



# Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011

## Environmental News

### The BP Oil Spill, 1 year Later

The one year anniversary of the BP Deep Water Horizon oil spill that occurred in the northern Gulf of Mexico is approaching. The lessons learned from this disaster are not yet fully realized, for the full impact of the environmental destruction has not entirely unfolded.

Scientists are still amassing data for the long term impact regarding the fall out of oil that has settled on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. Beach and coastal area clean-up still persists in much of northern Gulf of Mexico. Most of the peninsula of Florida was spared the majority of the impact from the continuous oil that discharged from the damaged well; the legacy of that oil will continue to haunt beaches, coastlines and environmentally sensitive areas throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information on the progress of the clean-up efforts, please visit

[www.epa.gov/BPSpill/](http://www.epa.gov/BPSpill/) [www.restorethegulf.gov/](http://www.restorethegulf.gov/)

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### Questions? Comments? Let us know!

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## Native Plant profile

### Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens*

The saw palmetto is a sprawling palm that is often associated with pine flatwood areas that are synonymous to the Florida landscape. Once a scourge to the Spanish and earlier pioneer settlers for its dense thicket like growth and saw toothed leaf stems. The saw palmetto is aptly named, which made it difficult to trail blaze with horses and difficult to clear by hand!

The saw palmetto is still a symbol of Florida landscapes and is now growing popular with homeowners looking for that 'old Florida' aspect in home gardens. The 'silver' variety is a native landscaper's favorite and it mixes well with the traditional green variety as a sprawling hedge or as an accent among pines, where it feels most at home.

The flowers of the saw palmetto are small, white and come in branched clusters which attract nectar seeking insects. The fruit is dark brown to black and can be a food source for birds and other wildlife.



Saw palmetto as understory to a pine forest

## Canal Cleanup 2011

The fourth annual Canal Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. 75 volunteers removed almost 1 ton of trash from Cape Coral's waterways and surrounding areas! Such as last year, a few kayakers in the Yacht Club area said they didn't find as much this year, and what they did find was lighter material – mainly plastic and Styrofoam. Volunteers along the canal banks and at the Skyline and Gleason area made up for it by finding large items – including a street sign, a bike and lots of scrap lumber. The most unusual item this year – a bowling ball, picked up by Cindy Eaton and Dena Beecher in the Northwest Cape!



Photo courtesy of Liz Kominar

Thanks to our co-sponsors: Keep Lee County Beautiful, Waste Pro, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and the Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral.

## What can you do to prevent the litter problem?

Here at the Environmental Resources we are always impressed by the volunteers' enthusiasm and dedication to litter and debris removal from Cape Coral's waterways. It would be even better if that trash never got out there in the first place. Here are a few tips to remember.

- Tie up your trash bags. This will prevent trash from blowing out while it's awaiting pickup.
- Secure items in your car or truck. Make sure there's nothing that will blow out as you're driving.
- Secure items that you throw into a dumpster – loose items like a cup from a fast food restaurant could blow away when the dumpster is emptied. It's best to bag trash.
- Close the lid on the new Waste Pro trash cans. Again, this comes back to items being blown out by wind.
- If you have a large item to get rid of, or something that you're not sure what to do with, call Waste Pro at 945-0800 or Lee County Solid Wastes at 533-8000.

