

# WANTED

Multi-talented, Knowledgeable Team with Ability to Do It All

## Meet the Men of the Ranger Drainage District Field Team

In this newsletter you will read about work that was done by the 'RDD Staff'. So we wanted you to meet the men behind the scenes that make it all happen. You'll find them laying concrete pipe, mowing, spraying herbicides in the canals/lakes/ponds and operating heavy equipment among many other tasks. Their versatility and commitment to do an excellent job for the District are just part of what makes them an asset to our community.

"This is a remarkable team," said Cecil Davis, RDD's General Manager. "This team is led by David Ash, the team's Foreman who has been with us for 3 years and came to the District with 30 years of experience. David's leadership and his team's dedication and skills allow us to do much of the work in-house and save taxpayer money. Their hard work and professionalism make a difference out in the field every day."

What is the most interesting thing to know about the District Field Team? They have no fear of the snakes, alligators and other creatures of nature that inhabit their working environment daily!



STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT:  
David Ash (Foreman)  
Robert Mankovich  
Norman Udstad  
Lewis Greathouse  
Billy Schimansky

KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Ronnie Carver  
Randy Holliday

## ROAD CULVERT PROJECT

### CONTINUED

50 additional pipes were lined in various locations throughout the District under the County roads. This is a cost sharing project between RDD and Orange County. (Work performed by outside contractor).



Pipes Before



Pipes After



Notice in the picture the amount of dirt that was removed from deteriorated pipes under the roads in the city and estate area.



## STAFF GAUGES

Last year we reported that the District staff was in the process of installing Staff Gauges on all major canals (Canals 1-6). These gauges will electronically forward information to the District office reporting the turbidity level, canal elevation and flow of the water. As the water quality discharge standards become more stringent this helps the District mitigate the risk of false claims of improper water quality discharge.



Ranger Drainage District  
19950 Nugent Street  
Orlando, FL 32833

## DID YOU KNOW ???

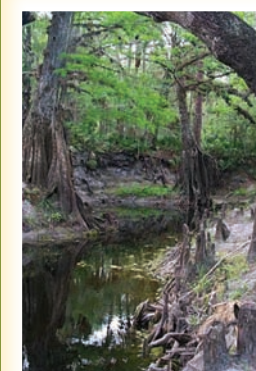
Under the 1981 permit conditions of the Ranger Drainage District, our storm water is collected from 10,000 acres, stored and is eventually discharged into the Econlockhatchee River via 6 major canals.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rule 62 – 302, Florida Administrative Code has designated the entire Econlockhatchee River as an "Outstanding Florida Water". Such waters receive an extraordinary level of water quality protection and other DEP rules prohibit any degradation of existing water quality.

The only applicable exceptions to the DEP non-degradation rules are for permitted stormwater discharges that were permitted before the "Outstanding Florida Water" designation by DEP occurred, or, if a stormwater discharge actually improves water quality in the receiving waters.

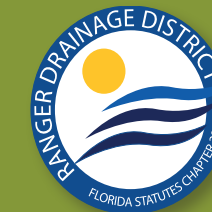
In the case of Ranger, both exceptions apply. The Ranger stormwater system was permitted prior to the 'Outstanding Florida Water' designation. And, more importantly, the water quality within the Ranger system has been monitored and sampled monthly for the past two and half years by an independent environmental engineering company. The lab results of that monitoring conclude that the water quality of the water discharged from the Ranger system actually improves the water quality in the Econlockhatchee River!

In effect, the proper management of the Ranger system and its grandfathered permit status saves Ranger from the cost of providing a thousand acres or more of retention ponds to ensure the DEP non-degradation rule is met by Ranger's stormwater discharges.



## PERMITS

If you are unsure whether or not you need a permit from the District for your upcoming project, please give the office a call and inquire: 407-568-5502.



# Water Matters

Ranger Drainage District Newsletter, Florida Statutes Chapter 298 - Orlando, Fla.

Spring 2012



Welcome from:  
Dave Mauck, President

Dear fellow home & land owners within the Ranger Drainage District,

This is an exciting time for our District and I would like to recognize and thank those who have contributed to our great success. For those who may be new to the community, let me briefly explain the challenges that we faced and then I will simply let the pictures of the results speak for themselves.

The Ranger Drainage District has been faced with the issue of deteriorating infrastructure (pipes and canals mainly) for years that serve as the 'backbone' of our storm water management system. Our approach to dealing with the problem for years was what I refer to as "miracle thinking", which means that a miracle will be required to accomplish the goal. Back then, we decided to spend no money AND wanted the pipes to fix themselves. We continued down the path of limiting funds for proactive work but instead spent big money on emergent repairs. In 2008, two key things happened. First our economy tanked and second, our time was running out on our permits to get our system repaired and restored to original design. We could not simply "kick the can down the road" any longer.

