Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 1st Quarter 2012

Environmental News

Earth Day 2012

Earth Day is on Sunday April 22nd. Please consider these events to help show your support for our planet. Remember though – everyday should be Earth Day!

Cape Coral Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Spring Native Plant Sale on April 21st from 9 am to 2 pm at Rotary Park Environmental Center. For more information please call, (239) 549-4606.

Lee County Parks are Recreation will offer a guided tour of Caloosahatchee Regional Park as part of their Earth Day Walk on April 21st from 9 am to 11 am. For more information, please contact Laura Carr at (239)694-0398.

Florida State Parks is holding its 11th Annual Earth Day Festival at Koreshan State Historic Site in Estero on April 22nd. Events start at 9:30 am and include live music, local artist displaying their work and great food! For more information please contact Bobbie Lee at (239) 777-0186.

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Questions? Comments? Let us know!

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Native Plant profile

Sawgrass
Cladium jamaicense

Sawgrass, the prevalent plant in the Everglades, is not really a grass at all. It's categorized as a sedge, and is closely related to rushes which are very similar to grasses in appearance. Sawgrass prefers a low wet area such as a swamp, freshwater marsh or the shoreline of a lake. As the name implies, the edges of each "blade" is toothed, to resemble a saw.

While probably not suitable for the home landscape due to its watering requirements, sawgrass does provide cover for ducks, raccoons and otters and also seeds for birds and other wildlife.

The book *Everglades: River of Grass* by Marjory Stoneman Douglas is an excellent historical perspective of the Everglades ecosystem (including saw grass), some of the inhabitants and the changes it has faced through development.

Sawgrass in bloom

Canal Cleanup 2012

The fifth annual Canal Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, March 24th. About 70 volunteers removed almost 1400 pounds of trash from Cape Coral's waterways and surrounding areas! Much like last year's clean-up, most folks said they didn't find as much this year, and as an added bonus, there wasn't as much fishing line! I hope this trend continues!
The most unusual item this year – a door, picked up at Bernice Braden Park at the base of the Cape Coral Bridge!

Dennis and Bridget Von Linden with a trash laden kayak! Photo courtesy of Dennis Von Linden

Thanks to our co-sponsors: Keep Lee County Beautiful, Waste Pro, Cici's Pizza and Papa John's Pizza.

This year's Canal Clean-up was a big success! Here are some other volunteer opportunities coming up. Please help if you can.

Earth Day Trash Bash

Keep Lee County Beautiful is holding its annual Earth Day Trash Bash, a county-wide cleanup event and part of the Great American Cleanup, on April 21st. 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.

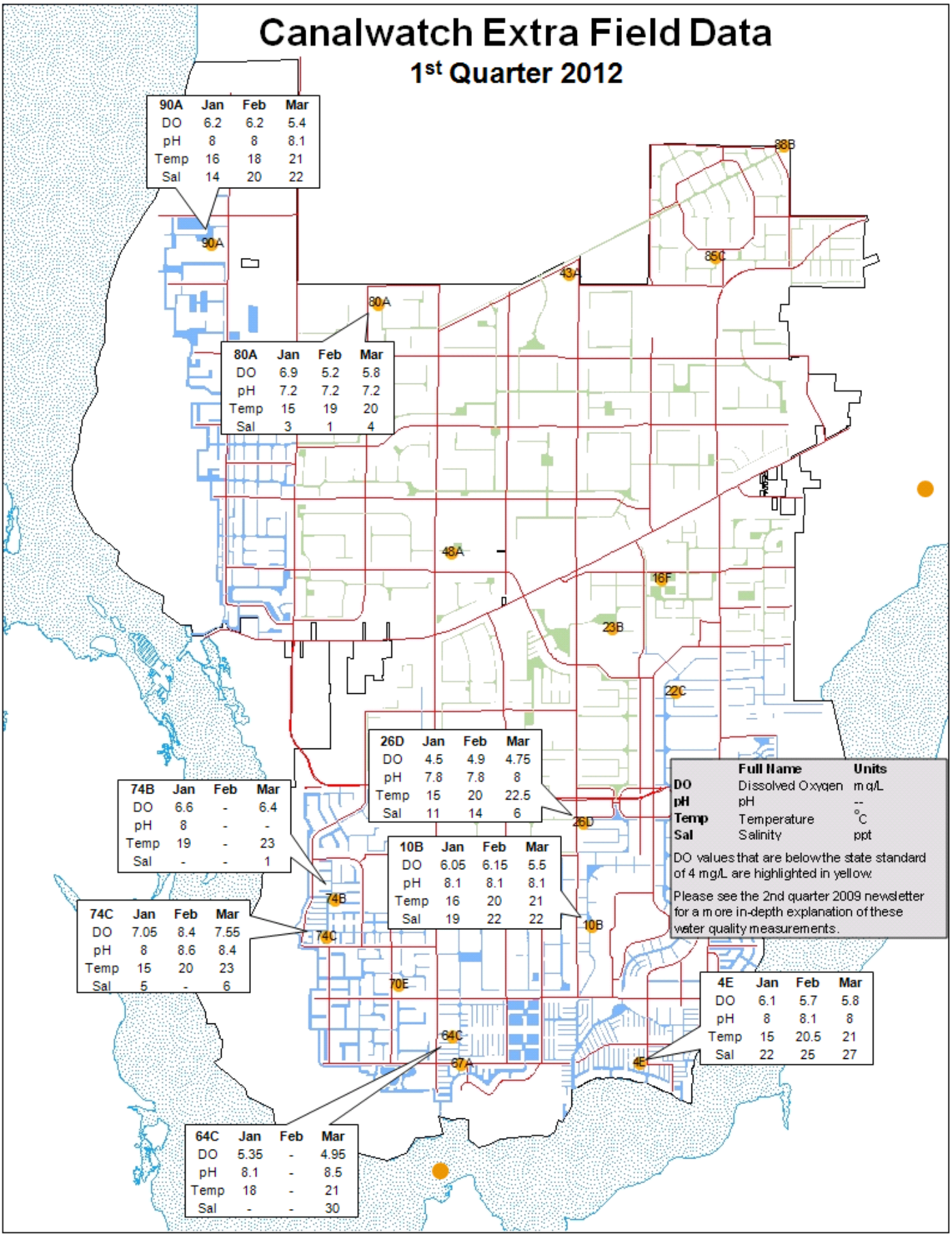
- Burnt Store area clean-up meets at the 230 Burnt Store Road S – contact: Trish with Keep Lee County Beautiful at (239)334-3488 or Trish@klcb.org for more information.

