

Brevard Purchases 1000 Islands



"We should save the wetlands because they are beautiful. Please don't destroy the wetlands and habitats of the animals." -Tamara

"I would save the animals because they are cute." -Gabby

"I believe the habitats should stay forever. Most of us think they should stay. We need a place for all animals." -Austin

"I believe that the should stay how it is because the animals will have no homes if they build houses where they live." -Brendan

"I believe we should conserve and protect wetlands of Thousand Islands, because there are animals and plants there. Like dolphins, alligators, manatees, otters, and rabbits. There are a lot more but I was naming a few. If you wreck the Thousand Islands, you'll have to go through me first." -Dana

"I believe that we should conserve the wetlands so all the animals have a home because animals like pigs, snakes, frogs, raccons, otters, birds, plants, and alligators need a habitat. The wetlands are beautiful please don't destroy them." -Faith

"If people build houses many animals might die. The wetland is so pretty. Please save them for us." -Chase

"I believe they should not destroy wetlands because it is a habitat. It belongs to the animals" -Aryia

"I believe we should keep the habitats because it is a shelter for the animals like rabbits, dolphins, and fish. So we need to save our habitats, so the animals don't die. We don't want that do we?" -Kayla

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**NEWS
OF
THE
INDIAN
RIVER
LAGOON**

**WINTER
2007**

**VOL 22
No. 4**

Brevard County Commissioners voted unanimously to buy the last privately owned portion of the Thousand Islands in Cocoa Beach for \$3.2 million after listening to a large showing of the community, a dozen students from Freedom 7 Elementary and receiving letters from Mrs. Sickles' 2nd grade class from Sea Park Elementary (letters quoted above). Preservation and restoration of the 275 acres will benefit water quality, seagrass and shoreline habitat in the Indian River Lagoon and benefit eco-tourism efforts. The purchase appeared in jeopardy when an earlier vote by the commission did not obtain the 4 votes necessary for the purchase. The City of Cocoa Beach initially was against Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program removing Australian Pine from the islands but the city reconsidered and provided \$100,000 towards the purchase.

Congress Overrides Veto of Lagoon Bill

IRL Program Supports MRC potting and planting 6500 mangroves to restore the Indian River Lagoon



Over a two day span Thompson Magnet School 3rd graders were taught the biology, and ecological importance of mangroves to our lagoon. These Students helped MRC staff pot over 1,400 propagules with funding for the materials from the Indian River Lagoon Program. The picture (left) shows students potting mangroves at the Sebastian Greenway Preserve. Each year MRC plants over 10,000 mangroves along the Indian River Lagoon, and hosts hundreds of events to educate the community on all aspects related to the Indian River Lagoon. The support from the Indian River Lagoon Program has helped MRC volunteers plant over 6500 plants along the shoreline so far this year. Volunteers collect mangrove propagules from the shoreline, pot them, raise them in MRC greenhouses and plant them along the lagoon shoreline. For information on how you can help the MRC please contact the Shoreline Restoration Coordinator at (321)725-7775.

US Fish & Wildlife Support clears 1,700,000 ft² of Brazilian Pepper

Funding from the US Fish and Wildlife through the National Wildlife Conservation Act has already allowed the MRC to clear over 29 acres (almost two million square feet!) of Brazilian Pepper. US Fish and Wildlife funding has helped our volunteers restore wetlands at the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, and the Sebastian Inlet State Park. In this picture (right) volunteers are seen digging holes and planting mangroves along the banks of the IRL at Sebastian Inlet State Park. Over a thousand mangroves were planted so far with two thousand more to be planted in the next few months. To participate in our upcoming restoration efforts call the MRC at (321) 725-7775 or visit www.mrcirl.org



Pepper Buster of the Year Award Given to John Baker



This year MRC awarded the Pepper Buster of the Year Award to John Baker. Mr. Baker voluntarily assists citizens on the beachside between the Eau Gallie and Pineda causeways with Brazilian Pepper removal. Mr. Baker has removed pepper on more than 80 private properties in the past year in the Satellite Beach areas and was instrumental at removing pepper from Samson's Island. He also happens to be 84 years old and outworks volunteers a quarter of his age! MRC would like to thank John for his years of effort in eradicating the invasive Brazilian Pepper trees. While receiving the award John asked for volunteers in other parts of the Lagoon to step up and help remove pepper in their areas. To find out how to join the fight against invasive species call MRC at (321) 725-7775.

