



TURNING THE TIDE

Look for these signs along roads in the County!

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How are IRC citizens "Turning the Tide" of polluted water runoff from leaving their properties and reaching the Indian River Lagoon?

By learning and practicing proper property maintenance and disposal methods. Before performing any activities involving water on a property, citizens observe the slope of the ground to determine the direction of runoff flow in order to identify where wash water can be contained for collection without the possibility of release of a pollutant into the waters of the state (swales and stormdrains).

Water quality and environmental protection begin in your yard.



*The IRL is not a Toilet:
It's more like a Bathtub*



As you read this excerpt from the PBS documentary, "POISONED WATERS" think of the reference to the Puget Sound as our Indian River Lagoon (IRL):

JAY MANNING, Director, Wash. Dept. of Ecology: Everywhere that rain falls and hits the ground; it's going to pick up something. It might be nothing more hazardous than dirt, or it might be PCBs. It might be some toxic pesticide. And it will travel along with the water into the nearest drainage ditch, into the nearest swale, into a creek, into a river and ultimately into Puget Sound. And whatever pollutants that water picks up on its journey to Puget Sound it's going to deposit in Puget Sound.

Washington State Gov. CHRIS GREGOIRE: We put in about 150,000 pounds a day of untreated toxics into Puget Sound. **We thought all the way along that it was like a toilet. What you put in, you flush out and it goes out to the ocean and it gets diluted. We know that's not true. It's like a bathtub, so what you put in, stays there.**

SCIENCE STATS: Wind is the primary force affecting water circulation of the shallow Indian River Lagoon system with tidal influences restricted to a few miles north or south of the 5 ocean inlets. As a result, water flushing is limited in most areas, making the 156-mile lagoon sensitive to pulses of fresh water from land and ocean water at inlets. The narrow, shallow lagoon and its poor flushing characteristics make this system highly vulnerable to pollution from land-based sources.

PLAIN ENGLISH VERSION: The Indian River Lagoon water moves very slowly as it is primarily moved by wind versus a tide. Additionally there are few ocean inlets thus it does not thoroughly "flush" out to the ocean as is often erroneously perceived by the general public. With an average depth of only 4 feet, it's more like a bathtub holding the waste from your property which travels with the rain and ends up unfiltered and untreated into the Indian River Lagoon.

(Source of statistics: St. John's WMD publication, "Indian River Lagoon, An Introduction to a Natural Treasure." Source of Poisoned Waters transcript: 2/3 of the way into <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/etc/script.html>)

Join your IRC neighbors in treating water as a resource, not as a waste product or garbage receptacle,
Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator, dwilson@ircgov.com

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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



Need a speaker for your next meeting?