Monofilament Madness

- Also this year is the Monofilament Madness held on October 27th from 8 till noon. Cape Coral's Monofilament Madness event will be held at the Yacht Club again this year.

Canalwatch Extra Field Data

1st Quarter 2012



90A	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	6.2	6.2	5.4
pH	8	8	8.1
Temp	16	18	21
Sal	14	20	22

80A	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	6.9	5.2	5.8
pH	7.2	7.2	7.2
Temp	15	19	20
Sal	3	1	4

26D	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	4.5	4.9	4.75
pH	7.8	7.8	8
Temp	15	20	22.5
Sal	11	14	6

74B	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	6.6	-	6.4
pH	8	-	-
Temp	19	-	23
Sal	-	-	1

10B	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	6.05	6.15	5.5
pH	8.1	8.1	8.1
Temp	16	20	21
Sal	19	22	22

74C	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	7.05	8.4	7.55
pH	8	8.6	8.4
Temp	15	20	23
Sal	5	-	6

	Full Name	Units
DO	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L
pH	pH	--
Temp	Temperature	°C
Sal	Salinity	ppt

DO values that are below the state standard of 4 mg/L are highlighted in yellow.

Please see the 2nd quarter 2009 newsletter for a more in-depth explanation of these water quality measurements.

4E	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	6.1	5.7	5.8
pH	8	8.1	8
Temp	15	20.5	21
Sal	22	25	27

64C	Jan	Feb	Mar
DO	5.35	-	4.95
pH	8.1	-	8.5
Temp	18	-	21
Sal	-	-	30

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

	January 2012						February 2012						March 2012						
	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	Avg
	<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	TSI
3F	bd	0.06	bd	0.9	0.96	0.06	bd	0.05	0.2	0.7	0.75	0.03	bd	0.05	0.1	0.9	0.95	0.07	53.95
4E	bd	0.06	bd	1.0	1.06	0.06	bd	0.06	0.2	1.0	1.06	0.35	bd	bd	bd	2.2	2.2	0.04	54.94
6F	bd	0.05	bd	0.8	0.85	0.09	bd	0.05	0.2	0.9	0.95	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.05	53.52
7B	bd	0.07	bd	0.9	0.97	0.06	bd	bd	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.05	54.61
7C	bd	0.06	bd	0.8	0.86	0.05	bd	bd	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.05	53.60
7D	bd	0.08	bd	0.9	0.98	0.06	bd	0.06	0.2	1.0	1.06	0.07	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	56.57
9E	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.04	bd	bd	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.71	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.05	55.27
10B	bd	0.05	bd	0.7	0.75	0.03	bd	bd	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	49.97
15D	bd	0.06	bd	1.1	1.16	0.03							bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.06	34.78
15E	bd	0.07	bd	1.5	1.57	0.05	bd	bd	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.06	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.05	56.39
16E	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.11	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.06	59.44
19D	bd	0.08	bd	1.2	1.28	0.09	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	0.06	59.15
19K													bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.06	56.88
21D	bd	0.08	bd	1.4	1.48	0.10	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.07	59.29
26D	bd	0.08	bd	1.4	1.48	0.04	bd	0.07	bd	1.2	1.27	0.02	bd	bd	bd	2.0	2.0	0.05	55.33
26F	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.04	bd	bd	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.09	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.03	53.76
28D	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.04	57.17
30C	bd	bd	0.3	1.3	1.3	0.15	bd	bd	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.03	52.32
35A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd							51.62
41A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	0.06	bd	1.2	1.26	0.06	36.01
45D	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.03	59.45
48A							bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.03	41.26
52B	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	36.97
55B							bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.04							57.44
58B	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.03	bd	bd	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.05	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	0.06	58.88
58E							bd	bd	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.05							NA
58F	bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	0.05	bd	bd	0.3	1.6	1.6	0.08	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	0.06	59.82
58G	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.06	bd	bd	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.04	bd	bd	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.05	57.10
58I	bd	bd	bd	1.6	1.6	0.10	bd	bd	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.06	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.05	57.54
59B	bd	bd	0.1	1.4	1.4	0.04	bd	bd	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	1.2	1.2	0.03	46.84

