Inside DEP

Cockroach Bay Preserve State Park

Volume 3, Issue 23 November 14, 2014

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Solar Energy Cook-off
Saturday, Nov. 15; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Imaginarium Science Center
2000 Cranford Avenue
Fort Myers

Northwest District Marina Workshop
Tuesday, Nov. 18; 1 - 4 p.m.
160 W. Government St.
Pensacola

15 Annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
Saturday, Nov. 22; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Charlotte County Sports Complex
2300 El Jobean Rd/SR 776
Port Charlotte

What's Going On

Northeast District Provides HazWaste Training

Recently, NED compliance assurance staff members Pam Fellabaum and Jacob Gerke provided hazardous waste training to Johns Manville employees in Jacksonville. Johns Manville is a manufacturer and marketer of building materials, such as formaldehyde-free fiberglass building insulation, filtration media and commercial roofing membranes. The training included hazardous waste identification, large quantity generator and management standards, and used oil/universal waste management standards followed by a question and answer session.



Art with a Function

Bahia Honda State Park assistant manager Meredith Kruse got creative when it came to an old palm tree trunk near the concessions. Instead of removing it, he asked park rangers Yvon Limerick and Keely Final to paint directional signs from places all over the world. The guests love the new display, and there hasn't been a day when someone doesn't photograph it.



Recognizing Florida's Brownfields

Central District's brownfields coordinator George Houston recently spoke at two separate brownfields events. At the Southeast Brownfields Conference hosted in Orlando by the Florida Brownfields Association, he provided a Brownfields 101 session and participated in the Meet the Regulators session. At the University of Central Florida, Houston spoke to 25 public administration undergraduate students, educating them about Florida's brownfields redevelopment program and regulatory policies, the important role brownfields have in economic and community development, and how they reduce potential public health and environmental hazards.

DEP – Here to Help

The Northwest District hosted an open house last month focusing on real estate and providing an opportunity to highlight the wealth of information and resources that is available online. District experts answered questions and discussed some of the common environmental concerns encountered when developing property in Northwest Florida. Two dozen local real estate professionals, as well as the local news station WEAR TV 3, attended. The news story reflected the main message of the workshop – that DEP is here to help.



Planning a Future Medical Facility

A kick-off meeting at the former Barracuda Company brownfield site was attended by all involved parties, including the Department's Southwest District staff. The property was purchased by a group of doctors and, when completed, will fill a void in the area with a full-service imaging center with MRI, CAT-scan and other imaging equipment, and urgent care services.



Un travail bien fait - a job well done!

A professor at Florida International University returned with her 16 French language Honor Society students to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park for their sixth time. This trip, they tackled three separate projects – cleaning three large picnic areas, removing litter from a one-third mile stretch of beach and sand dunes, and removing hundreds of pounds of downed coco fronds and coconuts from the rear entrance of the lighthouse compound.



Southeast District Has Moved!

New address:

3301 Gun Club Rd.
MSC7210-1
West Palm Beach, 33406
Same phone numbers



Kudos … and Other News

Working Together Internationally

The South District was pleased to join the Above Board Chamber of Florida and the Hispanic American Business Alliance for an informative VIP luncheon meeting and business expo with leaders from Miami and the Dominican Republic last month. South District Director Jon Iglehart joined dignitaries, including city of Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson, Florida State Rep. District 78 Heather Fitzenhagen, Florida Foreign Trade Association President Ralph Puga and Southwest Florida International Airport Marketing Director Carol Obermeier, among other policymakers and business leaders.