News Around the Lagoon

Congress Overrides Veto of Lagoon Bill

-Florida Today and other sources

The Senate overrode the Presidential veto of a \$23 billion water bill, lining up the southern Indian River Lagoon for \$1.4 billion in restoration work and Satellite Beach and Indian Harbor Beach for \$5 million in credit for future beach replenishment. The restoration projects will reduce pollutants from farms and development that flow into the southern lagoon each wet season, causing fish lesions and other diseases. Jim Egan, director of the Marine Resources Council, says this is an "enormous victory" and that "some of the biggest impacts that we would expect to see is on ocean species as well as the local lagoon species." The bill authorizes more than 900 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects to improve access to water supplies, restore coastal shorelines and improve flood prevention, and also \$2 billion for Everglades restoration. According to the Army Corps, the Indian River Lagoon

South plan will create 12,000 above ground water storage areas that can hold 44 billion gallons of runoff from Central and South Florida, increasing water supply. It will also remove 7.9 million cubic yards of organic muck and restore 90,000 acres of natural areas, including 53,00 acres of wetlands. 9,000 acres of manmade wetlands would also be built. Altogether, this could take until 2050 to complete.

St. Johns Orders Wetlands Restored

-Florida Today and other sources

The St. Johns River Water Management District has sited Duda & Sons, one of Brevard's biggest landowners, for illegally digging 17 miles of ditches, draining 1,400 acres of St. John's River wetlands and filling 12 acres of the wetlands with fill from the ditches. Duda is challenging the districts order to restore the wetlands with the claim that the ditches help sustain cow pastures and a timber operation, so they should be exempted under state law

exempting farms from certain rules. St. Johns does not agree and the courts will likely decide the outcome. Draining of the St. John's wetlands as well as those of the Indian River Lagoon was commonplace before it was understood that these wetlands protect the community from floods and provide essential habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife.

Audubon Appeals Corrigan and Swap

-FI Today and other sources

The governing board of the St Johns River Water Management District has agreed to trade Sand Lakes, 1,265 acres of mostly uplands near I95 for 480 acres of privately owned wetlands, which are often submerged. Sand Lakes was purchased with taxpayer dollars from the Preservation 2000 funds. Even if the wetlands are valued as high as the uplands being traded away the deal would still result in a loss of over 6 million in value. St. John's staff argued that the landowner benefiting from the landswap offered to drop lawsuits against the district which compensates the District for the millions in environmentally sensitive lands being given away. Audubon, Friends of the Sebastian River, the Marine Resources Council and Indian River County Commission all opposed the land swap. Opponents believe the lopsided trade is precedent-setting and wonder what the District may swap public lands for next. The Indian River

County Commission and the Pelican Island Audubon Society want the governor to review the decision and have filed separate appeals.

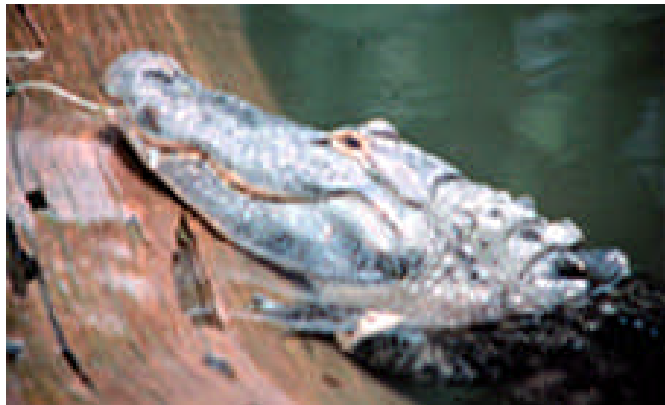
Delays in Mining Decision

-TC Palm

Palm Beach County commissioners are reluctant to okay a mining plan in the Everglades Agriculture Area. Rinker Materials wants to mine up to 100 acres a year for 36 years west of the Arthur R. Marshal Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and south of Bell Glade. A county study found mining wouldn't impair restoration efforts or harm drinking water, but environmental groups have found fault with the study. The South Florida Water Management District is reviewing the impacts of mining in the region. County

Pesticides Still Affecting Alligator Eggs

-FI Today



A new study shows alligators living in pesticide-ridden marshes hatch half as many eggs as those in cleaner marshes. In WW2, many Central Florida lakes were drained to grow food and many pesticides were left behind. Though the pesticides have long been banned, the effects still persist. DDE, a DDT byproduct, can stay in soil for more than 30 years and build up in tissues of fish, birds, reptiles and mammals. Pesticides like DDT can disrupt fetal development in animals and people, and are linked with increased vaginal and prostate cancers. Because few Florida lakes are pesticide free, the problem could be statewide. While the decrease isn't likely to threaten out alligator population, it may be a barometer for problems with other species like frogs, turtles, birds, and people.

commissioners sitting as the Zoning Commission approved a 30-day delay of Rinker's request to change zoning. Several commissioners said they're inclined to keep postponing the project until the water management district review is finalized.

MRC Membership Awards

The Marine Resources Council's 2000 members have voted to award several outstanding members of our community.

