Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 1st Quarter 2007

Wanted: Nile Monitor Lizard

With the summer months quickly approaching the Nile monitor lizards will be active again. Therefore, ERD is putting out an APB on any sightings that anyone can report. This lets us know where they are, and where we should focus our trapping efforts.

If you should see a Nile Monitor in your area please call 574-0785.

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Wildfires and Florida's Dry Season

Florida does not experience the four season rotation as the northern latitudes do, and most agree that Florida has only two seasons; wet and dry. These two extremes occur between May through October for the wetter months and November to April for the dry season. Though the dry season may have periodic rainfall from fronts extending down from the north, Florida's summer climate conditions are right for heavy rainfall amounts. This includes tropical activity such as hurricanes.

Throughout the wet season the landscape is quenched, aquifers are recharged, and the threat of hurricanes becomes more problematic. While hurricanes are devastating during the wet season, wildfires can be equally troublesome during the dry season. During a period in which the water table is low and rainfall is at a minimum, the ground and vegetation become parched and wildfires become more prominent.

Throughout Florida, ecosystems such as pine and scrub habitat depend on periodic burning. Historically this would have occurred during the summer months where lightning would have been the catalyst to ignite a blaze, then continue to burn until no fuel was left or rains extinguished the fire. Prescribed burns often duplicate this natural occurrence to replenish nutrients and reduce the amount of brush to prevent a dry season wildfire.

A dry season wildfire, unfortunately, is most likely caused by carelessness or accidental human induced means and can be a devastating threat to lives and property. While most individuals have no intention of setting wildfires, population growth in urban areas combined with careless behavior are the notorious culprits for wildfire outbreaks. During Florida's dry season, the words from a familiar grizzly bear become a motto we should all remember. "Only you can prevent wildfires."

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Environmentally Speaking

Earth Day

In 1969 United States Senator Gaylord Nelson (WI), witnessed an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara so horrific it prompted him to establish a day in which the beauty of Earth is celebrated. April 22, 1970 was Earth Days inaugural year and has been growing as a popular international holiday every since. A holiday celebrating Earth, nature and conservation efforts was a welcome movement by 1970 because of the growing awareness of environmental issues during the sixties. Rachel Carlson's *Silent Spring*, the already realized environmental impacts form the industrial revolution, and NASA photos of Earth from space, are a few examples of inspirations and issues that led to Earth Day.

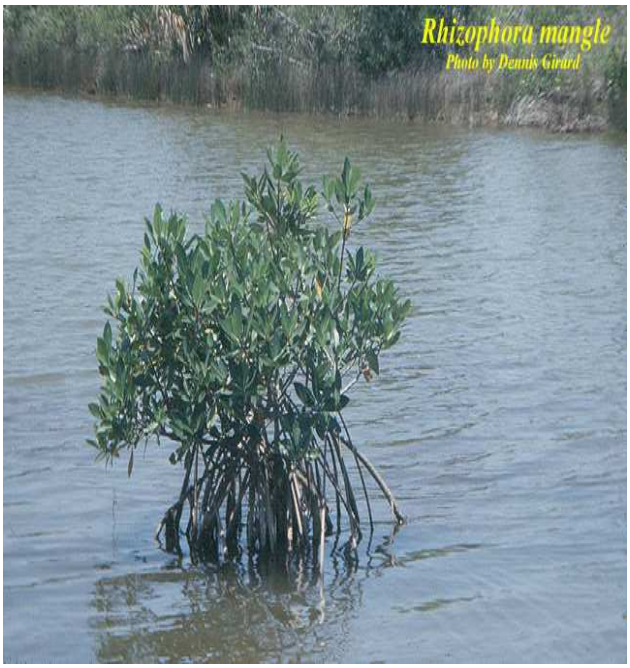
Recycling, conserving and a movement toward cleaner energy are achievements initiated through Earth Day and its message of environmental awareness. The importance of that first Earth Day has led to a global conservation and environmental movement that intensifies with each generation. An intensity that could make one feel that, everyday is Earth Day.

References: www.earthday.org

Native Plant Profile

Red Mangrove
Rhizophora mangle

Red mangrove is a small tree that grows along shorelines and creates dense 'mangles' within maritime forests. Found throughout Florida's southern tip and in the keys. The red mangrove grows to 30 feet in height and prefers brackish, shallow bays. Red mangroves exhibit vivipary, in which the seed partially develops before dropping off. Red mangroves serve as a nursery for small fish and crabs and are a natural buffer against wind and storm surges.



