

**November 2009 Team of the Month
The Grant Wetland Restoration Team**

Team Members:

- Richard Barnes
- Tanya Barnes
- Ronald Bearzotti
- Maria Bennett
- Elvie Banks
- Steve Fairtrace
- Frank Ferrano
- Johanna Labrada
- James Goodwin
- Edward Hickson
- Maria Formosa
- Raj Kamthe
- Jennifer Leeds
- Douglas MacLaughlin
- Georgia Moore-McCall
- Marjorie Moore
- Jeffrey Needle
- Patricia Sopczak
- Palma Vacarr

November 2009 Team of the Month The Grant Wetland Restoration Team

The Grant Restoration project is located in the Corkscrew Swamp Critical Project. It began with the acquisition by eminent domain of the 118 acre Grant property to provide for restoration of historic flows in this area. The property has been a farmed, disturbed site, which had received permits for rock mining quarry prior to acquisition by the District.

However, as a result of certain misunderstandings between the District and a land developer, the developer had begun a mining operation subsequent to the District's acquisition of the property without all the requisite and formal approvals and authorizations by the District or other agencies. The parties involved were not in agreement as to the responsibilities or liabilities of each. To avoid lengthy and expensive litigation, Office of Counsel and District program staff negotiated a Restoration Agreement under which the developer contributed \$500,000 to the District toward restoration of the mining activity and also provided labor and equipment to do the work.

Significant coordination was required on endangered species matters and mitigation, as the property had been reported to be Panther habitat. The restoration earth-work took over two years to complete, since work had to stop during the wet season. Through creative, diligent efforts by District staff, what began as a touchy situation has been transformed into a restoration project significantly above and beyond the simple restoration of flows originally contemplated by the Corkscrew Project for this property.