Jon Iglehart, Martha Avila and State Representative Heather Fitzenhagen

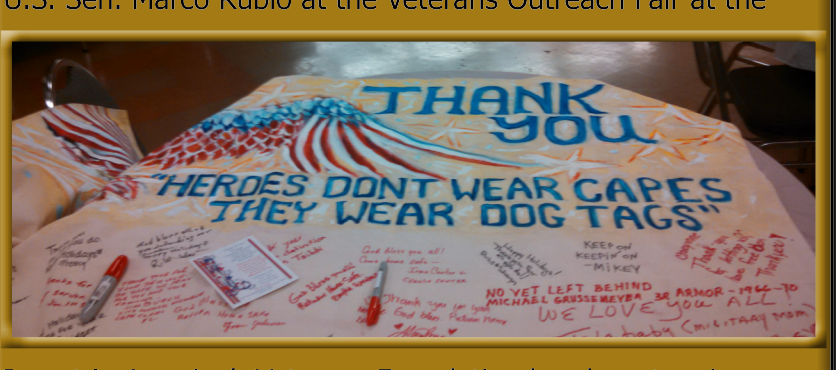
The Right Place at the Right Time

While out on an inspection earlier this month, Northwest District employees Dawn Templin, Mike Stephen and Brittany Smith, came upon an overturned SUV. Acting quickly, they helped five people crawl out of the back window of the overturned vehicle before emergency response crews arrived.



Remembering Our Veterans

Some of the South District's veterans were invited to join U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio at the Veterans Outreach Fair at the Invest in America's Veterans Foundation headquarters in Cape Coral. Veterans Randy Landers and Carter Endsley of the U.S. Air Force and Terry Cerullo of the U.S. Coast Guard, and volunteers Mary Grace Stamper and Kelly Cramer joined Sen. Rubio, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, Florida State senators Garrett Richter and Lizbeth Benacquisto, and city of Cape Coral council member Jim Burch for the event. Staff discussed MyFloridaMarketPlace, becoming a vendor in the state procurement process and small-business assistance for veterans. District staff had the honor of shaking the hands of many veterans – young and old – and thanking them for their service.



Training for Safety

The Central District's compliance assurance member and emergency responder presented an OSHA 8-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response refresher course. To maintain their HAZWOPER certification, 58 attendees from county governments, as well as numerous district staff, attended the training. Guest speaker was Dr. Christopher Teaf, associate director at Florida State University's Center for Biomedical and Toxicological Research. The HAZWOPER training saved participants more than $17,000.



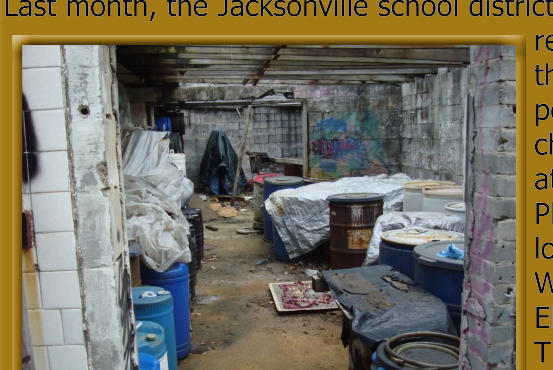
Making Learning Fun

Southeast District staff recently participated in Palm Beach County's family-friendly LagoonFest to celebrate the Lake Worth Lagoon. The booth was one of the Stamp Stops for the kids' treasure hunt where they could answer fun questions about geography, state parks and the Lake Worth Lagoon to receive a stamp. The kids who collected all eight stamps received a prize from the LagoonFest committee.



Teamwork Prevents Potential Danger Near School

Last month, the Jacksonville school district superintendent received notification that there were potentially dangerous chemicals stored at the closed Duval Plating facility located near West Jacksonville Elementary School. The superintendent made a request to the Northeast District through the city of Jacksonville for immediate action to secure and remove the hazardous chemicals from the unsafe structure. The district's Emergency Response and Compliance Assurance Hazardous Waste staff, the Southwest District's Emergency Response forensic team, EPA and the city of Jacksonville personnel worked together to remove more than 100 drums of sodium cyanide crystals.



Multi-agency Drill for Responders

Department staff from across the state participated in a simulated 300,000-gallon oil spill incident in the Old Port of Tampa. Local, state and federal responders, including DEP, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Health and the U.S. Coast Guard. The drill was designed to evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of a full-scale government-led multi-agency response and provided the opportunity to deploy and recover response equipment designed to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Crowley Maritime Corp. and Motiva Enterprises LLC were also part of the collaborative effort.



