

Grow Smart

A quarterly newsletter from the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Statewide Builder and Developer Program

Volume 2, Issue 1

SolutionsForYourLife.com/FYN or www.FloridaYards.org

Summer 2008

Transforming a Stormwater Pond into an Amenity

Hancock Place, a 36 home affordable housing development in St. Augustine, has recently transformed their conventionally designed stormwater pond into an amenity that also enhances the environment. The process involved recontouring the bottom of the pond to provide two basins of varying

depths. The forebay where water enters will hold water for longer periods, thereby providing additional water treatment. Recently, residents, in association with the University of Florida, St. Johns County Extension and Old Florida Conservation, installed native plants around the pond.

Developer Bill Lazar of the St. Johns Housing Partnership, opted to enhance the pond to both provide a community amenity and improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

Contact Joe Sowards, sewards@ufl.edu



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2008 FYN Outstanding Community Awards

Accepting Applications Now

Applications for the 2008 Outstanding Florida-Friendly Community Awards are now available. Applications are due June 27, 2008. Winners will be presented with a plaque at the annual meeting of the Florida Green Building Coalition at the SEBC/Green Trends Conference in Orlando, FL July 30-August 2. Winning communities will be featured on the FYN website and future publications.

Applications may be found at fyn.ifas.ufl.edu. There is no application fee, but a nomination form from the county FYN coordinator is required. Contact owells@ufl.edu.

Program for Resource Efficient Communities

Build Green & Profit: Green Advantage®

Green Advantage is a nationally recognized environmental certification for building related practitioners - primarily contractors, subcontractors and trades people. The course provides an overview of key building features that affect building performance.

The course addresses the Building as a System and examines building failures due to outdoor and indoor environments through both building design and building construction techniques. An overview of green building certification programs is included, but not limited to, USGBC - LEED for Homes, NAHB Green Building Stan-

dards, DOE/EPA Energy Star® and FGBC - Green Homes Standard.

For a schedule of upcoming courses around the state see buildgreen.ufl.edu/cecampus/



Low Impact Development and Water Resource Protection

- Local Government workshop (for planners, elected officials, builders, and developers) is being planned for Lake County. Contact: Jennison Kipp at mjkipp@ufl.edu.

- 8-hour CEU Courses (for professional engineers, architects, and landscape architects) are being scheduled for this summer. Contact: <http://buildgreen.ufl.edu/cecampus/> or Hal Knowles at hknowles@ufl.edu.

Energy Efficient Home Series

New fact sheets highlight how to make homes and landscapes more energy efficient. Currently available fact sheets include ceiling fans, air conditioning and duct systems. Sponsored, in part, by the Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Energy Office. View the series at edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_SERIES_Energy_Efficient_Homes

Legal Ease, Not Legalese

UF Law Conservation Clinic Resources

The University of Florida Levin College of Law's Conservation Clinic assists local governments and citizen groups with the development of tools to advance principles of sustainability and smart growth in land use in Florida. The following new papers may be found at www.law.ufl.edu/conservation:

- *Weathering the Storm(water): Implementing Low-Impact Development Stormwater Management for New Residential Development in Florida*—Guidance on how to implement LID at the local government and how to address long-term maintenance and operation issues.
- *Model Conservation Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions*—Model CCRs for green developments.

Renewable Energy Rights

By Thomas Ruppert, IFAS Assistant in Environmental Law

Current state statutes in Florida protect the ability of property owners to use renewable energy. Florida Statute

section 163.04 prohibits deed restrictions, covenants, or similar agreements that run with the land from prohibiting the use of solar collectors, clotheslines, or other renewable energy devices. The statute also provides that the prevailing party in any litigation pursuant to section 163.04 shall receive attorney's fees.

For instance, condominium owners fighting their association's attempt to force removal of tubular skylights won attorney's fee pursuant to this provision. *Sorrentino v. River Run Condominium Ass'n*, 925 So.2d 1060 (5th DCA, 2006). The law does contain limitations in its application as it does not apply to patio railings in condominiums, cooperatives, or apartments.