References:

Haehle, R. G., Brookwell, J. (1999). Native Florida Plants. Taylor Trade Publishing; Lanham, Maryland.

Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants
www.plantatlas.usf.edu

Canal Watch Data - First Quarter 2007

	January						Febuary						March					
STATION	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4
1A	<0.050	0.25	0.1	0.1	0.35	<0.05	<0.05	0.22	<0.1	<0.1	0.22	0.05	<0.05	0.18	0.2	1.6	1.78	0.08
1C	<0.050	0.25	0.4	0.4	0.65	0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.2	1.4	1.61	0.05
1D													<0.05	0.18	0.2	1.8	1.98	0.05
3D	<0.050	0.31	0.2	2	2.31	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.1	1.7	1.91	0.05
3F	<0.050	0.24	0.1	0.1	0.34	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.17	<0.1	1.2	1.37	<0.05
4D	<0.050	0.22	0.1	0.1	0.32	0.05	<0.05	0.24	0.1	0.1	0.34	<0.05	<0.05	0.22	0.2	1.6	1.82	<0.05
6F	<0.050	0.28	0.1	0.1	0.38	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.1	0.2	0.41	0.06						
7A													<0.05	0.18	0.2	1.6	1.78	0.08
10B	<0.050	0.33	0.3	0.8	1.13	0.06	<0.05	0.22	<0.1	<0.1	0.22	<0.05	<0.05	0.20	0.2	1.6	1.80	<0.05
11C	<0.050	0.28	0.1	0.1	0.38	<0.05	<0.05	0.25	<0.1	<0.1	0.25	0.06						
11D													<0.05	0.21	0.2	1.5	1.71	0.07
13A													<0.05	0.25	0.1	1.5	1.75	0.05
16B	<0.050	0.21	0.1	2	2.21	0.06	<0.05	0.28	0.1	0.1	0.38	<0.05	<0.05	0.12	0.1	1	1.12	<0.05
16D													<0.05	0.22	0.2	1.9	2.12	<0.05
19D	<0.050	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	<0.05	<0.05	0.28	<0.1	<0.1	0.28	0.07	<0.05	0.17	0.3	1.9	2.07	0.09
19E	<0.050	0.14	0.4	0.9	1.04	<0.05	<0.05	0.28	<0.1	<0.1	0.28	0.07	<0.05	0.20	0.2	1.5	1.70	0.07
19G													<0.05	0.19	0.2	1.6	1.79	0.05
21D	<0.050	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.18	0.1	1.5	1.68	<0.05
22B							<0.05	0.25	<0.1	<0.1	0.25	<0.05						
22C	<0.050	0.29	0.1	0.1	0.39	<0.05	<0.05	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	0.23	<0.05						
22D							<0.05	0.23	0.3	0.3	0.53	<0.05						
22F	<0.050	0.39	0.1	0.1	0.49	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	0.1	0.1	0.34	0.06	<0.05	0.18	0.2	1.5	1.68	0.07
26A							<0.05	0.27	<0.1	<0.1	0.27	<0.05						
26C	<0.050	0.28	0.1	0.1	0.38	0.06	<0.05	0.20	<0.1	<0.1	0.20	<0.05	<0.05	0.14	<0.1	5.2	5.34	<0.05
26D	<0.050	0.34	0.1	0.1	0.44	<0.05	<0.05	0.26	<0.1	<0.1	0.26	<0.05	<0.05	0.16	0.2	1.5	1.66	0.08
28D	<0.050	0.28	0.1	0.1	0.38	<0.05	<0.05	0.22	<0.1	<0.1	0.22	<0.05	<0.05	0.16	0.2	0.9	1.06	<0.05
35A	<0.050	0.31	0.1	0.1	0.41	<0.05	<0.05	0.13	<0.1	<0.1	0.13	<0.05						
41A	<0.050	0.24	<0.1	<0.1 u	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.12	<0.1	0.9	1.02	<0.05
42A	<0.050	0.21	<0.1	<0.1 u	0.21	<0.05	<0.05	0.27	<0.1	<0.1	0.27	<0.05	<0.05	0.20	0.2	0.9	1.10	0.09
43A	<0.050	0.26	<0.1	<0.1	0.26	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05						
48A	<0.050	0.27	<0.1	<0.1 u	0.27	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05						
49A	<0.050	0.19	<0.1	<0.1 u	0.19	<0.05	<0.05	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	0.23	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.1	1.2	1.41	<0.05
52B	<0.050	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	0.23	<0.05	<0.05	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	0.23	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	0.5	0.69	<0.05
