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Keep Sarasota County Beautiful Coastal Cleanup

September 25 from 8AM to Noon. Raffles, clean beaches, an out door activity, meet new people and have fun. Bring a hat and suntan lotion. RSVP's are needed this year so please respond to President@FOSCP if you can help at either Manasota or Caspersen Beaches. Go to the events calendar at www.FOSCP.org for more opportunities.

Resident fishing license is now free

The shoreline fishing license for Florida residents to catch saltwater fish from shore or a structure affixed to the shore cost \$9 last year. It's free as of July 1 this year. Residents will still have to pay the "small convenience fee". Please go to www.fl.wildlifelicense.com for more information. If you would like to receive the electronic copy of **The Marine Scene** please contact jmarine@ufl.edu.

Nature events for September

Sarasota County Natural Resources is again offering many neat outdoor opportunities for you and your guests. Join members of the Friends of the Carlton for bike hikes or birding tours at the T. Mabry Carlton Park. Walk the west side or check out the flowers of Manasota Scrub, identify the bugs or take in a bird walk at Curry Creek Preserve. A lot of fun activities for you to experience. Some have maximum limits on participants so register soon. To register, go to www.scgov.net, click on Calendar of Events on the left. Click the "All Events" drop down list, choose Nature Walks and choose your event. You can also call 861-5000 and ask for Natural Resources.

Sarasota County Environmental Sensitive Lands Protection Program

is conducting a community survey on the management plan for Old Miakka Preserve which is located half a mile east of the intersection of Fruitville and Verna Roads. Your advice is requested on threats to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of this preserve. In order to help develop a plan that reflects the priorities of the community, please take a few minutes to learn more about the Old Miakka Preserve and complete a brief survey at <http://www.scgov.net/NaturalLands/OldMiakka.asp>. For more details please contact aphillip@scgov.net or call 861-5000.

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Featured Article

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

It's time to make a difference. October 23 is the 20th National Anniversary of this special day. The Senior Friendship Centers of Sarasota County has opportunities for volunteers and for projects. Their goal this year is 75 projects of service countywide involving more than 1,000 volunteers. Please join in! To register a team or a project, visit their website at www.FriendshipVolunteer.com or call the Center at 953-5965 for more information.

New Community Garden

Friendship - Exercise - Create something beautiful - Share gardening knowledge - Raise awareness of ORGANIC gardening - Avoid toxins in food - Provide nature therapy for mind, body & spirit - Dig in dirt and grow things- Create a nearby natural destination - Grow some of your own food - Be healthy and productive - Get children and seniors to bond as they grow vegetables together - Enjoy an abundance of fresh vegetables - Grow vegetables not commonly available - Raise the health of our citizens - Donate food to the homeless - Work as a community - Grow organic food - Overcome deed restrictions that limit vegetable gardens - Have a plot in a fenced area - Demonstrate that we are conscious of sustainability.

A new Sarasota County Community Vegetable Garden is opening soon.

Its central county location is within the new Culverhouse Park on Palmer Ranch. Membership in the garden is open to all county residents. For more information please contact the Friends of the Culverhouse Community Garden or Catherine Dente - greenbeyer@comcast.net

More news - Rain Barrel Workshops

September 18, October 16 and November 20, starting at 10:00AM at Twin Lakes Park. After the workshop, the County will sell rain barrels at \$37.00 each. Call 861-9900 to register.

PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS

The 2010 Master Gardener Plant sale is approaching – actually, it is on October 9 from 8AM to 2PM at the Bee Ridge Park. Flowering plants, native plants, herbs, vegetables and more will be for sale with the funds going to support the County's Master Gardener programs.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Appreciation Day

Saturday, October 30, 2010 is an opportunity to let the Sheriff and his staff know how much we appreciate them. The Palmer Ranch Communities Coalition and the Friends of the Legacy Trail are inviting EVERYONE to join in the events. Free bicycle helmets for children and adults -- let's keep everyone safe. Demonstrations, films, clowns, face painting and more. Food will be available for purchase from various local vendors.

This event is from 10AM to 3PM and volunteers are needed. Contact mabra16@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Contact Friends of Sarasota County Parks

For Donations 941-861-5483

To Contact Us 941-486-2706

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