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Those that believe this law may apply to them should seek legal advice from a licensed attorney.

City of Naples Ordinance

On March 5, 2008, the City of Naples passed an ordinance to reduce nutrient leaching and runoff. The ordinance requires that fertilizer applied within the city must have no more than 2% phosphorous and a minimum of

Legal Questions?

Do you know of a new ordinance or have a legal question related to Florida-friendly landscaping? Please send to Ondine Wells at owells@ufl.edu.

50% slow release nitrogen. In addition, commercial and institutional applicators or fertilizer are required to obtain a city certification as a lawn and landscape maintenance professional. Certification entails the completion of an approved best management practices course. View the ordinance at www.FYN.ifas.ufl.edu/government.htm

A Review of Applicable Policies and Permitting Requirements for Non-Potable Use of Cisterns

Produced by Tampa Bay Water, this document, discusses the use of cisterns including policy, regulations, and manufacturers. Go to reports and documents under "conservation" at www.tampabaywater.org.

More Government Resources: FYN.ifas.ufl.edu/government.htm

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods website provides links to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection model ordinance, Florida-friendly community covenants, model irrigation design standards, and local ordinances.

Statewide Success Stories

Citrus County

Lowe's and **Home Depot** provide FYN Consultation Tables on alternate Saturdays. Contact Debbe Hooper, debbe.hooper@bocc.citrus.fl.us

Escambia County

Builder, **West Calhoun**, installed a Florida-friendly landscape for the 2008 Dream Home in the Pensacola Parade of Homes. The new home, located in the Nature Trail subdivision, is the first to have a certified landscape in Escambia County. The landscape fea-



tures a rain garden, microirrigation, drought-tolerant plants, and a compost bin and the home features energy efficient appliances, lighting and windows. Over 7,000 people toured the home during the Parade of Homes "open house" week. Contact Carrie Stevenson, ctstevenson@ufl.edu

Manatee County

Vision Homes has committed to building "Green" and using the FYN principles in their community, Old Tampa Estates.

Florida-Friendly Landscape Certification was awarded to **London Bay Homes** for their Belita model home located in the Lake Club at Lakewood Ranch. Contact Michelle Atkinson, michelleatkinson@ufl.edu

Marion County

Through a joint effort with **Marion County Utilities**, **St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)**, and **County Parks and Recreation** water conservation workshops are provided countywide. **Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club** residents participating in these workshops have successfully reduced their water consumption, with one resident cutting his water use in half. Contact Kathleen Patterson, Kathleen.Patterson@marioncountyfl.org

Pinellas County

Venetian Bay Homeowners Association (HOA), includes 73 homes who were using more than 460,000 gallons of water per month for irrigation (with monthly bills reaching as high as \$10,000). With assistance from the City of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas FYN program, the association reduced their water usage by nearly 200,000 a month and was featured in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)'s *Water Matters* newsletter. Find the complete article at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/documents/publications/watermatters/nov-dec2007/11.html> Contact Doris Heitzmann, [\[co.pinellas.fl.us\]\(http://co.pinellas.fl.us\)](mailto:dheitzmann@</p>
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Pasco County

More than 150 people attended the Pasco Green Building Workshop held on 15 March, 2008. Participants learned about existing, approved and planned communities seeking **Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC)** Certification. Pasco county's Gulf Trace Elementary school is the first in the state to receive US Green Building Council's LEED silver certification.

Florida-friendly certification and Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) certification was awarded to **Cardel Homes** and **Inland Homes** at Longleaf. Doc Brittle Commons and Owey Park in **Longleaf** were also certified as Florida-friendly. For more

Congratulations

Christopher Dewey, Pasco County Builder and Developer Coordinator, was selected as the March 2008 County Employee of the Month.

information, contact Chris Dewey, cdewey@pascocountyfl.net

Sarasota County

Four **Sam Rodgers Homes** Models in Gran Paradiso have been certified as Florida-friendly Landscapes.

