

Florida Example Pet Waste Ordinances

City of Fort Lauderdale

Section 6-4(c) of the City's Code of Ordinances states that, "It shall further be unlawful for a person to allow or permit a dog or other pet or domesticated animal within that person's control to deposit animal waste (except for law enforcement animals while on duty) upon any public or private property and to fail to promptly remove the animal's waste from the property."

Hillsborough County

Ordinance No. 00- 26

As Amended by Ordinance 03-8

SECTION 14. ANIMAL WASTE REMOVAL

Any feces deposited by a dog, cat, or pet pig on public property, public walks, recreation areas or the private property of others must be immediately removed by the person who has custody or control of the animal unless otherwise authorized by the property owner.

Seminole County

Sec. 190.155. General provisions relating to use of Natural Lands.

(a) The following provisions relate to all Natural Lands parcels:

(7) *Pets*. Domestic animals are allowed on Natural Lands provided they are leashed at all times. It is unlawful to possess a domestic animal on Natural Lands without a leash being affixed to the animal and for the animal to be under the control of the Natural Lands user. It is unlawful for the person who has control over a pet to fail to immediately remove and dispose of animal wastes deposited by the pet on Natural Lands. Disposal of waste shall occur by placing the waste in designated waste containers.

Escambia County:

Sec. 10-11. Animal control:

(f) *Removal of canine waste and requirement for possession of device for removal in the county.*

(1) It shall be the duty of each person who is in the company of or responsible for a dog on areas other than the property of such person to remove any feces left by his dog on any yard, sidewalk, gutter, street, right-of-way, or other public or private place.

(2) It shall further be the duty of any person while in direct control of a dog to have in his possession a plastic bag or "pooper scooper" or other such device sufficient for his use in the removal of canine waste.

(3) Violators of this section shall be guilty of a civil infraction and punishable pursuant to section 10-23.

(4) This section may be enforced by the county sheriff or county animal control officers. The provisions of Rule 3.125, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, providing that violators of county ordinances may be served with a notice to appear, shall be applicable to violations of this section. Failure of a person receiving a notice to appear to comply with the requirements on the notice shall be deemed a separate violation of this chapter for which a warrant for the violator's arrest may be issued.

City of Tallahassee

<http://talgov.com/animals/pdf/ord.pdf>

Ordinance No. 10015AA

An ordinance of the City of Tallahassee, Florida, amending Chapter 4 of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Tallahassee (animals) by deleting it in its entirety and substituting new provisions in its stead to provide for the protection of public health and safety while promoting humane standards of care for the pets in our community; providing for conflicts, providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Section 411.

Removal of animal waste.

(a) The owner of any animal shall be responsible for the removal of any excreta deposited by his/her animal on public walks, recreation areas, public streets, or private property other than the premises of the owner of the animal.

(b) The owner of any animal shall remove animal waste from his or her property if it poses a threat to the health, safety or well being of any animals or persons.

(c) This section shall not apply to disabled persons accompanied by a service animal used for assistance in accordance with the law.

Scoop the Poop Public Outreach Campaign



Stacie Greco
Alachua County Environmental
Protection Department

The Problem

- An estimate of 33,600 dogs live in Gainesville. (Based on 2006 census data and American Veterinary Medical Association's estimates.)
- This generates over 10,000 pounds of dog waste a day
- Dog waste is a known source of fecal coliform bacteria affecting our creeks



Social Marketing

- Desired behavior: Scoop, bag, and trash dog waste at home and out in the community.
- Social Marketing – The use of traditional marketing techniques to achieve specific behavior goals to benefit society.

Barriers	Benefits
I don't have a bag	It is the right thing to do
It's gross	I won't step in it
It just goes away and is fertilizer	It smells bad if I leave it on the ground

Messengers

- Veterinarians
- Adoption agencies
- Apartment Complexes
- Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
- Alachua County Health Department

Commercials

Wait don't get up, here comes an important message from the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership....

Bag Dispensers



Flashlights



Magnets



Posters



www.AlachuaCountyWaste.org

**THIS FOOTWEAR IS
NEVER IN FASHION**



**Scoop the Poop,
Bag it & Trash it!**

Clean Creeks. Clean Yards. Clean Feet.



www.AlachuaCountyWaste.org

DOGS CAN'T FLUSH



**Scoop the Poop,
Bag it & Trash it!**

Clean Creeks. Clean Yards. Clean Paws.



Pamphlet

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY

When your pet “does its business,” where does it end up? If it is left on the grass or street, it may be polluting our water.

