

Wheelabrator BROWARD News

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Summer 2007

POSITIVE ENERGY

Wheelabrator
has been
energizing
Broward
County
for 16
years

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

In 1991, Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. changed the landscape of waste disposal in Broward County with the introduction of two state-of-the-art waste-to-energy facilities.

Designed, constructed, owned and operated by Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., Wheelabrator North Broward and Wheelabrator South Broward have been providing dependable, environmentally-safe disposal of municipal solid waste for thousands of area residents for the past 16

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The Wheelabrator North Broward plant opened in 1992.

It takes a Village

They don't consider themselves miracle workers at the SOS Children's Village, but they are working miracles.

Just ask Fred (right). Or Paul. Or Silnas. Or Cinderella. Or Lorna. Or Wardell. They'll tell you.

They are siblings, ranging in age from 2 (Fred) to 12 (Wardell). They are all orphans, yet they are living in the same house, eating dinner at the same table, sleeping under the same roof, thanks in part to the longtime support of Wheelabrator. What's wrong with this picture?

Actually, this is a story about what is right with this picture and how it came to be.

Read about it on pages 4-5.



Wheelabrator Broward News

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Take a look inside Wheelabrator Broward



Gary Collette

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Wheelabrator Broward News.

Both the North and South Broward plants – as well as our parent company, Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc. – take seriously our role not only as a business which converts waste into clean, renewable energy, but also as a good corporate citizen.

Though I am relatively new to the North plant, having been in Broward County for the past two years I am familiar with some of the organizations Wheelabrator has supported over the years. As you will read on pages 4-5,

we are proud to say that our company is one of the original sponsors of the SOS Children's Village, located just a few miles from the North plant.

While we are involved with many worthwhile endeavors, it is hard to imagine having a better partner than SOS Children's Village. The work that is done there by Marjory Bruszer and her staff is – as the story suggests – is nothing short of miraculous. It is a privilege to support their efforts.

You will also have a chance to meet some of the employees who have been with Wheelabrator for 15 years or

longer, and a few who have been here in Coconut Creek since start-up in 1992.

We remain committed to generating clean electricity and ensuring the highest possible safety standards, as recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. As you will read, it is our stated goal that every employee return home in the same condition he or she arrived at work.

I hope you enjoy this publication. Have a safe and restful summer.

Gary Collette is plant manager of Wheelabrator North Broward.

We are committed to energizing the county



Jairaj Gosine

Thank you for your interest in the Wheelabrator South Broward plant. As part of our commitment to the community, we have begun publishing this newspaper to keep you informed about who we are and what we do.

In this inaugural edition, you will learn more about the history of our facility, which has been providing dependable, environmentally safe disposal of municipal solid waste for 16 years. We remain committed to generating clean, renewable electricity and ensuring the

highest possible safety standards, as recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star site. You will meet a dozen of our employees who have been here since day one, and who are dedicated to serving the needs of the people of Broward County.

I invite you to applaud the work of our Broward County students, who embarked upon creating community-wide awareness programs to help protect our water, our endangered animals and our

habitats. We are proud to support their work.

My goal, and the goal of Wheelabrator, is to be a good neighbor to the people who live and work in Broward County. Over the years, we have had the pleasure of welcoming some of you to our facility. Thank you for your awareness and support, both then and now. For those of you joining us for the first time, welcome.

Jairaj Gosine is plant manager of Wheelabrator South Broward.

They manage to run plants smoothly

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

This spring was one of transition for Wheelabrator Broward's North and South plants, as each welcomed a new plant manager.

Gary Collette, plant manager of the South plant, transferred to the North plant in April. Collette replaced Gary Aguinaga, who took a position at Wheelabrator Technologies' headquarters in Hampton, NH.

A trusted leader, Collette has successfully served as plant manager in Broward County since May of 2005. His career with Wheelabrator dates back to February of 1994, when he was hired as an operator at Wheelabrator's Saugus, Mass. facility – the first waste-to-energy plant in the country. He then went on to serve as shift supervisor at the North Andover, Mass. facility before returning to Saugus in 2000 as the operations manager.