The Paul Kroegal Award for outstanding service to the Indian River Lagoon by a government employee was awarded to



Paul Tritaik. Manager of the Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges. The Paul Kroegal award was named after the first wildlife warden of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The Albert Tuttle Award for outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by a volunteer was awarded to **Maureen Rupe.** Ms. Rupe is President of The Partnership for a Sustainable Future, a coalition of 15 environmental groups in Brevard County, many of them directly involved with the Indian River Lagoon.

The Albert Tuttle Award was named after a tireless volunteer and board member of the Marine Resources Council for many years.

The Marine Resources Council's highest award, the Stan Blum, Award was named after the nationally known conservationist and was awarded to **Walt Stieglitz.** Walt was employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 34 years where he held a variety of jobs ranging from field biologist to Assistant Director for Wildlife to Regional Director for Alaska. He worked for six years in Florida in the area of wildlife refuge management. He is currently the secretary of the MRC board and is the treasurer of the Pelican Island Preservation Society.

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Maggy Bowman Award



The Maggy Bowman Award for outstanding service to the Indian River Lagoon by an elected official was awarded to **Congressman Tim Mahoney**, for his work on a bill that would authorize ecosystem restoration projects for the Indian River lagoon-South and Picayune Strand. Congressman Mahoney is working to make the Everglades Restoration a priority in the 110th Congress. The bill is a backup plan to authorize funding for Everglades Restoration if the WRDA is not re-authorized this year, and would authorize \$1.36 billion for the Indian River Lagoon South project for wetlands and estuary restoration and \$375 million for the Picayune Strand ecosystem Restoration. These funds would

restore native habitat in the Indian River Lagoon, reduce the phosphorous and nitrogen load, and remove approximately 7.7 million cubic yards of muck. This project is critical to the Everglades Restoration Plan.

ADOPT-A-DRAIN

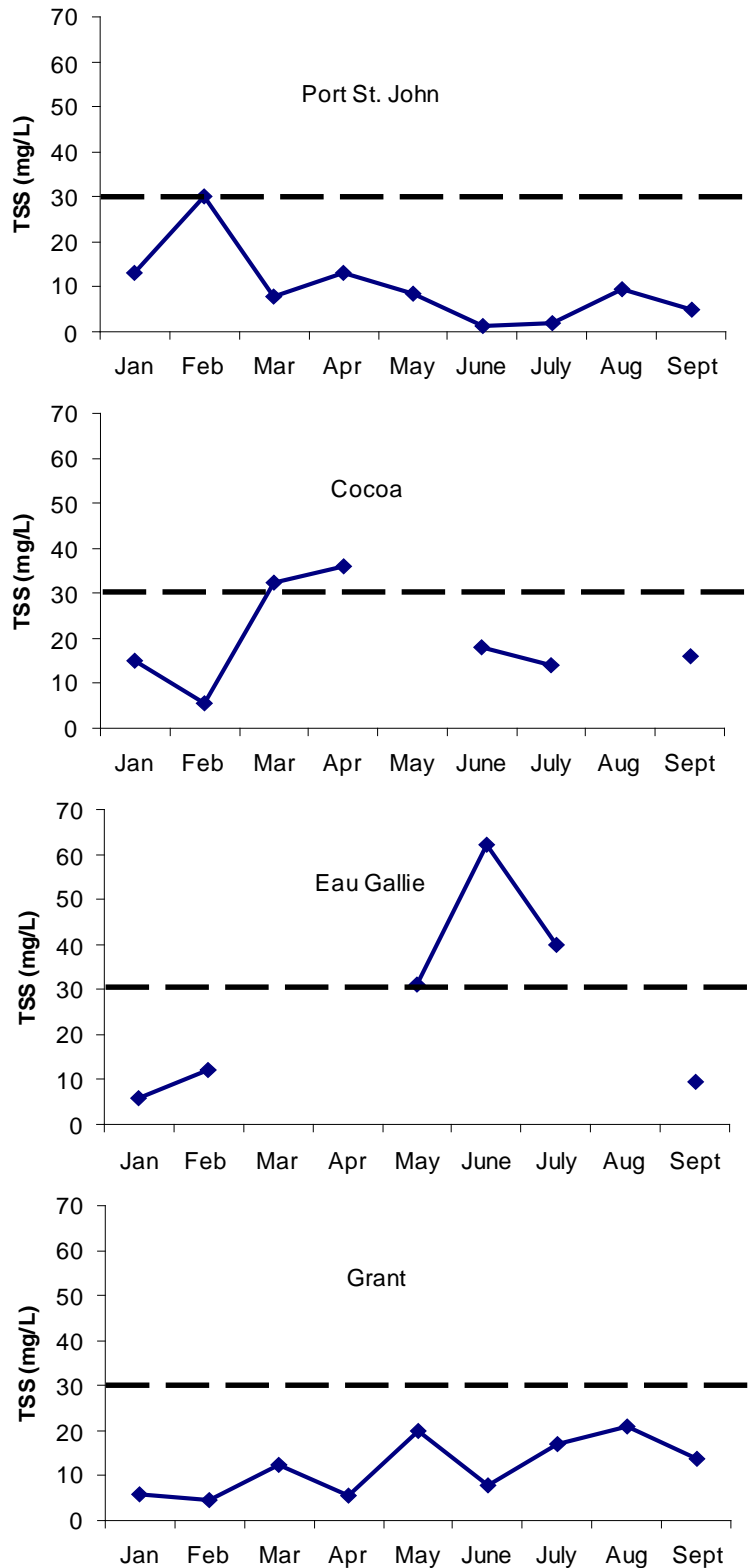
The Adopt A Drain Program is partially supported by a grant from the Indian River Lagoon Program and the US EPA

