

Funding Streams:

Maximizing Your District's Potential

2021 SECDEA Annual Meeting

Pigeon Forge, TN





Funding Streams: Maximizing Your District's Potential

PASSION

For what you're doing

How you're doing it

Driven by your beliefs

"Conservation is everybody's business."

PURPOSE

Specific

Attainable

Measurable



Define, develop and raise support for the types of programs, projects and activities that further your purpose and broaden your reach.

PROJECTS

Fueled by your passion

Defined by your purpose

The means to measurable results

Ag Producer Land 2 Judging Seminars Contests Postel Mobile Irrigation Labs CONSERVATION CHALLENGE Working Group 5 Urban • Suburban • Rural Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District





46

We seek to raise conservation awareness...

...through programs, projects and activities ...

... in urban, suburban, rural and inner-city communities.





3540 East Knights Griffin Road / Plant City / 33565

Another
Hillsborough 100
Conservation Challenge
Action Awareness Project

For more information:
Call Betty Jo Tompkins
813-477-8332
bjt6890@yahoo.com

Event Presenters:

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District
Sustany Foundation

TREE, Inc.

Rotary

Hillsborough County
Conservation and Environmental
Lands Management /
Hillsborough County Sustainability

HCFLGOV.net/Sustainability

* SPOTS LIMITED TO FIRST 200 PRE-REGISTRANTS

- * We have 20,000 longleaf pine seedlings to plant on 80 acres
- * Free commemorative T-shirt (while supplies last) / Refreshments
- * Sign-in throughout the day, starting at 8:30 AM
- * Two shifts available (9AM-12 and 12-3PM) / Carpool if you can
- * Long pants and shirt, hats, and closed-toe shoes recommended
- * Don't forget sunscreen, lip balm, garden gloves and insect spray
- * Students under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult
- * COVID-19 protocols require masks and social-distancing

Visit us online at: HillsboroughSWCD.com | Call: 813-752-1474 Ext. 3

PRINTING COURTESY OF ODIORNE INSURANCE



Let's Plant Some Trees!



















HILLSBOROUGH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In cooperation with

Local Nurserymen presents the:

Fifth Annual Great Plant Auction



Auction begins promptly at 2 p.m.

Hillsborough County Fairgrounds

215 Sydney-Washer Road Dover, FL 33527

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase high-quality plant materials at reasonable prices, grown and donated by local nurseries. All proceeds go to HSWCD youth programs, Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge and agricultural college scholarships.

Available for auction, with preview of plants beginning at noon:

ANNUALS PERENNIALS LANDSCAPE & BUTTERFLY PLANTS

FERNS BUSHES TREE & PLANT NUTRITION ITEMS

Sale Chairman, Roy Davis

Contact: **HSWCD Executive Director Betty Jo Tompkins / 813-477-8332**Email: **bjt6890@yahoo.com /** Thank you for your commitment to conservation and the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District, **"Leading for Tomorrow"**



Sponsored by: Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD)



1st Annual 'Enriching the Environment'

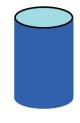
RAIN BARREL DECORATING CONTEST

Contest open to Scouts, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, schools, clubs and other youth organizations

Judging, Display and Silent Auction at the 2021 Hillsborough County Fair*



Contest limited to first 15 group entrants. Each entrant will recieve a free food-grade plastic barrel. Entrants must pick up their barrels at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds on Sat., Aug. 28, from 1-5 p.m. Decorated barrels must be returned Sat., Sept. 18, from 1-5 p.m. Fairgrounds Address: 215 Sydney Washer Road, Dover.



Entrants must complete the "Rainwater Harvesting Workshop" offered by the Hillsborough County Extension Service. Three options are available: Zoom meeting, online PowerPoint presentation, or live workshop. To register, call: Lynn Barber, Florida Friendly Extension Agent, 813-744-5519, Ext. 54105

CASH PRIZES & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

1st PLACE \$200

2nd PLACE \$100

3rd PLACE \$50

HONORABLE MENTION \$25

Entrants can enter their decorated rain barrels into a Silent Auction. Bidding will occur the second weekend of the fair. Sale proceeds for each barrel will be paid directly to the group that creates it. Judging will take place prior to the fair's opening.

*The fair runs Sept. 23 - 26 and Sept. 30 - Oct. 3

RAIN BARREL JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Functionality
- Use of Materials
- Creativity
- Interpretation of Theme

Hillsborough County Fair / Email: HillsboroughCountyFair@verizon.net Visit: HillsboroughCountyFair.com / Call: 813-737-3247



^{*}Rain barrels receiving cash awards will automatically be accepted for display at the HSWCD booth at the 2022 Florida State Fair.





Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Landscape Beautification

Action Awareness Project

Sunday, May 2, 2021 / 10AM to 2PM









13129 St. Francis Lane / Thonotosassa

| Please print | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|
| Full Name: | | |
| Club/Group Name: | | |
| Participant Address: | | |
| Phone: | Email: | Age: |



Your signature below signifies that you hold harmless Hillsborough Soil and Water
Conservation District, Miracles Outreach Center and Hillsborough County 4-H and its participating clubs, from any and all injuries that may occur as a result of your participation.
Also, that the aforementioned organizations can use your photo, name or likeness in any subsequent activity, including for news and promotional reasons.

A parent/guardian signature is required for participants under age 18.

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Parent/Guardian Signature: _

All participants must register ahead of time and sign-in upon arrival. Participation will be capped at 250 participants as we work to ensure safe social distancing. Face coverings are required for all participants at in-person events. Inidividuals at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (including older adults and vulnerable people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) should avoid in-person events and gatherings at this time.

Contact: Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD Executive Director / Call: 813-477-8332

Email: bjt6890@yahoo.com or tompkinsb@hillsboroughcounty.org

Miracles Outreach Contact: Pam Bell / Call: 813-455-9123

Visit: HillsboroughSWCD.com / Office: 813-752-1474, Ext. 3

Those who can, please bring your own gardening tools (rakes, shovels, etc.)





SUPERVISORS

Kathy Eckdahl, Chair Andrew Brooks, Vice Chair Dr. Sonja P. Brookins Treasurer Karen Cox Jaroch, Supervisor Mark Proctor, Supervisor

HSWCD Staff

Betty Jo Tompkins
Executive Director
Stephanie Farmer-Collins
Community Outreach Technician

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Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

201 South Collins Street / Suite 202 / Plant City 33563



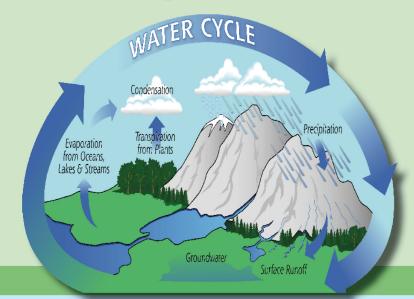
Betty Jo Tompkins 813-477-8332 bjt6890@yahoo.com 813-752-1474, Ext. 3 tompkinsb@hillsboroughcounty.org

Stephanie Farmer-Collins 813-763-2317

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District



Water Cycle Bracelets



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AG-VENTURE / Fall 2021

Florida State Fairgrounds

Visit: HillsboroughSWCD.com "Conservation is everybody's business"

Community Outreach lechnician

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Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

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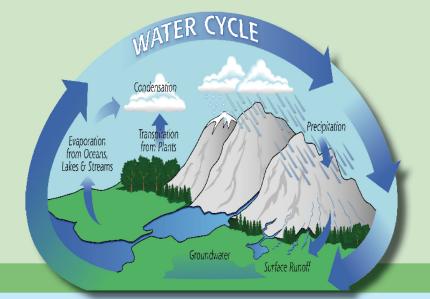
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Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District



Water Cycle Bracelets



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FAIR

Sept. 23 - Oct. 3, 2021 Hillsborough County Fairgrounds

Visit: HillsboroughSWCD.com
"Conservation is everybody's business"

Community Outreach Technician

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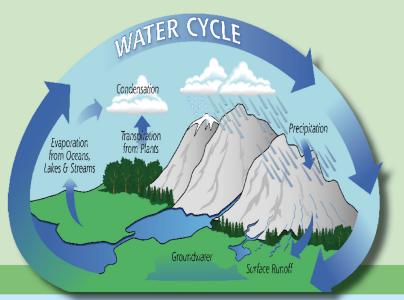
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Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District



Water Cycle Bracelets



GS FEST

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa

Visit: HillsboroughSWCD.com "Conservation is everybody's business"



CLOUDS Clear Bead (Condensation)



PLANTS Green Bead (Storage)



RAIN
Light Blue Bead
(Precipitation)



SOIL Brown Bead (Storage)



Yellow Bead
(Source of Energy)



WATER in Lakes, Rivers, Oceans
Dark Blue Bead
(Storage and Runoff)



WATER VAPOR
White Bead
(Storage and Runoff)

Water Cycle Bracelets

Water on earth is a part of a never-ending cycle called the "water cycle." Water evaporates (becomes gas) from the surface of the earth, condenses in the atmosphere as clouds, falls to earth as precipitation and then evaporates again, starting the whole process over again.

To Build Your Bracelet

Materials

- One pipe cleaner
- Seven plastic beads, different colors (see chart)

Procedures

- Thread the color beads on the pipe cleaner in any order you choose.
- Tie the pipe cleaner around your wrist.
- Rotate the beads around your wrist and as you do, explain the meaning to your classmates, family and friends.

Water Conservation Tips

Every time you use water you are part of the water cycle. Conservation is everybody's business!

- Turn water off while brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Wash only full loads of dishes.
- Water outside plants in early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Wash your vehicle at car washes that recycle water.
- Collect rain water or dehumidifier water to water your plants.



