

Wagon train adventure along the Suwannee to be aired on TV

LIVE OAK, FL, July 1, 2009 – Television viewers will get a chance to see local horseback riders on national TV next week. The “Best of America by Horseback” program will feature a wagon train ride along the Suwannee River and the groundbreaking ceremony for the R.O. Ranch Equestrian Park.

The show is scheduled to air on July 9 at 1:30 p.m. and July 11 at 11 a.m. on the RFD channel. RFD is currently unavailable on cable, but viewers who have satellite may tune in on channel 231 on DISH NETWORK and on channel 345 on DIRECTV.

Segments of the show may also be viewed at www.roranch.org. The show was taped in 2008 and originally aired in March.

The first segment of the program will feature a three-week trip, during which several local horseback riders in wagons traveled the entire stretch of the Suwannee River from its headwaters in Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico. For John Paul Schneider, of Suwannee County, who led the adventure, riding along the trail was a life-long dream that he fulfilled with friends.

On their journey, the wagon train traveled through several tracts of land managed by the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Along the route riders enjoyed seeing the great outdoors, as they came in contact with deer, turkeys and wild hogs.

The wagon train gang didn't wind up their adventure before attending a groundbreaking at the R.O Ranch Park south of Mayo. The R.O. Ranch is a 2,500-acre equestrian park being developed by R.O. Ranch, Inc. and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). The park is a long-time dream of local residence Frank "Red" and Olive Schulte, who wanted to share their love of the environment and mules with the public. When the District established R.O. Ranch, Inc., a Florida nonprofit corporation, the couple gave a \$3.5-million endowment to fund the ranch's operations.

The park is currently open for day use. For more information visit www.roranch.org. Please visit www.mysuwanneeriver.com to learn more about the recreational opportunities available to the public on District land.

#1

John Paul Schneider leads the wagon train in prayer before starting the last day's journey into the town of Suwannee in Dixie County.

#2

Turning the ground at the R.O. Ranch ground breaking ceremony.