Water samples in the urban areas of Alachua County often have high levels of bacteria that exceed State Water Quality Standards.

Are you risking your health?

Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden are most at risk for infection from bacteria and parasites in pet waste. Flies may also spread diseases from animal waste. Diseases or parasites that can be transmitted include:

- Campylobacteriosis – frequently causes diarrhea in humans.
- Hookworms - infective larvae can penetrate the skin of dogs, cats or people. In humans, it causes an itchy skin condition.
- Toxocariasis – may cause vision loss, a rash, fever or cough.
- Toxoplasmosis – symptoms include headache, muscle aches and lymph node enlargement. Can cause birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy.

www.AlachuaCountyWater.org

Alachua County Environmental Protection
201 SE 2nd Ave., Suite 201, Gainesville, FL 32602
352-266-6800

DOGS CAN'T FLUSH

**Scoop the Poop,
Bag it & Trash it!**

Clean Creeks. Clean Yards. Clean Paws.

Website

Environmental Protection - Your Government - Alachua County, FL - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/epd/waterquality/petwaste.aspx

alachua county parks

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google Search

Windows Live Hotmail Environmental Prote... Home - Water Quality ... Print Screen (Windows, ...)

Am I going to pollute by putting dog poop in the landfill?

No, landfills have liners and treatment systems, so pollutants won't leach into the environment. We certainly want to reduce our waste stream to landfills wherever possible. When it comes to pet waste, however, there is currently no better alternative.

If you buried pet waste in your own yard you may cause health problems, especially if it is close to a garden or play area. In many places in Alachua County the groundwater is close to the surface or only protected by sandy soils that allow pollutants to quickly travel to our drinking water, so burying it on your own isn't the best solution.

At some point in the future, commercial composting technology may be sufficient to treat pet waste, enabling curbside pickup along with yard waste. Until then, landfilling is the best alternative for pet waste.

Composting
yard wastes = GOOD

Composting
pet wastes = BAD

Is pet waste a fertilizer?



Being the eco-minded organization that we are, we wish we could tell you to compost and re-use dog waste. All of the research we did confirmed the fact that **PET WASTE IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**. This includes lawns, gardens, compost piles, bushes, waterbodies, etc. The big danger is the organisms living in the waste that can get you and your pets sick. Most compost piles do NOT get hot enough to kill these organisms. Stick to the classic manures and organic fertilizers for your landscaping and bag and trash your pet waste.

Done

Internet 100%

Yard Signs



Pet Waste Stations



Telephone Survey Results

- 33% pre-campaign respondents never pick up pet wastes compared to 27% of post-campaign.
- 77% of pre-campaign and 85% of post-campaign participants have heard it is important to pick up pet wastes.
- 9% increase in participants reporting they dispose of dog waste in the trash in post-campaign.

Telephone Survey Results (cont)

- 39% of the post-campaign respondents recalled the campaign
 - 21% learned about it on TV
 - 10% were exposed at their veterinarian's office
- 10% of the post-campaign respondents that recalled the campaign reported changing their behavior as a result.

Funding Provided by the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership



Florida STORMWATER EDUCATION

Resources for Stormwater Education from the Stormwater Management Academy—University of Central Florida



Volume 10 Number 3

Summer 2009

Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it!

Stacie Greco, Alachua County EPD

Alachua County's Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) recently unleashed a pet waste public outreach campaign. The effort is funded by the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership and has the lofty goal of making cleaning up after your pup a community norm.

ACEPD is leading this campaign due to high bacteria levels in Gainesville's urban creeks. Common sources of this fecal pollution are leaky wastewater infrastructure, failing septic systems, urban campers, pet wastes, and wildlife. Wildlife sources are almost impossible to control, while faulty wastewater infrastructure and septic systems can be difficult to locate and expensive to repair. Pet waste is a source that can be significantly reduced by modifying the behavior of pet owners.

The campaign is using social marketing techniques to encourage citizens to adopt the desired behavior of scooping, bagging, and trashing pet wastes.

For example, research shows that one of the barriers to this behavior is not having a bag with you when your dog does its business. To overcome this barrier, ACEPD is distributing bag dispensers with the catchy

"scoop it, bag it, trash it" logo for citizens to attach to their dogs' leashes. Key chain flashlights should prove helpful for those that say they cannot see it when their dogs go out at night.