February

Florida State Fair

- Exhibit, Ag Hall of Fame
- Fresh From Florida Breakfast
- Hillsborough Harvested Days
- **Governor's Lunch**
- Ag Woman of the Year
- Ag Hall of Fame Banquet
- Champion of Champions (Youth Awards)



March

Florida Strawberry Festival

Exhibits





October

Hilsborough County Fair



Youth Plant Show



Plant Auction



Educational Exhibit



Barbecue Dinner



October

Hillsborough County Fall Festival



Youth Education



Community Outreach



District Exposure



April / Plant City

Go Green Festival

April / Plant City

Earth Fest

October / Ybor City

Unity in the Community

May / Tampa

Clean Air Fair

November / Balm

Florida Ag Expo

Poster Contests

Ag Venture

Envirothon

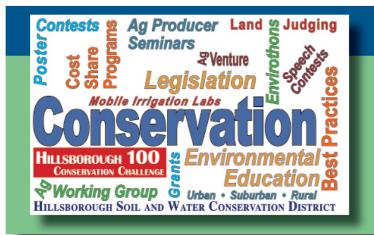
Speech Contest

Photo Contest

YOUTH
EVENTS

Land
Judging
Contest

UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences / Hosted Dinner



Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

2021 Poster Contest

Theme: "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities"

Extended Entry Deadline APRIL 30, 2021

Two contest divsions: Please send submissions and inquiries to:

JUNIOR CATEGORIES:

Kindergarten - 1st Grade 2nd Grade - 3rd Grade 4th Grade - 6th Grade

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$25 2nd Place — \$15 3rd Place — \$10 **SENIOR CATEGORIES:**

7th Grade - 9th Grade 10th Grade - 12th Grade

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$50 2nd Place — \$30 3rd Place — \$20

201 S. Collins St. Suite 202 Plant City, FL 33563

813-752-1474, Ext. 3 or **813-477-8332**

bjt6890@yahoo.com or tompkinsb@ hillsboroughcounty.org



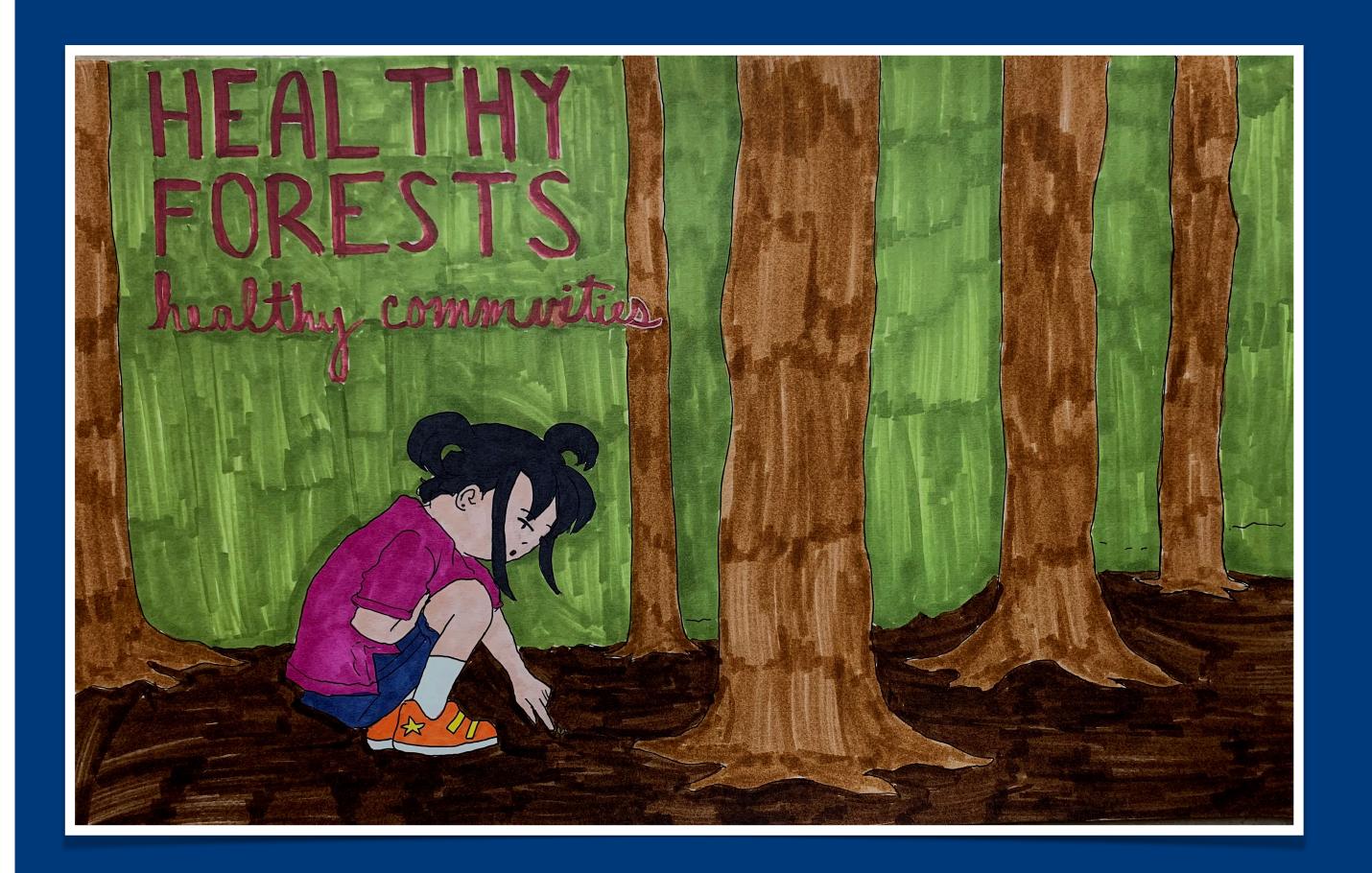
Winning entries advance to area, state and national competitions.

All entries will be displayed at the **2021 Hillsborough County Fair** and other locations.

Your contest entry is good for one free ticket to the county fair!

Thank you to our printing sponsor: **Odiorne Insurance Agency**

National contest presented by: **National Association of Conservation Districts**





2021 HSWCD Summer Poster Contest

Theme: "Why Conservation Matters"

Contest Opens: Tuesday, June 1 NEW DEADLINE: Friday, Sept. 30

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

CONTEST CATEGORIES / PRIZES / SUBMISSION & INQUIRIES

JUNIOR CATEGORIES:

Kindergarten - 1st Grade 2nd Grade - 3rd Grade 4th Grade - 6th Grade PRIZES:

1st Place — \$25 2nd Place — \$15 3rd Place — \$10 Honorable Mention — \$5

SENIOR CATEGORIES:

7th Grade - 9th Grade 10th Grade - 12th Grade

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$50 2nd Place — \$30 3rd Place — \$20 Honorable Mention — \$10

Betty Jo Tompkins, Exec. Dir. 201 S. Collins St., Suite 202

Plant City, FL 33563 813-477-8332 or 813-752-1474, Ext. 3

bjt6890@yahoo.com

Visit us online:

hillsboroughSWCD.com

A Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Action Awareness Project

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CONTEST RULES BELOW TO ENSURE ELIGIBILITY:

RULE 1: All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students. Entry must be the contestant's original work.

Judging Criteria is as follows:

Uses and Reflects Conservation Theme (50 percent), Visual Effectiveness (30 percent), Originality (10 percent), and Universal Appeal (10 percent).



RULE 2: "Why Conservation Matters" (the Summer 2021 Contest Theme) must appear on the front of each poster submission.

RULE 3: The **2021 Poster Contest Registration Form**must be attached to the back of each poster contest entry.

of each poster contest entry.

UPDATED ENTRY DEADLINE:
Friday, Sept. 30, 2021

RULE 4: Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials. Poster size must be 14-inches by 22-inches, which is half the size of a standard poster board. Entries will be displayed at the 2021 Hillsborough County Fair Fall Festival, Oct. 29-31. Each entry receives one free festival ticket.

Visit: HillsboroughSWCD.com

"Conservation Is Everybody's Business"

Thank you to our printing sponsor: Odiorne Insurance





Hillsborough Soil and Water **Conservation District**

2022 Poster Contest

Poster Theme: "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life"

Entry Deadline: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

Two contest divsions:

Please send submissions and inquiries to:

JUNIOR CATEGORIES:

Kindergarten - 1st Grade 2nd Grade - 3rd Grade 4th Grade - 6th Grade **PRIZES:**

> 1st Place — \$25 2nd Place — \$15

3rd Place — \$10

SENIOR CATEGORIES:

7th Grade - 9th Grade 10th Grade - 12th Grade

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$50 2nd Place — \$30 **3rd Place** — \$20

201 S. Collins St. Suite 202 Plant City, FL 33563

813-477-8332 or 813-752-1474, Ext. 3

bjt6890@yahoo.com or tompkinsb@

hillsboroughcounty.org

Winning entries advance to area, state and national competitions.

National Contest sponsored by: **National** Association of Conservation **Districts (NACD)**

Printing courtesy of: **Odiorne Insurance** Agency



All entries will be displayed at the 2022 Hillsborough **County Fair and** other locations.

Your contest entry is good for one free ticket to the Hillsborough **County Fair!**

Visit us online at: HillsboroughSWCD.com



Hillsborough Soil and Water **Conservation District**

2022 Speech Contest

Speech Theme: "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life"

Junior and Senior Contest Entries Accepted Through MARCH 25, 2022

Two contest divsions:

Please send submissions and inquiries to:

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Grades 6 - 8

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$50 2nd Place — \$40

3rd Place — \$30

Also, a \$10 gift card for each non-winning speaker

SENIOR CATEGORY:

Grades 9 - 12

PRIZES:

1st Place — \$100 2nd Place — \$70 **3rd Place** — \$50

Also, a \$10 gift card for each non-winning speaker

Mail to HSWCD at:

201 S. Collins St., Ste. 202 Plant City, FL 33563

> *For more information:* 813-477-8332

Email submissions to:

Betty Jo Tompkins bjt6890@yahoo.com



"Conservation is Everybody's Business"

Visit us online at: HillsboroughSWCD.com

Highest-scoring speaker advances to area competition

Speeches must be original in content typed on doublespaced 8.5x11 paper with 1-inch margins, using standard fonts no greater than 12-point.

Include a cover page with (1) contestant's name, (2) speech title, (3) parent or guardian name, (4) email address, (5) home address, (6) telephone number, and (7) contestant's school name.

The reguired speech-length is 5 to 7 minutes. Point deductions will be given to speeches that fall under or over the required time limits.

Printing courtesy of: Odiorne Insurance Agency



Kiwanis Clubs



Metro Civitan

Political Groups

Lions Clubs Governmental Agencies

Rotary Clubs

Churches

Chambers of Commerce

Community Associations

Passion Purpose Projects

MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

FUNDING STREAMS

- Governmental Bodies
 (Local, State and Federal)
- Grants
- Activities and Events
- Direct Donations / Sponsorships

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 marked the largest U.S. donation level at \$471 billion.

Individuals donated (alive or through bequest) more than 80 percent of the \$471 billion total. Foundations accounted for 15 percent.

