

# **ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST**

*"A monthly summary of environmental news, happenings, resources, articles and networking opportunities to enhance the education and awareness of educators and those that want to learn"*

**Volume 1 Number 1 March 2008**

**[www.ircgov.com/stormwater](http://www.ircgov.com/stormwater)**

## **Letter from the Editor**

So many "good things" cross my desk via emails on a daily basis. Instead of sending out multiple emails to share this information with those interested in receiving it, I thought a newsletter might be a good way to disseminate this information. Do not depend on this newsletter as the only source for environmental and sustainability news. It's only a summation of emails that have been forwarded to me.

In reviewing the Global Green Alliance, Inc. website, these words jumped off the page.....Benjamin Franklin's said, "If we do not hang together, we will ALL hang separately" .....together, as one human family we can make great ideas for change - a reality. If we are to be successful in our endeavor we must put aside our differences and embrace each other as fellow humans fighting against a common foe. This battle (increasing pollution and decreasing environmental sustainability) we are faced with is the most dangerous threat to mankind's future and we need each other, all of us, to work together towards leaving a habitable world for our children and their children to come." One step in working together is communicating among the environmental groups within our IRC community.

As a first step, environmental non-profit and governmental groups (no commercial groups) are invited to post their events, meetings and activities on the IRC Environmental Event Calendar (see below). In kicking off this newsletter highlighted some events below. **From this point forward, event information will be placed on the calendar by the respective groups.**

**Aside from events, I welcome all "environmentally-related news" contributions by email, Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator, 772-465-5686 [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com)**

## **Environmental Event Calendar**

The KIRB Water Quality Committee felt there was a need to create and maintain a calendar that we could all use to post environmental events happening in IRC and environmental events outside the county which would be of interest to IRC citizens. This will help avoid overlap of similar events, and/or at least inform all of us what is going on in our own community! We encourage non-profit and governmental reps to go to <http://www.calendar.yahoo.com>. The yahoo Id is IRCwaterqualityed and the password is calendar. Once you are in the calendar, events are easily added by finding the date and clicking on "add". When you add an event, please put your name, title and organization name/phone number in the comments section so we know who to contact with questions.

### ***Best Management Practice (BMP) for the Month***

***Don't Flush Unwanted Medications down the toilet, only in the garbage –***

***PLEASE POST & DISTRIBUTE FL DEP's "Don't Flush" Flyer for Medication Disposal***

English version:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/publications/shw/meds/DEPMedicationDisposalFlyer111706Final.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/shw/meds/DEPMedicationDisposalFlyer111706Final.pdf)

Spanish version:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/publications/shw/meds/DEPMedicationDisposalFlyerSpanishFinal.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/publications/shw/meds/DEPMedicationDisposalFlyerSpanishFinal.pdf)

### **Concentrate on the Positive...local accomplishments**

Happiness is when our expectations are met with successes, so let's concentrate on **local accomplishments** advancing environmental topics:

- Successful Sea Turtle Lighting Workshop held on Feb. 2
- Recycling books for children written by local resident, Chantai Snellgrove, 772-532-4423, email: finelines@bellsouth.net and see article about her character, Recycling Rosie, at [www.recyclefloridatoday.org/publications/renewablenewsfall05.pdf](http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org/publications/renewablenewsfall05.pdf)
- 32-pg recycling book, "If I Were the President This is How I Would Save the Earth," written by local resident, Jacqui Burgess, (772) 462-5678, [BurgessJ@stlucieco.gov](mailto:BurgessJ@stlucieco.gov). It is available on the internet at [www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/](http://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/).
- KIRB's electronics recycling event collected 30,000+ pounds of electronics, handed out 400 recycling bins, had 2,000 people participate in the event!
- ELC's Roots and Shoots Youth to Explore Volunteer Opportunities Program
- Kick-off of the monthly "Green Drinks International" meetings  
<http://www.myhometownnews.net/index.php?id=38990>
- Grand Opening of the IRC's 409-acre North Sebastian Conservation Area March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Annual IRL Regional EnviroThon Competition held on Feb. 29 at the Adam's Ranch  
[www.indianriverlagoonenvirothon.com](http://www.indianriverlagoonenvirothon.com)
- IRC Hosts Monthly Environment Page – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday/month in IRC section
- IRC Pollution Reporting Hotline # 226-1888 Now Includes Land Dumping to the already existing stormdrains, canals and water bodies reporting # and on-line mechanisms

