

## Pine Jog director Susan Toth wins national education award

By **DAVID ROGERS**

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

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The longtime education director of the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is receiving a national award for her leadership. Two Palm Beach women nominated her for it.

Ann Blades, a member of the Garden Club of Palm Beach, nominated Susan Toth for the Garden Club of America's 2010 Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award, because Toth helps children connect with the environment through the center's programs and tours. Fellow garden club member Elizabeth Dowdle seconded the nomination.

"Susan Toth is the most enthusiastic teacher I've ever run across, both to children and as a teacher of adults," said Dowdle. "She is always innovating and she is always excited and passionate about what she does. There is no one more deserving."

"She's changed so many children's lives. She's absolutely magical," said Blades.

Toth received the award Saturday evening at Pine Jog during its annual fundraiser, the Green Gala.

Pine Jog — a 150-acre preserve with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold-certified facility at 6301 Summit Blvd. in West Palm Beach — is operated as an educational center by Florida Atlantic University and was founded in 1960 by Palm Beachers Alfred G. and Elizabeth Kay. Some 40,000 people a year, many of them schoolchildren, participate in its environmental programs and tours.

The award for Toth comes with a \$1,000 check, which she can spend in any way she desires.

Ginny Kopp, scholarship committee chairwoman for the Garden Club of America, called Toth's work inspiring, including a project by children to restore a native prairie landscape at the Pine Jog campus. "Your 'green schools' awards program for the Palm Beach County School District has resulted in more environmentally responsible school facilities and engaging programs," Kopp wrote in a note announcing the award.

Pine Jog also presented its first Environmental Leadership Awards. Frances Hufty of Palm Beach, a member of the Garden Club of Palm Beach, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information about the center, visit [www.pinejog.org](http://www.pinejog.org).

# The Palm Beach Post

## Zimmerman, Gerwig face off in Tuesday's Wellington runoff

By **JASON SCHULTZ**

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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Voters will go to the polls one more time Tuesday to choose their new village council member.

Challengers Ernie Zimmerman and Anne Gerwig will compete in a runoff after neither received the required majority vote in the March 9 election.

Gerwig got 48 percent of the vote and Zimmerman received 41 percent. A third candidate, Wismick St. Jean, was eliminated with about 11 percent.

Zimmerman, who worked as the village's senior code enforcement officer for several years before retiring last year, said his experience makes him the best candidate. He said he knows how to get things done in the village and what problems need to be addressed.

"I don't need on-the-job training. I already have it," Zimmerman said.

He said one of his biggest goals would be to reduce village spending so the council could balance its budget without raising property taxes. He also wants to find a way to reduce the taxes that village residents pay to Palm Beach County for fire-rescue services, claiming the village pays more in fire taxes than it costs the county to provide the service.

Gerwig said she ran because she "lives, works and plays in Wellington," so she wants to make the village a better place. Her main goal is economic development to help boost village income and bring in jobs so residents can avoid foreclosure.

"Bringing in businesses will be helpful," said Gerwig, who also said she wants to reduce village spending. "We have too many families struggling."

Both candidates have slightly different ideas for how to handle the 63 acres of village property on State Road 7 known as the K-Park site, a major issue in all of this year's Wellington races. Both want to see the land end up in some sort of public use.

Zimmerman said he wants the village to try to sell it to a college such as Florida Atlantic University to build a campus there, but he would not favor simply giving the land to a college.

Gerwig said the land is zoned for civic uses and whatever it ends up being should be a civic use. She suggested the village do a study to determine what residents want to do with the site, and whether any partnerships can be formed with a private company for a public use on the property.

The village originally wanted Palm Beach Community College — now Palm Beach State College — to build a campus on the site, but those negotiations fell through last year.

Gerwig works for her husband's engineering firm, which has a contract with Palm Beach State College and could gain financially if the idea of building a campus on the park were revived. Gerwig said she would recuse herself if such a plan ever came before the council, but that she could vote on any other proposals for the K-Park site that do not involve the college.

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

## FAU rallies to rock Arkansas-Little Rock and take Sun Belt series

By Ted Hutton

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

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After getting thumped 16-6 in Friday's first game of the Sun Belt series against Arkansas-Little Rock, Florida Atlantic repaid the Trojans by winning 11-0 Saturday and 11-1 Sunday.

"I was proud of them coming back and finishing the series strong after Friday's loss," FAU coach John McCormack said.

The Owls got all their bad pitching out of the way Friday, as five pitchers combined to give up 16 runs on 16 hits while hitting eight UALR batters.

On Saturday and Sunday FAU got just what it needed on the mound, as Mike Gipson and Kevin Alexander each pitched complete games, with Alexander needing to go just seven innings Sunday as the game was shortened due to the Sun Belt's mercy rule.

Gipson, a junior from West Palm Beach, gave up five hits and walked two as he is now 4-0 on the season, and he ERA dropped to 1.80 with the shutout.

After using five pitchers Friday, Gipson allowed the bullpen to rest and set up Sunday's deciding game.

McCormack said he only needed three innings from Alexander because the Owls bullpen was ready for a lot of work Sunday, but Alexander, a freshman from Coral Springs, didn't need any help.

Alexander scattered five hits and walked one batter as he improved to 2-2 on the season. The Sun Belt has a Sunday mercy rule that ends a game when a team leads by 10 or more runs after seven innings.

"He gave us more than we expected, it worked out great," McCormack said.

FAU improved to 11-7 and 4-2 in the Sun Belt, as they have now won their two conference series.

The Owls host Cornell Tuesday and Wednesday before travelling to Louisiana-Lafayette for another Sun Belt series that begins Friday.