

SEMINOLE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 1963

SANFORD FLORIDA

During 1963 the Seminole Soil Conservation District made considerable progress towards the fulfilment of our ultimate goal of getting required conservation practices applied on all the land in our district. Our concerted efforts were directed towards providing technical assistance to landowners in developing basic conservation plans and establishing the conservation practices necessary for the conservation of the soil and water resources and for the improvement of agriculture in our District.

The population growth in this district continued to increase very rapidly. Several tracts of farmland and groveland were converted to housing developments and industrial sites. Several new industries moved into our district during 1963, including the HL Hunt plant for processing vegetables. Considerable changes in land use in this district, especially in the Chulouta, Oviedo, Goldenrod, Fern Park, and Forest City areas, are expected to take place during 1964 and 1965. The expected changes are due primarily to the location of the ~~new~~ New University adjoining the South Boundary of this district, The Martin Company, The Space Site at Cape Kennedy, and several Electronic and other industrial companies within this area.

In order to strengthen or be better prepared to cope with existing and expected changes in land uses an up-dated Memorandum of Understanding between was entered into this district and the US Department of Agriculture during February 1963. The Program for our district was also revised during last February to include the providing of technical assistance to Rural Area Developments, Establishment and improvement of Private and Public Recreation Areas, and the use of new or improved methods of applying soil and water conservation practices on the land. Secretary Freeman signed the new memorandum on May 3, 1963.

Another very important accomplishment in our program and ultimate goals was the completion of the field work of the Soil Survey of all the agricultural land in our district. We deeply appreciate the tremendous efforts put forth by Al Furman and Horace "Shorty" White, Soil Scientists with the Soil Conservation Service, in getting the field work of the Soil Survey completed this year. We feel that this accomplishment will greatly speed-up the planning and application of conservation work in the Seminole District. We also feel that the completed soil survey will be very valuable to our local county officials and will greatly benefit all citizens in the district. We are hoping that the final publication of this soil survey will be realized in 1964.

Our District sponsored and promoted Soil Stewardship Week again in 1963. Interest appears to be on the increase in this part of our program as eight churches are known to have participated. We provided and distributed about 50 sets of materials to local churches and church leaders for use in Soil Stewardship week. One thousand program inserts were provided to ~~ixxx~~ four churches that requested them.

Our District again sponsored the public speaking contest and awarded fifty dollars to the top three winners. Don Sipes, FFA Member from Seminole High School, won first place and was awarded \$25.00. The Second place winner received \$15.00 and the third place winner received \$10.00. Seven contestants from three schools participated in the local district contest. Interest in this phase of our program remains very high.

Talks on conservation were made to ten local Garden Clubs and civic organizations. Eight films on conservation were shown to local schools and clubs. Assistance was provided to several school teachers in teaching conservation in their class rooms. Talks and assistance were given to two

Boy Scout Groups and to one Girl Scout Troop on Conservation and the awarding of individual conservation merit badges. Several news articles were written and published in the Sanford Herald and the local Farm Bureau news papers regarding the conservation of our soil and water resources. Ben Wiggins, our local technician, served as President of the Sanford Rotary Club from the first of July 1963 to June 30, 1963.

Ten meetings were held by the Board of Supervisors during 1963. The discussions at these meetings enable us to get a better understanding of existing and anticipated new problems caused by urban and industrial expansion that is taking place in this district and also the better or improved methods of solving our soil and water problems as they arise. We feel that these regular meeting are necessary in order for us to do a satisfactory job of carrying out the district program. An election of supervisors was held in 1963 and Jack Dodd was re-elected and Mr. Mark Bullock was elected to replace Ralph Hammond. Ralph served on the Board of supervisors of this district in varying capacities as member, Vice-chairman, and as chairman for approximately ten years. We feel that Ralph did a commendable job as a supervisor and that the district was greatly benefited from his services during the past ten years. Our re-organizational meeting took place in October during which W.W. Linz was elected chairman, Jack Dodd was elected Vice-chairman, C.A. Wales was elected Secretary & Treasurer, Mark Bullock-member, and Elbert Cammack-member.

Soil Conservation technicians assigned to our district are: Ben Wiggins, the Work Unit Conservationist, and John Winter the conservation engineering technician. Soil Scientists and engineers assigned to the Area office in Orlando was also available and used on a part time basis in this district during 1963.

Other personnel and agencies assisting in carrying out the district program were: Dr. Phil Westgate and Dr. R.V. Forbes at the Central Florida Experiment Station; Cecil Tucker and Ernest Lunberg from the Agricultural Extension service; Raymond McGough-representative of the Farmers Home Administration ( processed applications and made plans for two community water systems within this district); Homer Ballard and Wilber Arp- office managers of ASCS office; Bill West and Don Farrens Vo-ag instructors at local schools; And the local Forest Rangers and the Farm Forester- Terrel Davis.