### **News for the Construction Industry**

Learn new practices and implement them project by project: <http://www.wwn-online.com/articles/50888/>

See [www.BuildingSoil.org](http://www.BuildingSoil.org)

**Job Walk of "Green Certified" Building on March 12** – see first hand how a "traditional commercial renovation project" changed to a high performance Green Building. For information see Regional/State Happenings column below. Also see <http://chapters.usgbc.org/southflorida/events.html>

**Register Now** ([www.ircgov.com/stormwater](http://www.ircgov.com/stormwater)) **as seats are limited for the Tues/Wed, June 10 & 11, 2-Day DEP Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Course held in Vero Beach** - Hosted by Indian River County Stormwater Division. Remember, the 2-Day DEP inspector training classes are held year-round throughout the state as listed on their website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/erosion.htm>

### **News For Students & Teachers**

<http://www.aquakids.tv/> – a half-hour program on the FOX television network (airs locally on WFLX 12:30 PM Saturdays) features young people taking action across the U.S. to preserve aquatic environments and wildlife. The Everglades restoration will be featured in 3 episodes which started airing 2/16/08.

June 17 –20 Forestry Tour of Florida Educators - [http://www.fl.dof.com/calendar/forestry\\_teachers\\_tour.html](http://www.fl.dof.com/calendar/forestry_teachers_tour.html)

**To open in the summer of 2008.....The Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast**, 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. The entire building will be used as an exhibit explaining “green” features with interactive displays and animated virtual tours designed to teach children and their parents the merits of sustainable building design, function and technology. Visit [www.childrensmuseumtc.com](http://www.childrensmuseumtc.com) for more information.

### **News for Boaters, Fishermen and the Marine Industry**

**Adopt-A-Fishing Bin Project Kicks-off** - Volunteers are needed to inventory monofilament recycling bins along our waterfronts, and place collection boxes in marine-oriented businesses. For details contact KIRB at 388-5472

**Clean Boater Program Comes to IRC** – If you would like to assist in the efforts to promote this valuable program at events, or be involved in any way, please call KIRB at 388-5472. At KIRB's Water Quality Committee meeting, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30, a DEP representative will give an overview of how we can educate our citizens to utilize Florida's Clean Marinas, Boatyards & Retailers, safeguard the state's waterways, and adopt environmentally-friendly practices such as using bilge socks, fueling collars, and good recycling habits. [www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/boater/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/boater/default.htm)

### **Local Happenings**

**Wednesdays** at 4pm and 7 pm - **Ocean Science Lecture, part of the public lecture series at Harbor Branch**, Jill Sunderland 772-4655-2400 ext 506, email: education@hboi.edu

**March 24 Volunteer Training Begins for ELC's Lagoon Days** (April 14 – May 8 except Wednesdays) – contact Heather Stapleton, heather@elcweb.org

**April 19 , 12 noon – 8 pm, Earth Day Celebration at Riverside Park in Vero Beach**  
[www.indianrivergreenteam.com](http://www.indianrivergreenteam.com)

**April 26 V.B. Museum of Art's 2008 Children's Art Festival.** Promote your programs and hands-on activities throughout the day Contact Shanti Sanchez, School and Youth Programs Manager, no later than Friday, Apr 11<sup>th</sup>, (772)231-0707, ext 117, or by email: [shanti@verobeachmuseum.org](mailto:shanti@verobeachmuseum.org)

### **Regional/State Happenings**

**March 8 -10am-5pm, Healthy Living Expo at the Florida Tech Clemente Center in Melbourne, FL.** Entry is FREE and so are the workshops! Last year over 1900 people attended from Brevard and Indian River. See <http://healthylivingexpos.com/home.html>

