



# TURNING THE TIDE

IRC Pollution  
Road Sign

Volume 3 Number 3 May 2010

View past issues at [www.ircgov.com/stormwater](http://www.ircgov.com/stormwater)

Subscribe by emailing [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com)

IRC citizens are “Turning the Tide” of polluted water runoff leaving their properties and reaching the Indian River Lagoon by learning and practicing proper property maintenance and disposal methods.

*Water quality and environmental protection begins in your yard.*

## Does Your Septic System Affect the Indian River Lagoon?

Does your household use a septic tank system for wastewater treatment? If so, it has the potential to negatively affect water quality in the Indian River Watershed if not maintained properly. The Indian River Lagoon Watershed is all the land area and waterways that drain into the Indian River Lagoon. So if your septic system isn't correctly located, adequately designed, carefully installed and properly managed, it may be contributing to pollution in the Indian River Lagoon - which affects everybody!

Septic systems are wastewater treatment systems that use septic tanks and drainfields to dispose of sewage in the soil. The tank receives untreated household waste, bacteria break down the solid material and the drainfield distributes the remaining liquid from the septic tank to the surrounding soil. The soil then acts as the final filter for wastewater treatment. A septic system failure can cause serious problems including sewage backup, human and animal illness, contaminated water supplies, and costly repair bills!

There are many ways individuals and households can help keep their septic systems operating properly and also be environmentally sensitive. Suggestions are listed on page 11.

Join your IRC neighbors in treating water *as a resource*, not as a waste product,

Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator

## Contents

- **NEWS**  
Everyone  
Construction Industry  
Students & Teachers  
Marine Industry & Boaters  
Business Sector
- **EVENTS & CONFERENCES**
- **TRAININGS & CLASSES**
- **BMPS & Things Worth Knowing**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Identifying & Reporting Illicit Discharges (visit stormwater website)**
- **Job Network**
- **IRC Environmental Calendar**
- **Grant Deadlines**

## Did you know.....

97% of the earth's water is salty or polluted,  
2% is too far underground to reach.

That leaves only 1% for clean drinking water

.....and 50 -70 % of residential water is

consumed outside in landscaping.

With so little water available  
we each need to  
use it conservatively  
and keep it clean.

Source:

[http://www.gotwater.net/protect\\_water.htm](http://www.gotwater.net/protect_water.htm)



## Need a speaker for your next meeting?



**The EnviroScape**, a portable interactive environmental model, is a great tool to educate youth about the sources of pollution and its prevention.

The stormwater division offers free seminars to nonprofit organizations, HOAs, schools and businesses. Many people think they know what pollution is. But unfortunately many people do not realize the Indian River Lagoon is seriously impaired and how pollution is reaching the Lagoon (and other surface waters) faster and more intensely than ever before.



Email Diane Wilson at [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com) to schedule a speaker or learn more.

**DO YOU KNOW ....solar and wind-powered billboards exist? See page 10 for the answer.**

## NEWS

### **Everyone:**

#### **May 1st to October 31<sup>st</sup> - Lights out for Sea Turtles**

Sea turtle nesting season is here! Prevent disorientation of nesting female and hatchling sea turtles by turning off all indoor and outdoor lighting visible from the beach after dark.

**No watering  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



### **Landscape Irrigation Restrictions in IRC Only 2 Days/week**

as required by St. John's River Water Management District. For details visit  
<http://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions/index.html>  
or call their 24-hour "Irrigation Line" at 1-800-232-0904

**Can You Help Us?** If you have the email addresses of private homeowner associations (including Property owner and condominium associations) in Indian River County please forward them to [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com) . Emails will help to enhance our education and outreach efforts in a timely manner while avoiding printing and postage costs.