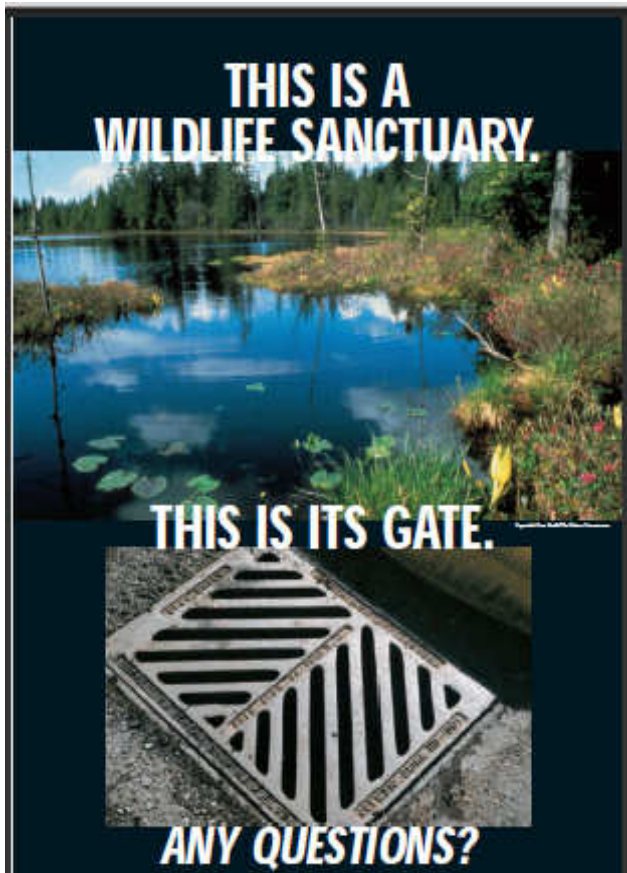


The EnviroScape, a portable interactive environmental model, is a great tool to educate youth about the sources of pollution and its prevention.

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 to schedule a speaker or learn more.



If you think grease, solvents, and other chemicals are tough on your hands, imagine their affect on fur or feathers.

This is the unhealthy legacy we leave to wildlife when we allow pollutants to go down our storm drains which empty into our wetlands and other waterways.

The solution? Discharge dirty wash water through your sanitary sewer system only. And never, ever wash anything over or near a storm drain.

Help make this a clean, healthy place to live for everyone. Learn more at www.ircgov.com/stormwater

Credit King County Water and Land Resources Division

DO YOU KNOW ...Who records the County's Pollution Reporting Message? See page 12

NEWS

Everyone:

Summer News:

- **[New at Indian River Mall - Keep Indian River Beautiful \(KIRB\)'s Reuse Exchange Center](#)** - located by Macy's entrance. See article under "Events" column.
- **[Rainy season is starting – Keep Children out of swales](#)**
In addition to the pollutants washed into swales, heavy rains can cause fast moving water. Recently a 10-year-old girl in flood-ridden Tennessee was sucked into an 18-inch drain

pipe, traveled underground for 36 feet in a torrent of water and lived to tell about it
<http://www.wftv.com/video/23494741/index.html>

- **Car Washing (including individual, charity, and mobile car washing/cleaning):** Wash water from any type of vehicle and equipment cleaning can contain significant amounts of substances such as oil and grease, petroleum products, suspended solids such as dirt and grit, heavy metals, detergents, and other harmful pollutants. These contaminants may cause pollution of surface water or groundwater and may result in violations of water quality standards if wash water disposal is not properly managed. The result is damage to aquatic environments and its associated wildlife. **To protect our valuable environment, please use biodegradable detergents and whenever possible, wash the vehicle over grass or dirt so the wash water will percolate into the ground and not flow directly into a stormwater system. Biodegradable detergents are labeled “phosphate free” and they do not contain harmful phosphate compounds that can damage aquatic ecosystems. Note that cosmetic washing does not include interior washing, washing of the undercarriage of the vehicle or equipment, engine degreasing, or the use of strongly acidic or strongly alkaline cleaners. Use these products very sparingly as these solvents and chemicals will cause serious damage to aquatic systems if they reach open waters. Chrome and aluminum polishers should only be used if they are hand applied and removed by wiping.**

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

SELF-IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR HOAs and Neighborhood Associations

Would you and your neighbors like to adopt “lake-friendly” landscaping practices that will protect lake quality and the surrounding natural beauty? Research into social marketing has shown that if 15% of a community is engaged in a new behavior, that behavior has the momentum to spread on its own (<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/>).

If the quality of your lake or pond is important to you then review the following resources, start a monthly HOA newsletter if one doesn't currently exist, have a meeting to get neighbors involved and you are on your way! If you think there are neighbors who won't participate just start with the ones who are willing to make self-improvements to their yards and lifestyles. Remember, behavior has the momentum to spread on its own.