PHOTO COURTESY ALACHUA COUNTY

The campaign was also designed to reinforce the benefits of cleaning up after pets. One of two commercials heavily aired on television highlights this point as a little girl jumps across the screen shouting for her mommy after stepping in some poop that was not scooped.

This commercial will also be shown in local movie theaters this summer.

ACEPD recognizes that the messenger can be just as important as the message, and that citizens are more likely to clean up after their pets if encouraged to do so by their veterinarians.

ACEPD has partnered with local veterinarians, supplying them with posters, pamphlets, and magnets to distribute and discuss with their clients.

To help determine the success of the pet waste campaign, a pre-campaign telephone survey was conducted, establishing a baseline for self-reported behaviors and beliefs. A post-campaign survey will be conducted and compared to the baseline results.

Learn more about Alachua County's new Pet Waste Program online at www.AlachuaCountyWater.org, or contact Stacie Greco at 352.264.6829.

Poo-lution Ad Earns People's Choice Award

Alachua County's Environmental Protection Department earned the 2009 People's Choice Award at the National Nonpoint and Stormwater Outreach Conference in Portland, Ore., on May 13.

The ads aim to combat "poo-lution" from cat and dog waste as many of the creeks in Alachua County are listed as Impaired Waters by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, due to their high levels of fecal coliform bacteria.

In his acceptance speech for a county press release, department director Chris Bird thanked senior environmental specialist Stacie Greco

for her work in obtaining funding for designing and implementing the pet waste campaign. Bird said, "These public service announcements are a key element of Alachua County EPD's public outreach campaign designed to encourage citizens to scoop, bag, and trash pet waste at home and around the community." Bird thanked the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership for funding the campaign.

Sources: June 2009 *DIG* Newsletter, Indigo, North Central Florida's Green Building Supply Store, www.indigogreenstore.com; *The Gainesville Sun*, May 25, 2009, www.gainesville.com.



To receive this newsletter via email, please visit our subscription page at www.editype.com/FSE/ FSE_subscribe.html.



Spotlight on Nanette Holland O'Hara

Public Outreach Coordinator, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

What is your professional background?

My background is in journalism and communications. I graduated with a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Florida in 1982 and then worked for the next 13 years as a newspaper reporter specializing in science and environmental issues for Florida TODAY, the Florida Times-Union, and The Tampa Tribune. I left the frantic world of daily newspapers in 1995 and owned my own environmental writing and communication business for the next three years. The Tampa Bay Estuary Program was among my first clients. I came to work full-time for TBEP in 1998, and have been here ever since.

What are your responsibilities as public outreach coordinator of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program?

On a broad level, I am responsible for communicating the program's goals and successes to the media and the public, and for developing strategies to improve community awareness of bay problems and solutions. I work with a variety of partners to develop and implement educational programs, targeting diverse audiences from waterfront homeowners to K-12 teachers, to boaters and anglers. I also coordinate production of all external communications, including our newsletter, our website (www.tbep.org), news releases, and special reports.

Describe several successful programs you have implemented with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

I am most proud of a 60-minute documentary film I produced about four years ago, called "Tampa Bay: Living Legacy," that chronicled the natural and cultural history of the bay, its gradual decline, and recent recovery. The film aired on both our local PBS stations. We also developed a high school teaching curriculum to accompany the film.

Ongoing educational campaigns that I developed (and am still expanding) include our "Eyes on the Bay" program to enlist citizens in monitoring for and eradicating invasive plants and animals, and our "Bay-Friendly Boater" program that provides special kits containing information and useful tools to promote environmentally friendly boating.

Describe the new program you are initiating to reduce pet waste pollution in the Tampa Bay area.

A few years ago, I launched a pet waste education effort called "Pooches for the Planet" to promote proper disposal of doggy doo, preventing nutrient and bacterial contamination of our waters. I've tried to give this admittedly "icky" subject a light, humorous treatment in my campaign materials while still making the point that Fido's droppings can seriously impact our lakes, rivers, and bays. I've utilized a number of social marketing techniques in these efforts, with some heartening success. I did extensive education in my own waterfront neighborhood along the Hillsborough River, setting up a pet waste "Information Station" monthly for 8 months to talk to dog owners utilizing our park about the importance of picking up after their dogs. I asked them to take a survey to assess their knowledge of dog waste as an environmental problem, and in return gave them magnets and "Bags on Board" bag dispensers that clip to their dog's leash, so they'd always have a bag for pet waste handy. The City of Tampa generously agreed to add two additional pet waste bag stations in the park.