What are Total Suspended Solids and Why Should I Care?

Total suspended solids (TSS) include all particles suspended in water which will not pass through a filter. Suspended solids are present in septic tank wastewater and many types of industrial wastewater. Suspended solids also comes from soil erosion from lawns, shorelines, agricultural and construction sites. As levels of suspended solids increase, a water body begins to lose its ability to support a diversity of aquatic life. Suspended solids absorb heat from sunlight, which increases water temperature and subsequently decreases levels of dissolved oxygen (warmer water holds less oxygen than cooler water). Photosynthesis also decreases, since less light penetrates through the water. Suspended solids can also destroy fish habitat because suspended solids settle to the bottom and can eventually blanket the Lagoon in muck. Suspended solids can smother the eggs of fish and can harm fish directly by clogging gills, reducing growth rates, and lowering resistance to disease.

Most people consider water with a total suspended solid concentration less than 20 mg/l to be clear. Water with suspended solid levels between 40 and 80 mg/l tends to appear cloudy, while water with concentrations over 150 mg/l usually appears dirty. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency limits for total suspended solids for municipal wastewater treatment plants must provide treatment to meet TSS limits of 30 mg/l as a monthly average and 45 mg/l as a 7-day average.

The graphs to the right were constructed using data provided by MRC volunteers who began testing stormwater runoff from drains located in Brevard County in January 2007. A gap in the graph is an indication that there was insufficient rainfall or flow to collect a sample for that month. Of the four sites shown, only Grant did not reach the suspended solid limit of 30 mg/L required by the EPA for wastewater treatment plants which is a concrete pipe that drains a residential area and US 1. Port St. John, a metal pipe that drains the Winn Dixie Plaza shopping center did peak above the threshold once in February but has remained steadily below the limit for the rest of the year. During the months of March and April, the site in Cocoa recorded values above 30 mg/L. Eau Gallie, recorded three consecutive months above the limit from May through July and recorded its highest value of 62 mg/L in June following a two-inch rainfall event. The highest recorded value for total suspended solids was located in Titusville, which recorded a value of 766 mg/L in January. Fortunately for the Lagoon, runoff was soon diverted into the new Spaceview Park. Spaceview Park was designed to treat stormwater runoff from 114 acres of commercial property in Titusville and was created with the goal of reducing suspended solids, nutrients, heavy metals and trash from entering the Lagoon.



