

# **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 2 April 2008

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

## **Note: "NEW" News since the last issue is in Black Font**

Do not depend on this newsletter as the only source for environmental and sustainability news. It is a summation of emails (and articles) received by Diane Wilson. Environmental non-profit and governmental groups (no commercial groups) are invited to post their events, meetings and activities on the IRC Environmental Event Calendar themselves (see below). **Aside from events, submit all "environmentally-related news" contributions you would like to share with others to [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com)**

## **Letter from the Editor**

Since the purpose of this newsletter is to share ideas and resources for environmental educators, i.e. change agents, what do you think of "The Power of Ideas, Public Awareness and Engagement" as the title? Coming from the stormwater perspective, "Turning the Tide" could be the title – since our mission is to reverse irreparable environmental damage by motivating people to change their behaviors via education. Though we don't exclusively address energy issues, the title of the ELC's recent "Watts Current" event caught my attention, as my maiden name was Watts.

The March 24, 2008 TIME magazine was devoted to the theories and concepts that are reshaping our world. If you are like me you don't have a lot of time to read the huge amount of material that comes our way on a daily basis. For your convenience, I pulled from the TIME issue what I considered to be "the highlights" relating to environmentalism (see within this newsletter)

Before I wrote this "letter" I reread the last paragraph of one of the TIME articles and felt compelled to share the most important point, "We will need science, technology and professionalism, but most of all we will need to subdue our fears and cynicism." As educators/change agents it is important for us to stay positive and motivate others which in turn will keep you enthusiastic!

*Diane Wilson*

IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator  
(772) 226-3477  
Email: [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com)

## **Local Happenings are listed on the IRC Environmental Event Calendar**

**WHAT IS LISTED:** environmental events occurring inside and outside the county which would be of interest to IRC citizens.

**WHO CAN POST EVENTS:** Non-profit and governmental groups (no commercial groups) who welcome environmental education booths/involvement their events, meetings and activities

**WHY?** This will help avoid overlap of similar events, and/or at least inform all of us what is going on in our own community!

**HOW DO WE ACCESS THE CALENDAR:** 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 readers know who to contact with questions.

## **ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS\* RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTALISM**

(\*From the March 24, 2008 issue of TIME magazine)

- The Power of ideas...changing the world requires innovative thinking, paradigm shifts, new ways of thinking about things that we deal with every day...
- The largest and simplest idea – we can find solutions to the most pressing problems as long as we think of ourselves as a single group or entity and not as a collection of competing nation-states Economist Jeffrey Sachs' essay, adapted from his book, Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet.
- Per Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University...The defining challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be to face the reality that humanity shares a common fate on a crowded planet...with 6.6 billion people. Never before has the magnitude of human economic activity been large enough to change fundamental natural processes at the global scale, including the climate itself.
- ...one of 4 goals for the U.S. (and the world)...is a new approach to global problem-solving based on cooperation among nations and the dynamism and creativity of the nongovernmental sector...
- (Diane's note) The old adage states "there are no coincidences".....at the same time the above article came out I received info on an environmental competition created by a "nongovernmental sector entity" who is taking action by putting up \$60,00 in awards and motivating people to get others involved.....I challenge all IRC Citizens to think of a unique volunteer project concept to improve any waterfront in IRC - see the [www.wfchallenge.com](http://www.wfchallenge.com) competition April 1, 2008 – November 5, 2008.
- Time Magazine's articles continued to state great social transformations, such as the birth of environmentalism, all began with public awareness and engagement. Our political leaders followed rather than led (pg. 40). It was scientists, engineers, churchgoers and young people who truly led the way. As citizens, if we support a global commitment to sustainable development, then our leaders will follow, and we will find a way.....Each of us has a role to play and a chance for leadership.....study the problems by reading, travel – there is no substitute for seeing for yourself, get your business, community, church or student groups active in some aspect of sustainable development....be one of many Americans who are promoting inspiring examples of private (and individual) leadership. If the public leads, politicians will surely follow. Ours is the generation that can turn the tide against climate change...and head off irreversible extinction of other species.