Corporations, 5 percent.

Most important thing you can do: BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE What people can give



HSWCD Fifth Annual Great Plant Auction Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021

2021 Great Plant Auction Revenue Reconciliation

Income Raised: \$7,000-plus

Planned Distribution of Funds:

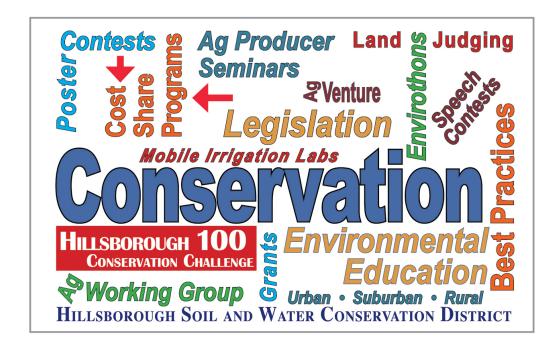
| Mike Hepburn Scholarship | \$1,000 |
|---|---------|
| Roy Davis Scholarship | \$1,000 |
| Four mini-grants (\$250 each) for youth groups for projects related to horticulture (garden expansion, judging contests, other programs). | \$1,000 |
| 2022 Hillsborough County Fair Rain Barrel Contest sponsorship | \$750 |
| 2022 Hillsborough County Fair Youth Plant Show sponsorship | \$500 |
| 2022 HSWCD Land Judging Contest, partial funding | \$400 |
| 2022 HSWCD Envirothon, partial funding | \$400 |
| Educational supplies for youth activities at fairs, festivals, Ag Venture, school events, etc. | \$750 |
| Reserve for potential new programs, projects and activities for 2021-2022 | \$1,200 |
| TOTAL | \$7,000 |



Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

In cooperation with

Area Nurserymen and Growers



Plant & Allied Articles Live Auction

SALE ORDER



5th Annual Great Plant Auction
Hillsborough County Fair / Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021

HSWCD / 201 S. Collins St. / Suite 202 / Plant City | Call: 813-477-8332



HSWCD Fifth Annual Great Plant Auction Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021

Special thanks to our 2021 Donors and Sponsors

| AR Nursery | Alafia Tropical Foliage | All American Lawn & Tree Specialist |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anonymous Donor | Beautiful Plants by Charlie | Butler Tree Farm |
| Cruz Nursery | Roy Davis | Diamond R. Fertilizer Co. |
| Duggal and Sons Farm | ELM Land Management | Emerald Hill Nursery |
| Everglades Equipment Group | Exotica Plumeria | Fancy Farms — Grooms Family |
| Fernando's Nursery | Florida Natives Nursery | Florida Wholesale Growers |
| Forbes Road Produce | Grove Equipment Service | Hand Grown Nursery |
| Harrell's Liner Farm and Nursery | Harris Citrus Nursery | Hillsborough County Fair |
| Holmberg Farms | J&R Nursery | James Irrigation Supply |
| Kerby's Nursery & Landscaping | Laurel Oaks Nursery & Tree Farm | M&J Nursery |
| Mid-Florida Nurseries | The Mosaic Company | 1D Tree Farm, Inc. |
| Pine Lake Nursery | Pro Growers, LLC | R&L Nursery |
| Roberts Nursery | Speedling, Inc. | Staggs Nursery & Tree Service |
| Stardust Farms | Sun City Tree Farm | Suncoast Plant Nursery |
| TWC Irrigation | Tampa Nursery & Garden Center | 3 Seasons Growers |
| Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD | Tree Mart, Inc. | Woodard Nursery |

Special Thanks to Our Cooperating Partners

Special Thanks to Our Cooperating Partners





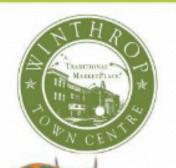






































C40E

































































































































Scotts Miracle Gro



Association of Florida Conservation Districts









Progress Village Community Garden

Sulfur Spring Community Garden

· Seeds of Faith Community Garden at Bay Life Church

Tampa Bay Community Garden at St Mary's Ethiopian Church







Blueberry Farm





































ONRCS



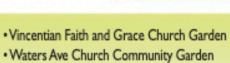








- Apollo Beach Community Garden · Faith Lutheran GIFT Garden Center
- Apollo Beach Community Food, Forest & Garden
- Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Community Garden Hope Community Garden
- Plant City Commons Community Garden University Area Community Garden



 Wellswood Community Garden YBOR Street Community Garden

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Belongs to and proudly supports:

- Association of Florida Conservation Districts
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Fresh From Florida
- FFA | 4-H | Scouts
- Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce
- Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

- Coalition of Community Gardens
- Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association
- Florida State Beekeepers Association
- Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame
- Hillsborough County Farm Bureau
- Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- T.R.E.E., Inc. Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort, Inc.
- Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- Florida Conservation District Employees Association (FCDEA)

Together We Make A Difference



ou hear it all the time, "Food costs too much, my grocery bill just keeps going up." Yet, as strange as it may seem, individuals in the United States actually pay a lower percentage of their income toward food than any other country. It's estimated that 6.4% of U.S. income goes to food purchases, with Singapore (6.7%), Switzerland (8.7%), the U.K. (8.2%) and Canada (9.1%) rounding out the lowest

While a number of European countries spend between 10 and 20% of their income on buying food, the figure jumps considerably when countries such as Mexico (24.1%), China (33.9%) and India (35.8%) are considered. Yet shockingly, in countries such as Pakistan and Nigeria between 40 and 50% of income goes for food. This doesn't mean that food in Nigeria is more expensive than in the U.S., but rather the opposite. But in the United States available food is of the highest quality and largest variety possible.

The fact is U.S. residents in the 1950's weren't as fortunate as they spent almost double today's income percentage on food. But the comparison doesn't end there. In 1950 approximately 12.2% of the labor force was engaged in farming, while today that figure is only 2%. While the percentage of farmers has gone down, individual production by farmers has risen from feeding 15.5 people per farmer in 1950 to feeding over 168 people today.

Farmers and ranchers receive only 16 cents of every dollar spent on food bought at home and away. The additional costs are represented by distribution, processing and preparation. The challenge for farmers doesn't end there. With a burgeoning world population it's estimated that agricultural production must grow by 70% in the next 40 years to avoid massive food shortages.

Thanks to modern technology, the future appears bright for agriculture. Well-educated farmers use everything from computer chips on cows to determine food ratios, to drones in the field to review crop issues. This, in addition to research conducted by land grant universities throughout the country, provides today's farmers with the best tools to tackle tomorrow's agricultural challenges.

The next time you enter a supermarket, take a look around and realize that you're able to choose among about 40,000 items. Then maybe you just might want to "Hug a Farmer."

Hillsborough 100 Kickoff Supporters

When the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge kicked off June 14, 2016, interest was high among government, business, and community interests, whose representatives were among the first to commit to the challenge. Organizers used their interest to spread the word and to grow the list of participants.

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Hillsborough County Extension Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service (United States Department of Conservation)

Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County Ag In The Classroom (Ag-Venture)

Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation Hillsborough County Farm Bureau

Hillsborough County Fair

Florida State Fair Authority

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Hillsborough County Commissioner Stacy White http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/board-of-county-commissioners/ stacy-white

Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee Hillsborough Community College (Brandon campus)

The Community Roundtable (Brandon)

Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association (Brandon)

Florida Strawberry Growers Association

Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon

Rotary Club of FishHawk-Riverview

Rotary Club of Brandon South Rotary Club of NewTampa

Rotary Club of Sun City Center

Rotary Club of SouthBay After Hours

Tampa Metro Civitan

Brandon Lions Club

Greater Brandon Republican Club

4-H Clubs

Working Group & Urben - Suburben - Rural

Boy Scouts FFA Chapters and Federation

Florida Native Plant Society, Suncoast Chapter

Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce http://www.brandonchamber.com

Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce

Greater Seffner Chamber of Commerce

Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce

Blue Thong Society **NAUI Green Diver Initiative**

Busch Gardens

Odiorne Insurance Agency American Legion Auxiliary

Lipman Family Farms

Ag Producer Land 2 Judging

The Southern Peach Company

Fancy Farms

Trees, Inc. (Plant City)

M&B Products Blues Berry Farms

Wish Farms

Brandon Auto Salvage

Tampa BayTimes





Buy a Hive Members of the Greater Brandon Republican Club have

become the first participants in the Hillsborough Soil and

Did You Know?

That Honey Bees aren't native to America and

were brought here by European

That the honey bee colony consists of one

Queen, drones and worker bees?

That the Queen bee is

within the colony?

80 thousand bees?

the mother of all bees

That in peak season a

beehive consists of 60 to

That out of over 20,000 species of bees, only seven

species are recognized as honey

That the study of bees is known as melittology?

That bees fly an equiva-lent of 48,000 miles to

collect the nectar required to

produce a quart of honey?

Water Conservation District's newest project, "Be a Honey, Buy a Hive"."The project's goal will be to secure 100 organizations and sor a beehive within Hillsborough County between April 2017 and April 2018.

According to Club President Melissa Jackson, "This project seemed like a natural to

support conservation efforts. Honey bees are essential to the overall health of our environment in so many ways and without pollination many of the foods we enjoy would cease to exist."

The District selected this project to bring a greater awareness to the importance of a healthy bee population, with approximately one-third of the food Americans eat being directly or indirectly derived from honey bee pollination. Crops pollinated by bees nclude almonds, apples, apricots, avocados, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, cranberries, cucumbers, kiwi, pears and plums, among others.

Bee hives will be placed in community gardens and other Hillsborough

ocations. Besides helping the environment, hive sponsors will receive a "sweet treat" during the year. The hives make a perfect gift to honor someone special for Valentine's Day or other occasions.

Further information on this project may be obtained from the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District by calling 752-1474 Extension 3 or stopping by the offices at 201 South Collins Street, Suite 202, Plant City, Florida 33563.

Remember, donations of goods and services can be just as valuable as gifts of money.

Strawberry U-Pick

SAT, Feb. 27 / 9 AM to 4 PM



Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

\$1per quart in U-pick containers

For every 10 containers purchased two free will be offered. On-site containers only.

Wear gloves, face masks & respect social-distancing.

Call: Betty Jo Tompkins / 813-477-8332



Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Blueberry U-Pick

SAT / May 22, 2021 / 9am-3pm



\$20 per bucket (holds 6 plus pounds)

Pick fresh blueberries perfect for breakfast through dessert, including smoothies, salads, shakes and cobblers!