"I can't say enough for the personal growth within this company," said Collette. "I started as an operator and moved through the ranks to become plant manager."

Involved in many of the company's capital projects, both in Saugus and in Broward, Collette hopes to uphold the highest level of safety and operational success at the North plant.

"My goal is to help them maintain their Best in Class and VPP Star status," he said.

Collette, who grew up in Lynn, Mass., and joined the Navy after high school, has flourished in the southern Florida environment.

"Coming from New England, it was a bit of an adjustment," said Collette. "I've enjoyed becoming involved with the community and the Chamber of Commerce and getting to know the people here."

Collette and his wife, Tracy, have three children, ranging in age from six to 18.

South Broward Plant Manager Jairaj Gosine assumed control on April 9, following Collette's transfer to the North plant.

Gosine was hired in 1999 as the environmental health and safety director and was working as the plant's operations manager before being promoted to his current post.

Originally from Trinidad, Gosine came to the U.S. in 1988, and settled in Boston. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and his master's degree in engineering management, both from Northeastern University. He worked for Polaroid before joining Wheelabrator.

"The position at Wheelabrator was an attractive opportunity for me," said Gosine. "The people, the culture and the stability of the company were all important factors. Plus, the respect and diversity here, that's huge."

In his transition to plant manager, Gosine has been focused on building relationships with the community, maintaining safety, environmental and operational excellence and improving teamwork within the facility.

Jairaj and his wife, Chandra, have one child, Adhiraj who is 18 years old.



Wheelabrator North Broward plant manager Gary Collette



Wheelabrator South Broward plant manager Jairaj Gosine



SUPER STARS

North and South Broward plants have earned OSHA's highest safety designation

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Shining stars of industry, Wheelabrator's North and South Broward facilities boast of the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)'s highest safety honor.

The plants were designated Star sites in 2003 — "Star" being the most prestigious classification given through OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The honor is shared by less than two one-hundredth of a percent of the nation's worksites.

"This is the ultimate goal of every plant in every industry," said Chris Carey, Wheelabrator regional vice president. "We've raised the bar on staying safe, and it was all voluntary."

Created in 1982, VPP recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management. Companies in the program achieve average injury rates 50 percent lower than other companies in their industry. Across the nation, of the seven million worksites regulated by OSHA, only 1,800 sites have qualified to participate in VPP.

During the application and inspection process, sites can be qualified to attain Star or Merit status. Star, the highest level, signifies self-sufficiency and exemplary workplace management. Only 150 sites in the industrial category, to which the Broward facilities belong, have been awarded Star status. In 2001, Wheelabrator Technologies set a goal to have all 21 of its energy facilities certified by OSHA as VPP Star workplaces. The company reached that goal earlier this year, an achievement only nine other companies in the U.S. have reached.

Requirements for application to VPP include a high

degree of management support and employee involvement; a high-quality worksite hazard analysis; prevention and control programs; and comprehensive safety and health training for all employees. A team of OSHA inspectors, accompanied by industrial hygienists, spend a week touring the worksite and observing the programs and procedures in place.