Beechwood Builders model home landscapes in Heritage Creek have received Florida-Friendly certification. The Heritage Creek project is seeking "Green Community" certification through the Florida Green Building

Stay Informed

Stay up-to-date on the latest research, innovations and environmental issues with these free resources:

WaterSense Current

A quarterly update dedicated to news and events related to WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA. www.EPA.gov/watersense

E-Times Irrigation News

An electronic newsletter of the Irrigation Association includes monthly up-

dates on the industry and legislation nationwide. www.irrigation.org

Stormwater: The Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals

Published 8 times a year, the journal provides information on NPDES Phase II compliance, TMDLs and other issues related to surface water quality. Subscribe at www.StormH2O.com

Water Efficiency: The Journal for Water Conservation Professionals

The business journal is published 6 times a year and is free to many professionals. Articles feature examples nationwide that are maximizing water efficiency. Subscribe at www.waterefficiency.net

FloridaGreenBuilding.org

The Florida Green Building Coalition website has a "Find Green" section where users can locate products, professional services and listings of all the FGBC certified projects.

Events & Trainings

Mayor's Symposium on Community Trees and the Urban Forest

June 19, 2008, 9am to 1pm, Tampa
Learn about the benefits, current condition and value of Tampa's urban forest in a seminar at the Tampa Convention Center. Tampa boasts over 7.8 million trees and participants will take part in the development of a city strategy to manage the city's trees and woodlands. This free event is open to the public. Pre-register via email to: diane.bennett@tampagov.net or call (813) 931-2608 or 931-2104

Florida Irrigation Society Site Manager Certification Course

July 18, 2008, Orlando
The course is an introduction to the operation and management of irriga-

tion systems, specifically as applied to operating costs and water efficiency. The course covers irrigation components, sprinkler performance, maintenance procedures, distribution systems, control systems, codes and standards. This course is approved for 8 CEU's in Volusia, Lake, Pinellas, and Dade. <http://www.fisstate.org>

Southeast Building Conference (SEBC)/GreenTrends

July 30 - Aug 2, 2008, Orlando
This regional building industry trade exposition and educational event is presented by the Florida Home Builders Association (SEBC) and the Florida Green Building Coalition (Green Trends).
www.sebcshow.com

Florida Water StarSM Training

July 16 - 18, 2008, St. Augustine
The three-day certifier training is the first step to becoming a Florida Water StarSM certifier. Contact Lori Dennard, [ldennard@sjrwmd.com/\(386\)329-4563](mailto:ldennard@sjrwmd.com/(386)329-4563).

Videos Highlight Florida-Friendly Efforts

What do Wildrose Lawncare, High Springs and Sarasota County all have in common? They are all featured on the FloridaYards.org website as excellent examples of the Florida-friendly principles in action.



Wildrose Lawncare helps clients conserve water and protect the environment through Florida-friendly landscapes. High Springs has embraced low-impact development as a means to protect their springs and Sarasota County is home to model developments showcasing Florida-friendly yards and green-built homes. Click below to watch the videos:



Resources

Environmental Landscape Management Guidelines Community Associations Can Use to Select a Landscaper and Write an Effective Landscaping Contract

The 15-page fact sheet helps community associations select a landscape maintenance contractor and write an effective contract. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP347>

Making Your Community Green: Community-Based Social Marketing for Eco-Friendly Communities

The 6-page fact sheet provides strategies for motivated homeowners to engage their neighbors in address local environmental issues. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW263>

Choosing Suitable Trees for Urban and Suburban Sites: Site Evaluation and Species Selection.

The 9-page fact sheet discusses factors in successful tree selection. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP310>

Urban Forests in Florida: Do They Reduce Air Pollution?

The 3-page fact sheet presents the factors behind pollution removal by trees and presents strategies for managing urban trees. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR184>

A Community Guide to Urban Forest Inventories

The 4-page fact sheet defines what an urban forest inventory is and some management options. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR232>

Planting and Establishing Trees

The 9-page fact sheet details 10 steps for proper tree planting, as well as establishing trees and root management. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP314>

Selecting a Turfgrass for Florida Lawns

The 5-page fact sheet helps homeowners select turfgrass for their lawn. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH005>

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