#### **"Congratulations on Sowing Coastal Stewardship Seeds in Indian River County"**

.....goes to the Sebastian Fishing Club and other community volunteers in hosting the Hook Kids on Fishing program on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The program was extremely successful in educating 110 kids, their parents, and 55 volunteers about water pollution prevention along with additional conservation techniques. If your volunteer group is interested in hosting such an event contact <http://www.anglersforconservation.org>

### **Private Associations (HOAs, POAs, and Condo Associations):**

**Do you have a Routine Inspection Program for Your Association's Storm Sewer System?** Regular maintenance of the storm sewers is important for flood control, structural integrity, and water quality reasons. The way to do this is through a routine inspection program. Each agency should determine the best schedule to meet its needs. In addition to helping determine how often to clean, regular inspection of the storm sewer system will identify problems. The storm sewer checklist at <http://www.oracwa.org/Pages/Chap3.pdf> suggests, as a good rule of thumb, to conduct an inspection of

the facilities at least once a year, prior to the beginning of the rainy season. Catchbasins (i.e. stormdrains) should be inspected at least once every six months. A good resource on retention ponds is St. John's River Water Management's (SJRWMD) 16-page easy to read booklet, "Neighborhood Guide to Stormwater Systems," available at <http://www.sjrwmd.com/publications/index.html> . More information on pond maintenance, water quality and environmental horticulture is provided through the UF/IRC Extension Service's Educational Presentations and Videos at <http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/Presentations/index.html> . SJRWMD's 15-minute video, "This Old Pond," <http://www.sjrwmd.com/video/index.html#oldpond> provides step-by-step instructions to help property owners maintain their stormwater systems.

**Pollution Prevention Begins At Home** - HOAs, POAs and Condo associations are encouraged to share information from this newsletter with their residents through their bulletins, association website, and/or e-mail system. Should you wish further information or request a presentation at your association meetings, contact Diane Wilson at 226-1565.

### **Homeowners, Builders, Contractors**

- **Renovating? Pouring Concrete?** A simple solution for small amounts of concrete washout is a designated pit lined with plastic or a 3' diameter plastic child's wading pool— remove and haul off when dried. Make sure this activity is located AWAY from streams and water bodies. The wash water is alkaline and contains high levels of chromium, which can leach into the ground and contaminate groundwater. It can also migrate to a storm drain, which can increase the pH of area waters and harm aquatic life. Homeowners – consider including requirements in contracts with concrete delivery companies that drivers must use designated concrete washout facilities. Why? Because as the property owner you are ultimately responsible. For more information visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=17>

### **Students & Teachers**

- **Teachers of 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students: Summer Teachers' Workshop: Exploring the Indian River Lagoon June 22 – 25.** For more information and to register contact Kathy Hill at [khill@sjrwmd.com](mailto:khill@sjrwmd.com) or 321-984-4950

### **Marine**

- **How are you supposed to dispose of fish waste?** - Boaters are encouraged to dispose of unwanted bait offshore and to eviscerate (gut) fish and dispose of contents at sea. The amount of fish waste disposed into a small enclosed basin such as a marina can exceed that which exists naturally in the water at any one time. In small quantities, this fish waste is fed upon by scavenging fish (such as catfish) and is not a

problem. However, in sufficient quantities where water circulation is restricted, the decomposition of this fish waste can deplete the water of dissolved oxygen, leading to water quality degradation and fish kills. This is most often a problem at marinas with large numbers of fish landings or at marinas that have limited fish landings but poor flushing. “Fish feeding” with bait or cleaned fish similarly loads marina basins with nutrients, but can also disrupt the feeding behavior of wild animals and spread diseases among them. Releasing of fish waste in the marina also may attract unwanted predators such as alligators. For more information see page 79 at

[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/files/Clean\\_Marina\\_Action\\_Plan\\_Guidebook.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/files/Clean_Marina_Action_Plan_Guidebook.pdf)

- **May 8 – Boat Volunteers are needed for a Sebastian Spoil Island Clean-up on IR-1**  
**Please RSVP By May 4<sup>th</sup>** by contacting Margie Reynolds, City of Sebastian, 772 388-8212  
[mreynolds@CityofSebastian.org](mailto:mreynolds@CityofSebastian.org) Volunteers will meet at Main Street Boat ramp at 9 am, departing at 9:30 am. Please pack a lunch so you can enjoy a picnic on the island when the project is finished around 12 noon.
- **Do you have ideas on what shoreline and spoil island enhancement efforts work and don't work?**  
Your suggestions and tips on ways to reduce vandalism on spoil islands, such as picnic tables and kiosks being burned and cabbage palms cut for food, are being solicited. The objective is to create and store this information on the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves' website. In this way, time, energy, materials and the environment can be saved. **There will be a meeting on June 3** to discuss this further. Please forward your suggestions to Marc Virgilio (321) 953-5008 [Marc.Virgilio@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Marc.Virgilio@dep.state.fl.us)
- **Mark your calendars for National Marina Day June 12 – see event column**
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup - Saturday, July, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.** There are many ways to be involved as one of the 1,000 volunteers who will participate in cleaning up the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. As an individual or in assembling a clean-up team, come help collect and record over 13.8 tons of trash from the approximate 125 miles of waterways. On land, by boat or through underwater dive clean-ups your participation is appreciated. If you want to know how to get involved contact April Price (772) 285-1646 [info@tcwaterwaycleanup.com](mailto:info@tcwaterwaycleanup.com) .