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

**Did you know the majority of marine debris is single-use disposable plastic waste?** Because it is durable and light-weight, plastic debris travels over vast distances and accumulates on beaches and in the ocean. Plastic debris is not biodegradable. It releases chemical additives and plasticizers into the ocean. Plastic also adsorbs hydrophobic pollutants, like PCBs, and pesticides like DDT. Fish and birds mistake it for food. These pollutants bioaccumulate in the tissues of marine organisms, biomagnify up the food chain, and find their way into the foods we eat.

**Solutions** are most effective at the source. Some communities have banned certain plastics from retail use. Bio-plastics, polymers made from plants, are excellent alternatives that will help end the plastic plague. If you must buy consumable products, choose paper, glass or bio-plastic.

Source: [www.algalita.org](http://www.algalita.org) site and brochure, *Plastic Debris from Rivers to Sea*

## **News for the Construction Industry**

**PlanetReuse.com** is the world's first Web site that connects buyers and sellers of reused and reclaimed construction materials and equipment and allows them to purchase products with integrated shipping online, per <http://www.eponline.com/articles/60262>

**Concrete washout issues ...** EPA is targeting construction sites to insure that there is no violation of the NPDES requirements. Those who are in violation are being hauled away in handcuffs. Please make an extra effort to ensure your staff is informed and you are making specific plans to handle concrete washout. Contractors and concrete producers must wash out the chutes in order to prevent any concrete from spilling onto the streets. Simple solution for small amounts of washout is a designated pit (sign) lined with plastic – remove and haul off when dried. Make sure this activity is located AWAY from streams and water bodies. There are 2 potential pollutants in washout. 1 = pH issues. 2 = Selenium 6 (toxic). Any questions....look at the EPA and DEP websites.

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

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

**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**

April 1, 2008 – November 5, 2008.....the Waterfront Challenge, [www.wfchallenge.com](http://www.wfchallenge.com). A national competition to recognize people who create and conduct unique/never-have-been-done-before waterfront improvement projects.

April 14 – May 8<sup>th</sup> - ELC Lagoon Days. [heather@elcweb.org](mailto:heather@elcweb.org) or call 772-589-7723

<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.

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**

**Saturday, July 19 Tri-County Waterway Clean Up** - The first cleanup specifically concentrating on the waterways, spoil islands and area canals. For details visit [www.miatc.com](http://www.miatc.com)

**Here is an idea tournament directors can consider....**The Miami Beach Sailfish Tournament produces a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> – roughly 2,000 tons, according to Dan Kipnis, founder of the event. To offset the impact of fuel used by boat engines, travel to the tournament, and the manufacture of tournament T-shirts, this year corporate sponsors bought carbon credits, which will help fund a methane capture project...per [www.CNN.com/solutions](http://www.CNN.com/solutions)

**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. 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)

## **Regional/State Happenings**

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

## **Grant Deadlines**

**APRIL 18 ... THE USFWS South Florida Coastal Program has funding available for FY '08** for restoration or enhancement of degraded coastal habitats. More information can be found here: <http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/images/pdflibrary/2008%20FWS%20Coastal%20Program%20Funding%20Announcement.pdf> or contact Debbie DeVore at [Debbie\\_DeVore@fws.gov](mailto:Debbie_DeVore@fws.gov) or 772/562-3909 x 324

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)

**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...

**JUNE 27, 2008 DEADLINE for The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program**, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provides matching grants of up to \$1 million per project for acquisition, restoration, management or enhancement of coastal wetlands. For more information, go to <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants> (click on FY 2009 Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance).

## **Websites to Know About**

[www.CNN.com/solutions](http://www.CNN.com/solutions), which profiles men and women who have come up with innovative solutions to tough environmental problems

**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](http://www.Earth911.org)

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

[www.recyclefloridatoday.org](http://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 reminder of the importance of recognizing our common *wealth*.....( 032408 *TIME* pg. 40)

“.....For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breath the same air (stormwater editor's addition: and use the same water....). We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.”

John F. Kennedy