

## Leon contributes to FAMU *Green Summit for Student Leaders*

The challenges related to global climate change and the need to be more sustainable have started to gain traction on the campus of Florida A&M University (FAMU). The Green Summit (September 11-12) provided student leaders with the knowledge and resources to take action on campus, and in life. About 100 students attended the Summit, representing 60 different student organizations.

A presentation by Leon County Sustainability Coordinator Maggie Theriot focused on the structure of local government, providing tips for students to become engaged in politics and activities relating to sustainability. "There are so many opportunities to have their voice heard, whether it be through local non-profits, student or community groups, as well as government. It is critical that students become engaged in local government and sustainability. Their energy and voice will play an important role in bringing change to our community."

## County Conserving H<sub>2</sub>O

How many times have you driven down a street on a rainy day and noticed irrigation systems operating? County water conservation efforts include no more watering in the rain. Facilities Management has installed moisture sensors on irrigation systems for three buildings, the Courthouse, Main Library and Facilities Management. Our beautiful County Parks & Recreation athletic fields will now also be using less water with sensors installed at the following parks: Canopy Oaks, Fort Braden, J. Lewis Hall Sr., Daniel B. Chaires, Apalachee Regional, and Miccosukee.

We look forward to sharing the reduction results of these upgrades as utility bill data become available.

# LIMELIGHT

*Recognizing Employee Efforts*

## Dan Rigo: Assistant County Attorney

As an employee of Leon County, Dan attended the Climate Action Summit in May 2008. While there, it seems he learned some valuable information which he chose to implement in his own back yard...literally.

Armed with only a shovel and a how-to manual, Dan created a fantastic "rain garden." A rain garden is a shallow depression of land that is planted with deep-rooted plants and grasses. Rain gardens slow down the rush of the water from hills or hard surfaces and hold the water for a short period of time, allowing it to naturally drain into the ground. These gardens are important in urban areas where there are many hard surfaces because they pick up pollutants and give the roots time to "strain" out the impurities before making their way into our aquifers.

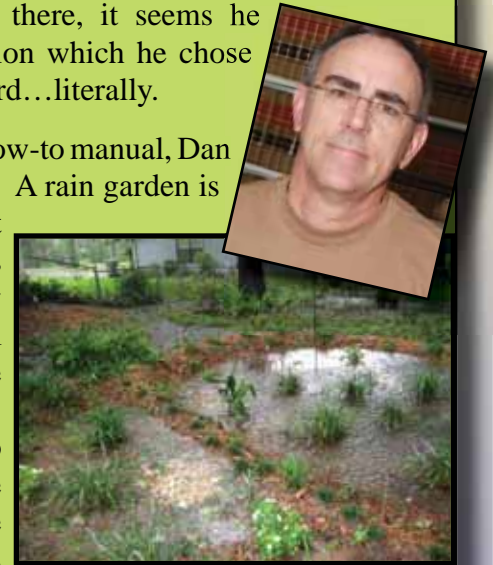
The garden captures rain water drainage from half the roof area through underground corrugated pipes connected to two downspouts and also collects other areas of drainage through the corrugated pipes. After adding a few attractive plants... problem solved! The tough erosion trouble Dan was having is fixed and the rain garden prevents that stormwater from getting into the County drainage ditch. As seen in the above photo taken during Tropical Storm Fay, the water never topped the berms despite more than 17 inches of rain.

For more information on rain gardens contact County Cooperative Extension at 606-5200 as well as a local community resource TAPP (Think About Personal Pollution) at [TAPPwater.org](http://TAPPwater.org).



## Tips

The average adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail each year. Stop junk mail and help save natural resources. Go to the Federal Trade Commission's website [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov) and keyword Alt063 where multiple resources can be found.



## Are You Sustainable?

What are you personally doing to become more sustainable? We want to know, please contact the Sustainability Coordinator Maggie Theriot at **606-5380** or [theriotm@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:theriotm@leoncountyfl.gov) to share!