



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Randy Smith

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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Student Art Projects Designed to Save Water

Judges will pick one of eight decorated rain barrels for use at SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center



(Click on picture for larger version.)

WHAT:

Student art projects, sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), are about to become water conservation features at middle and high schools throughout southern Lee County and at the District's Lower West Coast Service Center.

A panel of five judges, including SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray, will meet Tuesday to select one of the eight student-decorated rain barrels for installation at the service center. Art students painted each of the barrels with images of plants, animals and landscapes that represented the theme of *The South Florida Environment*. The remaining barrels will be returned to the schools where they were designed for use in their landscaping.

All eight rain barrels are currently on display at the SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 24, 2009

TIME: 10 a.m.

WHERE: SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center
2301 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901

WHO: Judges are:

- Charles Dauray, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
- Thomas Becker, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Director, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Warren Bush, Florida Master Naturalist
- Chris Pendleton, Executive Director, Edison-Ford Winter Estates
- Lydia Black, Executive Director, Lee County Alliance for the Arts

CONTACT: Media interested in attending the judging should contact Sally McPherson at (239) 338-2929, ext. 7783, or by e-mail at smcphers@sfwmd.gov.

BACKGROUND: Rain barrels collect and store rainwater that falls on roofs for later use, such as watering plants. The water-saving containers reduce the amount of water needed for landscape irrigation, which accounts for as much as half of the 179 gallons of water used per person per day in South Florida. In addition, rain barrels help prevent stormwater runoff that can affect water quality in rivers, creeks, estuaries and other waterways.

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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.