron Follins
- Tia Dexter
- Vicky Cronell
- Diana Longhurst
- Candy Borrelli
- Claudia Coyne
- Uday Bala
- Stanley Orłowski
- William Hall
- Jared Revo
- Gaye Rohde
- Javier Gonzalez

## January 2011 Team of the Month

### The River of Grass Documentum Migration Team

The South Florida Water Management District received more than 725 public records request in fiscal year 2010. To improve the District's responsiveness to public records requests, this team set up centralized electronic storage for archiving and tracking records related to the *River of Grass* acquisition.

Given the sheer volume and complexity of records involved, this required coordinating with staff throughout the District to ensure that all related material was available for storage in Documentum. To complete this monumental task, more than 13,000 records were collected, reviewed and tagged.

This team has demonstrated the District's commitment to open government and public records law by improving the agency's record keeping and retrieval infrastructure.

Thank you for your dedication to customer service and District values!

February 2011 Employee of the Month

Tracy Giles-Senior IT Project Manager

Corporate Resources

No single project has impacted the South Florida Water Management District more than the WebEOC project. Tracy serves as the Project Manager and has provided leadership throughout the life of this high profile project. Her leadership skills have been instrumental in design, development and management of the project. Since its inception, over 1,200 District employees have received training and have been involved in validating WebEOC through exercises and actual Emergency Operations Center events.

District values such as excellence, team spirit and service describe Tracy and her “can do” attitude. She is always willing to volunteer, assist or provide leadership to get the job done. This project under her leadership has been accomplished on time, on budget and in accordance with District standards. For the first time, we have 100 percent operational awareness bringing together all aspects of the District during emergency operations.

Over the past few weeks, Tracy volunteered to meet with District emergency management teams involved in Water Shortage, Debris Management and Operations & Maintenance to develop emergency Web boards that could be used to manage emergency information flow and interoperability. During this time of the Water Shortage activation and the upcoming hurricane season, her efforts are very timely and have enhanced our emergency operation capabilities.

Congratulations, Tracey, on being chosen February Employee of the Month!

## February 2011 Team of the Month

### Restoration Strategies Team

#### Team Members:

- Tracey Piccone
- Kirk Burns
- Jenifer Barnes
- Stuart VanHorn
- Nenad Iricanin
- Steve Hill
- Cheol Mo
- Tom Kosier
- Carols Adorasio
- Garth Redfield
- Larry Gerry
- Naiming Wang
- Palma Vacarr
- Jenni Hiscock
- Jennifer Leeds
- Jeremy McBryan

February 2011 Team of the Month  
Restoration Strategies Team

This team was formed to address water quality issues in the Everglades Protection Area and litigation related to efforts to achieve additional phosphorus reductions associated with the Everglades Construction Project and Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals.

This team worked extensively to provide the agency with the legal, technical, scientific and engineering expertise necessary for the South Florida Water Management District to make informed decisions regarding the suite of water quality improvement projects recommended in the Amended Determination submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency to U.S. District Court Judge Alan Gold in September 2010.

The team has also met many critical deadlines and legal obligations, produced numerous technical documents and last-minute briefing presentations through hard work, commitment to the task at hand and most importantly, team spirit.

Congratulations for being the February Team of the Month!

## 2010 Employee of the Year

Kevin Carter, Senior Technical Program Specialist  
Stormwater Division – Intergovernmental Programs

Kevin is the South Florida Water Management District's lead technical expert on changes to nutrient criteria used in Florida's surface water classification system. These changes have been proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and could significantly affect the District.

He developed and communicated essential scientific and economic information about the proposed changes and oversees 4 teams assessing their potential economic impacts.

Kevin also worked with the Office of Council and Executive Management to develop District strategies on this issue; and coordinated several teams that are focused on different types of water bodies, including streams, lakes, canals and estuaries.

Since 2003, Kevin has served on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Numeric Nutrient Technical Advisory Committee. Kevin also represents the District at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency public workshops; regularly briefs executive management and Governing Board members; makes presentations to the Water Resources Advisory Commission and Governing Board and participates in Congressional Staff briefings in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations, Kevin! Our 2010 Employee of the Year!

## 2010 Team of the Year

### The Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations Team

#### Team Members:

- Susan Gray
- Cindy Bevier
- Luis Cadavid
- Peter Doering
- Paul McCormick
- Martha Nungesser
- Tracey Piccone
- Cal Neidrauer
- Yongshan Wan
- Chenxia Qiu
- Kim O'Dell
- Brenda Mills
- Kim Chuirazzi
- Beth Lewis
- Elizabeth Ross

## 2010 Team of the Year

### The Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations Team

In August 2009, a team of South Florida Water Management District policy, legal and technical staff began revising Adaptive Protocols to fit the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.