I monitored my success by mapping the number of dog poop piles in our park and greenway using a handheld GPS unit. Over the 8-month research period, I documented a 48% decrease in poop piles!

Now I am expanding the program to other neighborhoods, animal shelters, vet clinics,

and pet supply stores. Vet clinics and pet supply outlets are provided with "Pooches for the Planet" educational materials, along with a personal visit from one of our "Pooches" emissaries to encourage them to display the materials and answer any questions.

A special promotion is being launched with animal shelters in the region to provide eco-friendly

"Pooches for the Planet" tote bags containing goodies and information to all who adopt a dog or puppy from a shelter. Adoptive "parents" who complete a follow-up survey are eligible for great prizes, including gift certificates for dog training classes and vet care.

Doorhangers are provided on request to Tampa Bay area neighborhoods so residents can deliver the message of responsible pet ownership and care, directly to their neighbors.

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Movements In Hillsborough County: From Study to Action

John McGee, Hillsborough County
Stormwater Environmental
Programs Coordinator

Hillsborough County has recently completed the first phase of a project to reduce bacterial contamination of our lakes and rivers from pet waste that is left outside. Phase One of this project was to characterize the population of pet owners. After a thorough literature search to find out what has already been done, Hillsborough County Stormwater Environmental Programs conducted a series of focus groups and an internet survey.

The focus group locations were selected by cross referencing zip codes with the highest dog populations and water bodies that are impaired with bacteria. It was no surprise that these tended to be the three most populous areas of suburban development. A focus group was held in each of these areas as well as at the annual Lake, Pond and Stream Night educational event hosted by the Stormwater Environmental Programs. Focus group

participants were selected from pet stores, veterinary offices, and dog clubs.

In addition, an online survey was developed and advertised through various email lists and websites. The survey received 201 responses.

The survey and focus groups revealed that the primary dog walkers are by far women between the ages of 20 and 50 from middle to upper middle class suburban communities. Most respondents identified dog walking as a social activity in which they could connect with friends and neighbors. Not surprisingly, most said they always pick up after their dogs.

Respondents seemed reasonably knowledgeable about problems associated with pet waste. They identified that cleaning up after their dogs was a matter of health, personal responsibility, and respect for others. Many people also identified a lack of education, lack

of disposal facilities, forgetting bags, and general “ickiness” as barriers to cleaning up waste.

Following this characterization study, Hillsborough County Stormwater Environmental Programs plans to develop a pilot project to encourage scooping of waste in areas where disposal facilities are not offered, such as neighborhood blocks and road right-of-ways. This will compliment additional pet waste pilots in dog parks and community commons being conducted in Pinellas County by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. The goal of the pilot phase of the program will be to determine the best ways to encourage people to clean up after their dogs. Phase Three will involve wider scale implementation of the project.



For more information contact John McGee, mcgee@hillsboroughcounty.org, or 813.744.5671. View the full report or find out more about Hillsborough County Stormwater Environmental Programs at www.hillsborough.wateratlas.org.

At a Glance...

Waste Education and Eradication Project

With a grant generously supplied by the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (www.sarasotabay.org/), the City of Bradenton Beach through its advisory committee the SCENIC WAVES Partnership is ready to implement its project to eradicate pet waste from the city's land and waters.

Ten pet waste stations have been installed in locations along the bayfront and adjacent lands. Each station is visible in the right-of-way with signage and a “biobag” dispenser. The free-to-the-public biodegradable bags are meant to encourage responsibility among