### **Businesses:**

- **Landscapers: FREE certificate training is now available** – look under the training column below. A good reference for you to read and after the training: FDEP's 2008 Landscaping BMP Handbook at <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/grn-ind-bmp-en-12-2008.pdf>

# EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **May 1 (11 – 2pm) Grand Re-Opening of the New Discovery Station at the Environmental Learning Center on Wabasso Island.** Come for a free visit and see the new “Green” buildings, exhibits, touch tank and aquariums. Complimentary shuttles from the Wabasso Causeway parking areas. For more information call 589-5050 [www.DiscoverELC.org](http://www.DiscoverELC.org)

- **Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, make your reservation early for a turtle walk**



Learn about and observe the threatened loggerhead sea turtles nesting within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge on Florida’s east central coast beaches. The refuge is the largest nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere, has more endangered green sea turtles nest in the refuge than any other place in North America, and the world’s largest sea turtle--the endangered leatherback--nests in the refuge too. Walks are offered **Tuesdays and Wednesdays, in June and July at 9 p.m.** by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation

(CCC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Reservations are limited to 20 each night. **If interested, contact Donna Lee at the Barrier Island Center for dates and availability. Call 321-723-3556** during office hours, Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. *Additional details provided with reservation.*

- **May 1, 9am – 11am Prepare your yard for Hurricane Season and Beyond .** The right plant in the right place can handle Florida’s weather extremes! Master Gardener John Ray will discuss preparing your yard for hurricane season on Saturday, May 1 from 9am to 11am at Heathcote Botanical Gardens. Author Ginny Stibolt will be on hand to sign her book, Sustainable Gardening for Florida. Visit Heathcote Botanical Gardens at 210 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce, or on the web at [www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org). The book signing and lecture are free for Heathcote members, \$8 for non-members.
- **May 2 (Sunday) 7 pm – Free film and presentation by Diane Wilson: The National and Local Picture of Polluted Runoff** in the Sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (as part of their Social Justice program), 1590 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach <http://uufvb.org/> 772/778-5880
- **May 8 (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) “Once Upon a Barrier Island” Celebration.** Everyone is invited to this free event at the Barrier Island Center, 8385 S. Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach to celebrate their 2nd anniversary! Enjoy guided hikes, paddles, seining, live animals, eco-arts, guest speaker presentations, and environmental education exhibits! Refreshments will be on sale. For details 321.723.3556 [www.barrierislandcenter.com](http://www.barrierislandcenter.com)

- **May 22 Extreme Energy Education Event**  
8 a.m. 5K Community Run/Walk at the Treasure Coast Regional Research Park - open to all ages. For details call Tom Perona at (772) 216-1293 or e-mail [tomperona@gmail.com](mailto:tomperona@gmail.com).  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Alternative Fuel Go-Kart Races between eight different middle schools and Green Expo, hosted by the USDA and St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce's Green Committee. For details contact the TCERDA staff at (772) 467-3107.
- **May 25 7:30 am – 1 pm IRSC 's Renewable & Alternative Energy Forum** - Participants from Florida's Research Coast- Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties-will be provided a wealth of information on renewable and alternative energy including information on how to pursue business opportunities to help grow their business. Registration is \$15 [www.ctiirsc.com](http://www.ctiirsc.com) . Exhibit booth space availability and cost information 1-888-283-1177
- **May 25 – 27 National Environmental Partnership Summit “Taking the Next Steps for Energy, Sustainability and a Green Economy”** in Orlando, FL. The Summit brings together public, private and NGO leaders in environmental protection, pollution prevention, compliance assistance and sustainability. <http://www.environmentalsummit.org/>
- **June 12 (10-2pm) National Marina Day Event at the Vero Beach Marina**. For details call (772) 231-2819
- **FREE Indian River Lagoon Topic Lectures** Tuesdays from Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. For details call the Marine Resources Council at 321-725-7775 <http://www.mrcirl.org>. Presentations target the layman and cover topics include ecology, aquatic life, history, and native plants.
- **ELC Noted Environmentalists Lecture Series** – Check out the ELC Website for monthly lectures [www.info@discoverelc.org](http://www.info@discoverelc.org) 589-5050 \$15/per lecture
- **SAVE THE DATE: November 3 – 5 “Renewable Ocean Energy and the Marine Environment: Responsible Stewardship for a Sustainable Future” Conference** at GPA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. Coordinated by Florida Atlantic University's Center for Ocean Energy Technology. For details visit <http://www.ces.fau.edu/conferences/coet/>