64B	bd	0.08	0.1	1.0	1.08	0.06	bd	bd	0.2	1.5	1.5	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	52.21
64C	bd	0.09	bd	2.7	2.79	0.06							bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.05	51.38
65B	bd	0.08	bd	0.8	0.88	0.06	bd	0.06	0.2	0.8	0.86	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.06	55.68
66A													bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.03	57.81
67C	bd	0.06	bd	1.4	1.46	0.07	bd	bd	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.07	56.18
69A	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.07	bd	bd	0.1	1.2	1.2	0.06	bd	bd	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.05	57.71
70F	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	51.70
71A	bd	0.14	bd	0.5	0.64	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	46.98
72A							bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.04							46.74
72C	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.08	55.94
74B	bd	bd	bd	3.1	3.1	0.06							bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	0.07	63.21
74C	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.04	bd	bd	0.1	1.2	1.2	0.05	57.04
74F	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.04	bd	bd	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.03	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.05	54.80
80A	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.04	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.01	33.34
81A	bd	bd	2.1	5.1	5.1	0.40													90.65
81B	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.04	bd	bd	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.13	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.04	57.53
82A	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.07	bd	bd	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.05	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.03	61.62
83A	bd	0.05	bd	1.1	1.15	0.05	bd	bd	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.03	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.03	57.72
89A	bd	0.13	bd	1.1	1.23	0.11	bd	bd	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.05	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.06	59.50
90A	bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	0.05	bd	bd	0.3	1.5	1.5	0.03	bd	bd	bd	1.6	1.6	0.04	57.32
91A	bd	0.07	bd	0.7	0.77	bd	bd	0.07	bd	1.1	1.17	0.20	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.02	40.29
93B	bd	bd	0.2	1.0	1.0	0.05							bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	0.06	66.15
97A	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.03	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.10	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.02	46.25
Median		**0.07**	**0.20**	**1.00**	**1.08**	**0.05**		**0.06**	**0.20**	**0.90**	**0.90**	**0.04**		**0.06**	**0.10**	**1.00**	**1.00**	**0.05**	**55.81**
Max		**0.14**	**2.10**	**5.10**	**5.10**	**0.40**		**0.07**	**1.20**	**1.60**	**1.60**	**0.71**		**0.06**	**0.20**	**2.20**	**2.20**	**0.08**	**90.65**

NO2 = Nitrite (inorganic)	TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (organic + NH4)
NO3 = Nitrate (inorganic)	TN = Total Nitrogen (inorganic + organic)
NH3 = Ammonia (inorganic)	TPO4 = Total Phosphate

All nutrient concentrations shown in mg/L

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.

TSI = Trophic State Index, a quick indicator of canal health. 50 sites this quarter scored as GOOD (<60). 3 sites scored FAIR (60-70), one scored POOR (>70) and one had insufficient data to report.

Very little rainfall has been reported for this quarter and most of you are seeing this with low water levels in the canals and lakes. As with no rainfall, water clarity has improved. We will see a shift in this as the rainy season begins and microscopic algea begin to populate our waterbodies in greater numbers.

April

4th Canalwatch

8th Easter

13th Florida yards and Neighborhoods
Yard Design Class
Info: 549-4606

20th The Mangrove Gathering
Rotary Park Environmental Center
Info: 549-4606

21th Native Plant Sale from 9am-2pm at Rotary Park
Info: 549-4606

May

2th Canalwatch

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

30th Memorial Day

June

6th Canalwatch

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