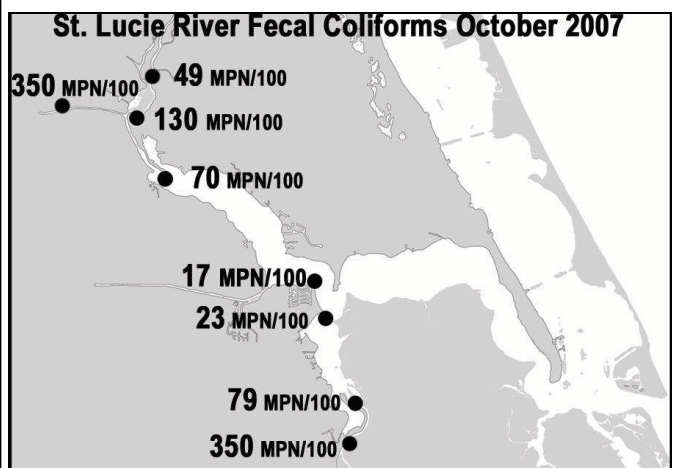
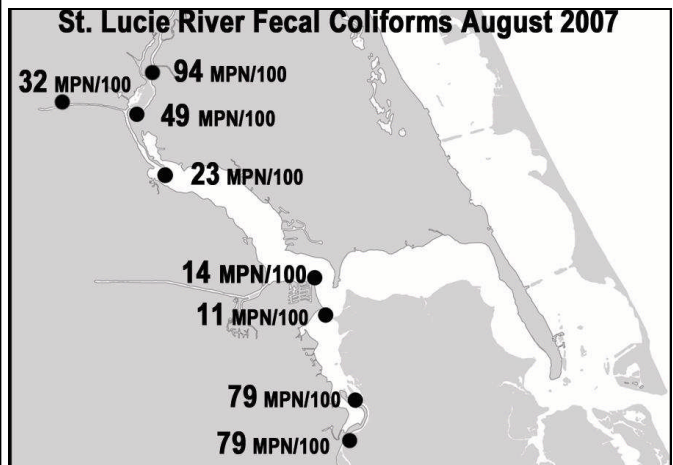
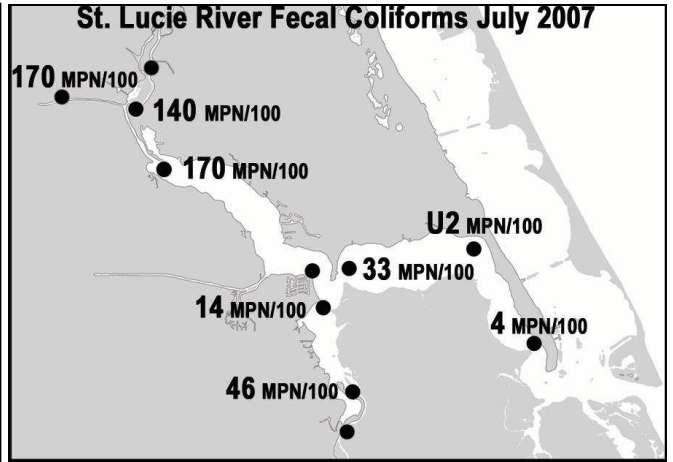
Volunteers Wanted

If you would like to monitor a drain near your home, please contact Michael at 321-725-7775 or email at lagoonwatch@mrcirl.org

Coliform bacteria in the St. Lucie River

Fecal coliforms are bacteria associated with solid waste that live in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals. Generally, fecal coliforms do not pose any immediate threat to humans or animals, however, scientists and public health officials often consider the presence of fecal coliforms as an indicator for other disease causing bacteria such as typhoid, dysentery, hepatitis A and cholera. Coliform sampling is conducted in strict compliance with the State of Florida Procedures and are tested by a certified laboratory. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that bathing recreational waters have fecal coliform levels below 126 MPN/100 ml. State standards however are less strict.

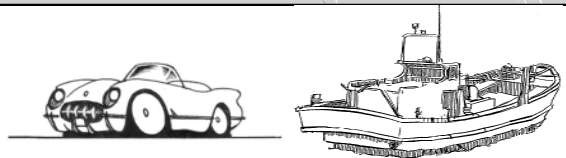
The maps to the right show a comparison between July and August 2007, the location of the sample sites and the MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 ml. July's coliform levels were significantly higher in the North Fork than the South fork. This may be attributed to high urban development and agricultural land use in the North Fork and minimal discharging from Lake Okeechobee in the South Fork. Near the inlet, coliform levels remain low due to mixing with ocean water. August shows a decrease in the North Fork but a rise in the South Fork where the C-44 canal carries discharge from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River. October shows a staggering increase in Fecal Coliforms in both the North and South forks. On Oct. 4th, St. Lucie County Health Department issued a notice advising people to avoid contact with the water in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River because of high levels of enterococcus and fecal coliform, two types of bacteria associated with human and animal waste. Officials advised that people should not swim in the river, and anyone splashed or otherwise exposed to river water should quickly wash with soap and tap water. The MRC is currently testing further into the north and south forks to determine if there is a specific source of contamination.



Water Quality Monitor of the Year Award

On October 20, 2007 the MRC awarded Ira Hill Jr. (right) as the water quality monitor of the year. Ira began testing in March 2004 and has been testing two sites per week, one in the Indian River and one in the Banana River. In January 2007, he decided to begin testing the water quality of outfalls for MRC's newest program Adopt-a-Drain. Here is to your dedication and devotion to the Indian River Lagoon.

Congratulations!



Looking for a tax write-off for the end of the year? Donate your boat, car, truck, RV or plane to the Marine Resources Council. The MRC is actively looking for a boat with a trailer to conduct water sampling throughout the Lagoon. For more information, please contact Michael at (321)-725-7775 or by email: lagoonwatch@mrcirl.org