There are FREE education opportunities for homeowners to learn how to manage their home and yard to protect the water quality of their lakes:

- www.floridayards.org - The University of Florida “Florida Friendly” program has a fun and simple tutorial to learn the principles of low-impact and Florida-friendly landscaping.
- <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/new%20construction%20checklist.pdf> - Florida-friendly Yard Checklist

- <http://www.oracwa.org/Pages/Chap3.pdf> - stormwater system checklist. Many residents are not aware of the path of stormwater runoff.
- <http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/> - The Indian River County Extension office has many resources to further your landscaping education.
- www.ircgov.com/stormwater - IRC's Stormwater website provides stormwater runoff reduction tips and monthly newsletter

Stormwater runoff reduces water clarity and lowers the value of lakeside properties. Florida Friendly landscaping helps reduce stormwater from entering the lake by helping it soak into the ground, preventing damage to lake water quality and loss of property value. Examples of improvements HOAs might find they need are: mulching a pathway, planting ground covers, establishing a buffer zone of shrubs and other plants along the shore of their retention pond, diverting stormwater water away from a driveway or building, and pumping the septic system regularly. All of these and other practices are known to reduce erosion or cleanse water before it enters your lake. Many are do-it-yourself weekend projects. Whether or not you choose to follow these recommendations is entirely up to you, all changes are voluntary on the homeowner's part.

I am interested in hearing from HOAs and neighborhood associations to learn how they will be creating their own evaluation checklist and implementing a "self recognition" program. Please share your experiences with me dwilson@ircgov.com.

Do you have small mosquito-like insects around your stormwater pond?

Learn strategies to diminish their existence under the "BMPs & Things Worth Knowing" column.

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.

Email Addresses Wanted - 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 . Emails will help to enhance our education and outreach efforts in a timely manner while avoiding printing and postage costs.

Homeowners, Builders, Contractors

- **Select Landscapers Certified in environmentally safe landscaping practices** - As a convenience to you, the UF Extension Office maintains a list of Green Industry BMP (Best Management Practices) Certified Landscapers http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/certification_lists/cert_county_name.shtml. The Green Industry BMP Program is a science-based educational program for Green Industry workers (lawn-care and landscape maintenance professionals), coordinated by University of Florida/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program. The GI-BMPs teach environmentally safe landscaping practices that help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters. They can also save the Florida homeowner money, time, and effort; increase the beauty of the home landscape; and protect the health of your family, pets, and the environment. Florida Senate Bill 494 states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) by January 1, 2014. To get this license, each Green Industry worker must be trained in the GI-BMPs 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. Remember, *["Water quality and environmental protection begin in your yard!"](#)*
- **Renovating? Stucco work, Pouring Concrete?** A simple solution for small amounts of concrete washout is a designated pit lined with 10ml 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 and Stormdrains. 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 storm drains, 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

- **Schools, churches, and youth organizations** – Please see “News for Everyone” above regarding awareness of water quality when conducting car washes as fundraisers.
- **June 5 (Sat.) 8:30 – 12 noon Free Fishing Event for children** (accompanied by their parents or guardians) The Vero-Treasure Coast Kiwanis Club will be holding its ninth annual “Junior Fishing Contest”. Held at the new Barber Bridge fishing catwalk, this tournament is open to all boys and girls ages 3-12. Entry is free and available to the first 200 participants. While some fishing equipment is available, it is suggested that kids should provide their own equipment. Bait and fishing help will be provided at no cost. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the tournament begins at 9 and ends at 11 followed by a free cook-out and awards ceremony. Registration forms will be distributed to elementary schools in the county. For more information, to pre-register or obtain registration forms, contact Al Sammartino at 772-778-9711 <http://www.verokiwanis.com/PROJECTS.php>

- **A new video, "Water You Waiting For,"** for high school and vocational students promotes water sector careers as green jobs. It's now available for viewing on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Website <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/operatorcertification/index.html>. The video shows vocational students with internships at drinking water systems in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and highlights the many different types of jobs available at water utilities. Published reports indicate that approximately 30 percent of the water sector workforce is eligible to retire in the next 10 years. EPA, American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) are partnering in various efforts to highlight the need for qualified professionals to enter this important field.
- **Teachers of 8th – 12th 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 or 321-984-4950