58B	<0.050	0.22	<0.1	<0.1 u	0.22	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	<0.1	<0.1	0.21	0.07	<0.05	0.18	0.4	1.6	1.78	0.06
58E	<0.050	0.21	0.1	0.1	0.31	0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	0.05	<0.05	0.16	0.3	1.2	1.36	<0.05
58F	<0.050	0.26	0.1	0.1	0.36	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.1	0.1	0.31	0.09	<0.05	0.20	0.2	1.5	1.70	0.06
58G	<0.050	0.21	<0.1	<0.1	0.21	0.06	<0.05	0.17	<0.1	<0.1	0.17	0.05	<0.05	0.17	0.2	0.9	1.07	<0.05
59B													<0.05	0.18	0.2	1.0	1.18	<0.05
60A	<0.050	0.22	<0.1	<0.1	0.22	<0.05	<0.05	0.14	<0.1	<0.1	0.14	<0.05	<0.05	0.17	0.1	1.2	1.37	<0.05
62C	<0.050	0.15	<0.1	<0.1	0.15	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.1	0.8	1.01	<0.05	<0.05	0.08	<0.1	1.2	1.28	<0.05
64B	<0.050	0.29	<0.1	<0.1	0.29	<0.05	<0.05	0.28	<0.1	<0.1	0.28	<0.05	<0.05	0.21	0.2	1.3	1.51	<0.05
64C	<0.050	0.27	<0.1	<0.1	0.27	0.16	<0.05	0.28	<0.1	<0.1	0.28	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	0.2	1.3	1.49	<0.05
66A	<0.050	0.25	<0.1	<0.1	0.25	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.15	0.1	1.1	1.25	<0.05
67A							<0.05	0.25	<0.1	<0.1	0.25	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	1.5	1.69	<0.05
69A							<0.05	0.25	<0.1	<0.1	0.25	0.05	<0.05	0.17	0.1	1.2	1.37	<0.05
70B	<0.050	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	0.1	0.2	0.39	<0.05	<0.05	0.18	<0.1	1.1	1.28	<0.05
70D	<0.050	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05	<0.05	0.16	<0.1	1.2	1.36	0.05
70E													<0.05	0.18	<0.1	1.2	1.38	<0.05
72A	<0.050	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.05							<0.05	0.16	0.1	1.2	1.36	0.05
74B	<0.050	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05	<0.05	0.13	<0.1	1.4	1.53	<0.05
83A	<0.050	0.21	<0.1	<0.1	0.21	<0.05	<0.05	0.15	<0.1	<0.1	0.15	<0.05						
85C	<0.050	0.23	<0.1	<0.1	0.23	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05						
88B	<0.050	0.39	<0.1	<0.1	0.39	<0.05	<0.05	0.19	<0.1	<0.1	0.19	<0.05						
90A	<0.050	0.24	<0.1	<0.1	0.24	<0.05	<0.05	0.20	<0.1	<0.1	0.20	<0.05	<0.05	0.16	0.1	1.4	1.56	0.05
WQ	1.0	1.0	≈	≈	2.0	0.46	1.0	1.0	≈	≈	2.0	0.46	1.0	1.0	≈	≈	2.0	0.46

Laboratory Analysis	FL Storm Water Quality Standard
NO2 = Nitrites	< 1.0 mg/L
NO3 =Nitrates	<1.0 mg/L
NH3 =Ammonia	= No limit set
TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	= No limit set
TN = Total Nitrogen	<2.0 mg/L
T-PO4 = Total Phosphorus	< 0.46 mg/L

WQ = Florida State Storm Water Quality Standard

Cape Coral's freshwater canal system is our secondary line of stormwater treatment; therefore, your samples are compared to the Florida State Storm Water Quality Standards.

= No Sample Supplied.

All Units: mg/L = milligrams/liter

≈ = No Water Quality Standard set for this limit.

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Events

April	May	June
Canalwatch 4th	Canalwatch 2nd	Canalwatch 6th
Easter Sunday 8th	FYN intro Class 18th 1pm – 4pm	
FYN Design Class 6th, 13th, 20th	Memorial Day 28th	
Native Plant Sale	Colored Dissolved Organic Matter Workshop 29th -31st Punta Gorda Info: 239/338-2556	
Rain Barrel Class		
Rotary Park 21st		
Earth Day 22nd		
Home and Yard Show Jaycee Park 28th		

City of Cape Coral
Environmental Resources Division
P.O. BOX 150027
Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027