## Earth Day Trash Bash

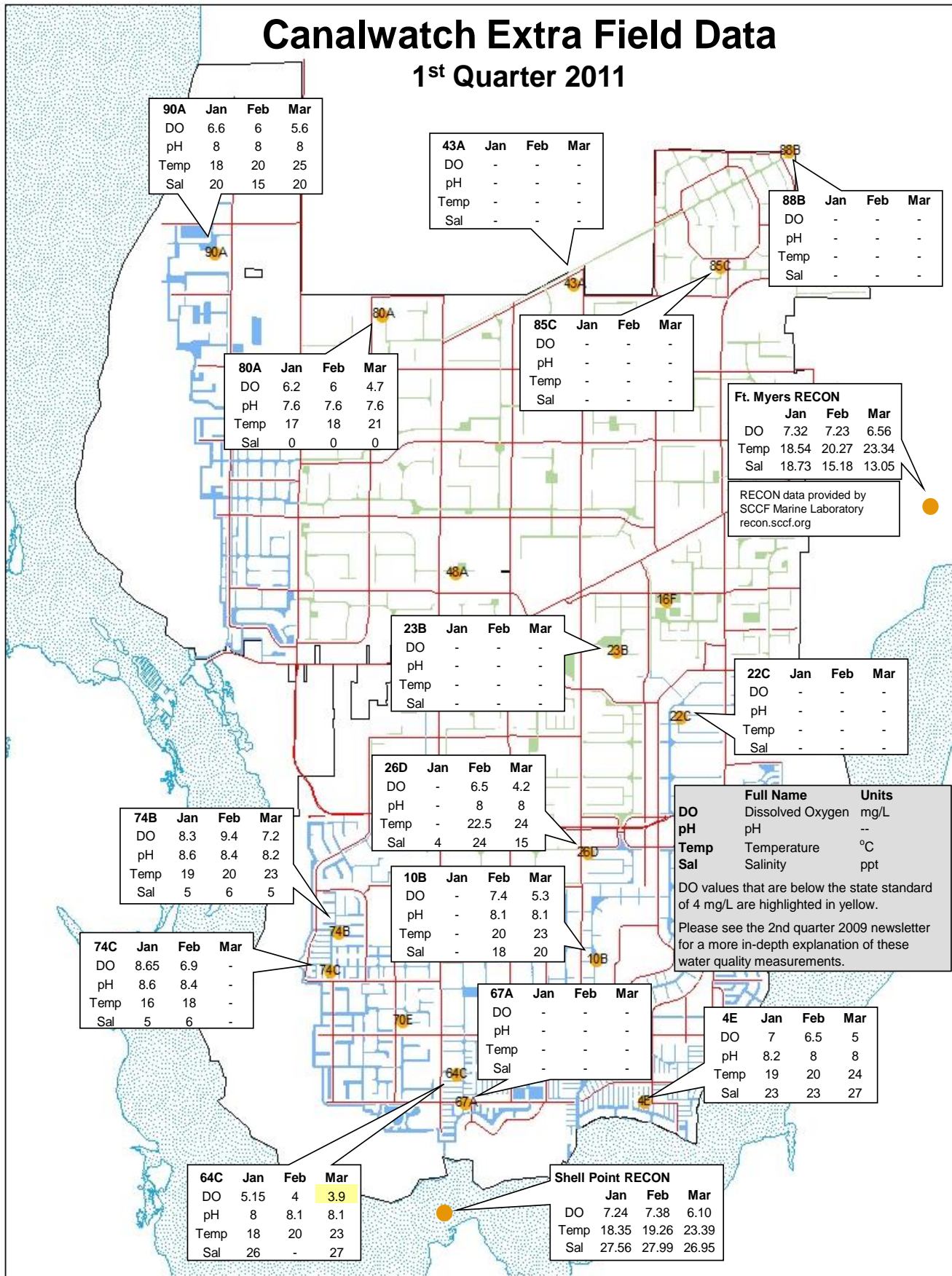
Keep Lee County Beautiful is holding its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Earth Day Trash Bash, a county-wide cleanup event, April 16<sup>th</sup>. This county wide event runs from 9 am to noon and includes Cape Coral.

For more information please contact Keep Lee County Beautiful at 334-3488 or Frank Cassidy, 574-0684 for locations around Cape Coral.

- Burnt Store area clean-up meets at the Burnt Store Boat Ramp (the 15<sup>th</sup> year for this site!) – contact: David Scott, 283-9251.

# Canalwatch Extra Field Data

## 1st Quarter 2011



bd = below detection

benchmark numbers: Marked data are in the highest 20% of values found by Hand et. al, 1988.