We'll follow current COVID-19 rules / HillsboroughSWCD.com

Betty Jo Tompkins / 813-477-8332 / bjt6890@yahoo.com



NACD 2022 Annual Meeting Tour

Fun At The Florida State Fair!

Tour Date: Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022

\$75 per person includes lunch & refreshments / Maximum 100 guests







Join the fabulous fun at the **FLORIDA STATE FAIR!** This tour offers a kaleidoscope of colors and a cacophony of sounds at one of the south's largest state fairs. Who doesn't love a fair, with its **LINEUP OF EVENTS** designed to enhance the young and young-atheart, including contests, exhibits, entertainment, animals, midway rides and a delectable display of **FANTASTIC FAIR FOOD**. You'll get a behind-the-scenes peak at what makes this one of the Sunshine State's top events, as well as enjoy some special surprises. And you're sure to find your **FUN IN THE SUN** during your afternoon at the fair.

Presented by: Association of Florida Conservsation Districts and the Florida Conservation Districts Employees Association

NACD 2022 Annual Meeting Tour

It's Strawberry Sensation Time!

Tour Date: Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022

\$75 per person includes lunch & refreshments / Maximum 100 guests



Like rubies in an emerald field, here's your chance to explore the gems that make **PLANT CITY** the world-renowned **WINTER STRAWBERRY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.** Meet the Grooms family, owners of **FANCY FARMS**, and learn the inside tricks of strawbery production, enjoy fabulous strawberry treats and try your hand at picking some ripe and juicy **GEMS OF YOUR OWN**.



Featuring LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE as well as STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES, SHAKES, BREAD and COOKIES, the Grooms intertwine agriculture, agricultural education and agritourism at their family-owned Fancy Farms. Their goal is to ensure every visitor leaves not only with some delicious fruit, but also with a true appreciation of the family's passion for agriculture and supporting their community.



recipes rule the day.

Presented by:

Association of Florida Conservsation Districts

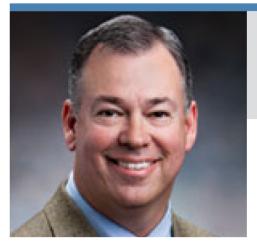
Florida Conservation Districts Employees Association

Florida Conservation District Employees Association



FCDEA 2021 Annual Meeting / Sept. 8-10 Presentation Speakers and Bios

Please note: Each presentation will end with an opportunity for discussion.



Brian WestSouthwest Florida Community Relations Manger
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Skilled in nonprofit organizations, event planning and coordination, customer service, video, and writing, Brian West is a consummate media and communication professional with a bachelor of science (BS) degree in human resources management, with a minor in finance from Florida Southern College. Founded in 1930 by George Jenkins, Publix was the first supermarket

in the nation to be completely air-conditioned and the first to introduce the shopping cart replacement to the hand-carried basket. Innovation is key at Publix and so too is charitable giving. Jenkins in 1966 established a foundation to support a variety of nonprofit organizations doing great things in their communities. Today, Pubix Super Market Charities donates millions of dollars annually to nonprofits in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, where Publix has operations.

Contact information: 863-688-1188, Ext. 63486 / Email: brian.west@publix.com

Zoom Presentation / 3:45-4:30 p.m. / Corporate Charitable Giving



Nancy Rieves, Ed.D.
Founder and President
Fundraising Maximized®

Nancy Rieves is a fundraising coach and the creator of Fundraising Maximized® - Your Ultimate Guide to Major Gift Fundraising, which gives executive and development directors a roadmap to use to raise more money through major gifts. Her proven step-by-step process removes the overwhelm and guides nonprofit leaders to become more confident and successful

fundraisers. In her 10-year tenure as founding executive director of an education-related foundation, Rieves guided a development team that raised more than \$16 million through major gifts. She knows what it's like to start from square one and then to raise millions. In writing her doctorate dissertation on analyzing fundraising activities, Nancy's biggest discovery from her research was revealing — that too many nonprofits focus on small revenue-generating activities. Her aim today is to teach others the steps to securing major gifts. Email: nancy@nancyrieves.com / For a fundraising template, visit: FundraisingMaximized.com/yes

Zoom Presentation / 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. / Fundraising Maximized

Florida Conservation District Employees Association



FCDEA 2021 Annual Meeting / Sept. 8-10 Presentation Speakers and Bios

Please note: Each presentation will end with an opportunity for discussion.



Candice Abinanti

NACD Southeast Region Representative
(North Carolina)

Prior to her work with the National Association of Conservation Districts, Candice Abinanti served with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency for more than 10 years, advancing risk resilience both domestically and internationally through partnerships and programs. In the Southeast, she also managed grantmaking and partnerships

with regional boards at Foundation For The Carolinas, one of the largest community foundations in the country. Abinanti earned her master's degree in sustainable development from the School for International Training while living in Sri Lanka following the Indian Ocean tsunami. She also holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and international relations from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. She lives in Charlotte, N.C. with her husband and two children.

Contact information: 803-579-7230 / Email: candice-abinanti@nacdnet.org

Zoom Presentation / 2-3 p.m. / Video Presentation: NACD Programs, Projects and Activities



Dr. Ariel Rivers, Ph.D.NACD Urban Conservation Staff Lead

Pacific Region Representative (California)

Dr. Ariel Rivers holds a dual-title doctorate in entomology and international agriculture and development, and is broadly trained across the agricultural sciences. She served as the Program Manager for the Global Locust Initiative (GLI), an effort housed at ASU with the intent of enabling innovative advances in locust research and management by promoting interdisciplinary

systems- and solutions-oriented approaches. Most recently, Dr. Rivers worked as the Postharvest Coordinator for Latin America at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), designing research methodologies for studying grain storage with smallholder farmers, coordinating postharvest research in Mexico and Guatemala, and training farm advisors on postharvest practices. While at CIMMYT, Dr. Rivers had the opportunity to learn from a variety of collaborators.

Contact information: 925-290-8925 / Email: ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org

Zoom Presentation / 3-3:45 p.m. / NACD Urban and Community Grant Program and Monthly Webinars

Publix Community Relations Specialists



Corporate
DWAINE STEVENS
Director of Community Relations
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Lakeland, FL 33802-0407
(863) 688-1188, ext. 58981
dwaine.stevens@publix.com Dwaine Stevens





Southeast Florida ROBYN HANKERSON Community Relations Manager P.O. Box 699030 Miami, FL 33269-9030 (305) 652-2411, ext. 71378 robyn.hankerson@publix.com





Southwest Florida
BRIAN WEST

Community Relations Manager
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brian.west@publix.com





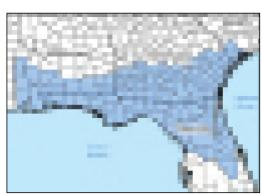
Orlando, Northern FL, FL Panhandle, Southern GA
Southern AL, Hilton Head and Beaufort SC
CHRIS NORBERG

CHRIS NORBERG

Community Relations Manager
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Alabama / Georgia BRENDA REID

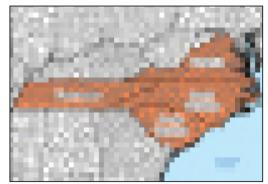
Community Relations Manager 2600 Delk Road Marietta, GA 30067-6202 (770) 952-6601, ext. 31677 brenda.reid@publix.com





North Carolina / South Carolina / Virginia Aiken-Augusta, Georgia / Tennessee KIMBERLY REYNOLDS

Community Relations Manager 4135 South Stream Blvd., Suite 500 Charlotte, NC 28217 (704) 424-5017, ext. 71051 kimberly.reynolds@publix.com



Grants — What's Not To Like?

Essential Tips To Keep In Mind...

BEFORE YOU DIG IN...

- Follow directions carefully.
- Read the guidelines carefully. Make sure your request is a good fit.
- If grant requires matching funds, can you secure the money?
- Review how the money will be distributed.

YOUR NEXT STEPS...

- Review your submission and make sure to add all the attachments, including letters of support.
- ► After one more final check SUBMIT!
- Expect the process to take 6-12 months.

FINALLY...

- Don't be disappointed if you're not selected.
- If selected, make sure you keep accurate records and meet reporting deadlines.