So here is where we are:

- We have held taxes essentially flat during the last 4 years which means that RDD's budget has also been flat.
- In the last 4 years, we have completed work that was originally estimated at \$12-15M, which had been the centerpiece of a controversial bond proposal.
- We are on track to complete additional work that was above and beyond the scope of the "bond" proposal.
- We have completed certification on most projects and have kept critical permits in good standing.
- We have expanded, improved and advanced our working relationships with Federal, state and local authorities related to RDD to a new high standard.
- We have completed most of this work with existing RDD staff in-house or through Orange County/State approved contractors at a much reduced cost.
- We have set new quality standards of work for the District including implementing design upgrades during the repairs.

In summary, we have addressed and completed more work (proactively) in the last 4 years than we have cumulatively in the last 20. We have also completed this milestone with no additional tax burden to the RDD landowners; we have had to get creative considering that raising taxes has not been a consideration in this economy. "How did we do it?" Read on.

Please enjoy the next few pages as we show you the unprecedented results of teamwork, imagination, strategic thinking and honest hard work. Again, special thanks to all that have made this happen. When you see the RDD crews out in Wedgefield, give them a wave of 'Thanks' too.

Dave Mauck



## IN THIS ISSUE

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- > Meet the Field Team
- > How Can You Help?
- > Report on FEMA Project
- > Canal 6 before & after photos
- > 80 acre mitigation agreement
- > **Deadline is June 11th to send in your ballot & VOTE**
- > Annual Meeting & Election is June 13th

The mission of the Ranger Drainage District is to implement the provisions of Chapter 298 Florida Statutes, in a manner that ensures proper storm water management within the boundaries of the District and to operate with a continued commitment to education and outreach to its residents and landowners.

 **Vote Today!**  
Election Ballot Inside



## EASEMENT VACATIONS

It has been our experience that many landowners and title companies are discovering easements on their property. There are 600+ easements within the District that are running through the **MIDDLE** of platted lots. These are multi-purpose easements that include drainage, utilities and transportation interests. Because these easements will never be used by the District for drainage, the drainage portion of these easements have been released (vacated). With the drainage easement vacated, a landowner can then pursue vacation from the other easement interests. If you would like to see if your drainage easement has been vacated please call the District office.

## Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Helps Landowners in RDD

In our newsletter last year we reported the District received a total of \$ 482,486 from FEMA in what we called the FEMA 1 Project. Last summer the District was awarded an additional \$ 75,000 to complete additional work related to FEMA 1. This project improved drainage issues in the city area of the District and was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.

In the fall of 2011, RDD submitted several candidate projects for FEMA consideration that would pro-actively address flooding concerns similar to what was experienced during Hurricane Charlie. RDD was not alone in submitting projects for consideration, in fact, many other special districts and county governments were in the running and the competition for the limited funds was intense. In November, we learned that we had made a short list and in December, the District was awarded \$ 3.9 Million. How did we prevail over other districts and county governments? We were ready to go to work, FEMA was confident in our ability to perform from past projects and the projects identified would make a considerable impact on preparedness.

The list of improvements under FEMA 2 includes work that is required by the St. Johns Water Management District (SJRWMD) as part of our original 16 Permitting Conditions. Included in this will be the excavation of Dallas Lake, which has been permitted for over 20 years without the funding to dig it. This is a substantial savings to the landowners within our District and represents \$3.9M of taxes that will not be collected from the landowners.

A special 'Thanks' to District staff, engineers (IBI Group Inc.), legal counsel (Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.) and accounting (Moore & Company) for the big 'Win' here. The hard work to date and proven performance were key considerations for FEMA in this tough competition.

## Pipes Before



## Pipes After



## CANAL 5

The banks of this canal have been restored and re-sloped. We are currently replacing pipe and control structures. When this is complete we will have installed 1,384 feet of 60" pipe and 16 control structures. We are in hopes of having this canal certified by the end of 2012. All this work was performed by RDD staff as well.