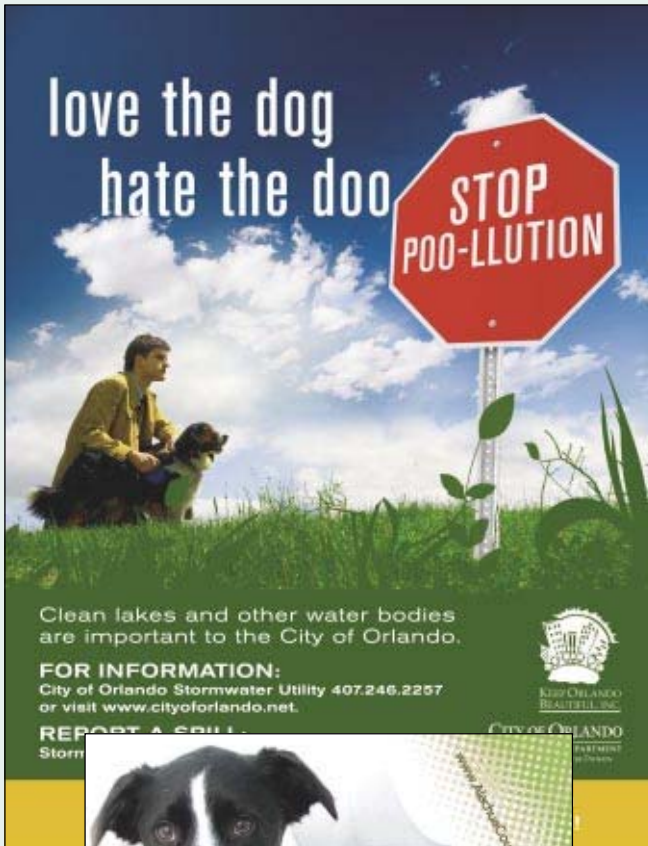


pet owners. An associated education campaign has begun with door hangers and media ads. For more information contact Lisa Marie Phillips at 941-778-4619, or email: lmphillips@cityofbradentonbeach.com.

Sewage-Sniffing Dog Hunts for E. Coli Sources Along Michigan River

Bay City, Michigan writer Jeff Kart introduces Sable, a sewage-sniffing dog, in the September 16, 2008 *Bay City Times*. Sable is trained to sniff out the scent of human sewage and surfactants used in household detergents to detect illicit and failing septic connections that flow from homes into rivers and streams. Sable spent the summer of 2008 training and working in the Flint and Lansing, Michigan areas, sniffing out sewage and finding several illicit connections. — http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/09/get_a_whiff_of_this_sewagesnif.html.

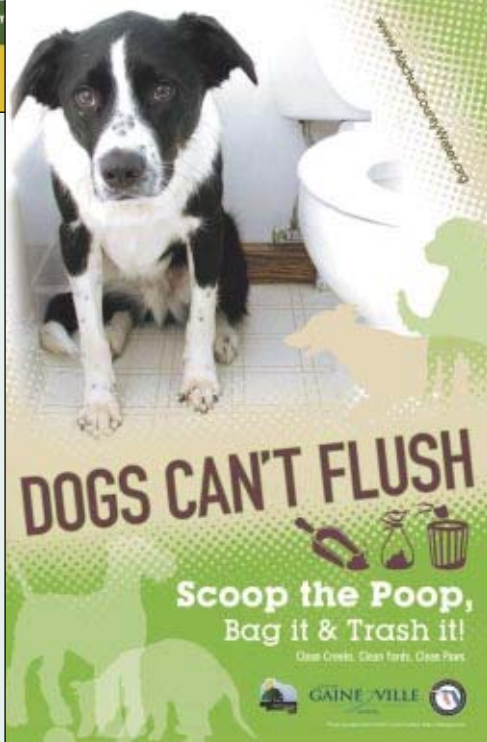
Stop Poo-Lution Poster Gallery



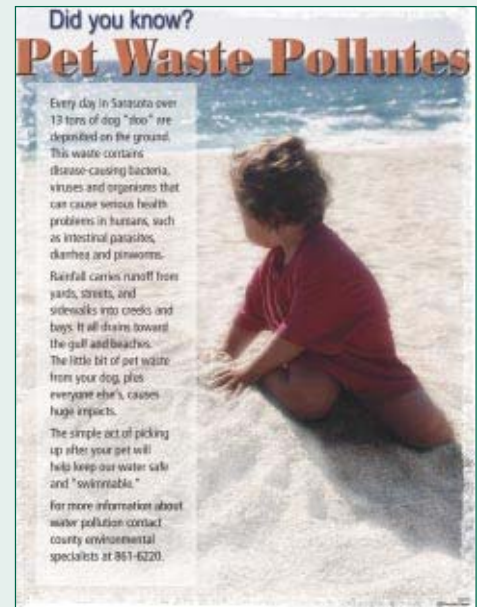
"Love the Dog, Hate the Doo"
City of Orlando
www.cityoforlando.net



**"This Footwear Is
Never In Fashion"**
Alachua County
www.alachuacounty.us



"Dogs Can't Flush"
Alachua County
www.alachuacounty.us



"Pet Waste Pollutes"
Sarasota County
www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu

Reducing Pet Waste Pollution: Ideas and Resources for Outreach

“Pick It Up It’s Your Doodie.” Brochure from Cobb County, Georgia.
http://watershed.cobbcountyga.gov/pdfFiles/pet_waste_brochure.pdf

