



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 17, 2009

CONTACT:

Lisa Koehler

[Big Cypress Basin](#)

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (239) 263-7615 ext. 7603 or Cellular: (239) 229-7245

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SFWMD Celebrates Lessons of Xtreme Yard Makeover

One year ago, project demonstrated how to create a Florida-friendly landscape that will save water



Before

After

(Click on [Before](#) and [After](#) for high resolution versions of the images above.)

WHAT:

One year after giving a Naples “yard in need” an Xtreme Yard Makeover, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is celebrating the success of the project and highlighting the water conservation lessons that were learned.

Completed in June 2008, the Xtreme Yard Makeover showed how an unremarkable, water-wasting residential landscape could be transformed into a lush, Florida-friendly landscape that could save its owner time, money and water, while contributing less pollution-laden stormwater runoff to the neighborhood. The District partnered on the demonstration project with the Collier County UF/IFAS Extension Office and more than 35 sponsors, who offered their expertise, supplies and services for the transformation.

The Xtreme Yard Makeover was part of the District's ongoing efforts to create a year-round water conservation ethic that can help protect the water supply from South Florida's weather extremes. Outdoor landscape irrigation accounts for up to half of the 179 gallons used per person per day by South Florida residents – the highest water usage in the state. Florida-friendly yards, such as the one created in the Xtreme Yard Makeover, are low maintenance and require less water and pesticides yet can still provide a plant palette that includes color, diversity and wildlife habitat.

More information on Florida-friendly landscapes and water conservation tips are available at www.savewaterfl.com.

WHEN: Saturday, June 20, 2009

TIME: 9 a.m.

WHERE: 7050 Trail Blvd.
Naples, FL 34108

WHO: SFWMD Governing Board Member Charles Dauray and Big Cypress Basin Director Clarence Tears will discuss the importance of water conservation. Extension Office staff will also attend to discuss the lessons learned from the project.



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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)
The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the

oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.