Marine

- **National Marina Day June 12 – see event column**
- **Want to Catch Salmon in a Remote Section of Alaska? June 15 is the deadline** for you to bid on two 7-night trips to the Goodnews River Lodge in southwestern Alaska being auctioned off to support "The Hook Kids on Fishing" program. Located 475 miles from Anchorage, on the edge of the pristine Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, you can have an opportunity to fish for all 5 species of salmon, as well as leopard rainbows, grayling and sea-run dolly Varden. The Hook Kids on Fishing program, is a product of the Anglers for Conservation (AFC) which is a non-profit 501- C3 organization serving fishing communities with an emphasis on conservation, education, and habitat restoration. Their mission is to create a new generation of coastal stewards using community-based angling education, habitat restoration, and applied conservation science. Over the past seven years the Hook Kids on Fishing programs have introduced thousands of kids and their parents to fishing and conservation through an educational experience which includes hands-on knot tying, casting, fishing safety, catch and release techniques plus lessons on the importance of sustaining healthy habitat and improving water quality. To raise operational funds this year the Anglers for Conservation is auctioning off these trips in addition to original artwork depicting wildlife and old Florida settings donated by sixth generation Floridian, Richard Powers and renowned Highwayman artist, Robert Butler. For more information on how you can bid on these items go to www.anglersforconservation.org
- **The 3rd Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup - Saturday, July, 24th, 2010. ADD THE LOGO TO THE SIGNATURE LINE of your letters (cut and paste the logo – its located under the "events column" further into the newsletter.**

Businesses:

- **Contractors and earth-moving subs:** check out educational webcasts regarding erosion and sediment controls which are easily accessible at <http://escn.tv/video/escn-may-26th-2010> . This bi-weekly webcast provides up to date coverage to the Erosion and Sediment industry, interviews with industry experts, and a library of informative videos.

- **Landscapers: FREE certificate training is now available** – look under the training column below. A team of UF / IFAS certified Green Industry BMP trainers are available to provide certification training classes to landscaping workers in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin & Okeechobee Counties. To learn more call the Indian River / UF IFAS County Extension office at 772-770-5030.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **Turtle Walks**



Sebastian Inlet State Park – Walks are offered Friday – Wednesday nights in June and July. Reservations for June began May 15, for July reservations begin on June 15. Call between 8 am to 4 pm 772-388-2750.

Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge - Walks are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays, in June and July at 9 p.m. Contact Donna Lee at the Barrier Island Center during office hours, Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. 321-723-3556 for dates and availability.

- **June 5, 10 am – 3 pm World Ocean Day Celebration at Smithsonian Marine Station!**
Come celebrate the wonders of our blue planet with hands-on activities, touch tank demonstrations, guided tours, interactive displays and more! Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn how you can make EVERYDAY ocean day! For more information please call the Education Office at 772.465.3271 or visit <http://www.sms.si.edu/SMEE/calendar.htm#three>
- **June 7 (1:30) Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at NEW Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) office and Reuse Exchange Center at the Indian River Mall.** The non-profit organization has moved from their location in Sebastian, behind the City Hall complex, to a space at the Indian River Mall by the Macy's Department store. Please join us for our ribbon cutting!

The Reuse Exchange Center is a place where residents can help divert literally TONS of reusable (but not recyclable) materials from our landfill. Reuse is to use an item more than once. This includes conventional reuse where the item is used again for the same function. Reuse is to use an item more than once for the same function. Whereas recycling is to process used or waste materials so as to make it suitable for reuse: *recycling paper to save trees*. Certain items are collected and made available to the public for reuse. Materials are used by teachers, students, artists, churches and other non-profit organizations. We are inviting the public to join KIRB in collecting and diverting items from the landfill.

Starting June 7th, items will be made available to the public for “reasonable” donations to KIRB. “In order to keep our non-profit Reuse Exchange Center open to the public, we will be requesting that visitors who want to take advantage of our materials make donations to Keep Indian River Beautiful so that our service will be available to the public for years to come,” states Executive Director Kristy Sturdivant.