## **TRAININGS**

- **AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS: GENERAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS TRAINING & TESTING**. **May 5** (9am – 10:40 am) Pesticide applicators who purchase or use pesticides classified as restricted-use by the U.S. EPA must demonstrate that they meet certification standards established by the Agency under authority of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as Amended. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services mandates applicator licensing requirements under Chapter 487. Call the SLC Extension office at (772) 462-1660.

- **Natural Areas Weed Control Pesticide Licensing Exam Prep** **May 6**, 1:30 - 3 p.m. (training). Ask for the course workbook at the time of registration and bring completed workbooks to class. Pesticide licensing exam available after training. Register by calling (772) 462-1660
- **Aquatic Weed Control Pesticide Licensing Exam Prep** **May 7, 9 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** Aquatic Weed Identification, Equipment Calibration Calculations, Herbicide Selection, and Environmental Safety Management of algae, hydrilla and other aquatic vegetation is often necessary for even the healthiest of Florida's waterways. This vegetation, if not properly maintained, can lead to flooding during the rainy season. Improper management may also result in fish kills and decreased aesthetic & property values. Pre-registration is required. Call (772) 462-1660 to pre-register and ask about training manuals.
- **Would you like to become a Florida Water Star<sup>sm</sup> Certifier?** Currently any individual with a knowledge of irrigation and landscape architecture is welcome to attend a free water efficiency certification training program on **June 10 & 11** at the South Florida Water Management District St. Cloud office <http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/eventsandnews.html> . Certifiers serve as water efficiency consultants who can charge a fee to evaluate and certify the projects of builders, developers and homeowners <http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/certifiers.html>. To register and receive details regarding this training, please contact Jesus Rodriguez at [jerodrig@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jerodrig@sfwmd.gov) or (561) 686-8800 ext 6060.
- **Green Industry BMPs:** All commercial fertilizer applicators, per Florida Senate Bill 494, must have a license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) by January 1, 2014. To get this license you must be trained in the GI-BMPs (includes proper fertilization, pest control, irrigation, and cultural practices) for landscape and pest control professionals and receive a certificate of completion from UF/IFAS and FDEP. Additionally, many Green Industry workers voluntarily participate in the program to better serve their clients. This science-based educational program, designed by UF-IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program, teaches environmentally safe landscaping practices that help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters. Property owners save money, time, and effort; increase the beauty of their landscape; and protect the health of humans, pets, and the environment. Website for training dates & locations: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/bmp\\_training\\_schedule.htm#Industry\\_2010](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/bmp_training_schedule.htm#Industry_2010). **LOCAL CLASS TO BE HELD: Saturday, May 22, 2010** 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension, 8400 Picos Rd, Fort Pierce, FL **Registration Fee Must Be Paid One Week In Advance:** \$20 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and snack) Limited Seating! BMP manuals will be available. Certification upon passing the exam.

