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CORPORATE AWARD

TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY AND LEWIS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Rod Burkhardt (left) of Tampa Electric Company and Roy Lewis of Lewis Environmental Services.

The objective of the Corporate Award of the Ecological Society of America is to identify and recognize a corporation, business, division, program, or an individual of a company for accomplishments in incorporating sound ecological concepts, knowledge, and practices in planning and operation procedures. This award is designed to serve as an encouragement for business and industry to do what is ecologically best and to enhance communication among ecologists at universities, in government agencies, and in the private sector for the improvement of applied ecology.

The ESA Corporate Award is an annual award with six subcategories. This year's category is "Sustainability of Biological Resources in Wetland Environments." This includes organizations concerned with aquaculture and commercial fishing, including shellfishing and related industries; sports fishing, boating, and related recreational uses; lake management and restoration;

wetlands protection and restoration; channelization; dredging; and related activities.

Tampa Electric Company and Lewis Environmental Services are jointly presented this award for the manner in which they conducted business in relocating a power plant and implementing a wetlands protection plan on Tampa Bay, Florida. In order to carry out this work, Tampa Electric developed a Stewardship Advisory Committee and hired Lewis Environmental Services. The committee is composed of 37 people from a broad range of interests and expertise in wetlands management: environmentalists, fishing groups, state agencies, and educational institutions. Together they developed and implemented an exemplary management plan for company lands adjacent to the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve on Tampa Bay. This management includes protection, restoration, monitoring, education, and assistance to others.