Grants — Getting Started

Tips for the Writing Process

SMART Guide to Grant-Writing





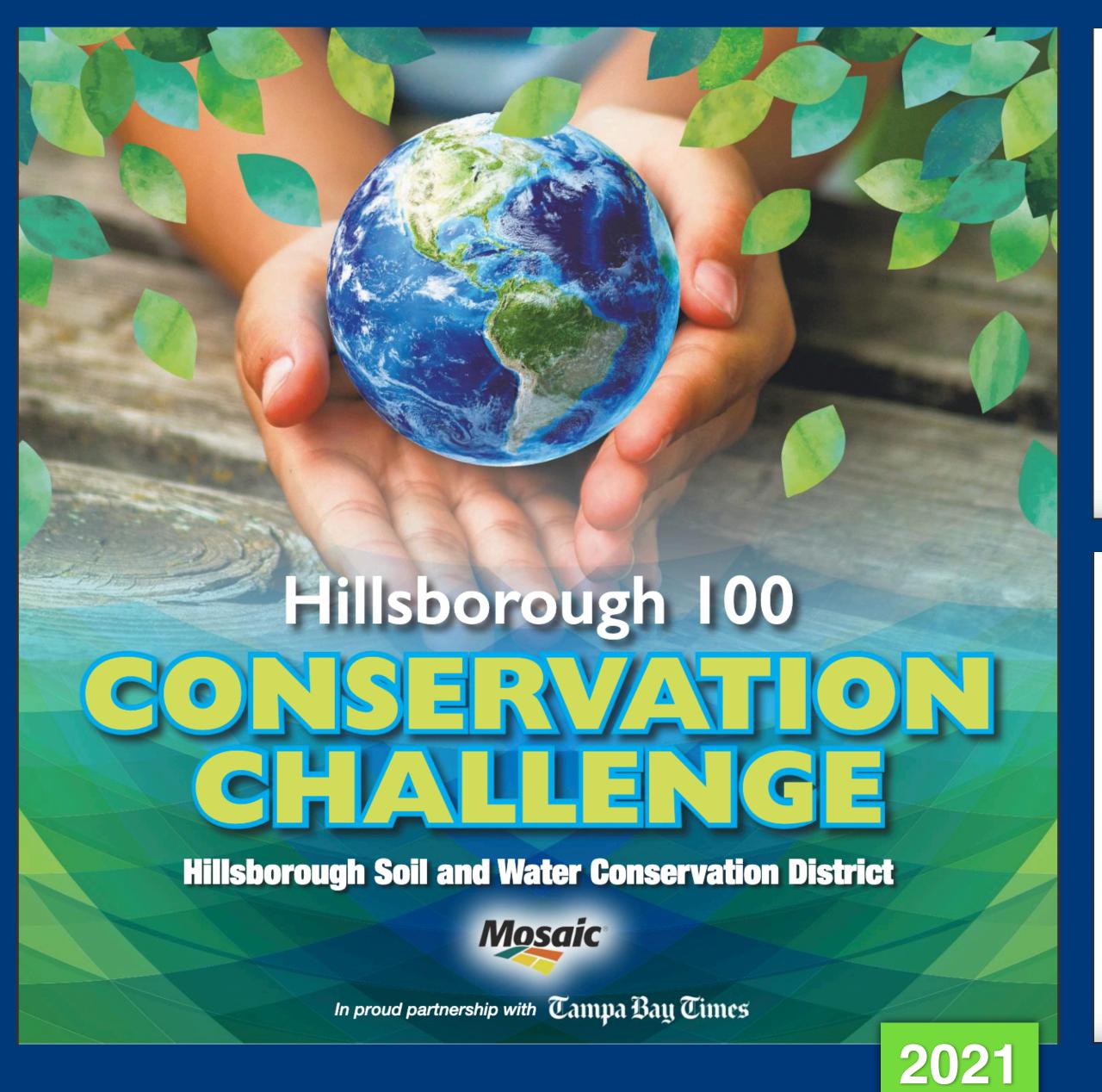


GOAL:

To create and establish an integrated program that brings enhanced conservation awareness and education to individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic groups throughout Hillsborough County and beyond.

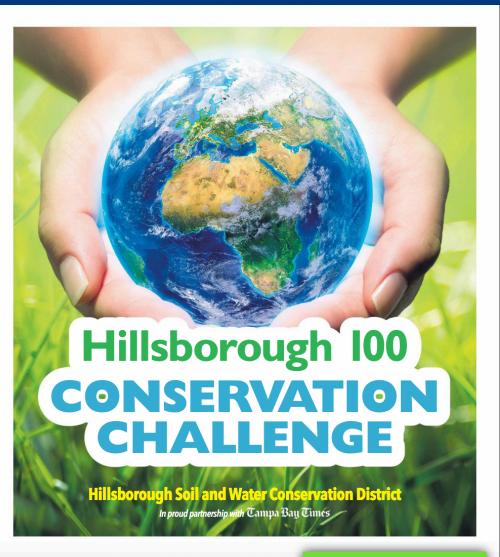


The ambitious Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge — launched in 2017 and now an annual event — culminates in a broad array of Action Awareness projects and initiatives.





Annual Hillsborough 100 Tabloid





HILLSBOROUGH 100 PROJECTS

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID restrictions, many groups and schools have had to postpone their projects until later in 2021. These include over 40 middle and high schools in the Lipman Garden Challenge, as well as the following: Boy Scouts, Brownies, Chambers of Commerce, 4-H Clubs, FFA, Girl Scouts, Interact, Leos, Lions, Rotoract, Veterans Groups and others. For projects listed below please confirm all events to be sure that dates and times have not changed.

Ag-Venture When: During Florida State Fair April 22- May 02, 2021

Where: Florida State Fairgrounds 4800 US-301, Tampa, FL 33610 Hands-on (this year hands-off) learning experience for fair goers. Guests will be making butter, planting seeds, finding DNA from a strawberry and learning about the forestry, beef, horticulture and poultry industries, plus lots more! Located in the front of the AG HALL OF FAME building, and all activities are free for fairgoers. Come and visit Ag-Venture at the Florida state Fair!!

PROTECTING

Alafia Republican Club -Community Clean-up Campaign When: Sat., April 24, 2021 8:30 AM Where: Lumsden Rd in Brandon,

from Kings Ave. to Providence Rd. Join area organizations to help clean-up the community. For further information: Jeff Lukens (813) 404-5940

Alafia River State Park -

Friends of the Alafia Workday When: Sat., Apr. 24, 2021 9AM - 1PM Where: Alafia River State Park, 14326 South County Road 39, Lithia, 33547

NATURAL RESOURCES

This workday will consist of hand

pulling invasive species such as Caesar's weed and rattle box. Registration is necessary and there will be a limit of 50 participants. Because of the space limit, this workday may be extended to include April 25th. Contact the Ranger Station: (813) 672.5320 or Cortney.Nott@FloridaDEP.gov

Alafia River State Park -Park Planting Day

When: Saturday, May 8, 2021 9AM - 1PM Where: Alafia River State Park, 14326 South County Road 39, Lithia, 33547

Planting will consist primarily of wire grass plugs (Aristida stricta), as well as some Beauty Berry, Tickseed, Blazing Star and Muhly grass. Registration is necessary, limit to first 50 participants. Plant donations accepted. Contact the Ranger Station: (813) 672.5320 or Cortney. Nott@FloridaDEP.gov

Alianza for Progress -Online Workshop

When: Between April 17 & May 9, 2021 during the Hillsborough 100. Alianza for Progress will present an online workshop to discuss environmental justice issues For further information contact: (787) 460.1247

SINCE 1967

bird sanctuary.

Civic Association When: Saturday May 1, 2021 10 AM Where: 619 Vonderburg Dr. Suite B, Brandon, FL 33511 Cleanup of the grounds and area around Center Place Fine Arts and

City of Tampa Water Department - Community Water Wise Awards

When: Annually; Visit: www. awards.tampabaywaterwise.org The City of Tampa has partnered with Tampa Bay Water and UF/ IFAS since 1998 to promote "Florida Friendly Landscaping" to help residents achieve the water-saving benefits that come from being Florida Friendly and Water Wise. Awards are presented in residential and commercial/multi-family/schools/government categories. Winning landscapes follow the nine principles of FFL: right plant, right place; water efficiently; fertilize appropriately; mulch; attract wildlife; manage yard pests; recycle;

Brandon Auto Services -**Battery Recycling**

When: Monday - Friday between April 19 & May 7, 2021 8AM - 5PM Where: 3159 East State Road 60, Valrico, Florida 33594

Conveniently recycle your auto battery and help preserve the planet!! For further information call: (813) 689.8131

Brandon Ladies of the Elks -Spring Brunch "Flowers and Butterflies"

When: Sat., April 24, 2021 11AM Where: 800 Centennial Lodge Drive, Brandon, Florida 33510 Join the Brandon Ladies of the Elks for a wonderful Spring brunch, featuring a program on butterflies and gardening. Just \$15.00 (Tickets must be purchased in advance). Proceeds fund children's needs. Information and tickets available: (813) 685.6469

BridgePrep Academy of Tampa on Swann Ave

When : Throughout the school year BridgePrep Academy of Tampa does a variety of conservation projects throughout the school year. Their projects range from working with oysters, and beach cleanup to helping out at a

Center Place Fine Arts and

Civic Assoc. and the lake. Questions? Call (813) 685-8888

reduce stormwater runoff; protect the waterfront.

City of Tampa Water Department - Drop Savers Poster

When: Annually; Visit: https:// www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/ residents/property-owners-andrenters/water-and-sewer/

drop-savers-postercontest The Annual Drop Savers Poster Contest is a fun opportunity for Hillsborough County students to showcase their creative skills while illustrating the importance of water conservation in their daily lives. Sponsored by the Tampa Water Department and Hillsborough County Public Utilities, the competition is divided into 5 grade divisions and are judged on water conservation theme and artistic ability.

Coalition of Community Gardens – Healthy 22ND Street Initiative

When: Saturday, April 24, 2021 11AM - 2PM Where: Healthy 22nd Street Demonstration Garden on the west side of 22nd Street between Chelsea and Osborne in

Everyone is invited to enjoy a variety of gardening, health, earth friendly information, demonstrations and home gardening tips at this FREE Earth Day Celebration, Receive a FREE summer HOME GARDENING KIT!! .No registration necessary. Other activities at community gardens are available by contacting the gardens directly. Information available in Community Gardens article elsewhere in this

Coalition of Community Gardens - Grow Gardens Conference

publication.

When: June 5, 2021 Offered in virtual format for 2021. The annual Grow Gardens Conference

topics include presenting models of community gardens, health benefits of community gardens and moving the needle forward in urban agriculture policy. Details available: www.communitygardenstb.org

Composting - learn how to turn trash into treasure!

When: Thursday May 13, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM Thursday, May 13th 11 AM - 12 PM Item pickup by Hillsborough County Attendees Saturday, May 15th from 12 to 2 PM at the Hillsborough County Extension Office or by special arrangements.

To turn trash into treasure! Hillsborough County residents will receive a compost bin, compost bucket and thermometer after attending the VIRTUAL workshop.

(1 per household and the representative of the household must be an adult.) Product pick-up on Saturday, May 15, 2021 between 12 - 2 pm or by special arrangement. UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584. Questions? Call 813-744-5519. There is a non-refundable \$5.00 registration fee per workshop/household. https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/composting-workshop-tickets-145905710909

Gardening With A Purpose When: Saturday May 08, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM 10 AM - 2 PM

Closed captioned for the hearing

impaired.

