

# Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008

## Eco Café

#### "The Mangrove Gathering"

Socialize with others who have similar interests in environmental happenings at "The Mangrove Gathering".

"The Mangrove Gathering" Eco Café is 7:30pm to 10:00pm on the second Friday of every other month at Rutenberg Park in Fort Myers. The next gathering will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup> with entertainment provided by Grant Livingston (www.grantlivingston.com).

This is a free event for all those interested in environmental information and issues for Southwest Florida. Snacks and drinks are offered through a potlatch.

> For more information please contact: John Kiseda at 432-2163 <u>kisedajb@leegov.com</u>

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Questions? Comments? Let us know! (239)574-0785 Harry: <u>hphillip@capecoral.net</u> Kim: <u>kcressman@capecoral.net</u>

# **Native Plant Profile**

Ficus (citrus leafed) Ficus citrifolia

Ficus is usually associated with tropical hammocks, and is often favored among landscapers wanting a tropical appearance. Its unique trunk with aerial roots and its spreading canopy are indeed attractive in any Florida landscape. The citrus leafed fig can grow to 50 feet in sun or partial shade and is tolerant to poor soil and salt spray. Like other ficus, the citrus leafed fig has aggressive roots, and should be planted well away from structures and other trees. Birds will enjoy the canopy and fruit provided by this expansive tree.



## **Canal Clean-up Day a Success!**

Thanks to everyone who helped out on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>! About 90 people participated in the First Annual Canal Clean-up Day, and over a ton of debris was removed from the Cape's waterways!

Several boaters used the boat ramp at the Yacht Club to gain access to nearby canals. Kayakers

launched from the beach and headed over to nearby mangroves (who knew tires and plastic chairs could end up in the mangroves?!?). People without boats carpooled to Bernice Braden Park and cleaned the area near the Cape Coral Bridge. Mayor Feichthaler helped out, too! Glass and plastic were the most common items found on Sunday. There was also a lot of wood debris, tires, plastic chairs, styrofoam, and even a hula hoop!



Boaters brought their trash back to the boat ramp, where Waste Management had placed a dumpster, then had lunch (donated by

Wingnuts) in the pavilion. Other major sponsors were the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and Everest Marina.

The goal of this event was not only to pick up trash, but also to foster a sense of community and



to raise awareness about litter. Some of it is intentional – a cigarette butt thrown out the window; a fast food bag being tossed on the ground rather than into a trash can. But most is unintentional – a plastic bag gets blown out of the back of a truck; a cup that was thrown in a dumpster blows away when the dumpster is being emptied; a commercial dumpster isn't covered. We've all littered at some point.

So how can you help? Take a litterbag in your car. Make sure trash cans and dumpsters are properly covered. When you're at a park or recreation area, use the trash cans. Make sure whatever's in the back of your truck is secure. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do this, too!

Several of you remove trash from your own canal, and that's another great action to take. The City's Services Division runs a program called Adopt-a-Canal; they will provide you with a blue barrel to put this trash in, and they'll pick it up. Call 574-0748 for more information on this program.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and participants, the day was a huge success! See you next year!







#### Thanks to our sponsors:

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program • Everest Marina • Wingnuts • Waste Management • AA Quality Safe & Lock • Bank United • Best Tiles and Floor Coverings • Bubba's Roadhouse & Saloon • Cape Coral

Friends of Wildlife • Darla Greer, Selling Paradise Realty • Johnson Engineering • Kindness Animal Hospital • Renee Ward • Anthony's on the Blvd. • Backwater Outfitters, Inc. • Burris Propeller Service • Caloosa Dive Club • Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society • Cape Coral Parks and Recreation • Cape Coral Services Division • Ledo Pizza • Pepsi • Screenprint Plus • Sea Tow