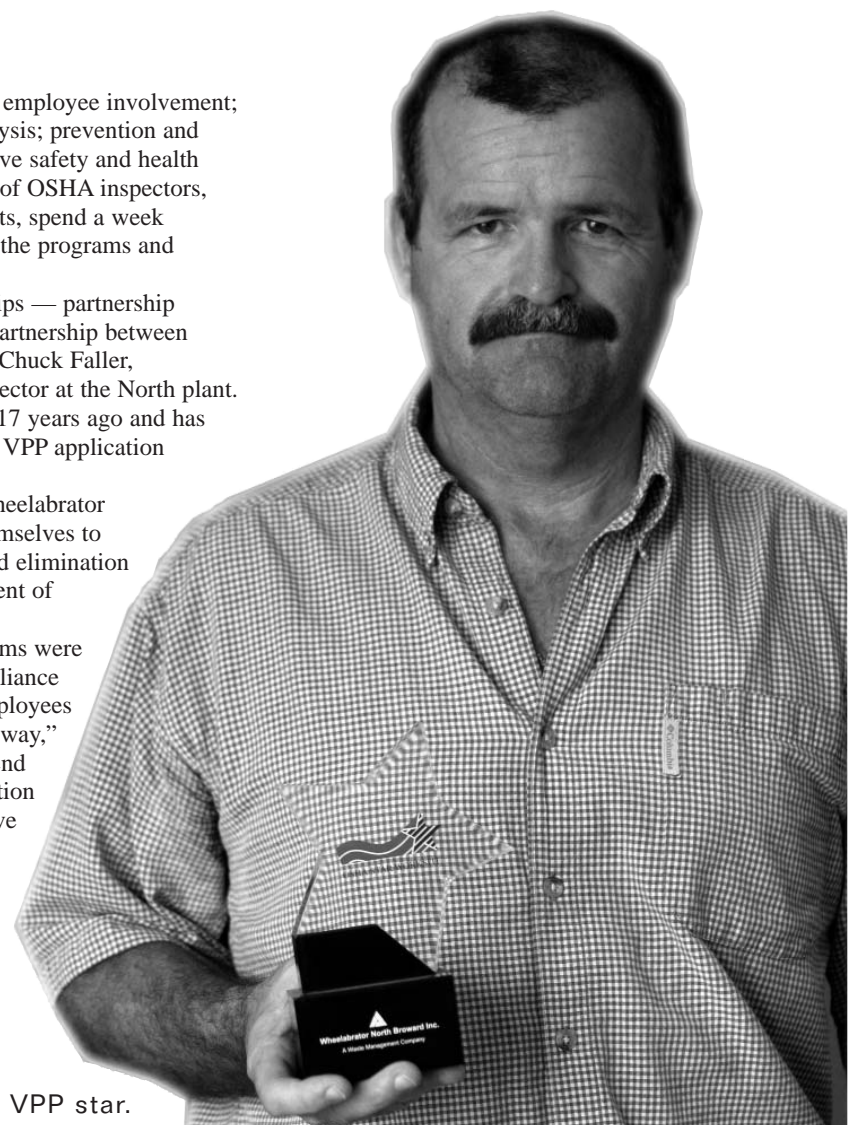
"VPP is about forming partnerships — partnership between OSHA and the plant and partnership between management and employees," said Chuck Faller, environmental health and safety director at the North plant. Faller was hired at the South plant 17 years ago and has worked at both facilities during the VPP application process.

To prepare for the inspection, Wheelabrator Broward employees committed themselves to accountability, the identification and elimination of hazards and the active involvement of employees in their own protection.

"We had to make sure the programs were up-to-date, the plants were in compliance with OSHA regulations and the employees were involved and behind it all the way," said Faller. "The main goal is to send employees home in the same condition as they came to work and to improve the overall safety awareness in the workplace. Company-wide, management makes it clear that nothing is more important than safety."



Wheelabrator South Broward's Rick Mulhorn is reminded every day that safety comes first.



Chuck Faller of the Wheelabrator North plant holds the OSHA VPP star.

Wheelabrator Broward Quick Facts

At full capacity, both North and South Broward plants can each generate more than 65,000 kilowatts of electrical energy — enough to supply all of the electrical needs of 78,000 homes.

It takes a Village

Wheelabrator has answered the call for SOS

By PAUL HALLORAN

They don't consider themselves miracle workers at the SOS Children's Village, but they are working miracles.

Just ask Fred. Or Paul. Or Silnas. Or Cinderella. Or Lorna. Or Wardell. They'll tell you.

They are siblings, ranging in age from 2 (Fred) to 12 (Wardell). They are all orphans, yet they are living in the same house, eating dinner at the same table, sleeping under the same roof. What's wrong with this picture?

Actually, this is a story about what is right with this picture and how it came to be.

