

# Canalwatch



**3rd Quarter 2006 Newsletter ~ Environmental Resources Division ~ (239) 574-0745**

## **The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Library Planting Project**

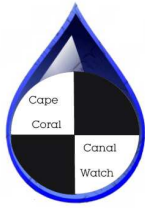
If you are an avid reader, you've probably already seen it. The City of Cape Coral Environmental Resources Division, through a grant from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), completely renovated some of the landscape at the Cape Coral Regional Library. The design itself was created by our staff member, Kraig Hankins and the plants were purchased from All Native Garden Center. The grant obtained through SFWMD was to be used to demonstrate water conservation practices. The library project will be used to showcase the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program which demonstrates water quality and conservation practices through the use of native plants, i.e., plants that are adapted to the Florida environment. If you haven't been to the Cape Coral Regional Library in the past month, I recommend a visit to see the changes.

**Please see page 4 for upcoming FYN events**

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# Canalwatch



## Allow Me to Introduce Myself...

Hello All,

As you all are well aware, Faith has relocated back to her hometown in Minnesota to seek a new career and a new life. As a result, I have taken over the position as Canalwatch coordinator. In view of that, I'd thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself and give you all some insight into my personal history.

I have been a resident in South West Florida for over 20 years. Originally from Baltimore Maryland, my family and I moved to Fort Myers to seek a better life. My father owned and operated a charter fishing business on the Chesapeake Bay Estuary throughout the seventies and early eighties. However, the environmental conditions in the Chesapeake Bay became unfavorable and unpredictable, so he moved the business down here to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and offshore locations in 1984.

The charter fishing business was great, year round business down here, it seemed the fish had never seen a hook before and there were no shortage of them either. This was a time when the river ran clear, most of Cape Coral was undeveloped, and South Fort Myers was still influenced by farmland. All good things must come to an end though, and we had to disband the business, mainly due to competition that came about in the early nineties. However, I and my father's love of fishing continued, even till present.

Whether or not you folks have been in Cape Coral for one year, ten years, or were present when the canals were first under construction, environmental issues are a part of our lives now and frequent T. V., newspapers, and town meetings. These are similar environmental problems that effected my family over 20 years ago, which resulted in our quest for a better life in South West Florida. The influence of adverse environmental conditions throughout my life, and also the love of growing up in the unique South Florida environment have swayed me to pursue a career in environmental studies. I attended Florida Gulf Coast University and obtained a bachelors degree in ecology, focusing on aquatic and marine ecosystems. During my time at FGCU, I interned with the City of Cape Coral Environmental Resources Division, and within that time I must have made a good impression because I was hired on as a biologist in March of 2005. Thus far, I enjoy the work, the people I work and communicate with, and I am thrilled to be a member of the environmental community overall.

I hope to get to know all of you as well. If there are any questions, comments, concerns, or even just a friendly, "hello!", please don't hesitate to contact the office or email me. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Harry Phillips  
Environmental Biologist  
574 – 0742  
[hphillips@capecoral.net](mailto:hphillips@capecoral.net)



# Events

## October

- 4<sup>th</sup> Canalwatch!
- 9<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> CHNEP CAC Meeting
- 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween!!!

We look forward to  
seeing you there!

*ERD Staff.....*

*Connie, Kraig, Faith, & Harry*

## November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Canalwatch!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Afternoon on the  
green, Rutenburg  
Park
- 3<sup>rd</sup> FYN Intro (FM)  
9am-12pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Friends of Wildlife  
meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving!!!

## December

- 6<sup>th</sup> Canalwatch!
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> CHNEP CAC Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holiday!!!

### More Information Available At:

**FYN:** <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu> For (CC = Cape Coral) Call Rotary Park at: 549-4606  
For (FM = Fort Myers) Call Tom Becker at: 461-7515

**CHNEP:** <http://www.chnep.org>

**Cape Coral:** <http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org>

## City of Cape Coral

Public Works Department

Environmental Resources Division

P.O. Box 150027

Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027