

"I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues, And I'm asking you, sir, at the top of my lungs", said the Lorax of Dr Seuss fame. And so, Lace Blue-McLean, our resident club environmentalist, or our very own "Lorax", spoke to us of the impact of community growth and the need for mindful conservation of our natural resources as she presented information on the 'Save Our Waters Week' and "Keep Citrus County Beautiful". Now in its 29th year, Save Our Waters Week is a time of interaction with our natural resources and specifically our waters. We have an opportunity to kayak on them, hear informative lectures about their protection, and clean them up through the "coastal cleanup" program in which our club is a participant. As a county, that is a part of the "nature coast", our resources need to be protected and respected for future generations to enjoy. We are grateful to all the partners that have come together to bring this awareness to our community, which include Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, SWFWMD, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, The Citrus County Chronicle, and the Citrus County Education Foundation. It should also be noted that in addition to all these activities within our local community, there are also programs for our students to get involved. The committee has created photo and poster contests, as well as middle school and high school environmental jeopardy competitions. All in all, it is a great time for all to become aware of the beauty of our natural resources and the need for them to be preserved. And as for the trees, the need to preserve and protect our canopy from unbridled growth is vital to the well-being of our environment and our community. As Dr. Seuss says at the end of The Lorax, "You are in charge of the last Truffula Seeds, And Truffula Trees are what everyone needs. Plant a new Truffula. Treat it with care. Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air. Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack"then all of our natural resources will come back.

Club Activity: Coastal Cleanup at Cooter Pond, Sept. 21, 8:30. Bring your happy self, closed-toed shoes, a water cup, your own gloves, if you have them, and maybe bug repellent or sunscreen or hat, as you choose. Provided: grabbers, bags, Tee Shirt, and water (not in a plastic bottle!)

Club News:

- *Sept 10 – Students of the Month
- *Sept 11 – Feed Citrus 7-10 am, Citrus County Fairgrounds
- *Sept 17 – Abby Blocker Update
- *Sept 19 – Board Meeting, 12 noon, 1st Presbyterian Church
- *Sept 21 – Coast Cleanup 8:30-11 am, Cooter Pond
- *Sept 24 – Club Assembly
- *Sept 25 – Feed Citrus 7-10 am, Citrus County Fairgrounds

Attention Club Members: October special events:

- Oct 1 – One Bag at Whispering Pines Park, volunteers needed
- Oct 12 – Habitat Home Build, Citrus Springs, 6 club event- volunteers needed

Happy/Sad - \$104

50/50 - \$22, Tom Slaymaker (yes, he's back, and yes, he did!)c