

## 2009 Bronze Smokey Bear Award Winners

Only 10 bronze Smokey Bear awards are awarded nationally each year.

These awards are given to individuals or organizations that have made significant impacts in fire prevention on a statewide level.

This year only 7 were awarded nationally and three of those were from Florida.

### Florida Award Winners:

#### **Melissa Yunas**

Melissa is the Mitigation Specialist in the Okeechobee District and has come up with innovative ways to motivate her entire District to become more active and participate in fire prevention activities.

Melissa partnered with several local and state agencies to develop an event called Fire Fest to promote fire prevention in her area. She developed fire prevention games and activities for kids and adults. She also included live fire demonstrations to show the importance of prescribed burning for land management as well as fire prevention. Fire Fest has become an annual event and is growing bigger each year.

#### **Suwannee Fire Prevention Committee**

The Suwannee Fire Prevention Committee developed an art and essay contest for the Suwannee County Elementary school. The contest was so popular the first year that the committee implemented it District wide the following year.

The committee also constructed four fire danger signs for the District and built a Smokey Bear cabin to be used as a traveling fire prevention display. The cabin has been used by several other Districts for events such as the Gator Bowl Parade.

#### **Genie Hall**

Genie is an Account Director for National Cinemedia and has been instrumental in helping the Division of Forestry promote the fire prevention message through movie ad campaigns for the past several years. Genie has gone above and beyond what has been asked of her in promoting the fire prevention message. Images of fire are on the list of materials deemed inappropriate for movie ad content. Genie has had to plead her case of the importance of the fire prevention ads to company officials on several occasions in order to get the fire prevention ads produced.

During one particularly bad wildfire season, Genie took it upon herself to call seven of her colleagues and asked them to extend the public service prevention ads free of charge for an additional few weeks until the wildfire danger in Florida decreased.