November 15 – A Decade of Collaborative Recycling

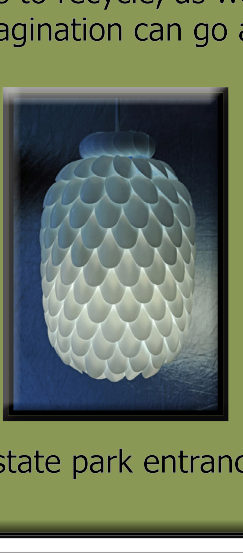
Ten years ago, President George W. Bush issued a presidential proclamation declaring Nov. 15, 2004, as America Recycles Day. According to the facts and figures report compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 2012:

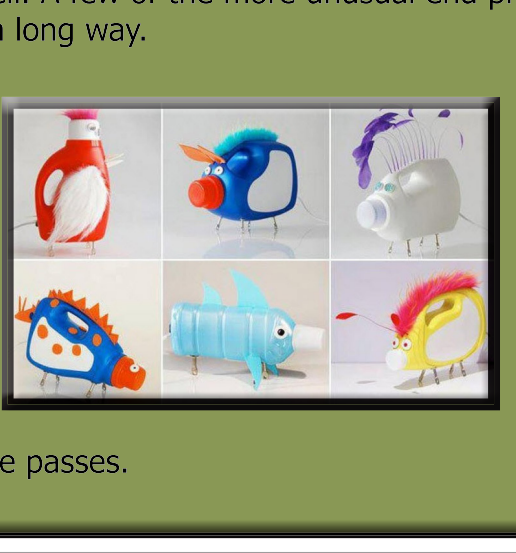
- Americans generated about 251 million tons of trash, and recycled and composted almost 87 million tons, saving more than 1.1 quadrillion Btu of energy – the amount consumed by nearly 10 million U.S. households annually;
- Americans composted more than 19 million tons of yard trimmings;
- Recovery of news-type papers was nearly 70 percent; and
- Food waste accounted for about 28 percent of MSW; more than 2.4 million households have been fed through community food waste composting collection programs.

This year, America Recycles Day falls on Saturday, Nov. 15, giving many folks an opportunity to spend at least a part of their day recycling – rounding up old electronics, half-empty paint cans and broken motorized tools, such as leaf blowers or lawn mowers, and taking them to the local waste recycling facility. Or family members could collectively go through closets and drawers to find clothes and shoes that either no longer fit or just aren't being worn, then have a yard sale or donate them to organizations for resale. And that pile of magazines that just keeps on getting taller – it's probably time to give them away or put them out for curbside pickup. There may be books that were long ago read for the last time just sitting on the bookshelf, gathering dust, that could be donated to doctor's offices, senior centers, libraries or schools.

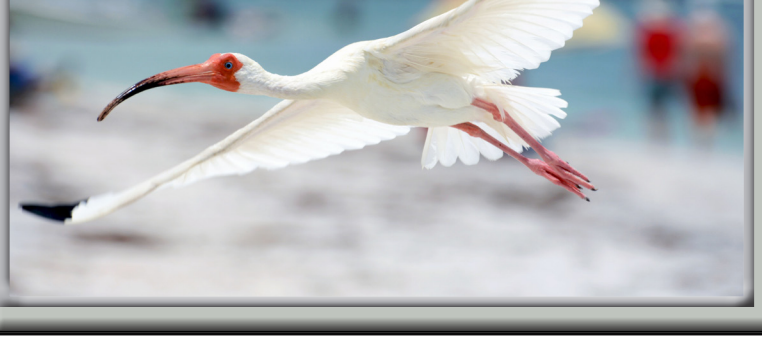
There are hundreds of creative ways to recycle, as well. A few of the more unusual end products are shown here, which confirms that a little imagination can go a long way.

- Plastic spoon lamp
- Plastic ornaments
- Jeans chair





With the Department's recent recycling selfie challenge launched, America Recycles Day is the perfect day to show off a little creative recycling. The challenge ends Nov. 25, so submit a recycling selfie to the DEP Facebook page and "like" the page to be entered to win four state park entrance passes.



Florida State Parks Photo Contest Winner

October 2014

Gasparilla Island State Park

The Boca Grande lighthouse is one of the main attactions of the park. Beautiful beaches, great swimming and fishing, and nature trails that lead visitors through the natural areas are other popular features. The barrier island provides nesting habitat for some bird species and migratory stopovers for others. Last year, more than 850,000 visitors made their way across the Boca Grande causeway to the remote island.