



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pinecrest Gardens Education Coordinator wins environmental leadership award for leadership in environmental resource management and policy

Pinecrest, Fla. – Pinecrest Gardens Education Coordinator Lisa Toy was awarded the Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA) 2014 Rick Wilkins Environmental Leadership Award. The award is presented each year to a Florida citizen who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in the environmental resource management and policy arena. As an environmental volunteer and as a leader in sustainability dedicated to leading the local environmental resource management efforts for the Pinecrest Gardens Lisa's work inspires adults and students.

FLERA's Executive Director Kristen Hoss noted that Lisa was as the ward winner because "She more than exemplifies devotion to Florida's environment and resources, and more than validates her selection for this prestigious award.

Lisa Toy has been the Educational Program Coordinator at Pinecrest Gardens since 2013. Prior to working for the Village of Pinecrest, Lisa spent two years studying for her master's degree in Environmental Science from American University in Washington DC. She focused her research on the relationship between environmental health and human activity. Her biggest sustainability concern is the impact of pollution on ecosystems, especially the effect of pesticide use on water and soil quality.

"With all of the pessimism surrounding the fate of the environment, it is sometimes daunting to be in this field. However, receiving the Environmental Leadership Award inspires me to keep living passionately, keep traveling and keep learning because anyone can make a difference, even if it is in some small way," said Toy.

Before earning her master's, Lisa worked as a Cancer Information Specialist for the University of Miami/National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service. In 2009, Lisa traveled to Costa Rica to volunteer in the Tortuguero Rainforest where she assisted marine biologists in an effort to study migratory patterns and life cycles of leatherback turtles. It was here that her love for the environment began.

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About Rick Wilkins Environmental Leadership Award and FLERA

The Rick Wilkins Environmental Leadership Award was established in honor of Rick Wilkins, this award is open to the environmental professional who best demonstrates exemplary leadership, integrity and dedication to service. The mission of FLERA is to enhance communication, education and advocacy for Florida local environmental protection efforts. FLERA was formed in the late 1960s as a voluntary association of local environmental programs to share information about mutual resource concerns and solutions. Today, FLERA is a diverse organization of state, county and municipal agencies and consulting firms. Our members provide a wide variety of environmental protection and land management services.

About Pinecrest Gardens

Pinecrest Gardens attracts over 150,000 visitors each year and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 2011, making it historically significant on a local, state and national platform. It is a premier venue for the arts, education and environmental conservation and preservation. On any given day one can catch an arts performance, tour the 14 acres of native forested wetland, tropical hardwood hammock and native cypress slough hammock or take a class in horticulture, archeology and botany.

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