

Smith Selected Collier County Government Supervisor of the Year for 2007

Murdo Smith, regional manager for the Parks and Recreation Department, was selected Collier County government's Supervisor of the Year for 2007.

An employee of Collier County government since 1975, Smith manages the Parks and Recreation Department's Beach and Water Operation, Region 1 within the department which includes beach maintenance, park rangers, interpretive programming, sea turtle monitoring and protection, Sugden Regional Park's ski and sailing center, county boat launches and marinas, beach concessions and the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park.

"My greatest accomplishment was my involvement with the design and construction of the five original community parks that were implemented shortly after the Parks and Recreation Bond referendum passed in 1982," said Smith. "Since the referendum, I continue to be actively involved in the planning and development of Collier County's parks and facilities and am proud of the role I have played in the protection and preservation of the gopher tortoises at Barefoot Beach Preserve, and my involvement with the Collier County Park Ranger Service."

The county's Park Ranger Service, a benchmark program implemented by Smith, educates the public about the importance of the environment and wildlife in Southwest Florida. The unique outreach program that once served as an interactive tool to educate the general public about natural history, expanded to include children in the classroom, senior citizens in assisted living facilities, and individuals with special needs (such as Alzheimer patients).

"Murdo is an excellent leader and an asset to the county," said Administrator Marla Ramsey, Public Services Division. "Over the course of a 30-plus year career, he has worked to develop and maintain relationships with staff, supervisors and members of our community."

A native of Dunipace, Scotland, Smith moved to Collier County in 1972 and resides with his family in Naples.

For more information about Smith's nomination or to learn more about Collier County parks and programs, call Camden Smith at 252-5326 or visit www.colliergov.net/parks.