The SOS Children's Village, located in Coconut Creek, is a community of 11 houses with a total of 66 children living in them.

Each unit has a live-in house mother and another adult assigned to it. The children have been sent to SOS by the state of Florida after being taken away from their biological parents, typically because they have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

What is unique about SOS Children's Village is that it takes the traditional orphanage model and modifies it so that sibling groups are kept together in the same house whenever possible.

"You can't beat it," said Tiara Jones, a 2006 Florida State University graduate who has been the house mother for Fred and Co. for the last several months.

"This is a good setting. The only thing that would make it better (for the kids) would be for them to be with a biological parent, but that's not happening right now."

Although the SOS Children's Village has been around since 1949 — when a former Austrian orphan founded it — there are only two other sites in the U.S. (both in Illinois). SOS came to Broward County in 1993, with significant support from

Wheelabrator.

Wheelabrator donated \$100,000 in 1993 to endow one of the houses. (The house happens to be the one that Fred and Co. are now living in.) The company has maintained a relationship with SOS — and not just with monetary donations.

"Wheelabrator is always concerned about our kids," said Marjorie Bruszer, CEO of SOS Children's Village in Coconut Creek. "They are the corporate sponsor who has been with us the longest. They always sponsor our events and they attend, too. They have a representative on our board (of directors). Wheelabrator has really set the standard for corporate giving."

That would be Chris Carey, who oversees the North and South Broward Wheelabrator plants in his role as regional vice president. Bruszer recalled the time Carey asked her if she needed anything at the village and she said they could really use some office supplies. Within a few days, \$1,000 worth of supplies arrived.

There are 46 staff working at SOS, including house mothers, nurses, case managers, therapists, supervisors and administrative assistants. The state of Florida funds 55 percent of the operating costs and SOS must cover the rest. This year's fundraising goal: \$1.5 million.

That seems like a relatively small price to pay for providing children with a safe, nurturing environment in which to live. And when you hear about a success story such as Wanda's, it becomes priceless.

Wanda is the first child who ever came to SOS Children's Village in Coconut Creek. She arrived in 1993 as an 8-year-old with her three younger sisters and spent almost 10 years there. In the spring of 2006, Wanda received her degree from Florida State, becoming SOS-Florida's first college graduate. Married with two children,

Wanda is a first-year teacher in Pompano Beach and studying for her master's.

"Wanda is an inspiration to everyone at SOS," Bruszer said.

"She is a role model for our children."

There are 12 former SOS residents currently in college and another two in trade school. The children living there now attend public schools, play sports and go to dance classes. SOS gives them what had been taken away: a sense of normalcy. It reopens doors that had been slammed in their faces. It gives them a chance. It gives them hope.



The house at SOS Children's Village sponsored by Wheelabrator Broward.



Paul enjoys his dinner of tacos, corn on the cob and milk.



Wardell does homework on the computer.



House mother Tiara Jones pours milk for Silnas and Lorna.

A history of keeping families together

Hermann Gmeiner had \$40 in his pocket when he established the SOS Children's Village Association in Austria in 1949. His mother had died when he was young and his eldest sister had taken on the task of caring for the youngest children in the family, including Hermann.

Estella Moriarty was a Broward County juvenile court judge who was hearing case after case involving foster children. Her husband pointed out an obituary he had read for Gmeiner, who died in 1986. Moriarty wrote to Austria to get more information and became convinced that there was a great need for such a program here.

In 1993, SOS Children's Village came to Coconut Creek, becoming the first one in the U.S. Though there are now more than 450 SOS Children's Village in 137 countries, there are only three in the U.S., Coconut Creek and two in Illinois.

"SOS is the largest child-welfare organization in the world, but we're still young in the United States," said Marjorie Bruszer, the CEO of SOS-Florida.

SOS is different from a traditional orphanage in that it keeps siblings together in the same house whenever possible, thus maintaining a sense of family despite the lack of biological parents.

"We specialize in siblings and kids that need to be in foster care for a long time," Bruszer said.