Items to be made available for reuse can be dropped off at the KIRB mall store during business hours or at two other drop-off locations: Habitat for Humanity and the Senior Resource Association. KIRB will also be accepting volunteer applications for help in the Reuse Exchange Center. Business hours at the mall will be: Mondays and Thursdays 2 p.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

In addition to the Reuse Exchange Center, KIRB promotes and supports other programs in the community that include: litter prevention, recycling education, beach and roadway cleanups, Adopt-a-Shore/Road programs and the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP).

Keep Indian River Beautiful, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization designed to empower individuals to take greater responsibility for community environments by involving volunteers in litter prevention, beautification, recycling and conservation education.

- **June 12 (10-2pm) National Marina Day Event at the Vero Beach Marina.** For details call (772) 231-2819
- **June 12 (10 am – 3 pm) Hurricane Expo at the Indian River Mall.** Weather Specialist Mike Lyons as well as many other special guests will be on hand to answer all your storm related questions. See samples of various ways you can protect your family and home. Call 772-770-9404 for more information.
- **June 17 - 2 pm – 3 pm Free Guided Tour of Smithsonian Research Station**
Come hear about current research from the scientists themselves! This approximately one hour program provides an introduction to the Smithsonian's work in Florida, a tour of our state-of-the-art facilities and opportunities to speak with our marine scientists. Advance registration is required as space is limited. Registration open now. FREE. Recommended Ages 16 and up. For more information or to register please call the Education Office at 772.465.3271 or send an email to diederick@si.edu.
<http://www.sms.si.edu/SMEE/calendar.htm#three>
- **Harbor Branch Ocean Science Lectures** -held in the auditorium of the Johnson Education Center on the Harbor Branch campus, 5600 U.S. 1 North, Fort Pierce
 - Wednesday, June 23**, 7 p.m. *Trials and Tribulations of Collecting Algae in Panama*
Mark and Diane Littler, Smithsonian Institution
 - Wednesday, July 21**, 7 p.m. *Seeing the World through a Shark's Eyes, and Other Sensory Systems of Elasmobranchs* Stephen Kajiura, Ph.D. Department of Biological Sciences
- **Mark Your Calendar for July 24 - The 3rd Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup - Saturday, July, 24th, 2010.** **ADD THE EVENT LOGO TO THE SIGNATURE LINE OF YOUR LETTERS- cut and paste the logo below.** 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 .



- **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 589-5050 \$15/per lecture
- Check out the “Ocean Motion” events on the calendar at www.barrierislandcenter.com
- **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

- **Hazardous and Other Regulated Waste BMPs** – August 18 (8 am – 5 pm) Associated Builders and Contractors Association is hosting a Construction Contractors’ Environmental Compliance class in Orlando. CEU Credit (transmitted before 8/31) CILB # Pending, 8 CEUs For information contact ABC at 407/628-2070 Register online: www.abccentralflorida.com
- **Would you like to become a Florida Water Starsm 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 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.

- **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**

Upcoming FDEP Stormwater & Erosion Inspector Classes:

June 10 & 11 class in Kissimmee – register by contacting Debbie Geer in Osceola County Natural Resources at dgee@osceola.org or (407) 742-8650

June 15 & 16 here in IRC.....IRC staff/businesses/residents can register now **and folks from outside Indian River can register AFTER June 1st** – register by emailing name, company name, work # and cell # to: Diane Wilson, IRC Stormwater Education Coordinator, 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
- **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

- **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
- **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 or visit the [FSA Training Center Online](#).
- **Local gardening education programs** are held at McKee Botanical Garden www.mckeegarden.org, Heathcote Botanical Garden 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

