

Talking...

TRASH

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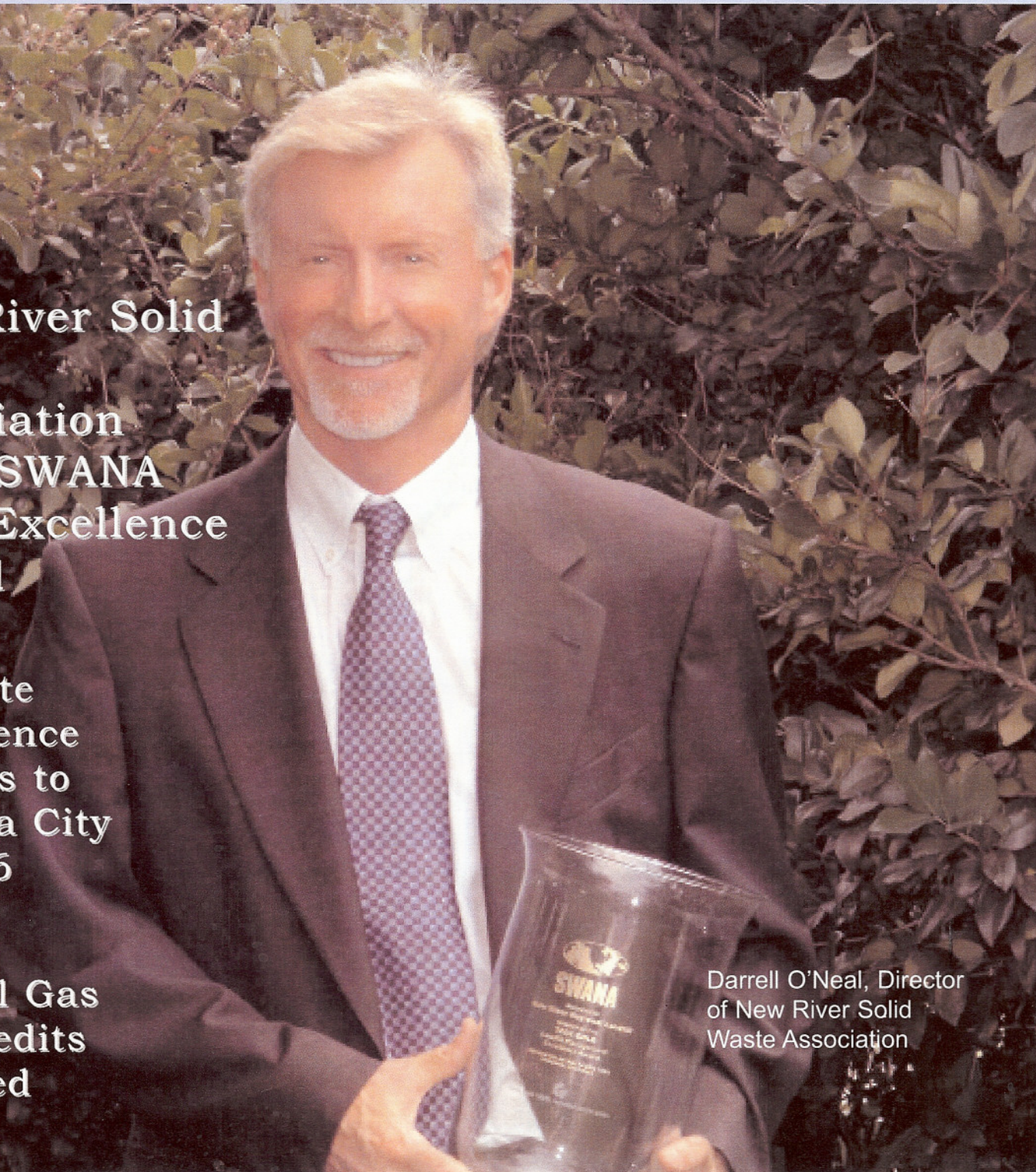
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**New River Solid
Waste
Association
Wins SWANA
Gold Excellence
Award**

**Tri-State
Conference
Returns to
Panama City
in 2006**

**Landfill Gas
Tax Credits
Renewed**

Darrell O'Neal, Director
of New River Solid
Waste Association



NEW RIVER REGIONAL LANDFILL RECOGNIZED AS BEST MANAGED IN NORTH AMERICA

By Sarah Templeton, Jones, Edmunds & Associates

The New River Regional Landfill has been recognized as the best managed landfill in North America. The designation was made by the members of SWANA, with credit going to landfill Executive Director Darrell O'Neal, the Board of Directors, and the landfill's employees and professional staff.

As O'Neal points out, the landfill has been innovative. Not only was it the first regional landfill of its kind in Florida, it has spawned the development of new technology and fostered research that could positively impact waste disposal measures for years to come. And it has done so while keeping disposal costs low for its members and returning revenue to the coffers of the three-county team consisting of Bradford, Baker and Union Counties.

The landfill is not just a financial success story for its three member counties, it has also been a birthplace for waste disposal innovation. The last two disposal cells constructed used a new bottom liner system designed by its engineering firm Jones Edmunds & Associates, and constructed with assistance from staff engineers at Darabi and Associates.

The now patented liner system is less difficult and time consuming to construct, which reduces the cost of constructing the system. Two million dollars in contracting costs were eliminated because the simplified design allowed landfill employees to do most of the construction. A general contractor was considered unnecessary. Instead, the association employed individual sub-contractors and purchased materials directly, further reducing costs.



At left: The working face of the landfill.

Above: The landfill liner.

At right: New River Regional Landfill entrance.



The bottom liner design received the 2003 Governor's New Product Award, and the American Society of Civil Engineers recognized it for outstanding engineering design. Also, the landfill was selected as the venue to host a bioreactor demonstration project by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Regarding the facility's most recent recognition, the Landfill Management Gold Excellence Award, O'Neal said he is thrilled that not only have people's worst fears about the landfill not been realized but the landfill is being recognized as the best managed facility in North America.

"I feel like we have won the Super Bowl of solid waste management," O'Neal said. "Obviously, it took a terrific team effort."

The landfill has an exceptional staff, he said, which lives in the tri-county area and feels a sense of ownership and pride in the facility.

"They're an energetic group that is willing to take on whatever challenge. They always rise to the occasion." He said thinking outside of the box and confidence in what the landfill can accomplish has allowed the landfill to be proactive, innovative, and efficient.

