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Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays to everyone! Florida Sea Grant Extension has had quite a busy year. Many thanks to our volunteers throughout the year who have participated in beach cleanups, installed fishing line recycling bins, and helped distribute bilge bags.

Just to name a few of Florida Sea Grant's accomplishments for 2004 include printing a calendar for Biscayne Bay, graduating twenty-four Master Naturalists in the UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Coastal Program, honoring three Boy Scouts with their Eagle Scout Badge for their service to the recycled fishing line program, and many other activities were accomplished with the help of volunteers.

In addition, teachers received professional development credits from

attending workshops hosted by Florida Sea Grant, Citizens for a Better South Florida, and UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension. We hope to offer more teacher workshops in the upcoming year, in addition to more Florida Master Naturalist Programs.

Boaters received free bilge bags from Florida Sea Grant Extension. Bags contained bilge socks and absorbent pads to help soak up oil and fuel spills in a boat. Boat US Foundation awarded Florida Sea Grant with a grant to purchase bilge bags and the Clean Marina Program donated bilge socks and other educational materials.

As an Extension Agent for Florida Sea Grant, I would like to thank everyone for their support and look forward to working together and sharing many good times in 2005.

Happy Holidays!



Biscayne Bay Calendars



Recently, Florida Sea Grant worked with local residents to create a calendar for Biscayne Bay. The calendar highlighted images of the bay done by local artists. Images included Bear Cut and Morningside by the Bay painted by Paul Crocket (www.crocketartworks.com), *Egret at the Barnacle* and *Mangrove on the Rock* by Phil Cape, (www.capengallery.com), and *Boca Chita Light* and *Stiltsville's Last Stand* by Carol Garvin (www.garvinart.com).

The calendar reminds us of the natural beauty in Biscayne Bay and how we should protect these environmental resources. Conserve fish with catch and release, use pumpouts, recycle unwanted fishing line, and bring all garbage back to shore.

Many thanks to Citizens for a Better South Florida, Captain Harry's Fishing Supply Company, and the South Florida Water Management District for their gracious support and many thanks to the artists who donated their artwork for this calendar.



Coral Reef Teacher Training



More than 40 south Florida teachers took a break from busy classrooms and the looming holiday season to attend a coral reef training workshop this past Saturday, November 20. The workshop, hosted by the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), provided teachers with a rare opportunity to interact with leading coral reef researchers and conservation experts to bring the latest scientific and educational resources into their classrooms.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the December 1-4 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (Task Force) meeting in Miami, and was sponsored by RSMAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Conservation Program (NOAA CRCP).

The day-long workshop consisted of a series of presentations and activity demonstrations on topics ranging from "Under the Sea Cities: Comparison of Coral Reef Systems to Our Own Communities Above the Sea" to "Coral Reefs:

Medicines from the Sea" to information on how to get involved with local coral reef conservation efforts through the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative.

Participants also learned about local opportunities for students to experience coral reefs first hand in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Biscayne National Park, and were introduced to a variety of interactive games for children by RSMAS and Florida Sea Grant educators. The day ended with a detailed orientation to key educational products, tools and services available.

An exhibit hall provided participating teachers with coral reef educational tools and resources, including lesson plans tied to national standards, games, visual aids, science guides, and information on local field trip and conservation opportunities for educators and students. All educators received recertification credit hours for attending.

For more information on coral reefs and resources that are available to use in the classroom visit the following websites;

On the Web: 
NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov/>
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program - <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force - <http://www.coralreef.gov>

Marine Industries Hit Hard by 2004 Hurricane Season

Florida was in the spotlight during this years hurricane season. Hurricane Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne brought fury to the Sunshine State. Many beaches, homes, marinas and boats throughout the state experienced significant damages.

Cost associated with damages from all four Florida hurricanes to the marine recreational industry are estimated at \$680 million. This includes Hurricane Charley \$130 million, Frances \$300 million, Ivan \$150 million, and Jeanne \$100 million. Hurricane Andrew in 1992 caused boat damages worth \$500 million.

Forecasters were on track with their predictions for an "above average" season. The 2004 NOAA forecast expected 12-15 tropical storms, with six to eight becoming hurricanes, and two to four becoming severe. During September, we had 12 tropical storms formed and six became hurricanes.

If you would like to know more on how to prepare your boat for hurricanes, please contact the Sea Grant Extension office for a Hurricane Preparedness Manual (305) 421-4017.