FREE virtual event offered to HILLS-BOROUGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY. Topics will include: Native and Companion Plants, Soil Basics, Edible Gardening, Wildlife and Managing Yard Pests Responsibly. Ask guestions and receive research-based answers from our landscaping and gardening experts. Questions? Call UF/IFAS Extension 813-744-5519 Registration is required https://www. eventbrite.com/e/ffl-101-gardeningwith-purpose-tickets-145984961951 Closed captioned for the hearing

Herbs and Patio Micro-irrigation

When: Saturday May 08, 2021 9 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM Saturday May 8th 9 AM - 10 AM Pickup by attendees from 12 Noon to 2 PM the SAME DAY at the Hillsborough County Extension Office HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

Learn how to grow herbs with the convenience of a patio micro-irrigation kit. Hillsborough County residents will receive one patio micro-irrigation kit and up to 5 herb plants after attending the workshop. Items provided are per household. Item pick-up 12- 2 pm May 8 as a drive-through at Extension's parking lot. UF/IFAS Extension 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584. Questions? Call UF/IFAS Extension 813-744-5519. \$5 fee per household and registration is required. Registration: https://www.eventbrite. com/e/herbs-and-patio-microirrigation-tickets-145935207133 Closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Hillsborough County Fair -Community Clean-up Day When: Saturday, April 17, 2021 8AM to Noon

Where: 215 Sydney Washer Road, Dover, Florida 33527 Join fair staff and volunteers in a morning clean-up project in preparation for the 2021 Fair opening

September 23rd. Volunteers will help with weed removal, picking up leaves and limbs from around the grounds, minor repairs and even some tractor work. For further information call: (813) 737.FAIR, https://hillsboroughcounty-

Hillsborough County Soil and Water Conservation District

1. 20,0000 Tree Planting! 200 volunteers needed! Sponsored By: Hillsborough Soil &

Water Conservation District, Sustany Foundation, Tree Inc, Brandon South Global Rotary, Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management

When: Sat. June 12, 2021 9AM-3 PM Registration by June 4th Required Where: 3540 East Knights Griffin Road Plant City, FL 33565 (Lower Green Swamp Preserve) We have 20,000 longleaf pine

- seedlings to plant on 80 acres Free commemorative T-shirt (while supplies last) / Refreshments
- COVID-19 protocols require masks and social-distancing Registration: email bit6890@vahoo. com 813 477-8332
- 2. Booth Come Visit! Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District When: Florida State Fair - Ag Hall

of Fame April 22 - May 02, 2021 Where: Florida State Fairgrounds 4800 US-301, Tampa

Come visit the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District Booth at the Florida State Fair. Variety of brochures & other information available.

3.Local Working Group Meeting Hills. Soil and Water Conservation District/ NRCS When: May 27, 2021 3 PM - 5:30 PM Where: Florida Strawberry Growers Assn Meeting Room 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road

Dover, FL 33527

Local Working Group meeting. Opportunity to help set priorities for National Resource Conservation in the coming years. Open to agricultural operators, affiliates, and the public. Questions: Email HSWCD Exec. Director Betty Jo Tompkins bjt6890@yahoo.com

4. Tree Planting at County Park to honor HSWCD Chairman Mark Hepburn (passed away March 19, 2021) When & Where - Details available on the Hills. Soil and Water Conservation District website www.hillsboroughswcd.com

5. Youth POSTER Contest-Hillsborough Soil and Water

Conservation District When: Entry Deadline Friday April 30, 2021

Poster contest open to youth from Kindergarten to 12th grade. This year's theme is Healthy Forests Healthy Communities. For details and forms: Email Betty Jo Tompkins Executive Director bit6890@yahoo.com or Stephanie Collins - Community Outreach Tech stephanieC1776@gmail.com

6. Youth SPEECH Contest -Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District When: Entry Deadline Friday April 30, 2021

Speech contest open to youth from 6th to 12th grade. Speech must be 5 to 7 minutes long. This year's theme is Healthy Forests Healthy Communities. For details and forms: Email Betty Jo Tompkins Executive Director bjt6890@yahoo.com or Stephanie Collins - Community Outreach Tech stephanieC1776@gmail.com

Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon - Community Clean-up Campaign When: Saturday, April 24, 2021

8:30 AM Where: Kings Avenue in Brandon, from State Road 60 to Lumsden Road

Join area organizations to help clean-

up the community. For further information: David Hill (813) 625.1433

When: Sat. April 24, 2021 10:30AM

Ladybug Release Party Plus Other Fun Activities

Where: In Person Event -Full Grown Girl Plant Shop 11292 Sullivan Street Riverview, Florida 33578 Meet us under the big oak tree right next to the Full Grown Girl Plant Shop in the Winthrop Town Center, Riverview. We will spend the morning celebrating our beloved pollinators with crafts, music, storytime, bubbles planting plants and decorating pots. At the end of our event we will release 1,500 live ladybugs to help keep our local plants and gardens healthy, beautiful and flourishing, \$16.99 per participant. Questions? Contact Full Grown Girl Plant Shop. Registration desired. Phone: 813-431-9947. Email weteachplants@gmail.com

Miracles Landscaping Project When: Sun., May 2, 2021

10AM - 2PM Where: Miracles Outreach Community Development Center 13129 St. Francis Lane, Thonotosassa, Florida 33592 Help landscape the grounds of Miracles Outreach, Inc. giving Hope and a House to children

who have been Homeless. Abused and Victims of Human Trafficking in Florida. Needed are: Volunteers, plants, flowers, bushes, and other gardening supplies. Contact: Pam Bell (813) 455.9123 Pball@miraclesoutreach.org .

Micro-Irrigation Workshop When: Friday May 14, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM May 14th 11 AM - 12 PM. Item pickup by Hillsborough County Residents Saturday, May 15, 2021 12 - 2 pm Learn how you can have healthy and attractive landscape beds while conserving water. This irrigation method not only conserves water but is not limited by current water restrictions as is traditional in-ground irrigation. Hillsborough County residents will receive a micro-irrigation kit after attending the workshop. Questions? Call 813-744-5519. Registration fee \$5 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ microirrigation-workshop-tickets-145912737927.

Odiorne Insurance – Blood Drive - One Blood Give Blood Save Lives When: April 30, 2021 12 - 5 pm Where: 1206 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon, Florida 33510



Enjoy local wetland wonders. Celebrate the benefits of clean air and water.

Explore nature and the outdoors.

3629 Queen Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619 | 813-627-2600 | epchc.org

Explore 🔷 Enjoy 🔷 Celebrate

10CC | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | Tampa Bay Times

iampa Bay Times | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | 11CC

Picnic Island Riparian Planting - Sponsored by TREE (Tampa Bay Restoration and Environmental Effort) Inc., City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department and The Florida Aquarium

When: Saturday, April 24, 2021 8 AM Where: Picnic Island Park, 7409 Picnic Island Blvd. Tampa, Florida

This exciting joint planting project will include the planting of sea grape, red mangrove, Silver Buttonwood and Muhly Grass. This represents Phase III of a long term project (Phase II was conducted in November 2019. but further work was delayed due to COVID 19). Parking is in the second parking area to the right once entering the park. It is the only non-paved, shell parking area. The planting site is located along the southwest corner of that lot. For further information: www. treeinc.org

Pivot Charter School in Riverview

When: Throughout the school year Pivot Charter School in Riverview encourages students to collect and recycle cans throughout the school year.

The cozy garden above and to

to Anni Ellis, the City of Tampa

the immediate right belongs

Plant City Area Democratic

Party - Tree Planting When: Sunday April 25, 2021 2 PM Where: Plant City Commons Community Garden 2001 E Cherry St, Plant City, FL 33563

Tree planting event at Plant City Commons Community Garden in honor of Hillsborough 100 and Earth Day by Plant City Area Democratic Party. Questions? Contact CL Townsend 813-638-2260

Property Appraiser -Hillsborough County -Creating New Green Team

When: Throughout the Year Where: Throughout Hillsborough County

The Property Appraiser's office is creating a Green Team of volunteer staff members to identify the environmental strengths and weaknesses of the organization. They'll be proposing and implementing specific solutions to reduce their carbon footprint and strengthen organizational efforts to operate in a more environmentally sustainable fashion. Inspired by this year's Earth Day theme, Restore Our Earth, they pledge to make this challenge a year long one. Contact: HudsonO@hcpafl.org

Recycle Your Yard and Recycled Yard Art

When: Wednesday April 21, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on Wednesday April 21st on ZOOM 12 - 1 pm. Item pickup from 12 - 2pm on Saturday, May 1st at the Hillsborough County Extension Office 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33594. This fun and educational workshop

will showcase what and how you can reduce, reuse, recycle and repeat. Register for this presentation if you have a good sense of humor, love to reuse items in your home and landscape, or want to become more creative and enjoy seeing artistic yard treasures. One recycled item per household and drawings for additional pieces of recycled yard art after event. Questions? Contact Lynn Barber 813-744-5519 ext. 54105. \$5 fee for this workshop and registration. Registration https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ recycle-your-yard-and-recycled-yardart-tickets-141472878187

Rainwater Harvesting

When: Saturday May 15, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM Saturday May 15th 9AM - 10 AM. Item pickup by attendees on SAME DAY from 12 Noon to 2 PM

Learn how Rainwater Harvesting is useful for collecting rainwater for ornamental plant irrigation while reducing

erosion and stormwater runoff and providing potable water for irrigation. Hillsborough County residents will receive one 45-55 gallon plastic foodgrade barrel after attending the workshop (1 per household). Questions? Call 813-744-5519. Non-refundable \$5.00 registration fee per workshop/ household. Registration: https://www. eventbrite.com/e/rainwater-harvesting-workshop-tickets-145914697789

River Cleanup Legacy Preparatory Academy When: Earth Day April 22, 2021

Where: - Hillsborough River State Park Area Students from Legacy Preparatory Academy are planning a trash cleanup

in the Hillsborough River State Park

Riverview Chamber and Tampa Chamber YMCA Camp Cristina

When: Saturday April 17, 2021 Where: 9840 Balm Riverview Rd. Riverview, 33569 Pre-registration event; 813-234-5944

Rotary Club of New Tampa -

River Cleanup When: Saturday April 17,2021 Meeting at 8:30 AM and will launch

the canoes at 9:00 AM Where: John B. Sargeant Sr. Park 12702 US-301, Thonotosassa. FL 33592

Rotary Club of New Tampa - River clean-up along the Hillsborough River at John B. Sargeant Sr. Park. Questions or if you do not have a canoe email ashvin@allcountyalliance.com for details.

Soil Testing Basics When: Wednesday April 21, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM 11 AM - 12 PM

FREE virtual event. This presentation provides an overview of soil testing. You'll learn how to take and submit a soil sample, interpret your soil pH and select plants based on pH. The presentation will also discuss soil amendments, such as compost and lime. Questions? Contact Nicole Pinson, 813-744-5519, pinsonn@ HCFLGov.netThis is a FREE workshop but registration is required. https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/soil-testing-basics-tickets-142694869195 Closed captioned for the hearing

Sweetwater Organic Community Farm - Sunday Fun For Everyone! When: Sundays, April 18, April 25,

Find it.

impaired.

feet tall. Students from Tomlin Middle School and Plant City High School will participate.