Fun, Free and Informative! Join us at the Brown Bag Educational Events

LAGOON HOUSE BROWN BAG - Every Tuesday at Noon

- Dec 04 **Live Efficiency Survey and How to Apply it at Home**, John Knott, FPL
- Dec 11 **A Decade of Hurricanes** Dr. George Maul, FIT Prof.
- Dec 18 **The Life and Nesting Cycles of Sea Turtles** Cindy Dolaway, Sea Turtle Preservation Society
- Dec 25 **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**
- Jan 01 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**
- Jan 08 **Making Your Garden Attractive to Butterflies** Suzanne Valencia, The Sierra Club
- Jan 15 **Native and Invasive Animal Species in Florida-Live Animal Presentation** Brevard Zoo
- Jan 22 **Restoring the Indian River Lagoon** Troy Rice, IRL Program
- Jan 29 **The Impact of Increased Nutrients in the IRL** Leroy Creswell, UF St. Lucie County Extension Office
- Feb 05 **Use of Solar Energy During Natural Disasters** Bill Young, Solar Energy Center
- Feb 12 **Ospreys of Pelican Island National Refuge** Bob Montanaro, USFW Pelican Island Refuge
- Feb 19 **To Be Announced**
- Feb 26 **Water Conservation and Availability** Kathy LaMartinez, South Florida Water Management District

COCOA BEACH BROWN BAG -2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Noon

- Dec 13 **How to See and Help Save Right Whales** Sarah Rhodes, MRC
- Dec 27 **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**
- Jan 10 **Orange Blossom Memories** Chris Kahl
- Jan 24 **Volusia Countie's Plan to Restore the Indian River Lagoon** Steve Kintner, Volusia County
- Feb 14 **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!**
- Feb 28 **Economic Impact of Ocean Research** Dr. Dwayne DeFreese, Hubbs

GRANT BROWN BAG - 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at Fisherman's Landing Park

- Dec 07 **Planting Mangroves to Restore the Lagoon** Christopher Lindo, MRC
- Dec 21 **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**
- Jan 04 **The Impact of Increased Nutrients in the IRL** Leroy Creswell, UF St. Lucie County Extension Office
- Jan 18 **3 Secrets to Gardening in Florida** Wae Nelson, Florida Gardening Magazine
- Feb 01 **To Be Announced**
- Feb 15 **Florida's National Scenic Byway** Beth McMillen, MRC

City of SEBASTIAN BROWN BAG-Last Friday of the month at Riverview park gazebo at Noon.

- Dec 28 **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**
- Jan 25 **Wildlife Basics and Current Events of Indian River Lagoon** Heather Stapleton, Environmental Learning Center
- Feb 29 **The Importance of the Florida Everglades** Steve Traxler, US Fish and Wildlife Service

LEARN ABOUT NATURE WITH CAPT. CHOP

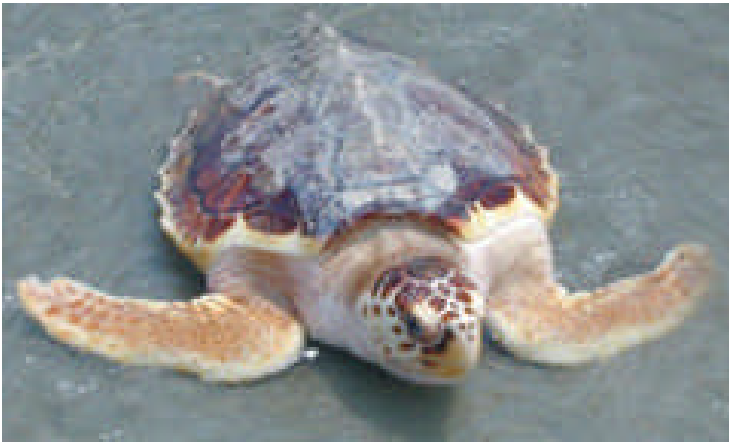
Every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. at the Ft. Pierce Library Captain "Chop" he will offer a presentation on the topics listed below. To complement these talks, there will be a "Walk and Talk Tour" the following day, at 1:30 p.m. The presentations and the talks are fun, fascinating, and free! For more information, please call Vicki at (772)-462-2787.

- Dec 13 Floridas Habitats** Learn about Florida's diverse habitats and how they adapt to environmental conditions
- Dec 14 Walk and Talk Tour** at Bear Pointe Sanctuary
- Dec 20 Florida Mammals** An introduction to Florida mammals and their different shapes, sizes, and functions
- Jan 10 Mangrove Swamps** Learn how the term "mangrove" is applied to species from several varieties of tropical trees.
- Jan 11 Walk and Talk Tour** at Bear Pointe Sanctuary
- Jan 17 Reef Communities** Talk about the 650 species of fish and 40 species of coral in Florida's reefs.
- Jan 18 Walk and Talk Tour** at Vitolo Family Park
- Jan 24 Florida Birds** Learn about the large number of migrating and breeding birds visiting Florida each year
- Jan 25 Walk and Talk Tour** at Bear Pointe Sanctuary
- Feb 07 Mammal Signs and Tracks** L
- Feb 08 Walk and Talk Tour** at Vitolo Family Park
- Feb 14 Florida Natural Wildlife** Birds, animals, trees, wildflowers, and insects of Florida.
- Feb 15 Walk and Talk Tour** at Bear Pointe Sanctuary
- Feb 21 Florida Outdoors** An overview of Florida's History
- Feb 22 Walk and Talk Tour** at Vitolo Family Park
- Feb 28 Bayous and the Lagoon** Learn how nature interacts with us in ways we can't imagine
- Feb 29 Walk and Talk Tour** at Bear Pointe Park

