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## Winter 2012

### WHAT WE'RE DOING

[Environmental Enhancement Status Reports](#)

[Environmental Times Newsletter](#)

[Project Fact Sheets](#)

### GET INVOLVED

[Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative](#)

### VOLUNTEER

April 21 (plus additional dates)  
[Great American Cleanup](#)

[ERM Volunteer Events Calendar](#)

### LEARN ABOUT THE LAGOON

Feb. 13 at 7 pm  
*Snook Islands Natural Area, Palm Beach Pack and Paddle Club*

Feb. 16 at 2 pm  
*Population Assessment of Sea Turtles in Lake Worth Lagoon [PDF], PBC ERM*

March 6 at 7 pm  
*Sea Shells and Sea Slugs in Lake Worth Lagoon, Audubon Society of the Everglades*

March 29 at 7 pm  
*Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration, Palm Beach Sailing Club*

Lake Worth Lagoon [Speakers Bureau](#)

ERM [Lake Worth Lagoon](#) web page

[Online Narrated Presentation](#): Ibis Isle Restoration Project

### CONTACT US

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## Special Presentation on February 16: Population Assessment of Sea Turtles of Lake Worth Lagoon

PBC ERM and researchers from Inwater Research Group have completed Phase III of a six year study on the Lagoon's sea turtle population. This special presentation by Jonathon C. Gorham (Inwater Research Group) will take place on Thursday, February 16, 2:00 pm, at the Palm Beach County Vista Center Building, 2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL. For more information please view the [announcement flier \[PDF\]](#).



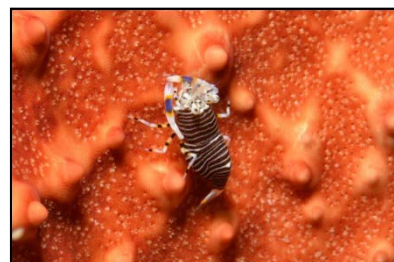
## Opening Celebration on February 29: Snook Islands Natural Area Public Use Amenities

Please join County Commissioner Shelley Vana and other partners for the opening of new public-use facilities at the Snook Islands Natural Area in the City of Lake Worth. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 29, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Vana will host a short opening ceremony followed by a tour of the public-use facilities. The new facilities include a boardwalk, fishing pier, water taxi and day use docks, and kayak launch. For more information please view the [announcement flier \[PDF\]](#).



## Life in the Lagoon

A "Bumble bee shrimp" *Gnathophyllim americanum*, on a cushion sea star "Oreaster reticulatus." Photo taken in Lake Worth Lagoon, June 23, 2011 by Anne DuPont.



Join Ms. DuPont for her presentation, *Sea Shells and Sea Slugs in Lake Worth Lagoon*, March 6, 7pm, to the [Audubon Society of the Everglades](#).

## Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Boat Tour Highlights Success

The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Steering Committee hosted a boat tour of Lake Worth Lagoon on December 2, 2011. The two-hour trip highlighted a series of environmental restoration projects aimed at restoring and enhancing habitat and water quality in the lagoon. Participants included members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, local municipal officials, and citizens. Read more about the event in [Environmental Times \[PDF\]](#).



## Construction Continues at the South Cove Natural Area

The South Cove Natural Area project is now in Phase II. At this time, armor stone is being placed and sand barged to the site to construct the three mangrove islands. If you drive by the project located on Flagler drive, you'll see almost 100 piles have been installed for the boardwalk. The installation of pile caps, carpentry on the boardwalk, and ramp construction is just getting started. Project completion is expected this Summer. Read the [South Cove Natural Area Project Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#) and the Palm Beach Daily News article, [South Cove Natural Area Project to Improve Lake Worth Lagoon Water, Attract Wildlife](#)



## Two Lagoon Projects Awarded Waterway Assistance Program Funding

The [Bryant Park Wetlands Restoration and Boat Ramp Facility \(PDF\)](#) and the [John's Island Oyster Reef, Phase 2 \(PDF\)](#) were recently awarded Florida Inland Navigation District Water Assistance Funding. The grant program was established by the Florida Legislature and the District for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments on projects along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the District.



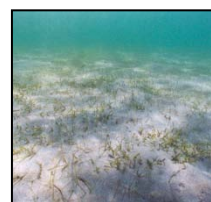
## Fishing Line Can Catch More than Fish

While patrolling local waterways for manatee season, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office Volunteer Marine Unit was involved in a unique rescue: freeing a seagull from a fishing line. Monofilament fishing line is very difficult for birds and animals to see and they often become entangled in it. Improperly discarded fishing line causes devastating problems for marine life. The good news is that monofilament fishing line can be recycled. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program (MRRP) read the interview with Mr. John Cassady, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in [The City Fisher \[PDF\]](#).



## March is Seagrass Awareness Month

Florida is estimated to have over 2,000,000 acres of nearshore seagrass. In Lake Worth Lagoon, seagrass beds cover at least 1,688 acres or almost 22% of Lagoon (2007 aerial mapping estimates). Seagrasses are important natural resources that perform many valuable functions including stabilizing sediments with their roots, maintaining water clarity by trapping fine sediments, providing habitat for many species of fish, crustaceans, and shellfish, and providing a nursery area for Florida's recreationally and commercially important marine life. Learn more about [seagrasses in the Lagoon](#).



## City of Lake Worth Designated a Blueway Community

Did you know the City of Lake Worth, located on the [Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail](#) and the newly established [Lake Worth Blueway](#), became the Florida Paddling Trail Association's first designated Blueway Community? Learn more at [www.floridapaddlingtrails.com](#).



If you prefer not to receive Lake Worth Lagoon E-News email [Alyssa Dodd](#) to unsubscribe.



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