May 2 & May 9, 2021 9AM - 3PM

Where: 5521 Hanley Road, Tampa,

Florida 33634, Town N' Country

Volunteer at Florida's oldest com-

to work on Sunday's from 9AM -

everything by hand. In addition

to volunteering, enjoy the Sunday

farmers market open from Noon -

3PM with live music, open mic, farm

tours, and access to a variety of local

products, including organic produce,

honey, coffee, bread, raw milk, eggs

chicken, beef and much more. Also

enjoy the new "farm Café" located

onsite. Further information: www.

Tampa Heights Junior Civic

Association - Building Stron-

Where: Various locations in Hills-

Students are planning innovative

development of indoor gardens for

summer food production. Contact:

Lena Young (813) 538.3219 or lenay-

(April 22) and World Oceans Day

gardening approaches with the

sweetwater-organic.org

ger Home, School and

Community Connections

When: Throughout the Year

borough County

oung211@yahoo.com

The Florida Aquarium

When: Between Earth Day

(June 8) Where: The Florida

Aguarium, 701 Channelside

Drive, Tampa Florida 33602

The Florida Aquarium is proud

to once again participate in The

Day and World Oceans Day. The

Associations of Zoos and Aquariums

"Party for the Planet". Between Earth

Aquarium will engage in environmen-

and events highlighting two conser-

vation priorities, habitat restoration

and reduction of single use plastics

reaching our waterways. For more in-

formation and to get involved contact Melissa at: MDude@flaquarium.org .

When: Thurs. April 22, 2021 10 AM

seeds from a Sweetgum tree look like

round balls with spikes. At maturity, the Sweetgum can reach heights up to 75

Where: Gilchrist Park 1904 South

Park Road Plant City, FL 33563

TREES, INC Earth Day

Morning Tree Planting

tal stewardship with multiple activities

Party for the Planet

munity supported agricultural farm,

"Your Forever Farm" by coming out

Noon. This 501c3 operation is both

100% volunteer and includes doing

TREES, INC Earth Day Afternoon Tree Planting When: Thurs. April 22, 2021 2 PM Where: Alderman's Ford Park, 100 Alderman's Ford Park Dr,

Plant City, FL 33567 As an afternoon celebration of Earth Day, TREES, Inc will be planting one (1) 15-gallon Sweetgum tree. Sweetgum trees have leaves shaped like a 5-point star, similar a Maple tree. In the fall, the leaves change to a variety of colors such as orange, red and others. The seeds from a Sweetgum tree look like round balls with spikes. At maturity, the Sweetgum can reach heights up to 75 feet tall. Students from Durant High School will participate.

Turf Trouble Let's Chew On The Blades - New Workshop When: April 20, 2021

Where: Virtual Event On Zoom 10-11 AM

WORKSHOP IS FOR HILLSBOR-OUGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY. Learn about turfgrass practices that can cause yellowing and brown spots to appear in your lawn. Find out why they can occur and how the sources of these conditions were identified. Hear how integrated pest management practices can keep your yard healthy.Registration required https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/turf-trouble-lets-chew-on-the-blades-tickets-146606466889 This webinar will be closed captioned for the hearing

Vegetable Micro-Irrigation

Extension 813-744-5519.

impaired.Questions? Call UF/IFAS

When: April 24, 2021 Where: Virtual Event on ZOOM April 24th (9 -10am), afterwards item pickup (12-2 pm) same day at the Hillsborough County Extension Office

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

Learn how to grow vegetables with the convenience of a micro-irrigation kit. Hillsborough County residents will receive one vegetable micro-irrigation kit and a combination of up to 5 herb/ornamental/ vegetable plants after attending the workshop. Questions? Contact UF/ IFAS Extension 813-744-5519. \$5 nonrefundable fee per workshop/per household. Registration is required. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ vegetable-microirrigation-workshop-tickets-145897157325 Closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Vermicomposting Workshop -IN PERSON EVENT

When: Wednesday April 21, 2021 6:30 - 7:30 PM IN PERSON EVENT Where: IN PERSON EVENT UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, 5339 County Rd 579, Seffner, FL 33584 HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY Vermicomposting: Where the worms do the work and we reap the Benefits! Attend a vermicomposting workshop with us and learn how to compost with worms. You will make a worm bin out of a plastic tote provided and you will also receive the Composting Red Wiggler worms. \$20.00 per person. We are offering this workshop in person in the Conference Center at our office, the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County. We will limit attendance to 9 attendees (one per household) in order to comply with Covid-19 regulations. Masks are mandatory. Each attendee will have their own 6 foot table and hand sanitizer will be available. Please do not plan to attend this workshop with other members of your family or friends as we must strictly adhere to the nine-person limit. \$20 per person Questions? Lisa Meredith, MeredithL@ hillsboroughcounty.org or 813-744-5519 x 54146. Registration: https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/vermicompost-

ing-workshop-tickets-144277063581

Closed captioned for hearing impaired.

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County Open House Event For General Public

When May 01, 2021 Where: VIRTUAL EVENT May 1st on ZOOM 9 - 10 AM afterwards on the SAME DAY giveaways from 12 - 2 PM

This event is for Hillsborough County residents ONLY Interactive webinar will provide you with interesting history about Extension as well as information on several upcoming programs that UF/IFAS Extension has to offer. Each of our program areas will be represented and able to answer your questions about programming and talk briefly about popular topics of interest to many residents during our webinar. Our program areas include:

*Environmental Horticulture *Commercial Horticulture *Family and Consumer Sciences *Expanded Food & Nutrition *4-H

If that isn't cool enough, we will provide giveaways after the Zoom webinar session. Yes, that's going to happen after our open house sessions! We will be hosting a drive-by giveaway in our parking lot on the same day, from 12 pm -2pm, where you will receive some goodies for the whole family! Our address is: UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584. We look forward to great conversations during this fun and educational event. Questions: Call 813-744-5519. Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ufifas-extension-hillsborough-county-open-house-event-tickets-146805145141. Closed captioned for hearing impaired.

WATER SAVING TIPS FROM THE TAMPA WATER DEPARTMENT

Rain is free water!

Test your rain sensor to avoid overwatering your lawn, especially during rainy season. Tampa Water Department customers can request a free replacement rain sensor.



Find it. Flag it. Fix it. A lot of water is wasted by broken

sprinkler heads and irrigation system leaks. Tampa Water Department customers can e-mail SaveWater@tampa.gov and ask for a free Find it. Flag it. Fix it. kit!

Save Water Save Cash

Every drop counts! The Indoor Plumbing Retrofit kit is filled with water-saving tips and conservation devices, and is available to Tampa Water Department customers free of charge.





As a morning celebration of Earth Day, TREES, Inc will be planting one (1) 15-gallon Sweetgum tree. Sweetgum trees have leaves shaped like a 5-point star, similar to a Maple tree. In the fall, the leaves change to a variety of colors such as orange, red and others. The

To learn more or request a kit, visit tampa.gov/water/conservation, e-mail SaveWater@tampa.gov, or call (813) 274-8121, option #5.



12CC | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | Tampa Bay Times

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Tampa Bay Times | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | 13CC



Making it a family affair at the HSWCD Strawberry U-Pick on Feb. 27, Kaci Hill, left, and her husband, Chad, and their children, Caleb, 7, Kaylee, 9 and niece Brooke Rainwater.

Nothings more fun than getting out in the field to pick your own luscious strawberries and blueberries! With that in mind, the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District is proudly presenting two U-Picks for 2021. The first, a Strawberry U-Pick hosted by Fancy Farms in Plant City, was held on a sunny Saturday in February. The second, planned for May, will feature blueberries at the Duggal and Sons Farm in Lithia. Proceeds from both events benefit a wide range of HSWCD's youth programs, as well as scholarships.

Fancy Farms owners, Carl, Dee Dee. Dustin, Allison, Skylar and Christy Grooms, are no strangers to supporting U-Picks.

For the past fourteen years they've hosted the annual Hillsborough County 4-H

to let HSWCD hold one instead. Youth and adults, families and individuals, arrived for the U-Pick, which had only been advertised on social media for a couple of days. For many it was a new experience, while for others, it was part of an annual ritual.

U-Pick, which had to be canceled due to

COVID restrictions. But, in order not to

waste a beautiful crop, they stepped up

Since Fancy Farms beginnings in 1974 with 15 acres of strawberries, the Grooms have shared a family value of service to others. In that regard they always step up to do their part to assist all elements of

U-PICKS OFFER FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

> the community. "Serving others is just in our DNA" reports family member Dustin

Today's farm operation consists of over 250 acres of strawberries, which they operate in addition to their newest acquisition, Fancy Farms Market, located at 5204 Drane Field Road, just over the Polk County line. Open Monday through Saturday, the Market offers terrific homemade strawberry treats, as well as other produce. According to the Grooms, "this was just a natural extension of our love for farming and producing food."

The Blueberry U-Pick will be held on a Saturday in May at the Duggal Farm at 3515 Nichols Road in Lithia. The Duggal operation is also a family one. According to owner B.J. Duggal, "our entire family, including my wife and children, work together to insure the success of our farm.

> We try to use innovation to create the best blueberry possible. This includes production of early varieties that command the best market prices."

Road, adjacent to their farm. The exact date of the May U-Pick

no. and rosemary.

further information, visit the District's website, www.hillsbor-

oughswcd.com, or call (813) 477.8332.

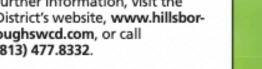


In addition to blueberries, the Duggals have a number of other fruits growing at their farm. This includes one of every variety of mango grown throughout the entire world, as well as avocados, lychee fruit, passion fruit, pomegranates, star fruit and sugar apples. "We enjoy growing unique foods that aren't found on too many farms in Florida. They're not for commercial production, but rather our own personal enjoyment." In addition they enjoy a herb garden consisting of basil, dill, garlic, hot peppers, mint, orega-

"We're pleased to be sharing our farm for a U-Pick to benefit HSWCD" reports Duggal. "We support programs that benefit young people and are proud of the fact that our son was the winner of the HSWCD speech contest a couple of

The Duggal family also operates D & D convenience store located at 3519 Nichols

will be determined in late April based on weather and other conditions. For





Grab your gloves, mask, sunscreen and insect spray and join family and friends on Saturday, June 12th for the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District's 20,000 pine tree planting event. The project, coordinated by HSWCD, is in support of the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge. Other event presenters include the Sustany Foundation, TREE, Inc., Rotary Brandon South Global and the Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management department.

Site of the event is an 80 acre parcel that's part of the Lower Green Swamp Preserve, located at 3540 East Knights Griffin Road, Plant City. Two shifts are

available, from 9 am until noon and noon until 3 pm. The event is open to youth and adults, with all those under 16 requiring adult support.