The SOS Children's Village Association was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1999.

— PAUL HALLORAN

MEET THE VETERAN EMPLOYEES AT WHEELABRATOR



Veteran employees at Wheelabrator North Broward include, seated from left, Gary Aguinaga (former plant manager), Mark Berlin, Olivia Smith, Kevin Travis, Joe Cooper, Sandra Borges and Alan Rumley; standing from left, Chuck Faller, Cornel Marriott, Robert Stephens, John Moore and Dan Dubinski.

North Broward employees: We are family

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

When Wheelabrator North Broward's first boiler fire was lit in March of 1992, there were approximately 50 employees involved in the start-up of the plant. Today, more than a dozen of those employees remain, united in a bond as strong as family.

"The camaraderie here at the plant is special, it truly is," said Operations Superintendent John Moore, hired as a plant operator in October 1990.

Moore, who was present during the construction of the plant, was eager to come on board even in its earliest phase.

"I used to do similar work in New York City, and I read about the plants opening down here," said Moore. "I was happy to be hired and I've been here ever since. The day-to-day challenges that occur are what make this business interesting. We're here to perform the best we can and serve the people of Broward County."

For some, the road to Wheelabrator Broward began at the facilities' parent companies, Wheelabrator Technologies and Waste Management (WM). The North plant's Robert Stephens has been with Wheelabrator for 31 years in total, while Jeffrey

Bushek and Robert Soulard can claim 29 and 26 years, respectively.

Maintenance mechanic Kevin Travis, hired by WM in 1987, recently marked his 20th anniversary with the company. He originally worked for WM Recycle America, a long-term venture that has handled more than 55 million tons of recyclable commodities. In 1993, Travis transferred to Wheelabrator North Broward.

"I was always jumping around, from Virginia Beach to the Army to California," said Travis. "I never thought I'd be with a company for 20 years."

A retired serviceman in the Active Reserves, Travis has been activated to serve in the Middle East, Haiti and Georgia during his two decades of employment.

"The company took care of me, held my job, kept the family benefits and made up the difference in pay," said Travis. "There's no question they take care of their employees."

Travis has coached Little League and softball and praises Wheelabrator's commitment to its neighbors. "The company always supports community events and sponsors teams," said Travis. "I've never heard anybody say no."

In addition to employee benefits, workers credit the company's evolution into the next stage of technology and productivity. Among the advances in operations, safety has been the overwhelming priority shift since day one.

"Safety is the number one concern of the company," said Moore. "Since start-up, we've become a better operating plant and definitely more safety-conscious. Safety is practiced every day."

Stephens, a maintenance mechanic at North Broward, has been with Wheelabrator for 31 years, starting in the Saugus, Mass., plant, the first waste-to-energy facility in the country. After 23 years in Saugus, Stephens transferred to North Broward, which he called "the best plant I have worked in," citing the company's commitment to worker safety and the environment.

Sandra Borges worked at Wheelabrator South for 13 years before moving to the North plant three years ago. She recalls working 14-hour shifts in the scale house seven days a week for three months during the start-up of the South plant in August of 1991. She said working for Wheelabrator is "like having a second family. You're here more than you're at home."

Wheelabrator Broward: 16 years and going strong

HISTORY: from Page 1

years. Combined, the plants can generate enough energy for sale to Florida Power and Light Company to power approximately 78,000 Florida homes annually — an energy savings of 2.8 million barrels of oil.

Located in Pompano Beach, the Wheelabrator North Broward waste-to-energy facility last year processed 806,000 tons of municipal waste, which was a record high. At full capacity, it can generate more than 68,000 kilowatts of electrical energy — enough to supply the electrical needs of 40,000 area homes.

Adjacent to the North plant is the Central Disposal Sanitary Landfill, owned and operated by Waste Management — the parent company of Wheelabrator Technologies. The landfill provides additional backup capacity on an as-needed basis in accordance with a contractual agreement.

