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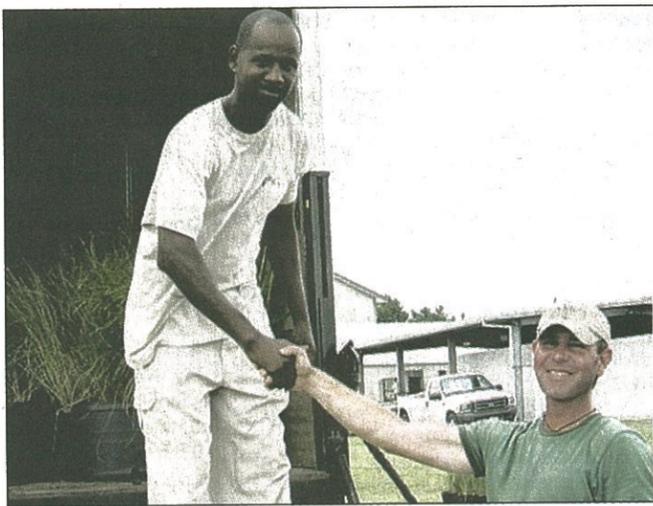
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**SERVING: MATHEWS • GHEENS • LOCKPORT • VALENTINE • LAROSE
CUT OFF • GALLIANO • GOLDEN MEADOW • LEEVILLE • GRAND ISLE**

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Pictured from left to right are Jerome Gibson and Curt J. Riche'.

USDA/ NRCS distributes plants to nursery growers

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Services Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (GMPMC) has been distributing thousands of plants to licensed nursery growers.

Summer time is indicative to grower time at the GMPMC as the 2011 orders for licensed nursery growers are at its peak. Over the last 5 years the GMPMC's licensed nursery growers has tripled due to not only the demand of locally adapted wetland plant material for restoration purposes, but for the escalating interest of native species abroad.

The 2011 season consists of 11 eligible nursery

growers that are receiving thousands of the PMC's eight plant material releases. The growers are signing an agreement on what they receive and are to propagate this vegetative material in order to exponentially increase their stocks for the uses of conservation purposes.

This material will primarily be increased by local growers, but there are some that are receiving the eight releases as far as Pennsylvania. The eight releases cannot be found any other place other than the Golden Meadow PMC who will continue their efforts to provide customers with necessary plant materials in order to insure supply for the demand.