



*Update!*

Dear Tim,

School is back in session. Hope that everyone had a great summer. You might recall that we ended the school year with a big announcement.

Governor **Charlie Crist**, along with Department of Environmental Protection Secretary **Michael Sole** and Department of Education Commissioner **Eric Smith**, announced the **Governor's Serve the Preserve: Green Schools Awards**. A call for nominations was issued on *Earth Day*.

More than 100 nominations were received in all. Students, teachers, classrooms, schools and districts were all nominated. Elementary, middle and high schools - public and private - were included ranging from Pensacola to Key West.

Today, the *Green Schools Awards Program Team* are proud to announce the finalists below. We hope that you will choose to join us, **Wednesday, October 7, at 6 pm** for dinner to celebrate their accomplishments and herald the winners. The event will be held at the **Embassy Suites USF in Tampa**. Details for the event are below.

## SPONSORS



To all the nominees, thank you for your good work. Stay tuned as we develop a directory of everyone's efforts - there is much we can learn from each other.

## Finalists Announced!

This is a brief highlight of the finalists and the efforts for which they are being recognized. A more complete description will be posted later.

### Student Finalists

- **Erich Christian**, a senior at Oak Hall School in Gainesville (Alachua County), helped lead the school's biodiesel production project.
- **Chris McDaniel**, an 8th-grade student at the Renaissance Center (Citrus County), helped lead a gardening project and served as a mentor to students from neighboring CREST school for the mentally and physically handicapped.
- **Matt Mooney**, a junior at Land O Lakes High School (Pasco County), created the Cans for Habitat program to build a home for a deserving Habitat for Humanity family from nothing but the proceeds generated by recycling aluminum cans.

### Class Finalists

- **Joshua Clearman**, a teacher at Key West High School (Monroe County), created the Alternative Energy Center that helps students become adopters of emerging green technology.
- **Pamela Krauss**, a teacher at South Plantation High School (Broward County), created a "Gardenology" hands-on laboratory for the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration magnet students.
- **Deborah Pate**, a teacher at Suter Elementary in Pensacola

(Escambia County), helps fourth-grade students to learn about energy conservation and complete outreach projects and hands-on activities.

### Teacher Finalists

- **Susan Carney**, a kindergarten teacher at Ozona Elementary Schools in Palm Harbor (Pinellas County), using a grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, taught students how to conserve water with the outdoor Butterfly Habitat and an indoor Aquatic Ecosystem in each kindergarten classroom.
- **Janet Gray**, a science teacher at Manatee Cove Elementary in Lake Helen (Volusia County), is leading her school's students to restore three acres of sandy scrub habitat on the school site with the help of students.
- **Allan Phipps**, a magnet instructor at South Plantation High School in Broward County, created a hands-on project-based Solar and Alternative Energy class building two solar race cars.

### School Finalists

- **Learning Gate Elementary School** in Lutz (Hillsborough County), an environmental charter school, is nestled amongst trees, wetlands and ponds in a Platinum-certified USGBC LEED modular classroom building.
- **Odyssey Charter School** in Palm Bay (Brevard County) is a Green School of Service Learning built to USGBC LEED certification standards and awarded an Energy Star rating last year.
- **Pine Jog Elementary School** in West Palm Beach (Palm Beach County) is a unique public school which integrated green-building design (USGBC LEED certified GOLD) with a comprehensive teacher-training model that promotes an academic curriculum through environmentalism and resource conservation.

### District Finalists

- **Charlotte County School District** partnered with Energy Education to achieve a 33% cost savings totaling more than \$4.6 million in two years through energy conservation methods.
- **Pasco County School District** promotes environmental stewardship amongst its 66,000 students and 11,000 employees through its Conservation Program which promotes sustainable uses of resources, lower facilities operating costs and environmental education for students.
- **Pinellas County School District** developed and implemented a Utility Management Program which focuses on reduced consumption of utilities, increased recycling, improved indoor air quality and increased awareness of sustainability best practices.

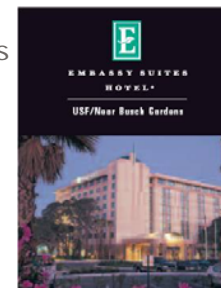
## Make Dinner Reservations Now!

The inaugural awards program of the Governor's Serve to Preserve Green Schools Awards will take place at 6 pm over dinner, **Wednesday, October 7, 2009**, on the eve of the [Campus and Community Sustainability Conference](#).

Nominees and finalists from K-12 schools will be recognized in the several categories including student, teacher, class, school and district.

Winners will be announced and presented cash prizes. Finalists receive three free tickets plus travel stipends in addition to their cash prizes.

The general public is invited to attend this exciting event. Tickets for dinner are available to purchase for \$40 each. Simply call **1-800-825-3786** to place your order. Credit cards are accepted.



The Green Schools Awards Program is made possible by the generous support of **Progress Energy, Florida Lottery, Darden Restaurants, Publix Super Markets** and **Comcast**.

**Call 800-825-3786 for Tickets**  
**or e-mail [Marilyn.Parcels@vfffund.org](mailto:Marilyn.Parcels@vfffund.org)**

## Judges Make the Difference

With more than a hundred nominations of outstanding efforts to teach and live green, the **Serve to Preserve Green Schools Awards Team** called upon a number of outstanding individuals to serve as the blue ribbon panel of judges.



After an eligibility check by the Department of Education, each nomination was reviewed by at least three judges. Scores were tabulated and aggregated. The top three finalists were identified in each category.

Thank you to the following who served as judges in the 2009 Green Schools Awards Program.

- **Kyle Abney**, Abney & Abney Green Solutions, Palm City
- **Mike Bell**, Rayonier, Fernandina Beach (Sustainable Florida Board Member)
- **Laura Benson**, Realtor, Sarasota (former member Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida)
- **Tammy Brister**, Walt Disney World, Orlando (Sustainable Florida Board Member)
- **Grace Carlson**, Carlson Marketing Studio, Sarasota
- **Karen Childress**, Edison College, Naples (former Sustainable Florida Chair)
- **Eric Jiminez**, Jacobs Engineering, Orlando (2008)

- Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award Winner)
- **Joe Kilsheimer**, Chairman, Sustainable Florida, Apopka
  - **Tammy Kovar**, Biological Tree Services, Bradenton (2009 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award Winner)
  - **Stacy Ranieri**, President, The Firefly Group, Palm City (President, Sustainable Treasure Coast)
  - **Deborah Shipley**, Progress Energy, St. Petersburg
  - **Robert R. Solomon**, Prattco Inc., Lutz
  - **Kevin Songer**, MetroVerde, Jacksonville
  - **Karen Stern**, Waste Management, St. Augustine (2009 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award Winner)
  - **Rich Unger**, MSCW, Orlando

Thank you for your interest in the **Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards Program.**





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