

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, Maintenance Mechanic Allen Hansen was presented with the Federal Wage System Employee of the Year Award, an award which is given to only one person in the entire region, by Cindy Dohner, the Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region.



Allen Hansen has selflessly performed his duties, sought additional responsibilities, cut costs, and promoted the Service and its mission. He is highly respected by his fellow employees at the refuge.

Allen has suggested and implemented a number of cost saving jobs and ideas. He received the required training and certification and now serves as a state-licensed water plant operator in order to operate the refuge's potable water plant. This saves more than \$6,000 a year. He also took responsibility for the refuge's sewage treatment plant, which has resulted in additional

savings for the refuge. Both plants are closely monitored by the state and Palm Beach County, who periodically do surprise inspections to ensure compliance with state standards. The plants have never failed to pass these inspections with flying colors. Allen's dedication is exemplified by the time he left a hospital where he was having extensive tests in order to perform emergency repairs on the refuge's water plant. Allen is also the refuge's expert on the telephone and data system. He is the first responder for data problems and the coordinating of those problems with the vendors. This saves the refuge \$300 to \$600 per visit.