The Wheelabrator South Broward waste-to-energy facility,

located in Fort Lauderdale, maintains an ash monofill on the northern section of its site. The facility and monofill are physically separated by a parcel of property that formerly housed the Fort Lauderdale Compost Plant. Last year, the South plant processed 783,000 tons of waste. It can generate up to 66,000 kilowatts of electrical energy each year, enough to supply energy to 38,000 area homes.

The process the plants use is simple. Incoming trucks deliver trash to an enclosed reception area and deposit it into a concrete receiving pit. Overhead cranes then transfer the trash into boilers, where temperatures exceed 2,000°F in order for combustion to occur. Air to feed the combustion is drawn from the receiving building, sustaining a negative pressure and preventing odors or dust from escaping. Power boilers recover energy released during the combustion process, in the form of high-pressure steam, and a turbine generator converts the steam

into electrical energy.

Neither of the plants drains the county's water resources. About 80 percent of the water used at both plants is recycled from different sources, saving one million gallons of water on a daily basis. At the North plant, wastewater is brought in from the county's North Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant and it is reused for purposes such as cooling or landscaping. The South plant recycles water from its monofill.

Combined, the two plants processed more than 1.5 million tons of waste last year, surpassing its contract with the county to process at least 1.2 million tons per year. It is estimated that in one year, the amount of solid waste processed at the plants could fill the area of a football field, up to 3.5 miles high, making it virtually impossible to effectively dispose of through landfills and recycling alone.

MEET THE VETERAN EMPLOYEES AT WHEELABRATOR

Longevity reigns at South Broward

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Almost half of the 65 employees at the Wheelabrator South Broward plant have been with the company for at least 10 years. Almost a quarter have been with Wheelabrator for at least 15 years. Ganeesh Siewrattan thinks he knows why.

"We enjoy working with each other," said Siewrattan, a 20-year veteran who came to South Florida from the Bridgeport, Conn., plant in 1990, during construction of the South Broward plant.

"You get to know what to expect from each other, just like a family," said Siewrattan, an operations superintendent. "You have to like it to stay this long."

Robin Bell, a heavy equipment operator at the plant, has been working there since 1993. He said the combination of a "stable working environment" and the "opportunity to move up" in the company is especially appealing.

Bell said the increased emphasis on safety has led to improved working conditions. "They put safety very high on the totem pole here," he said.

Plant engineer Rick Mulhorn has been part of the plant since its inception, watching it evolve from a concept to a proven entity. With a background in construction



Veteran employees at Wheelabrator South Broward include, left to right, Dale Bulman, Ganeesh Siewrattan, Steve Voigt, Morrison Bahaw, Scott Matthews, Frank Harris, Adrian Johnson, Charlie Creswell, Amelio Mendez, Robert Rossi, Rick Mulhorn and Robin Bell.

management, Mulhorn worked for Wheelabrator's construction crew in the 1980s and came to South Broward for the construction of the plant in 1988. He was then hired as a project engineer, joining the plant's operations staff.

"It wasn't clear how many more plants would be built, and I enjoyed living in Fort Lauderdale," he said. "It seemed like a good career move at the time."

And a good career move it was. "Wheelabrator has good employee programs – not just wages and benefits, but

employee-management relationships," said Mulhorn. "Generally the people who work here are bright, intelligent people with good people skills. That's why you see so much longevity."

"Everyone really bands together," agreed lead mechanic Dale Bulman.

Bulman, originally a welder from Texas, came to the South plant in October of 1991.

"Safety's really evolved and come to the front," said Bulman. "It makes it nice, knowing it's safe."

Maintenance worker Frank Harris, a

Broward County native, was hired at the plant in March of 1991 and is still amazed by the company's evolution.

"I'm an ex-military guy, and I came in on the idea that they had pumps and generators; I wasn't really sure what it was all about," said Harris.

Sixteen years later, Harris remains dedicated and committed to the company.

"It's a great place to work," he said. "The people especially make it enjoyable. We know each other and trust each other."