On The Lagoon with Captain Rodney Smith

It's no wonder evolution is a difficult concept for many of us to grasp. According to Wikipedia (the free on-line encyclopedia) *In biology, evolution is the change in the inherited traits of a population from one generation to the next.* I understand this angle, but I certainly don't completely agree with the timeline. When I was growing up we fished for dinner. Today anglers are fishing to relax, relieve stress, spend time either alone or with family and friends in the outdoors experiencing and appreciating all of Mother Nature's gifts, and more often than not, practicing catch, photo, and release of our catches. Where we looked at fish for their food value; now we also see them having personality. As a kid my parents would drive me into town to the shores of Tampa Bay to see giant tarpon hanging dead at the docks left behind by anglers competing in the Suncoast Tarpon Rodeo. I personally never intentionally killed or harmed a tarpon. Today, after nearly 72 years of completion, this tournament has gone completely catch and release. It never made sense why they'd kill these majestic creatures and not utilize them. We once ran a stick through the gills and out the mouth of a gamefish to stow our catch; today we are learning more sophisticated methods and using the best technologies to release fish quick and harmlessly. As anglers, many of us once thought we could protect our fisheries with sound management reflected by size, season, and catch regulations, but today we realize that this isn't enough. Protecting habitat and restoring water quality is paramount in conserving today's fisheries and other marine resources for tomorrow's generations. In this case it seems like evolution is a process of appreciation, increase value and better understanding of these limited resources. Thank goodness we didn't have to wait until the next generation came along for these changes to occur.

For more information contact 321-750-3374 or rodney@coastalanglermagazine.com



Loggerhead Nests in 9-Year Decline -Florida Today

Loggerhead sea turtles continue a 9-year decline this year. They burrowed only 28,500 nests along 28 "index" beaches, considered the best gauge of statewide nesting trends. Biologists say that's a 27% drop since 1989 and may be the lowest number in 19 years. This worries scientists about their long-term survival. The decline could harm ocean ecosystems because they keep jellyfish and other marine life in check, and their eggs bring crucial nutrients from oceans to nutrient-poor coastal and inshore habitats. Scientists suspect their migration patterns and feeding habits put them in the way of fishing hooks, lines, and nets. A 2004 study found that up to 280,000 loggerheads are caught annually by long-line fishing hooks and lines. Up to 42% of those die. Boat collisions also cause most of the 500-1,000 dead turtles washed ashore every year. Plastic and tar ingestion is a leading cause of baby sea turtle deaths. Blair Witherington, research assistant with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission says 90% of the baby sea turtles he captures in the Gulf Stream have their mouths sealed shut with tar, or their guts lined with plastic. The plastic comes from photo-degraded milk bottles, bleach bottles, and plastic bags, while the tar comes from ships and natural deposits.

Red Tide Irritates Brevard County

-Florida Today and other sources

Many Brevard residents have lately been experiencing eye, nose, and throat irritations, similar to a cold. This is caused by red tide. Red Tide is a microscopic algae but when it reaches levels of 1,000 cells per liter or greater, respiratory irritation can occur. At levels of 5,000 cells per liter the state closes shellfish areas. At more than one million cells, fish kills can occur and the water can turn dark red, green, or brown. The red tide emits a toxin into the water that can diffuse into the air through sea spray and can cause irritation to the eyes, throat, and nose, but the condition is not serious. Fish kills have been reported in New Smyrna Beach, Flagler and surrounding counties. Red Tides are less common here than in the Gulf of Mexico, and are a natural occurrence, especially in October and November. Typically, they get carried here by the Gulf Stream, and usually last 2-6 weeks in Florida. A recent Federal study has also linked the red tide to excess nutrients from farms and development along the Mississippi River that trigger red tide blooms along the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico. Currents transport the blooms around Florida to Brevard, as was seen in November 2002 when we had a red tide bloom that lasted through the New Year.

**Every \$20 in MRC membership,
funds over \$4,000 dollars worth of
volunteer restoration of the Indian
River Lagoon!**

**Join MRC by filling out the
membership application at the
end of this newsletter.**

Northern Right Whale Monitoring Program

Right Whales Confirmed Off FL Coast in July

On July 17th, Capt. Tim Roush and Troy Stovall photographed a mother right whale and her young calf about 15 miles southeast of Mayport, Florida. Mr. Roush and Mr. Stovall made critical observations, took photos, and went to great lengths to report this sighting. Their persistence finally paid off when MRC's whale hotline was reached. They made note of the callosities on the heads, v-shaped blows, and lack of a dorsal fin on the whales' backs. After searching the internet for pictures of whales, they decided what they saw were definitely right whales. More importantly, they had photos to prove it. While the photos will most likely not provide an identification of the mother, they were good enough to determine a species ID and give us an idea of the age of the calf. It is believed the calf is very young, possibly much younger than any calves born during the 2006-2007 winter calving season.

