



Save The Bays Association
Is a nonprofit organization
Dedicated to preserving the
quality and navigability of
the water in the bays inside
Doctors Pass

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www.savethebays.com



The Save the Bays Report

March 2005

COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

By Marilyn Tempest, President – Save The Bays

The Annual Meeting of Save the Bays will be held in April. All interested persons are welcome to attend!

Jim Von Rinteln, Emergency Management Coordinator for Collier County, will speak to us about *“Hurricanes -- Experiences from 2004 and Readiness for 2005”*.

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Bank of America, Private Bank Community Room

4501 Tamiami Trail, North
(Just south of Neapolitan Way)

Following Mr. Von Rinteln's talk, STB will hold its business meeting, including the Report from our Nominating Committee, Election of Officers and Directors, Project Reports and new Project Decisions.

Anyone interested in joining our various committees is welcome to come and discuss the ongoing works of those committees and ways to volunteer. We welcome new active participants! We are always open to new ideas. Our committees currently monitor Water Depths, Water Quality, Trash Collection from our Waters, Lawn and Garden Care, Web Site Operation, Membership and send out this “Report to Members”. We would also welcome help for our Treasurer. We hope you find a niche in our organization that is just right for you!

The Great Dredging Project -

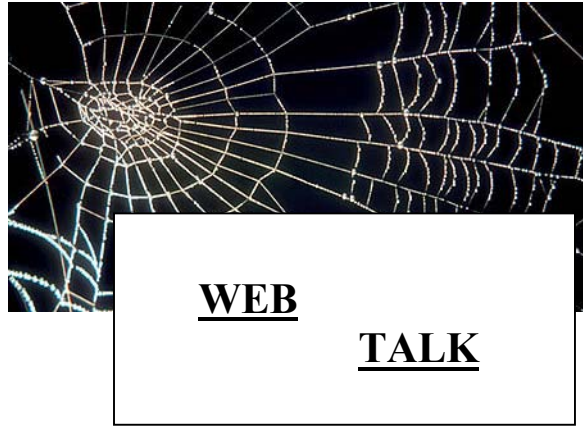
The Moorings Bay System Special Taxing Advisory Committee and the City of Naples have just received their third Request For Additional Information (RAI), from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection! Reams of paper have been sent to and from the City of Naples. Each request postpones the final project and adds to the overall cost. We think this is excess government control. They've tested the bottom wherever we will dredge; they've told us where we may deposit the sand removed from the Pass; they've sent divers down to check it all out; they've photographed the Pass, the bottom deposit area, and the jetties; they've noted the plant and animal species in the area; they've received the history of the lands and any legal documents pertaining to Doctors Pass. Yet it continues! We hope to have the dredging project completed in 2005!

Lawn and Garden Care

In the winter and spring months, when most of our members and residents are in town, it is time to assess lawn care – fertilization, insect and disease prevention, and general maintenance. The greatest threat to the quality of our Bay System is from runoff of fertilizer and pesticides. Locally, this is mainly from our own lawns, those that border the water and those that are connected to the storm water drains west of Tamiami Trail. Our problems are a microcosm of those occurring in the Gulf of Mexico, where pollution comes from farms and fertilizer and chemical plants.

The University of Florida Extension has guidelines for proper lawn and garden care to minimize pollution of our Bays and promote a lush, healthy lawn. Here are some of their suggestions.

1. Water only when lawns begin to wilt or grass has a dull bluish-gray color – or abide by the city watering guidelines according to your address; that is sufficient for your yard’s needs. Install a sprinkler shut-off device for your automatic system so that you will not add more water after an adequate amount of rain has fallen. This is to prevent harming your yard with too much water as well as to conserve water. Try to plant native vegetation that grows well in our climate.
2. Mulch around the roots of trees, shrubs and garden areas.
3. Leave grass clippings in the yard to self mulch and enrich the soil.
4. Mow grass high enough to encourage a deeper, more drought and pest tolerant root system. This also shades out weeds.
5. Treat only specific plants or lawn areas affected by pests rather than the entire lawn. Check your lawn and garden plants regularly for signs of problems. Use environmentally friendly pesticides, such as horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Check with your garden centers.
6. Fertilize only as needed and use organic or other slow release products. Look for phrases such as ‘water insoluble nitrogen, sulfur-coated, IBDU, resin coated’ when choosing fertilizer products. Use iron instead of nitrogen to keep your lawn healthy and green in summer. Avoid spraying water-soluble fertilizers on your lawn. They will run off in rain events or with lawn watering, creating problems in the storm drain fields or in the Bays.
7. Try to create an area 3 ft. in front of your seawall or shoreline where you plant native vegetation and use no chemicals, creating a ‘ring of responsibility’ of buffer zone between lawn and shoreline.



Have you visited our Web Site recently? We update it several times a week to give you the latest information. The address is easy to remember: WWW.SaveTheBays.com

If you are wondering where we stand on dredging our Pass and channels, this is the place to find out. Getting the required permits for this from the State of Florida and the Corps of Engineers is a formidable task but progress is being made. If you read the permit applications available from the Site, you will see extensive information about the sea bottom, marine life, birds and many other things in our area. We still hope to get the job done by the end of the year.

Interested in the water depth as you take your boat in and out or want to catch fish on the flood tide? Look at the Web Site to get the latest depth charts by Bill Lazear. You will also find a monthly tide chart showing water level both graphically and in tabular format. A great item to keep on your boat or in your tackle box. The chart even shows the phases of the moon if you are romantically inclined and are waiting for a full moon.

So you have paid your dues! Want to see our objectives and what we do? These are all available on the Site. Also, past accomplishments can be viewed. We believe that you will conclude that your dues money has been well spent.

Perhaps there may be something new that you would like to see on the site. Let us know. Send an email to ed@teneyck.com. Ideas are always welcome.

So come join us on the Web. Try it, you'll like it!

The “**Florida Yards and Neighborhoods**” publication of the University of Florida Extension has these and many other suggestions.



You may contact them at 239- 353-4244 for a complete list or to speak with an advisor. This matter of proper fertilization is the area of greatest concern in improving the quality of the waters in our Moorings Bay System. Please do your part to prevent chemicals from washing into our waters. Your lawn service may need to have your directions.

Membership

We sincerely thank those of you who have become new members of Save The Bays Association as well as our continuing members for your contributions. Some of our members have been with us for 20 years! We are all volunteers, but our testing, conducted by the Conservancy of SW FL, our mailings and supplies for our projects do cost us and we greatly appreciate your interest in our mission and your contributions.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join us, we have provided a form and return envelope for that purpose. We ask for a minimum contribution of \$10 annually and all contributions are tax deductible.



Please help us to reach you by checking out your address on the Mailing Form, both locally and away from Naples if you are a seasonal resident.

Also tell us what month you leave your Naples address and the month you usually return. If you want all mailings to go to one or the other address just say so. We'll try to follow your instructions.