Some progress was made towards the plugging or capping of abandoned flowing wells in this district. Twelve of these abandoned wells are known to have been plugged by local land owners. There are estimated to be about 500 of these flowing wells in this district that needs capping. We are hoping that county officials and local citizens will provide assistance that will cause these abandoned wells to be capped at a much faster rate each year. We feel this is a serious problem in this district and we will continue to inform the landowners and the citizens of the importance and vital needs for closing these wells.

Considerable progress was made towards our ultimate goal of working out conservation plans and applying needed conservation practices on all land and water resources in this district last year. A total of 31 new cooperators signed agreements with the district for technical assistance in developing farm plans during the year. Thirty-two basic conservation plans were worked out with local cooperators during 1963 and 10 basic plans were revised during the year. The application of conservation practices also made considerable progress during the year. The installation of tile drains to remove excess water from marginal wetland citrus lands increased tremendously in 1963 and the interest in this practice ~~ix~~ appears

to be even greater in 1964. Approximately 60,000 feet of tile drains were installed last year. The application of other conservation practices include the following; 417 acres of conservation cropping systems; 4182 acres of cover crop planting; 700 feet of ditch bank seeding or sodding; 40,000 feet of constructed fire-breaks; 25 Grade stabilization structures; 2554 acres of irrigation water management; 2500 feet of Drainage mains and laterals; 675 acres of pasture planting; 1975 feet of irrigation pipe lines; 60 acres of planted wildlife food areas; and 7 ponds were stocked with bream and bass with local cooperators. Over 200 cooperators applied one or more conservation practices and 531 technical services were provided to local cooperators during 1963. Field investigations of the Wekiva River Watershed were made and the results showed that the primary purpose was to provide flood protection to Urban areas; therefore, Public Law 566 was not the proper authority for rendering Federal assistance on this project.

#### DISTRICT PROGRAM FOR 1964

<u>Activity</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>
Hold Regular Board meetings each month.	Notices by mail.	4th. Wednesday each month.	Secretary
Continue to promote the closing of abandoned flowing wells.	By Demonstrations and Education.	Jan-Dec.	All Supervisors and Technicians
Publicize District Operations.	By; Talks, Showing films, news articles, planned tours and demonstrations.	Jan-Dec.	All Supervisors and Technicians.
Cooperate with local Bankers in the selection of Bankerxxx cooperators for Bankers Awards.	By contact with Bankers and conducted tours of eligible farms.	October	Supervisors & WU Technician.
Participate in the State Soil & Water Speaking contests.	By providing awards and publicity.	April	Supervisors & WU Technician.

Promote and assist in Soil Stewardship Week.	By: Purchasing guides and materials from NASCD and distributing them to ministers and local church leaders.	April-May	Supervisors & WU Technician.
Continue to promote Planning and application of conservation practices on the land.	By: providing technical assistance and guidance to landowners within the district.	Jan-Dec.	All Supervisors & SCS Technicians

MISCELLANEOUS

As of December 31, 1963 our District owned one rotary-type mower valued at approximately \$100.00 and one Martin-Type ditcher valued at approximately \$ 50.00. A small rental fee is charged to the users of this equipment to help pay depreciation and cost of repairs.

The Seminole County Commissioners appropriated \$500.00 towards paying the expenses of running this district in 1963. This appropriation was used for paying district expenses such as: Telephone Bills, Soil Stewardship materials, Awards and educational materials, Signs, district office supplies and stamps, and expenses for supervisors to attend out-of-county meetings.

1963 Annual Report Respectfully Submitted:

*C.A. Wales*  
C.A. Wales, Secretary

*W.W. Linz*  
W.W. Linz, Chairman





1963 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

I. GENERAL

1. Is the District Treasurer bonded? Yes
2. Was an audit of district receipts and disbursements made for 1963? Yes
3. Clerical assistance received -- full-time 0, part-time 0

II. SPEAKING CONTEST

1. Number of schools participating 3
2. Number student contestants 7
3. Estimated number of people hearing speeches 350
4. Amount of prizes awarded \$ 50.00

III. SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

1. Number of churches participating 8
2. Number of sermons delivered on soil stewardship 8
3. Estimated number of people attending services 950
4. Other Program Inserts were used by four churches.

IV. BANKER'S AWARD PROGRAM

1. Number selected for award 0
2. Award made at 0 meeting attendance 0  
(Kind of Meeting)

V. TOURS OR SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

1. Number held 4 attendance 185
2. Purpose To acquaint local cooperators and others with new methods of installing tile drains and other conservation practices in this district,

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Number of conservation pictures displayed in banks, stores, etc. 1
2. Number for fair or special programs 3

VII. DISTRICT PROGRAM

1. Explained to club, school or group (No.) 10 attendance 1100
2. Number of radio programs presented 0 T.V. 0
3. Number of newspaper releases 20
4. Printed district annual report copies distributed 100

VIII. SCOUTS

1. Number of Scout Troops assisted X 3
2. Kind of Assistance Tour and talks about conservation projects and assistance with conservation merit badges.

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES (land judging contest, essay, poster and etc.)

1. What none
2. Results none