**March 12 - 12 – 1 pm free U.S. Green Building Tour of the not-for-profit Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast,** 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. **Please RSVP to [leon@corecommunities.com](mailto:leon@corecommunities.com) no later than Friday, March 7, 2008.** In 2001 was originally scoped as a traditional commercial renovation project. However in 2004, the decision was made to change the plans from a traditional architectural project to a high performance Green Building pursuing L.E.E.D. certification! Sustainable practices include minimized site disturbance and 75% reduction of demolition and construction waste. Primary sustainable features include white building and roof color (passive reduction of heat gain); enhanced insulation in the roof and exterior walls; CO2 sensors and lighting sensors, and insulated glazing, low flow, sensor and “dual flush” plumbing fixtures are estimated to provide a 20% reduction in water use. Also, the Museum requires a mandatory recycling and green housekeeping program, and was designed to accommodate the future integration of solar panels and wind power in the future (if donations or grants are received). **Considering innovation, the building itself will be used an exhibit; explaining “green” features with interactive displays and animated virtual tours designed to teach children and their parents the merits of sustainable building design, function and technology.** Visit [www.childrensmuseumtc.com](http://www.childrensmuseumtc.com) for more information

**March 14 - Alternative Water Supply and Water Savings Incentive (WaterSIP) Funding Program Workshop,** 1:00 p.m., at the SFWMD Office -West Palm Beach Headquarters. You are welcome to join us at the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center to view the workshop via video-conference – for directions call 772-223-2600.

**May 15 – 18 Green Earth Expo 2008 in Orlando,** see [www.globalgreenalliance.com/](http://www.globalgreenalliance.com/)

## **GRANT DEADLINES**

### **March 28 – Deadline for 2008 Request For Proposals for the TNC-NOAA Community Based Restoration Program Partnership.** See

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/marine/strategies/community.html> or the NOAA RC website at [http://seahorse.nmfs.noaa.gov/rcdb/class/projects\\_partnership.jsp?partnership=The+Nature+Conservancy&Submit=Submit](http://seahorse.nmfs.noaa.gov/rcdb/class/projects_partnership.jsp?partnership=The+Nature+Conservancy&Submit=Submit)

The IRL NEP's contracted grants writer, Cape Canaveral Scientific, Inc. has sent out the information below on deadlines for applying for grants from several sources. If you have a project in-mind and want to pursue some grant funding under one of the opportunities below, please contact the Cape Canaveral Scientific at [aadams@gate.net](mailto:aadams@gate.net)

### **APRIL 1 - DEADLINE for Florida Inland Navigation District Waterways Assistance Program,**

Requires 50/50 match for water related projects including, navigation channel dredging, channel markers, navigation signs or buoys, boat ramps, docking facilities, fishing & viewing piers, waterfront boardwalks, inlet management, environmental education, law enforcement equipment, boating safety programs, beach re-nourishment, dredge material management, environmental mitigation, and shoreline stabilization.

### **MAY 7 - DEADLINE for Florida Forever Florida Communities Trust Grant Program,**

Requires 40/60 to 50/50 match. Up to \$6.6 million request allowed per local government for land acquisition for parks, stormwater treatment areas, wetlands, etc. This is a \$66-76M state funded program.

**MAY 23 - DEADLINE for 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant,** Requires a 60/40 match (40% from local government or non-profit). Average grant award is \$400-500K Approximately \$5M is available statewide.

### **ROLLING DEADLINE - TMDL Water Quality Restoration Program stormwater**

**construction grants,** Deadline is rolling before Dec. 30 2008. Requires a 50/50 match. Average grant award is \$500K-\$1M. Approximately \$18M is available statewide. Construction of stormwater BMPs, wet detention, exfiltration, baffle boxes, etc...

## **Websites to Know About**

**Carbon Footprint Calculator** – do you want to learn how you contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change:

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/>

**www.Earth911.org**

**www.BuildingSoil.org**

**www.recyclefloridatoday.org**

Palm Beach Post's Green News :

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/green/content/shared/green/index.html>

Press Journal's/Scripps Green News: None (I called to verify)

<http://www.learningtogive.org/>.

**Quote for the month: "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." – Mahatma Gandhi**