Source: Boat US Magazine

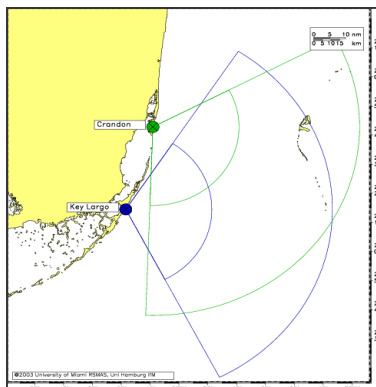
Sea Surface Currents

Ocean surfaces have been remotely observed since the early days of radar in the 1950's. Radar has evolved to measure the direction of waves in the open ocean and currents as they reflect off land or objects in the water such as traveling ships.

Scientists from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), Nick Shay and Brian Haus, are studying coastal processes with High Frequency (HF) radars. This study is part of SEACOOS, the Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observation System.

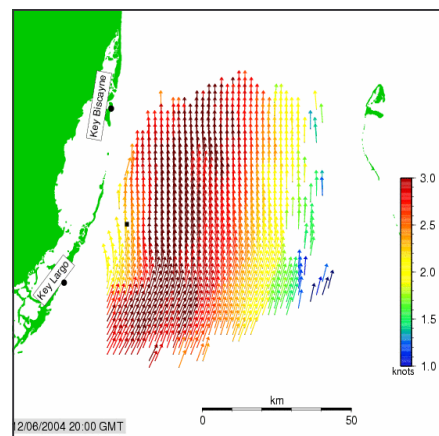
Currently UM/RSMAS has two operational WERA HF radars off Key Largo and Crandon Park in Key Biscayne. These radars measure sea surface currents over a large ocean area from Miami to the Bahamas.

An additional WERA HF radar is being established at John U. Lloyd State Park to expand coverage north to Port Everglades.



Current coverage of HF radar.

Presently, the HF radar current coverage map is updated hourly and plotted on a 2.4 km grid. The colors on the map refer to the strength of the current measured in knots. The color red indicates a stronger current estimated at 3 knots. The color blue indicates a weaker current of approximately 1 knot.



Real-time current measurements over Florida Straits.

The sea surface currents are an important component of the oceans physical processes and directly relate to pollution transport, fish larvae recruitment, water quality, sediment transport, and search and rescue operations. If you are interested in this study, please visit the website to access more information and real-time current measurements over the Florida Straits at <http://iwave.rsmas.miami.edu/wera/>. In addition, you may visit SEACOOS website for more information on ocean observations and upcoming events and news. <http://seacoos.org>.

Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute



FNRLI Graduates 2004

Have you ever been involved in a dispute over land and water issues? These issues can include managing endangered species, private property rights, wetlands, forest management, and water quality. I'm sure most of us have had to deal with this kind of conflict in the past.

The Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (FNRLI) Program offers rising leaders to develop skills in conflict management and consensus building centered around contentious environmental issues. I just graduated the program in October 2004 and it was a great learning experience for me. At the end of the program fellows gain a better understanding of natural resources issues and how decisions concerning them are made. We also build expertise in natural resources leadership through skills in communication and conflict management, and experience real-life issues through field trips to natural resources areas in Florida. The year long program consists of seven 3-day seminars and activity sessions, course practicum, and graduation session.

NRLI 2005 Dates

Date	Issue	Location
Jan. 27-29, 2005	Everglades Restoration South – Florida Bay	Flamingo
Feb. 24-26, 2005	Impacts of Coastal Development	Cedar Key
March 17-19, 2005	Tri – State Watershed Issues	Apalachicola
May 12 - 14, 2005	Impact of Coastal Development – Southern Water Use Caution Area	Ellenton
June 2-4, 2005	Impact of Coastal development -Upper St. John's River Restoration	Vero Beach
June 23-25, 2005	Florida Natural Resource Policy and Structure	Camp Weed - Live Oak
Sept. 22-24, 2005	Indian River Lagoon - St. Lucie Estuary Restoration-	Jensen Beach
Oct. 27-29, 2005	Practicum Presentations and Graduation	Gainesville

Who should take this program? Any adult who works in the field of natural resource who would like to enhance their skills conflict management and gain a better understanding of Florida's natural resources. Deadline is January 1, 2005.

Download application online at <http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu>. For more information about the program, contact Bruce Delany at BLDelany@ifas.ufl.edu or (352) 846-1551.

Save the Dates:



December 25, 2004
Merry Christmas

January 1, 2005
Happy New Year

January 20, 2005
Sea Secrets at UM RSMAS
A Tall Tale from Maine: Are lobsters really doing better than ever before? 6pm-8pm.
For more info, call 305-421-4061



"Science Serving Coastal Florida"

It is the policy of the Miami-Dade County to comply with all the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For sign language interpreter services, call (305) 670-9099 five days in advance. For materials in accessible format call the Consumer Services Department (CSD). For ADA complaints, call CSD at (305)375-3566.