Scientists at the New England Aquarium, who maintain the database on North Atlantic right whales, feel this sighting is significant for more than one reason. First, this may be a new calf that has not been accounted for, so that will increase the season's calf count by one. More importantly, this whale may represent a portion of the population who visits habitats that are currently unknown. With unusual sightings like the one reported off Mayport, we are hoping to learn more about where these whales may go.

As a reminder, the whale sighting hotline can be reached all year long. Please report and all sightings immediately to MRC's whale sighting hotline at **1-888-97-WHALE**, no matter what time of year it is.



A right whale calf (shown above) and its mother were confirmed about 15 miles southeast of Jacksonville on July 17th. Photo courtesy: Capt. Tim Roush and Troy Stovall (pictured below)



Do The Right Thing

Protect Florida Whales Forever

Harbor Branch Oceanographic supports the Marine Resources Council's Right Whale Monitoring Program. So far, the *Protect Florida Whales* specialty license plate program, managed by Harbor Branch, has contributed \$150,000 to this important work. That is definitely something to spout about.

Do the Right Thing. Visit your local tax collector today to purchase or renew your *Protect Florida Whales* license plate.

HARBOR BRANCH

www.hboi.edu

www.protectfloridawhales.org



FL Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission
NMFS Permit Number 594-1759-00



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- ◆ Environmental Permitting

Please Cut Here

Yes, I want to be a member of the Marine Resources Council. Enclosed is a check for the following membership:

<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$1,000	Name: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	Company: _____	Title: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$250	Address: _____	Apt. No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship	\$100	City: _____	State: _____ Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50	Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____	Email _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	I want to volunteer one or more of the MRC projects. My areas of interest are:	
<input type="checkbox"/> General	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Pepper Busting	<input type="checkbox"/> Right Whale Spotting
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Office/Clerical	<input type="checkbox"/> Thrift Shop
		<input type="checkbox"/> Handy Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Education
		I want to contribute to the MRC Endowment Fund _____	

Melbourne Finally Gets a Hospital

--From *Melbourne A Century of Memories*

“ ‘Died on the train.’ They wrote the words on Dick Goode’s death certificate in May 1926. ‘Died on the train,’ were words often written in the first 27 years of this century for South Brevardians who required hospitalization. The hospital was a long train ride away. Like to Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, or West Palm Beach. Quite a few people never arrived alive. Dick Goode didn’t. He was 22 years old and he had a new motorcycle, which he rode from Malabar to Palm Bay. One of the tires blew out and Goode went over the handlebars, the cycle falling on top of him. They took him on the train to West Palm Beach. But he died en- route. For



the next two months emotions ran high in Melbourne. Headlines screamed: ‘Melbourne Demands Hospital.’ Goode’s grandmother, Jessie Goode, one of the earliest of Melbourne’s pioneers, offered a piece of property at the corner of Melbourne Avenue and Babcock Street for a hospital. Melbourne Avenue wasn’t even paved that far west, yet, but the city fathers decided that perhaps they could pave it if a hospital were to be built. Judge A. A. Ultcht reminded everyone that he had been advocating a hospital ever since 1924 and that when he was Melbourne’s mayor that year he had contributed his salary and other mayoral fees to create a hospital building fund. The fund was in escrow and totaled \$250. Ultcht added another \$25 to it, and some other folks chipped in some cash that came to about \$75 and suddenly the hospital building fund had about \$350. Committees were formed and met almost weekly. But no money came in. Little Cora Sloan, an infant, died from severe burns and the Melbourne Journal reminded everyone that had there been a hospital, her death might have been averted. More committees were formed. Eugene C. Lathrop offered a piece of property at the corner of Strawbridge and McQuaid for a hospital. (It turned out that the property Mrs. Goode had offered was ‘too far out of town.’)”

This book and thousands of others on the history and scientific study of the Lagoon are available to the public at the MRC Library of the Indian River Lagoon supported by the Indian River Lagoon Program. Call (321) 725-7775 for more information.

Phone Numbers

Marine Resources Council
(321) 725-7775

Right Whale Spotting
Hotline 1-888-97WHALE

Indian River Lagoon
Program (321) 984-4950

Marine Fish Kill Hotline
(800) 636-0511

Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission
(888) 404-FWCC

St. John’s River Water
Management District
(321) 984-4940

South Florida Water
Management District
(772) 223-2600

The Marker

NEWS OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

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