**Construction & Earth Moving BMPs:** The FDEP Stormwater & Erosion Inspector Certification Classes address proper installation, inspection and maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use during and after construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation and to properly manage runoff for both stormwater quantity and quality. The exam is now closed book. A list of classes available year-round

is located on the bottom of the following web page <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/erosion.htm> .  
Class manual can be downloaded at **The Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual**

**Pre-registration Deadlines for Local Classes:**

- **May 10** for Brevard County's May 18 & 19 class – register by contacting Elizabeth Melvin, Brevard County Natural Resources at [elizabeth.melvin@brevardcounty.us](mailto:elizabeth.melvin@brevardcounty.us)
- **May 11** for Kissimmee's June 10 & 11 class – register by contacting Debbie Geer in Osceola County Natural Resources at [dgee@osceola.org](mailto:dgee@osceola.org) or (407) 742-8650
- **May 3** for IRC staff/businesses/residents and **June 1 for others from outside Indian River County** for Indian River County's June 15 & 16 class – register by emailing name, company name, work # and cell # to: Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator, [dwilson@ircgov.com](mailto:dwilson@ircgov.com)
- **Landscape Architectural BMPs** Course title: Florida Yards and Neighborhoods – Florida Water Systems, Concepts and Practices, Protecting Water Systems through Ecologically Sound Maintenance/Irrigation for Landscapes and Turfgrass, Creating Wildlife Habitat in Home Landscapes. (BOLA 0007551) 4 CEH's. For details visit [http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/continuing\\_education.htm](http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/continuing_education.htm)
- **Landscape BMPs for Property Management Associations** – The focus and goals of the course are to provide information and guidance on turfgrass and landscape management practices to conserve and protect Florida's water resources. The participant will learn to: identify the impacts of storm water runoff on water bodies; apply Best Manage Practices including Pesticide, Landscape, Fertilizer and Irrigation Management to increase property beauty and value; develop a landscape management plan utilizing the Best Manage Practices for the protection of storm water resources. Materials used in the development of the program come from a variety of agencies, including University of Florida/IFAS/Extension and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.(CAM 9625316) 5 CEH's. For details visit [http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/continuing\\_education.htm](http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/continuing_education.htm)
- **OSHA Refresher Courses ongoing year long around the state.** Nearest class 8-Hour Refresher will be offered in Orlando October 15, 2010, contact: Janine Kraemer (407) 893-3323. For details and request the schedule of 24/40 Hour OSHA Hazwoper and 8-Hour OSHA Refresher classes, contact Glen Perrigan at the FDEP (850) 245-8749 [glen.perrigan@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:glen.perrigan@dep.state.fl.us)
- **All Levels of Various Stormwater Training** are available through the Florida Stormwater Association Call for more information at 888-221-3124 or visit the FSA Training Center Online or email [stormwater@ksanet.net](mailto:stormwater@ksanet.net) or visit the [FSA Training Center Online](#).
- **Local gardening education programs** are held at McKee Botanical Garden [www.mckee garden.org](http://www.mckee garden.org), Heathcote Botanical Garden [www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org) , and the UF/IRC Extension Service <http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/>

# BMPs and Things Worth Knowing

BMPs = Best Management Practices: methods to prevent pollutant discharges to storm drain systems. BMPs are listed by category at [www.ircgov.com/stormwater](http://www.ircgov.com/stormwater)



## Human Debris in Whale's Stomach!

Submitted by Dr. Tina Bond, NPDES Coordinator,  
Osceola County Growth Management

I was reading an article the other day about a beached whale outside of Seattle that had its stomach full of trash, ranging from a pair of sweatpants and plastic bags to a golf ball!!! Scientists said the whale had more than 50 gallons of material in its stomach, most of which was **human debris!**

There's an easy solution to this problem... throw your trash in the trash can! We can take the steps to make sure trash doesn't get into whale stomachs or into our storm drains by simply

throwing our trash away properly. I can't imagine what that poor whale felt with all that trash in its belly, but I can tell you that when our storm drains get clogged with trash and other debris, it can result in flooding because the water can't flow through the system.

We could really reduce the amount of trash in our communities (and it would look much better) if we could get everyone to use trash cans and think of ways to reduce waste in general.

Here are some tips on how you can reduce waste in your household:

- Reduce the amount of packaging you buy, reuse what you can, and recycle the rest.
- Favor products with a high recycled content, even if they cost a little more.
- Take your own mug or thermos to the coffee shop. Some shops will offer a discounted price when you provide your own container.
- Use your own reusable canvas or string bags when shopping (I got one for free from Target this week for Earth Day!).
- If you do opt for paper or plastic grocery bags, take them back to the store to be recycled.