The team created a plan to make the best use of operational flexibility provided by the new regulation schedule. Together, they produced revised Adaptive Protocols that maximize the ecological benefits of low water releases from Lake Okeechobee, while minimizing adverse impacts to the lake and permitted water users.

The team demonstrated extraordinary technical skill and professional poise while working with stakeholders, conducting model simulations and developing and editing the protocols. Team members also kept the Governing Board and Water Resources Advisory Committee Issues Team informed throughout the process.

The results of this team's coordinated efforts were realized in September 2010 when the new Adaptive Protocols were presented to the Governing Board.

Congratulations 2010 Team of the Year!

## 25 Years Service Recognition

William Wilkins-Excavation/Earthmoving Operator

Miami Field Station Division

Bill began his career at the South Florida Water Management District in 1986. He was a field worker helping on tow boats, but Bill's work ethic, positive attitude and eagerness to learn ensured that he was on the way up.

Bill was promoted to Equipment Operator 1, then Equipment Operator 2, where he was involved in crane operations. But, Bill attention and commitment to safety will always be number 1. He received several safety awards and is recognized for not having any lost time injury during his 25 years at the District.

Bill continues to tackle heavy workloads, these days as an Excavation/Earthmoving Operator.

Thank you, Bill, for giving the District 25 years of dedicated service.

25 Years Service Recognition  
Randall Wilson-Structure Maintenance Tech  
Miami Field Station Division

Randy Wilson has been making positive contributions to Operations and Maintenance for 25 years. He began his career at the South Florida Water Management District in 1986 as a maintenance mechanic trades helper. Later, he became one of the first District divers certified in surface air diving and he remained a member of the Miami Field Station Dive Team until 2006.

Today, Randy is a Structure Maintenance Tech with the Miami Field Station. He performs major gate overhauls and preventative maintenance on 37 structures. He also contributes to the operation of pump stations S-7 and S-331, and is involved with the Operations and Maintenance team working to standardize pump station operations.

Thank you, Randy, for giving 25 years of service dedicated to the District.

## 25 Years Service Recognition

William C. Donovan-Senior Scientist

Everglades Regulation Division

Bill began his career as a staff engineer at the South Florida Water Management District in the Water Use Conservation & Management Division in 1986. Shortly after, he helped to put the District in the forefront on water conservation by learning about xeriscaping -- what we now call Florida Friendly landscaping -- to save water using water-wise plants and optimal irrigation practices. Bill was instrumental in developing both urban and agricultural water-saving irrigation management practices, then sharing that knowledge.

In 1992, Bill became a senior engineer in the Surface Water Division where he was part of the team responsible for creating and implementing the Everglades Agricultural Area phosphorus source control program. Bill was instrumental in working with the farmers, attorneys, environmentalists and other interest groups – and even an angry bull in the C-139 Basin – to develop successful agricultural best management practices to improve Everglades water quality. Bill's contributions continue to help improve the Everglades Regulatory Program as it grows and expands into the model program it is today.

Thank you, Bill, for contributing 25 years of service to the South Florida Water Management District.

## 30 Years Service Recognition

Brad Jones-Senior Environmental Scientist

Lakes and River Sciences Division

30 years ago, Brad started working as an Environmentalist 2 in the Water Chemistry Division. Now a Senior Environmental Scientist, Brad has been involved with some of the South Florida Water Management District's most challenging and cutting edge projects related to water quality. The projects include:

- The 1986 Algal Bloom on Lake Okeechobee
- The Lake Okeechobee Phosphorus Dynamics Study
- Phosphorus loading targets for the Lake Okeechobee SWIM Plan
- And Kissimmee River Restoration

Today, Brad is still providing the District with the sound science that's used to continually improve water management.

Thank you, Brad, for 30 years of outstanding service to the District.

## January 2011 Good Samaritan Award

Jose Viamontes, Professional Supervisor-Okeechobee Field Station

Bobby Ragamat, Structure Maintenance Technician-Okeechobee Field Station

On December 23, 2010, Jose Viamontes was traveling West on Highway 70 two miles West of Highway 721, when he witnessed a car accident. An oncoming car swerved into his lane striking the guardrail then bounced back across the highway where the car came to rest, striking the opposite guardrail.

While checking the scene, Jose immediately called 9-1-1 and ran to the car to render assistance. Bobby Ragamat also arrived to assist, these guys jumped into action and put out reflectors to warn traffic since there was some debris and minimal space for traffic to flow.

Bobby removed some of the larger pieces of debris from the road. They remained at the scene helping to calm the woman driver until law enforcement arrived about an hour later. Law enforcement personnel took their statements of the incident and then they left the scene.

We commend Jose and Bobby for their quick action and dedication to the public we serve. We are very proud to have them as employees of the Okeechobee Field Station!