Answer to DO YOU KNOW? The County's Pollution Reporting System outgoing message is recorded by **Radio Station WTTB 1490 AM "Morning Magazine" show host, Bob Soos.** Thank you Bob for enhancing the County's pollution reporting system with your wonderful warm professional broadcasting voice! With a few exceptions, "Only Rain is to go Down the Stormdrains!" When citizens observe a potentially illicit (illegal) discharge Monday – Friday between 8 am – 5 pm within the County (other than private lands such as Homeowner associations) they are to call the Indian River County Pollution Reporting System at 772-226-1888 (Sprint/Nextel customers dial #IRC) or report online, www.ircgov.com/stormwater ; after normal working hours call the appropriate local law enforcement agency (on County land call the IRC Sheriff's Department or in a specific city call the related city police department). Any questions or concerns concerning flooding or maintenance of ditches, swales or stormdrains are to be submitted to IRC's Road and Bridge Division at 772-770-5085. To report illicit discharges occurring in a private development call one or more of the following agencies: St. John's River Water Management District's Compliance Manager, Janice Unger at 321-676-6600; Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 1-877-272-8335; and the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

The Florida Oil Spill Information Line 1- (888) 337-3569 will serve as a resource to provide Florida residents and visitors with up-to-date information on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The Information Line will provide updates on the state's response activities, information on volunteer opportunities,

protective tips for homeowners and businesses, and safety and health tips and will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven days a week until further notice. For more information on Florida's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon, follow www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert

Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory can be seen at <http://www.roffs.com/deepwaterhorizon.html>, provided by Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service, Inc.

The FDEP, the Coast Guard and BP Oil Company will be the lead agencies that will coordinate any clean up measures for our local beach areas. As far as the Indian River Lagoon is concerned, the Coast Guard does have a contingency plan in place that will try to boom key environmentally sensitive for protection. In addition, the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) would most likely respond to support the clean up effort if needed. Indian River County Department of Emergency Management will act as the lead support for all agencies working within the County. Here are some Florida Information lines that you may find useful.

Florida Information Lines

- ESF 14 – The Florida Oil Spill Information Line (FOSIL) is available from 8am-6pm EDT daily at (888) 337-3569.

- Mobile Unified Command has established two public hotline numbers for oil spill investigation and cleanup:

 - o Impacted Wildlife: (866) 557-1401

 - o Oiled Shoreline: (866) 448-5816

For more information about volunteering and information contact IRC Emergency Management Coordinator Brian Nolan and/or visit

http://www.irces.com/Emergency_Management_Division/Index.htm

We all play a part in stopping trash from entering the ocean via our Indian River Lagoon – see San Diego article discussing urban runoff

http://sandiegonewsroom.com/news/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42270:bruce-reznick-executive-director-san-diego-coastkeeper-writing-for-san-diego-uptown-news&catid=41:water&Itemid=58

March 1st through October 31st - 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.

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



MOVING?

Should you be disposing books here is an alternative

The books can go to a very worthwhile locationthe non-profit book thrift store that generates money for the IRC Library....its called The Used Book Depot on 14 Avenue (just north of 16th Street intersection) 772-562-0043.

Disposing expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications?

They should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. The proper disposal of medications is outlined in the FDEP "Don't Flush" flyer English version:

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

Senior citizens with several unwanted medications and are unable to drive can call the IRC Sheriff's Department to request a deputy to pick up unwanted medications and they will incinerate them at no charge. For more information contact Sergeant Rick Vidiri at rvidiri@ircsheriff.org or 978-1817.

If you know of an alternative to the typical petroleum based packing materials (such as packing popcorn)

Please contact me if you know of bio-based packing materials, Diane Wilson 226-1565

Adopt-A-Road Program

The **Adopt-A-Road Program** is a litter-reduction campaign designed to remove litter debris from county roads and improve the quality of the environment. The program establishes a partnership between volunteer groups and the County's Traffic Engineering Division. The program's success has improved the appearance of local roadways throughout the County while reducing the cost of litter removal. The County provides guidance and equipment to foster safe and effective cleanups and the volunteers do the work of gathering the litter along County-designated roads (residential and private roadways are not adoptable). County maintenance crews follow-up by picking up and disposing the collected trash. Volunteer groups contract to "adopt" a one mile stretch of road and commit to performing 4 clean-ups per year within that 1-mile segment. For more information contact the IRC Traffic Engineering (772) 226-1637 or traffic@ircgov.com.