## **Answer to DID YOU KNOW?.....solar and wind-powered billboards exist?**

"Floridians may think that to protect the environment they must make drastic changes to their everyday routines, but this is just not true," said Governor Charlie Crist. "Protecting the environment can be as easy as recycling plastic bags, buying energy-efficient products or using available alternative energy sources."

“*Easy As One – Ordinary Actions, Extraordinary Results*” is an environmental awareness campaign by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that highlights easy actions citizens can take to make sustainable practices part of daily life. DEP calls on citizens to adopt green practices that protect Florida’s air and water quality, conserve water and reduce waste. Governor Crist noted that a sustainable Florida depends on the collective efforts of citizens, groups, businesses, industry and government. Part of the state’s Earth Day celebration included a plastic bag recycling contest between students and adults. Students who brought at least 22 plastic bags were rewarded with a free one-day pass to any Florida state park. More than 5,000 bags were collected.

As part of the *Easy As One* campaign, the Governor highlighted two new environmental awareness programs launched by DEP in partnership with Lamar Advertising, the Florida Retail Federation, the Florida Recycling Partnership, Recycle Florida Today and the American Chemistry Council. **Recently, Lamar Advertising was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to install more than 1,300 solar and wind-powered billboards in Florida. Each billboard system is expected to generate enough power to offset the power it consumes.** Lamar has launched a Web site, [www.renewableflorida.org](http://www.renewableflorida.org), to educate consumers on similar alternative energy uses.

In addition, Hilex, the Florida Retail Federation and the American Chemistry Council touted the *A Bag’s Life* campaign, promoting the reducing, reusing and recycling of plastic bags. The Web site, [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com), offers recycling information by zip code and ideas on how to reuse plastic bags conscientiously.

For more information on environmental protection in Florida, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us). For information on “*Easy As One – Ordinary Actions, Extraordinary Results*” visit [www.dep.state.fl.us/EasyAsOne](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/EasyAsOne).

## Does Your Septic System Affect the Indian River Lagoon?

Continued from cover page

Here are some suggestions:

- Commercial septic tank additives usually don't help and may hurt your system in the long run.
- The drain field should only be covered with grass, don't plant trees or shrubs. Their roots are too long. Keep the grass cut to around 2” to 3” inches. The cut grass helps remove nutrients from the field and increases evaporation.
- Keep kitchen garbage disposal use at a minimum, and don't put hazardous chemicals (check product labeling) down the drain.
- Under no circumstances flush pharmaceuticals down the drain Operation Medicine Cabinet is available to Indian River County residents through the Sheriff’s Department at (772) 770-5028
- NEVER use your toilet like a trash can! Coffee grinds, kitty litter, paper towels, tampons, dental floss, cigarette butts, pesticides, paints, oils, etc, can overtax or destroy the beneficial bacteria in your system, and pollute the water.
- Toxic gases are produced in the tank and are very dangerous, so don't ever go down into the tank. Even lifting the lid to look in can be dangerous.
- Learn the location and keep a maintenance record of your septic tank & drain field.
- If you are having problems, such as sewage backup, slow drains, unpleasant odors, or visible liquid on the ground by the system, immediately contact your septic tank contractor.

- For more information including free maintenance folders please contact Indian River County Health Department, Environmental Health Division, 1900 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960 or 772-794-7440
- Online information is available at [www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/ostds](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/ostds)

Making small changes in household behaviors can make a difference & help restore the quality of the Indian River Lagoon!

## HUNTING? Preplan for Appropriate Carcass Disposal

What happens after the hunt? For most successful hunters, this means a trip to a local deer processor who takes the deer and reduces it to nice, neat packages of venison. However, some hunters prefer to process the deer themselves. What is the proper method to dispose of the byproducts of their processing job? A few of these hunters take the easy way out and simply dump their deer carcass along local, county, or state roads. Worse yet, an increasing number of deer carcasses are appearing in canals. Our canals discharge water unfiltered and untreated directly into the Indian River Lagoon. The lagoon is shallow and slow moving. Thus the Lagoon should not be thought of as a toilet that flushes out pollutants; it's more like a bathtub that tends to hold pollutants.

You may think that decomposing carcasses are part of the “natural process” of our ecosystem. That may be true way out in the woods whereby the elements are “filtered” through the soil before reaching a body of water. But when multiple carcasses are dumped in water they decompose quicker than on land. When this water discharges into the IRL where people swim and fish, the dumping practices can pose a human health risk.