# BALLOT: RANGER DRAINAGE DISTRICT

- To vote for a candidate for Supervisor for a three-year term (term expires in June 2015)

☐ Gus Deautels

☐ Gary Mittan

☐ Abstain

☐ Write-in Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_



- To vote on the issue of compensation to be paid to the Supervisors for District work as permitted pursuant to Florida Statutes and the previously adopted District Compensation Policy (a maximum of \$50.00 a day):

☐ For Supervisors' compensation

☐ Against Supervisors' compensation

☐ Abstain

Enter date of signing: \_\_\_\_\_

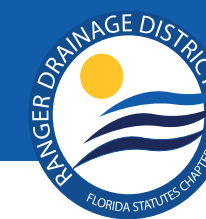
Sign name as it appears on Deed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on Deed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of any co-owner on Deed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the enclosed ballot one of two ways: (1) Mail completed ballot to the District office at 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833 by June 11, 2012 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Ranger Drainage District Office on June 13, 2012.**

## Notice of Election: June 13, 2012



**Annual Meeting & Election: Date:** Wednesday, June 13, 2012 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** Ranger Drainage District Office, 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833

At this meeting, an election will be held to fill one supervisor position on the Board, for a three-year term. All District landowners are entitled and encouraged to vote in the election.

**Please return the enclosed ballot one of two ways: (1) Mail completed ballot to the District office at 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833 by June 11, 2012 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Ranger Drainage District Office on June 13, 2012.**

**For absentee ballots**, please return the completed ballot to the District office no later than June 11, 2012.

This ballot is only effective for the June 2012 election.

### Candidates:

The following candidates are running for the open position on the Board of Supervisors:

#### Gus Desautels:

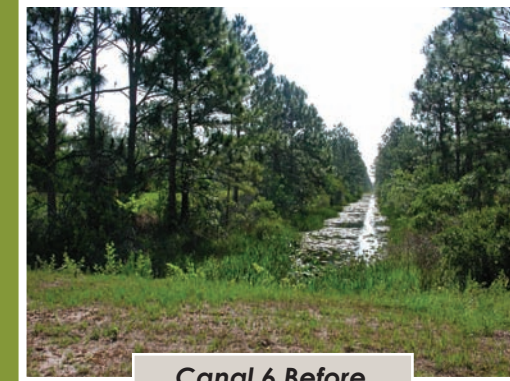
A 24 year Wedgefield resident, retired and lives on a fixed income. Keeping taxes low while maintaining an excellent drainage system is priority. Helped RDD staff obtain a \$3.9 Million FEMA Grant. Receiving this money was a significant savings to us taxpayers. My desire is to continue to serve you.

#### Gary Mittan:

As your voice on the Board of Supervisors, I'll work hard to control costs and spend your tax dollars responsibly. I'll always remember that the district exists for the collective benefit of the landowners, not the management, employees, consultants, contractors or those seeking special treatment at our expense.

## 80 ACRE MITIGATION AGREEMENT

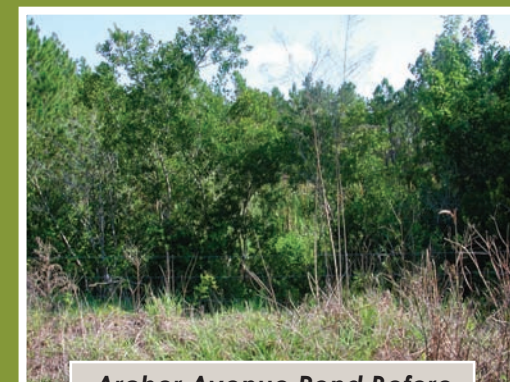
The agreement between the Ranger Drainage District, Orange County and St. Johns River Water Management District is finalized. The 80 acres owned by RDD has been deeded over to Orange County and in return the District now has 4.82 wetland mitigation credits available that can be used for any projects necessary for drainage by the District. We appreciate the great working relationship we have with both Orange County and SJRWMD.



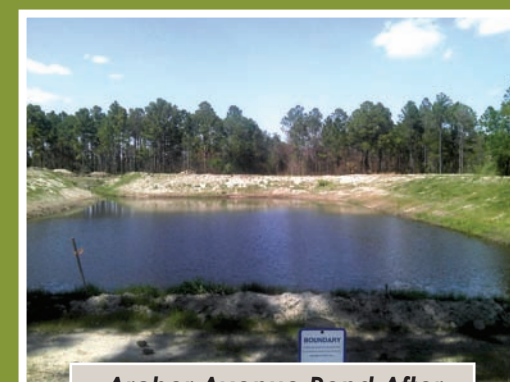
Canal 6 Before



Canal 6 After



Archer Avenue Pond Before



Archer Avenue Pond After

## CANAL 6

To comply with the St. Johns River Water Management District Permitting conditions Canal 6 is complete, certification letter has been submitted to SJRWMD by the District Engineer and Acceptance Letter has been issued by SJRWMD. This completed the 6.8 miles of canal bank shaping, riser barrel replacement and hydro-seeding required. In addition to this the pond at the end of Archer Avenue that receives a lot of run-off from the city area has been cleaned out, deepened, widened and re-sloped. Work was performed by RDD staff.