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 (772) 388-5472 (after June 7 Phone: 772-226-7738). If the canal/shore 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

Do you have small mosquito like insects around your stormwater pond?



Adult Midge

(Photo: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in825>)

These are probably midges or ‘blind mosquitoes’. They do not bite, but can be a big problem if they are emerging in large numbers. They can find their way into homes where they can stain laundry, stain walls, ceilings, curtains and furnishings. On the outside they can cause damage to paint finishes, clog air-conditioning wall-units and automobile radiators.

These problem midges have an ability to live in polluted waters. So, as a pond becomes more polluted an increase in midge populations is can be seen. Fertilizer is a big pollution culprit in this situation. Fertilizer that washes into the pond feeds and increase algae which increase the abundance of midges. Thus, decreasing fertilizer usage around the ponds should be the first step in the control of midges. Also, avoid blowing grass clippings into the water and use slow release fertilizers. These strategies will also help the Indian River Lagoon, since most stormwater ponds ultimately flow into the lagoon.

A second step to reducing midge populations while keeping your stormwater pond clean is to reduce algae growth. The best methods of reducing algae are not toxic to fish and beneficial organisms. Adding native, aquatic plants to the edge of your pond has been shown to reduce algae. There are also many ecological and aesthetic benefits to having these plants.

Thirdly, add insectivorous fish to the pond to reduce the number of midges. Native fish such as the blue gill, red ear sun fish and young bass will eat midge larvae. Adult bass will control fish populations. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (2007) recommend stocking rates of 500 bream per acre and 100 bass per acre. Bass are only available in the spring after they spawn.

A fourth step would be to use light traps to control adult midges. Midges are attracted to light so these devices can be used to reduce their numbers and to divert them from houses.

A fifth strategy is insect growth regulators (IGRs). This should be used with great caution because they can negatively affect other organisms in the pond and they are expensive. An IGR labeled for the control of aquatic midges contains (S) – Methoprene. The pellet formulation should be used since this will sink to the bottom where the midge larvae live. Always read and follow label directions. These strategies have been used in St. Lucie County with good results. The author of this article, Laura Parkel, is working on this topic for her doctorate would like to hear about any midge problems you are experiencing. (772) 559- 3120,

laura@wetlandpond.com ,

Further information can be obtained at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in825>

Landscaping the Florida-Friendly waymeans 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 - 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
- **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>

5th Florida Friendly Principle



Florida has a diverse wildlife population, but rapid growth throughout Florida is destroying native wildlife habitat. We notice the loss of birds, butterflies and other wildlife in our communities but do not realize that our landscapes and maintenance practices can be part of the problem.

You can create a habitat that encourages wildlife by:

- Increasing the variety of plants in your landscape design
- Creating natural corridors with bordering properties to allow wildlife to move through the larger neighborhood.
- Following Florida Friendly landscape maintenance practices.

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. Local gardening education programs are listed in the "Trainings" section of this newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS needed to volunteer for the summer.

Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) is seeking volunteers and paid students to help run our new Reuse Exchange Center in the Indian River Mall in Vero Beach for the summer months of June, July and August. Hours of operation will be:

Mondays: 2-6pm

Thursdays: 2-6pm

Saturdays: 11-2pm

Our official re-opening date is June 7, 2010. Interested students/individuals are welcome to contact KIRB's Executive Director, Kristy Sturdivant at keepirbeautiful@gmail.com or by phone at (772)388-5472.

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). Activities in 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.

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

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.

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 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 (after June 7 call 772-226-7738) or email 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 Starsm 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 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. To have your event listed email the information to Sharon at info@cultural-council.org.

UF/IRC Extension Service Calendar - http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/Calendar/2009/aug_09.htm

GRANT DEADLINES