In addition to being unsightly and unhealthy, dumping of carcasses is illegal. Per the Florida Litter Law SS 403.413 which is very broad, dumping an animal carcass on land or water is a felony if commercial in nature or over 500 lbs. It is a misdemeanor if litter dumped is between 15-500 lbs. and non-criminal if less than 15 lbs. Further, if the violation involves the use of a motor vehicle, upon a finding of guilt, whether or not adjudication is withheld or whether imposition of sentence is withheld, deferred, or suspended, the court shall forward a record of the finding to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, which shall record a penalty of three points on the violator's driver's license. Other rules by DEP do address pollution/contamination issues.

A recommended method of disposing of the byproducts of a single wildlife carcass is to dig a hole several feet deep in which the carcass is placed. This is the most convenient, economical, and simplest method for carcass disposal. It is also legal as long as no other trash, such as cans and bottles, is placed in the pit with the animal carcasses.

First, it is recommended that you locate your hole at least 300 feet from any nearby watercourse or flood-prone area. Second, do not dig your hole in very porous soils or on soils with a high groundwater level. Third,

common sense should tell you not to put your hole close to your camp where the smell would be offensive. Disposal holes and pits also should not be located adjacent to camp access roads.

After hunting season, it is best to cover a pit with at least six inches of soil. Following these guidelines will insure that there is no transmission of bacteria or diseases from your pit to any possible drinking water supply or local swimming hole. As the old saying goes “what happens up stream affects every one down stream.”

Please take a portion of your time and preplan for appropriate carcass disposal. Hunters have a rich tradition of being true conservationists. Conservation is wise use. Wise use includes proper carcass disposal.

Portions of this article were obtained from:

[http://www.mississippibowhunters.com/html\\_files/disposal\\_deer\\_carcasses.htm](http://www.mississippibowhunters.com/html_files/disposal_deer_carcasses.htm)

### **Adopt a Canal or Shoreline**

Are you or your HOA/POA interested in committing to clean a canal and/or shore 4 times per year? If so, contact Keep Indian River Beautiful’s Executive Director, Kristy Sturdivant [keepirbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepirbeautiful@gmail.com) (772) 388-5472. If it is available she’ll send you a two-year contract, there is no cost, and all supplies are provided by Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB). You or your group are asked to maintain a data sheet with volunteer hours and the amount of collected garbage. To educate your neighbors on ways they can prevent water pollution you can print and hang the following brochures on their doorknobs as part of the project:

[http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cu\\_door\\_hanger.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cu_door_hanger.pdf)

**Landscaping the Florida-Friendly way** .....means using low maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Learn how you can have a beautiful landscape that could **save you time, energy and money** while protecting our future. Great resources to do it yourself:

- **Redesign your yard** at [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org) - This online tool will take you through the steps needed to transform a yard dominated by lawn into one featuring beautiful beds with Florida-friendly plants and Florida native plants that require little or no fertilizer or irrigation. You'll also learn about features like micro-irrigation, compost bins, and rain barrels that make a yard environmentally friendly. Your yard and lawn will be the envy of the neighborhood and Indian River Community!
- **Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook** at [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/2009\\_FYN\\_Handbook\\_non-508\\_web\\_vSept09.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/2009_FYN_Handbook_non-508_web_vSept09.pdf)
- **DEP’s 2008 Landscaping BMP Handbook** at <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/grn-ind-bmp-en-12-2008.pdf> (this is a good resource for landscaping industry professionals)
- **Indian River County Florida Yards Program** at <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/counties/indianrivercontact.htm>

## 4th Florida Friendly Principle



- Mulch maintains soil moisture, reducing the need to water established plants
- Mulch inhibits the growth of weeds, reducing the need for chemical herbicides or other weed control techniques.
- Mulch buffers soil temperature by keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- To learn more mulch visit <http://www.floridayards.org/landscape/tutorial.php>

To view the **new** e-Learning Articulate Flash Module on this and the other 8 principles, visit [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/Nine\\_principles/9principles\\_player.html](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/Nine_principles/9principles_player.html). Local gardening education programs are listed in the “Trainings” section of this newsletter.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves

If environmental enhancement projects spoil island bird surveys, planting native plant species, and removing exotics/debris interest you then read on! Indian River Lagoon Shoreline Restoration Projects, Spoil Island Enhancement, and Eagle Scout opportunities are coordinated by a local division of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Due to state budget cuts, the East Central Florida Aquatic Preserves Field Office (formerly in Cocoa) was closed July 1, 2009. Activities in the Volusia, Brevard, and Indian River County Aquatic Preserves (Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River, and Indian River Lagoon - Malabar to Vero Beach) are now being managed by FDEP's Southeast Aquatic Preserves Field Offices in Sebastian and Fort Pierce. The new combined offices are now referred to as the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves and host events from Northern Brevard County south to Martin County. <http://www.spoilislandproject.org/>. Interested? Call Marc Virgilio at the Sebastian Office (321) 953-5008 [Marc.Virgilio@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Marc.Virgilio@dep.state.fl.us).

### Give A Day of Community Service Get a Day of Fun at Disney!

Walt Disney Corporation wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities. So we're celebrating these volunteers' good works by giving each of them a

1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free. There's no better time to make a dream come true for others and let us make a few come true for you.

Visit [http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/disneyparks/en\\_US/WhatWillYouCelebrate/index?name=Give-A-Day-Get-A-Disney-Day](http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/disneyparks/en_US/WhatWillYouCelebrate/index?name=Give-A-Day-Get-A-Disney-Day)

**Hook Kids on Fishing events**...are great events to cultivate environmental stewards. Volunteers are needed to assist with teaching kids casting, fishing techniques, habitat restoration, conservation, fishing safety, knot tying, and catch and release tactics. Please share this message with local fishing clubs and other anglers who may be interested in becoming involved with our programs. Learn more about volunteering by calling Capt. Rodney Smith at 321-750-3374; or e-mail [rodney@coastalanglermagazine.com](mailto:rodney@coastalanglermagazine.com).

**Recycling and Beautification Projects** - KIRB is the acronym for Keep Indian River Beautiful. It promotes livable neighborhoods by empowering individuals to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community through beautification projects, neighborhood cleanups and school cleanup clubs. Visit [www.kirb.org](http://www.kirb.org) and learn how you can enhance your environmental stewardship knowledge and/or contribute your time and talents. Call KIRB's executive director, Kristy Sturdivant 772-388-5472 or email [keepirbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepirbeautiful@gmail.com)

## JOB NETWORK....

Two positions are open at <http://floridaoceanographic.org/jobs.html> - Director of Education & Exhibits and Administrative Assistant.

Do you have knowledge of irrigation and landscape architecture? Would you like to become a Florida Water Star<sup>sm</sup> Certifier? Certifiers serve as water efficiency consultants who can charge a fee to evaluate and certify the projects of builders, developers and homeowners <http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/certifiers.html>. A free water efficiency certification training program will be held on **June 10 & 11** at the South Florida Water Management District St. Cloud office <http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/eventsandnews.html>. To register and receive details regarding this training, please contact Jesus Rodriguez at [jerodrig@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jerodrig@sfwmd.gov) or (561) 686-8800 ext 6060.

**Treasure Coast Workforce Solution's Green Collar Jobs Apprenticeship Programs** focus on labor opportunities for green building projects, including energy efficiency, the reduction of pollution, retrofitting, protection of natural resources, and utilization of renewable power sources. Training opportunities are open to all Treasure Coast residents. For more information regarding this program call the Workforce Solutions office at 1-866-4-U-2-HIRE

# IRC Environmental Event Calendars

## **INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR**

Community, non-profits and governmental agencies are welcome to list all their environmental events and activities on the Indian River County Cultural Arts Calendar in the “Community & Special Events Category” at [www.cultural-council.org](http://www.cultural-council.org). To have your event listed email the information to Sharon at [info@cultural-council.org](mailto:info@cultural-council.org).

UF/IRC Extension Service Calendar - [http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/Calendar/2009/aug\\_09.htm](http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/Calendar/2009/aug_09.htm)

## **GRANT DEADLINES**

**May 28 – FY 2011 Application Guidance for Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grant proposals are due to the Department for review and ranking.** The DEP Nonpoint Source Management Section administers grant money received from the USEPA through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These grant funds are used to implement projects to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution. Descriptions of funded projects, proposal ranking information and the **new FY11 application form**, may be found on the Department’s website at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/319h.htm>