

# Environmental Excellence Awards

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.**, May 28, 2007 – More than 300 Walt Disney World Resort Cast Members were recognized recently for their commitment and dedication to the environment at the 2007 Environmental Excellence Awards.

The Environmental Excellence Awards were launched in 1994 and recognizes Cast Members for all aspects of environmental excellence: habitat conservation, resource conservation, education and awareness, waste minimization and research. The awards are meant to recognize Cast Members whose efforts in recycling, waste minimization, and conservation are exceptional.

The following are several 2007 Environmental Excellence Award winner profiles:

- **Christy Conk** – Animal Keeper at Disney’s Animal Kingdom and 2007 Jiminy Cricket Award Winner- Christy is a member of multiple environmental organizations locally and nationally including the National Wildlife Federation, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and serves as a Board Member of Friends Lake Louisa. Through her work in the community, Christy helped organize and staff Lake Louisa Field Day. This event was designed to create awareness about Florida’s ecosystems and the plants and animals within them. The event included activities and lessons for the whole family.
- **Dennis Krupinski** – Engineering Department – Dennis has volunteered at Disney’s Wilderness Preserve for more than 10 years. Most recently he has produced a wildflower interpretive guide for the preserve. Dennis spent a year photographing seasonal flowers so visitors to the wilderness preserve could identify the plants they might see while hiking the ¾ mile trail.
- **Sheri Elmore and Christa Kelley** – Disney Cruise Line – This dynamic duo serve on the *Celebration Circle of Excellence* and consistently volunteer for environmental events around property. Most recently the two Cast Members partnered with the local UPS office to re-use pillowpacks used for padding packages. The two collect thousands of pillowpacks from boxes received by the Disney Cruise Line on a daily basis and then give the pillowpacks to the local UPS store to be reused in future UPS deliveries. These pillowpacks are made from plastic and tend to not be recyclable.

Taking care of the environment is more important than ever. Throughout history, there have been forward-thinking people who realized the importance of protecting the world in which we live. One of those people was the founder of Walt Disney World – Walt Disney – whose passion for the environment built the foundation for a commitment that continues to this day.