	January 2011						February 2011						March 2011						Avg TSI
	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	
	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46				
3F	bd	bd	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.03	bd	bd	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.03	24.35
4E	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.04	36.12
6F	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.07	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.05	39.83
7B	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.05	38.02
7C	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.09	33.28
10B							bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.02	36.35
11D	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05							44.14
15D	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.04	46.91
15E	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.06	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	bd	0.06	bd	0.6	0.66	0.05	41.84
16E	bd	bd	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	38.75
16F	bd	0.05	0.1	0.9	0.95	0.03													101.44
16G	bd	0.05	bd	0.7	0.75	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	47.77
17B	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.03	56.96
18G	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.04							bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	63.00
18H	bd	0.05	bd	0.8	0.85	0.03													64.20
19D	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.23	47.69
21D	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.04							bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.05	47.20
21F	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.05	46.67
21H	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.05													54.59
26D	bd	0.07	0.2	0.6	0.67	bd	bd	0.06	bd	1.1	1.16	0.03	bd	bd	0.2	1.9	1.9	0.05	50.19
26F	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.02	42.09
28D	bd	0.05	0.1	1.0	1.05	0.04	bd	0.06	0.1	0.6	0.66	0.02	bd	0.06	0.1	0.9	0.96	0.06	49.05
30A	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	28.08
35A	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	0.06	bd	0.05	bd	0.5	0.55	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	46.70
41A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	24.43
45D	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.03	bd	0.05	bd	0.9	0.95	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	50.66
48A	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	33.81
51A							bd	0.09	bd	0.4	0.49	bd							24.43
52B	bd	0.07	bd	0.5	0.57	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	35.15
55B	bd	0.06	bd	0.7	0.76	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.04							48.65
58B	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.03													93.23
58E	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.02							15.37
58F	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.03	40.78

58G	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.03	29.87
58I	bd	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	26.07
59B	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.02	38.11
64B	bd	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.03	bd	0.06	bd	0.3	0.36	0.04	bd	bd	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.04	17.56
64C	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.03	bd	0.07	bd	0.3	0.37	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.04	31.53
65B	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.03	bd	0.11	bd	0.2	0.31	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.09	33.33
66A	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd							bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	12.22
67C	bd	bd	bd	0.1	0.1	0.03													10.41
69A	bd	0.06	bd	0.7	0.76	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	52.92
70F	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.03	50.71
72A	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.05	49.81
74B	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.03	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.04	56.45
74C	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.03							25.64
74D	bd	0.05	bd	0.8	0.85	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	49.82
80A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	bd	24.38
82A	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.03	46.71
83A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.02	41.90
89A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.04	46.80
90A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.02	40.06
91A	bd	0.05	bd	0.3	0.35	bd	bd	0.07	bd	0.6	0.67	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	28.73
93B	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.06	51.00
97A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.5	0.5	bd	30.15
<b>Median</b>		<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.03</b>		<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.04</b>		<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>41.84</b>
<b>Max</b>		<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.06</b>		<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.07</b>		<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>101.4</b>

NO2 = Nitrite (inorganic)	TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (organic + NH4)	High levels of nutrients in our canals can indicate the presence of fertilizer runoff or effluent from wastewater or septic systems. Excessive nutrients can lead to nuisance plant growth and algal blooms.
NO3 = Nitrate (inorganic)	TN = Total Nitrogen (inorganic + organic)	
NH3 = Ammonia (inorganic)	TP04 = Total Phosphate	

All nutrient concentrations shown in mg/L

TSI = Trophic State Index, a quick indicator of canal health. 45 sites this quarter scored as GOOD (<60). 2 sites scored FAIR (60-70), and two were POOR (>70).

TKN values were consistent in this quarters samples. Despite some of the rainfall the area has had over the months, the canals look good. Very little rain was reported on the March data sheets so the dry season is here, but this should change by the next quarter.

## **April**

6<sup>th</sup> Canalwatch

6<sup>th</sup> Sunset Celebration  
Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm

12<sup>th</sup> Friends of Wildlife  
Meeting at Rotary Park  
7-9pm info: 980-2593

16<sup>th</sup> Rain Barrel Class  
9am at Rotary Park  
Info: 549-4606

16<sup>th</sup> Native Plant Sale from  
9am-2pm at Rotary Park  
Info: 549-4606

22<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday  
and Earth Day!

24<sup>th</sup> Easter

## **May**

4<sup>th</sup> Canalwatch  
(Rotary Park event)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunset Celebration  
Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm

13<sup>th</sup> Florida Yards and  
Neighborhoods  
Introductory Class  
1-4pm Rotary Park  
Info: 549-4606

30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

## **June**

1<sup>st</sup> Canalwatch

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunset Celebration  
Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm

8<sup>th</sup> Friends of Wildlife  
Meeting at Rotary Park  
7-9pm info: 980-2593

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