“If you think picking up dog poop is unpleasant, try swimming in it.” Poster, Cobb County.
http://watershed.cobbcountyga.gov/pdfFiles/cwc_petwaste_poster.pdf

“Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet: Animal Waste Collection.” Includes results from a dog waste collection survey and other study information and references.
www.stormwatercenter.net/Pollution_Prevention_Factsheets/AnimalWasteCollection.htm

Downloadable pet waste posters (24). Snohomish County, Washington. See samples at right.
http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public_Works/Divisions/SWM/Services/Water_Pollution/Pet_Waste_Posters.htm

Downloadable pet waste fact sheet. City of Carmel, Indiana.
www.ci.carmel.in.us/services/Engineering/stormwaterPDF2009/Pet%20Waste%20FactSheet%20Carmel.pdf

Orange County, Florida’s Pet Waste Web Page.
www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/CEsrvc/animal/Pick+up+After+Your+Pet.htm

Stormwater Management Academy’s Pet Waste Video!
www.stormwater.ucf.edu/research/H2O4U_p3_puppy_videos.htm

A study and review of several promising pet waste reduction programs based on general barriers and benefits to pet waste removal.
www.swfwm.state.fl.us/files/social_research_docs/Pet_Waste_Final_Report.pdf



Spotlight on Nanette Holland O’Hara

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What educational goals will the Tampa Bay Estuary Program focus on next?

I’m currently working with a talented group of colleagues on a social marketing campaign to convince homeowners NOT to fertilize their lawns during our summer rainy season to reduce nitrogen runoff. The campaign stems from a model ordinance regulating residential fertilizer use that the Tampa Bay Estuary Program developed at the request of our Policy Board. The ordinance includes a groundbreaking retail ban on the sale of lawn fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous from June–September; it’s been adopted by the city of St. Petersburg and is slated for consideration shortly in Manatee and Pinellas counties.

Our Policy Board also has asked us to lead development of a regional educational campaign about the ordinance. I anticipate that much of my time over the next few years will be devoted to this effort.

“Getting the Scoop on Poop” rack cards and fact sheets are available as PDFs online at www.tbep.org/publications/downloads.html.

Grant Opportunities

Attention Coastal Stormwater Educators!

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation’s Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund

The Foundation seeks to fund projects that educate and engage the public to increase their awareness of ocean issues and understanding of their relevance to future health and well-being. The Foundation will only consider projects that address these specific issues: **marine debris, human interaction with marine mammals, runoff and pollution, or public health issues** such as red tides or marine pharmaceuticals. Projects must include a conservation component **and** an outreach component. Visit www.nmsfocean.org/article/2009/07/01/announcing-request-proposals-ernest-f-hollings-ocean-awareness-trust-fund.

Proposal deadline is **August 14**. Please direct questions to Allison Alexander at allison@nmsfocean.org or 301-608-3040, x3.

NEA Foundation Offering Green Grants

Deadlines for applications are June 1, **October 15**, and February 1. “Green” grants will be emphasized this year where students learn about and are engaged in environmental preservation and protection. Public Schools are eligible and average award amounts are \$5,000. Visit www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm.

Upcoming Events

Watershed Institute

The Institute is targeted for watershed leaders in local government, watershed groups, and consultants. Special characteristics of the Southeast will be covered.

When: September 22–25, 2009

Where: Columbia, SC

Web: www.cwp.org/Calendar/WI09/WI09.html

Evaluation 2009

The American Evaluation Association's annual conference will bring together approximately 2500 evaluation practitioners, academics, and students, and represents a unique opportunity to gather with professional colleagues in a supportive, invigorating, atmosphere.

When: November 11–14, 2009

Where: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando

Web: www.eval.org/eval2009/

2009 Florida Stormwater Association Winter Conference

Technical and policy-oriented workshops. There will be a pre-conference tour of stormwater projects in the Tampa area!

When: December 2–4, 2009

Where: Hyatt Regency, Tampa

Web: www.florida-stormwater.org/conferences/conference2009_winter.htm

Does your organization have an upcoming stormwater-related event? Send announcements to elise@editype.com.

Stormwater Management Academy

Managed stormwater is good water.



Florida Stormwater Education is produced by the Stormwater Management Academy. Funding is provided by a Section 319 Non-point Source Management Program Grant from US EPA through a contract with Stormwater/NPS Management Section of the Florida DEP.

Stormwater Management Academy

Public Education Programs

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 Newsletter Design: Gerry Cervenka

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

INSIDE: Getting a Grip on Pollution

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FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION