



Lagoon House Brown Bag

For Immediate Release:

Brown Bag Lunch presentations are fun, informative, and free! Presentations target the layman, and covered topics include ecology, aquatic life, history, native plants, and others of interest to those who care about our environment and the Indian River Lagoon in particular.

Presentations are held Tuesdays from Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

For more information, call the Marine Resources Council at 321-725-7775 or go to our website <http://www.mrcirl.org>

Topics for the month of March, 2010

Mar 02 Protecting Dolphins and Right Whales

Richard Chesler – Special Agent U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement

Come and learn about the federal laws, which protect marine mammals, including dolphins and right whales. You will learn about dolphin feeding and right whale close approach regulations.

Mar 09 Did You Know There Are 2 Types of Water Pollution?

Diane Wilson – Indian River County's Stormwater Education Coordinator

You probably think you know all there is to know about pollution, but many people are not aware of what the major water pollutants are and how they are adversely affecting the Indian River Lagoon. Come and learn the current situation of the lagoon's impairment, the problem causing it, the effects and solutions.

Mar 16 Oyster Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon

Michelle Peters-Snyder – The Nature Conservancy

Come and learn hands on how to make oyster mats, and help restore oyster reefs while you learn how they filter lagoon water and create fish habitat.

Mar 23 Status of Habitat Restoration in the Indian River Lagoon

LeRoy Creswell – Florida Sea Grant – University of Florida

Florida has a long, checkered history of invasive species, mostly plants, terrestrial, and intentionally introduced. Although some have been beneficial, many more have had detrimental economic effects and serious environmental consequences. Today, invasive species threaten the marine environment as well as businesses that are tied to our coastal environment, such as Florida's multi-billion dollar tourism industry. A range of invasive marine organisms will be described – how they got here – how they became established – and what role they might play in the future of Florida's coastal marine ecosystem.

Mar 30 Mangroves, The Most Valuable Tree in the Lagoon Region

Kathy Hill – St. Johns River Water Management District

Mangroves are critical fish and birding habitats for the Indian River Lagoon and are also the best way to keep your property from eroding in storms, they remove pollutants, and by slowing wave action, maintain water quality and clarity. Come and learn how you can help protect the mangroves from exotic vegetation and urbanization.