

**Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals**  
**Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions**

*POSTER PRESENTATION*

**Presenter(s): Eileen Tramontana, St Johns River Water Management District**

**Title: Leaving A Legacy**

Abstract: The Legacy program is a cooperative educational venture between the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and area schools. The program enlists educators and their students to help District staff make public lands more accessible while serving as living laboratories and classrooms. The Legacy program provides students unique opportunities to (1) assist with managing District lands, (2) participate in service learning, (3) increase environmental awareness, and (4) based on teacher observations, increase their school performance.

In turn, the District benefits because students remove exotic invasive plants, design and build trails and other amenities, post signs, pick up trash, provide tours, develop interpretive and educational materials, inventory natural resources, and test water.

The Legacy program began in 1993. Currently, 13 schools in 10 counties participate in Legacy programs. Although there are many similarities between Legacy programs, each program has unique, individualized teaching strategies and the programs are structured to fit the needs of students, schools, and the natural resource site.

Two evaluations, conducted in 2000 and 2003, have shown that participation in the Legacy program has assisted in improving students' grades, raised their awareness of water resource issues, and helped them develop leadership skills that benefit them, their schools, and their communities.

Target Audience(s): Governmental agencies, landowners, service and environmental groups

Educational Purpose: Education

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