



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Legacy Program Connects Students to Research at Living Everglades Lab
Students will conduct water quality monitoring as part of SFWMD education program



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: For one day next week, a group of Forest Hill High School students will help South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) scientists monitor water quality at the Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment (LILA). The students will collect water samples for testing and identify aquatic invertebrates as part of the District's new hands-on education program known as Legacy.

The Legacy program connects water resource and environmental education with land management activities. Legacy partners local high schools with public lands managed by the District to provide outdoor learning experiences for teachers and students.

LILA is one of four sites around the 16-county District that is part of the program in 2010-2011. This "living laboratory" is a working 80-acre model of the Everglades ecosystem on the grounds of the Arthur R. Marshall

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. LILA gives experts an opportunity to research and apply restoration techniques on a small, controlled scale before taking them into the 1.7 million-acre Everglades ecosystem.

For more information on the Legacy program, please visit the District's Educational Programs [website](#).

WHEN: Thursday, January 20, 2011

TIME: 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33473

WHO: District staff will join students and teachers from Forest Hill High School's Environmental Science and Technology Academy at this event.

DIRECTIONS:

From Interstate 95 or Florida's Turnpike, exit at Boynton Beach Boulevard and travel west to U.S. Highway 441/State Road 7. Turn left onto U.S. Highway 441/State Road 7 and travel two miles south to Lee Road. Turn right onto Lee Road and continue to the entrance gate.

Members of the media should be prepared for a 1.25-mile roundtrip walk from the Refuge's Visitor Center to the LILA kiosk and macrocosms. No vehicles are permitted within the Refuge gates.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

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.