Wheelabrator helps foster a learning environment

SYMPOSIUM: from Page 8

required to present their topics, using computer-based slides and visuals, in front of a VIP panel, Wheelabrator representatives, parents, students and teachers. An awards dinner was held on May 1 and students visited the Miami Metro Zoo the following day, where they had a special behind-the-scenes tour and saw a live animal demonstration.

Applying lessons learned in the classroom to real-life issues, the students showed tremendous insight and poise.

"Their presentations really reflected the amount of work they put into their projects in the months leading up to the symposium," said

Sapienza.

"If you just give them a little bit of direction, they'll take it and run with it," said Patricia Crawley, environmental director for Broward County Public Schools.

Broward County students walked away with a number of accolades. New River Middle School's team was awarded the Best Community Engagement Project for its work in addressing the contamination of the New River, abutting the grounds of the school.

The river, which spans the entire county, becomes more and more polluted each year as glass bottles, plastic, tires and Styrofoam are dumped into it.

"Fifty to 60 tons of garbage are

pulled out of the waterways every year," said student Brittany Guitar. "We need to inform to reduce."

"People don't think about it, but they're killing fish and destroying the ecosystem," said student Alex Perkins.

"All the waterways are connected," added student Lauren Vincent. "If this keeps growing and if the Everglades dies down, Florida won't be the same. We have to try to find a way to stop it, or at the very least decrease it."

Students came up with poems, newsletters and public-service announcements to run on local stations. They also participated in Broward County's Water Matters Day, in efforts to raise awareness

about the plight of New River. More than 4,000 people came out to learn more about conserving the area's natural resources.

"We're the future," said Vincent. "If we're aware now, and we can get the message out to high school kids and adults, hopefully, it'll make a difference."

At Westglades Middle School, students focused on helping restore the community's habitats through educational programs, community outreach and demonstration projects. They were awarded Best Community Outreach Project.

Sawgrass Springs Middle School students claimed the award for Best Environmental Partnership Project for their Frog Watch Project.

Through the National Wildlife Federation, students monitored toads and frogs to develop a better understanding of how human activities are affecting their decline. No strangers to protecting wildlife, the Sawgrass Springs students have also learned important lessons through their campus butterfly garden, gopher tortoise preserve and outdoor classroom, funded by Wheelabrator.

"Wheelabrator is very, very involved with the schools," said Crawley. "They helped build the habitat out of recycled materials, which took a lot of effort. Everything they do to help the kids connect to the environment is wonderful."



New River Middle School students celebrate their river cleaning project and plans to plant sea grape bushes along the riverfront behind the school.

Wheelabrator Symposium helps foster environmental awareness

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Tackling issues such as water pollution, habitat restoration and wildlife protection, Broward County’s middle school students are learning first-hand what it takes to be stewards of the environment.

As part of Wheelabrator’s Symposium for Environment and Education, the students committed to a six-month learning project to identify environmental challenges in their community and develop a long-term solution. The goal of the

symposium is to foster environmental and social awareness in the youth.

“The symposium has been held for 13 years, and every year the students continue to amaze me,” said Linda Sapienza, director of community relations for Wheelabrator Technologies. “Sponsoring and coordinating the symposium is all part of Wheelabrator’s philosophy of giving something back to our communities, so it’s a really wonderful thing to see the enthusiasm and dedication these students bring to the event year after year.”

Participants this spring gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Sawgrass Mills in Sunrise, Fla. Ten schools participated, including Broward County’s New River Middle School in Fort Lauderdale, Sawgrass Springs Middle School in Coral Springs and Westglades Middle School in Parkland. Students from Lisbon, Conn., Millbury, Mass., Bristol, Pa., Peekskill, N.Y., Thorofare, N.J., Baltimore, Md., and Lakeland, Fla. also traveled to Sunrise for the three-day event.

Each school sent a team of 10 students who were

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From left, New River Middle School students Alexander Perkins, Jimmy Pham, Lauren Vincent and Taylor Drew discuss their river cleaning project.