The 20,000 pine

seedlings have been donated by the Sustany Foundation, which has committed to making this an annual donation. Participants will receive a t-shirt and

In order to follow COVID guidelines, participation will be limited to the first 200 individuals signed up in advance



Bryan, Aimee and Anabelle Gilmore of Wimauma were the first to sign up for the "Let's Plant Some Trees" event. According to Bryan, "I work for Mosaic and we have a real commitment to the land and our environment, so this activity is a natural for us and we know we'll have a great time!" Photo credit: Sunny Stickles

> of the event. Application forms and further information are available at: www.hillsboroughswcd.com or contacting Betty Jo Tompkins, (813) 477.8332.

Don't miss out on this fun event to create a future forest!!



Lower Green Swamp Preserve 3540 East Knights Griffin Road / Plant City / 33565

Let's Plant Some Trees!

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Florida's largest single-day public tree-planting event **MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JUNE 4 ***

Hillsborough 100 **Conservation Challenge**

> For more information: Call Betty Jo Tompkins 813-477-8332

bjt6890@yahoo.com

Action Awareness Project

Event Presenters: Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District Sustany Foundation

TREE, Inc. Rotary

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management

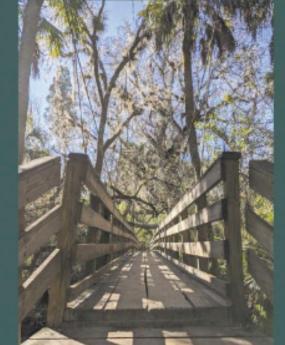
SPOTS LIMITED TO FIRST 200 PRE-REGISTRANTS

- * We have 20,000 longleaf pine seedlings to plant on 80 acres
- * Free commemorative T-shirt (while supplies last) / Refreshments
- * Sign-in throughout the day, starting at 8:30 AM
- * Two shifts available (9AM-12 and 12-3PM) / Carpool if you can
- * Long pants and shirt, hats, and closed-toe shoes recommended
- * Don't forget sunscreen, lip balm, garden gloves and insect spray
- * Students under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult * COVID-19 protocols require masks and social-distancing

Visit us online at: HillsboroughSWCD.com | Call: 813-752-1474 Ext. 3

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Hillsborough

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan guides future growth to ensure a resilient economy and environment for the next generations. Updates are occurring now, as we look to planning for 2045. Your input is needed!

For more information on how you can be engaged in the update process throughout the year, visit:

planhillsborough.org

CONSERVATION IS EVERYBODY'S **BUSINESS!** I care about our Air, Water, and Soil not just for now, but for future generations. Join me today and let's plan for the future! MICHAEL OWEN Real Estate Attorney/Partner OWEN & DUNIVAN, PLLC 813-502-6768 | www.owendunivan.com

16CC | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | Tampa Bay Times Tampa Bay Times | Sunday, April 18, 2021 | 17CC

Plastic...

Adding to the Pollution Problem

Do you practice the Four B's when you go to the grocery store? You might be wondering "What in the World is that"? It's quite simple....Bad, Bad, Better, Best! The first and second B's deal with the plastic bags in the produce department and check-out registers at the front of grocery stores. While they appear harmless, the damage being done by plastic is almost inconceivable. According to the Earth Policy Institute, almost one trillion bags are used annually worldwide. Yes, that's a TRILLION!

What does this mean for the environment? The average grocery plastic bag takes over 500 years to degrade in a landfill, creating microplastics that leach toxicants. Within 30 years National Geographic estimates that they'll be more plastic in the ocean than fish. In fact, today we are seeing more and more whales dying with massive amounts of plastic lodged in their stomachs. But plastic also ensnares other wildlife, often creating a horrible death.

When asked why they use so many plastic bags, most people respond, "I recycle". This just isn't working. According to a March 2019 publication by the Foundation for



Economic Education, *Discover* magazine pointed out a decade ago that recycling is a tricky business. They reported a Columbia University study in 2010 that found less than 17% of plastic collected by the New York Department of Sanitation was actually "Recyclable".

But currently, the situation is growing much more dire. Last month the New York Times reported that cities and counties throughout the country are abandoning their recycling efforts. In fact, the central Florida city of Deltona faced the reality that, despite their best efforts to recycle, their curbside program was not working and suspended it.

One of the major reasons that the

situation has grown out of control is the fact that China, the largest buyer of U.S. recyclables, stopped purchasing them last year. According to Mitch Hedlund, executive director of Recycle Across America, "Recycling has been dysfunctional for a long time". In fact, many states are facing the reality that recycling is in a crisis.

But is this a new reality or one that was noted a quarter century ago by Lawrence Reed, when the recycling movement really took off? According to Reed, "The fact is that sometimes recycling makes sense and sometimes it doesn't. In the legislative rush to pass recycling mandates, state and local governments should pause to consider the science and economics of every proposition. Simply demanding that something be recycled can be disruptive of markets and does not guarantee recycling that makes either economic or environmental sense will even occur."

With this in mind, the best approach is for EVERYONE to scale back on their usage of disposable plastic bags, foam, aluminum cans and other debris. We need to make a conscious effort to take the lead in this issue. While over 15 nations in Africa have taken action to tax or ban plastic bags, the United States has not. These countries take this issue far more seriously than in the US. In Nigeria, using plastic can result in a civil fine, as well as a prison term of up to four years.

Other countries around the world have stepped up their efforts to cut back on pollution with tremendous success. In Ireland, usage of plastic bags has declined by over

90% since 2002 when they began taxing

the product. On a positive note, many U.S. cities and communities have begun taking action to decrease the use of plastic in their communities.

Small efforts by each individual can have a significant impact. So, the next time you're in the grocery store, it's Better to ask for a paper bag, or Best to remember to bring your recycle cloth bags.....and if you don't have any, buy some!

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

201 South Collins Street, Suite 202, Plant City, 33563

> (813) 752-1474 Extension 3 or Betty Jo Tompkins, bjt6890@yahoo.com

(813) 477-8332 | Fax: (855) 464-1961

hillssoilandwater.org

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Vice-Chairman – Mike Hepburn

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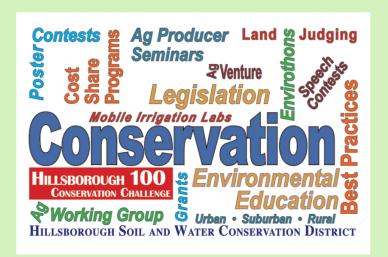








Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District



Certificate of Appreciation

Our special thanks to:

Fancy Farms - Grooms Family

for your donation to the:

5th Annual Great Plant Auction

Hillsborough County Fair, Oct. 3, 2021

Roy Davis *Auction Chair*

Kathy Eckdahl

HSWCD

Board Chair

Betty Jo Tompkins

HSWCD

Executive Director

Let's Plant Some Trees!



Saturday, June 12, 2021

Lower Green Swamp Preserve, Plant City

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District



"Conservation is everybody's business"







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A Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge **Action Awareness Project**







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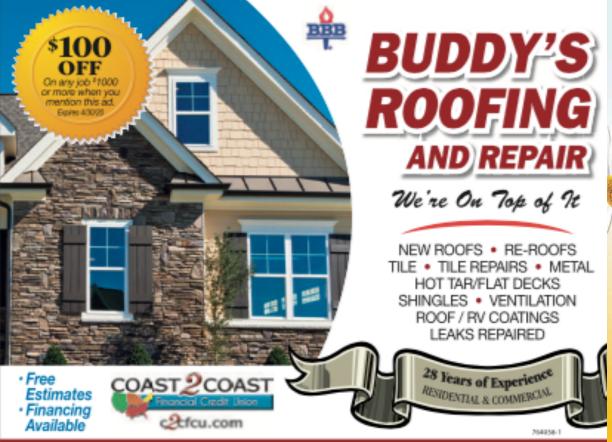
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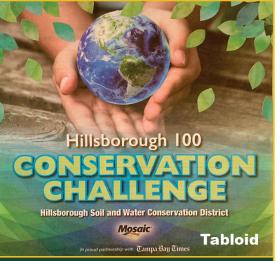












"Conservation is everybody's business"









Please register by Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD Executive Director

Call: **813-477-8332** Email: **bjt6890@yahoo.com**

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- Why you're doing it
- What you believe in

PURPOSE

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* Hint: It's not just, "We need to make some money."

PROJECTS

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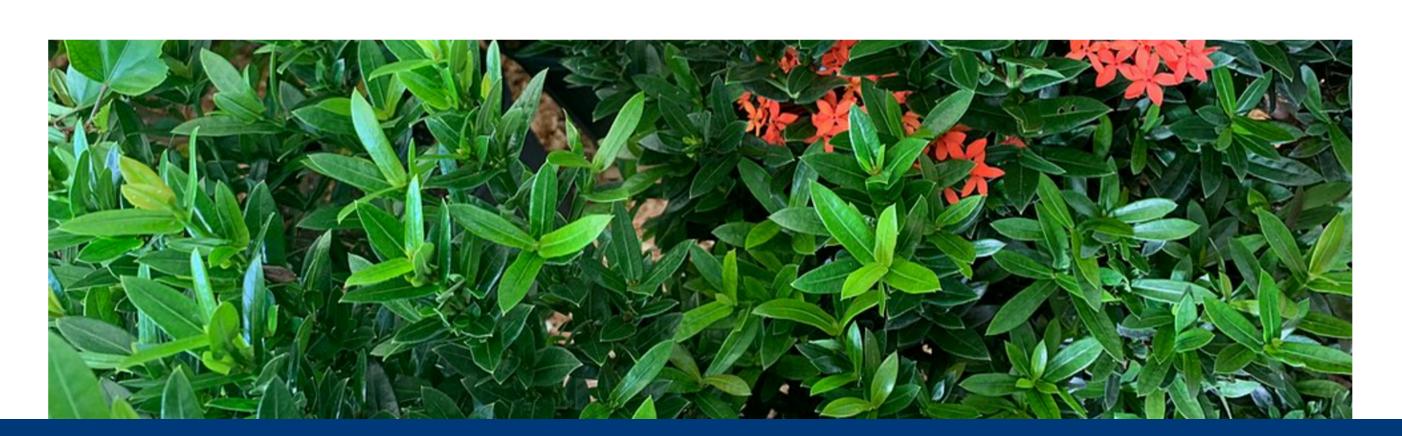
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