	bd = below detection benchmark numbers: Marked data are in the highest 20% of values found by Hand et. al, 1988.																		
	January 2008					February 2008						March 2008							
	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	Avg
Benchmark	<1.0	<1.0	none	given	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none	given	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none	given	<2.0	<0.46	TSI
1A	bd	bd	0.1	2.2	2.2	0.07	bd	0.06	bd	2.2	2.26	bd	bd	bd	0.2	1.9	1.9	0.07	55.59
1C	bd	0.05	0.1	2.7	2.75	0.07							bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	bd	51.05
1D	bd	bd	0.1	2.1	2.1	0.05	bd	bd	bd	2.2	2.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd	50.45
3F							bd	bd	bd			bd	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	41.47
4D	bd	bd	bd	2.3	2.3	0.09	bd	bd	0.1	2.2	2.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd	50.61
4E							bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	bd	41.47
6F	bd	0.05	0.2	2.4	2.45	0.06	bd	bd	0.2	2.3	2.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	50.23
7B	bd	bd	bd	2	2.0	0.05	bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd	45.77
10B	bd	0.05	bd	1.8	1.85	bd	bd	bd	0.1	2	2	bd	bd	bd	0.1	1.9	1.9	bd	41.47
11C	bd	bd	0.2	1.7	1.7	0.06	bd	bd	bd	2.2	2.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	2.2	2.2	bd	41.47
11D	bd	bd	0.1	1.4	1.4	0.07	bd	bd	0.1	3.9	3.9	bd	bd	bd	0.2	2.1	2.1	bd	48.19
13A	bd	0.06	0.1	2.1	2.16	0.05	bd	bd	bd	3.6	3.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	50.15
15D	bd	bd	0.1	1.9	1.9	0.05	bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	bd	bd	bd	0.1	2.1	2.1	bd	48.00
17B	bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	3	3	bd	bd	bd	0.4	1.7	1.7	bd	41.47
19D	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.06	bd	bd	bd	2.3	2.3	0.06	bd	0.05	0.2	2.2	2.25	0.05	45.41
19E	bd	0.05	0.2	2.3	2.35	0.09	bd	bd	bd	2.3	2.3	0.05	bd	0.05	0.1	2.1	2.15	bd	54.98
19G	bd	0.06	0.3	2.5	2.56	0.06	bd	bd	0.1	2.1	2.1	bd	bd	bd	0.2	2.5	2.5	bd	46.90
19H													bd	bd	0.1	2.1	2.1	bd	41.47
21D	bd	bd	0.1	2.0	2.0	0.05	bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	0.05	bd	bd	0.1	2.2	2.2	bd	50.06
22B							bd	bd	bd	2.4	2.4	bd	bd	bd	0.3	3.1	3.1	0.1	65.59
22C	bd	bd	bd	2.0	2.0	bd			bd	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	bd	0.2	2.3	2.3	0.05	45.77
22D							bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	0.05	bd	0.05	0.1	2.6	2.65	0.05	65.58
22F	bd	0.06	0.3	2.0	2.06	0.06	bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	bd	bd	0.05	0.8	1.9	1.95	bd	55.79
26A	bd	0.05	0.1	1.8	1.85	bd	bd	bd	0.1	2.1	2.1	bd							41.47
26C													bd	bd	0.9	2.1	2.1	bd	54.81
26D	bd	bd	0.3	2.1	2.1	0.05	bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	bd	bd	bd	2.4	2.4	bd	52.05
28D	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.7	1.7	0.06	48.36
35A	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	bd	bd	bd	0.1	1.4	1.4	bd	52.40
41A	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	bd	41.47
43A	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd			bd	1.5	1.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	bd	41.47
48A	bd	0.05	bd	1.0	1.05	bd	bd	bd	bd	1	1	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	bd	42.13
49A	bd	0.15	0.1	1.0	1.15	bd													41.47
52B	bd	bd	bd	1.2	1.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	bd	41.47
55B													bd	0.08	bd	1.6	1.68	bd	41.47
										4									

58B	bd	bd	0.2	2.6	2.6	0.09	bd	bd	bd	2.4	2.4	bd	bd	0.05	1	1.7	1.75	0.05	57.96
58E							bd	bd	bd	2.5	2.5	0.06	bd	bd	1.1	2	2	bd	49.61
58F	bd	bd	0.2	2.4	2.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	2.7	2.7	bd	bd	bd	0.7	2	2	bd	44.48
58G							bd	bd	bd	2.3	2.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	41.47
59B	bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	bd	bd	bd	0.1	2.3	2.3	bd	bd	bd	0.3	1.8	1.8	bd	41.75
60A	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd	bd	bd	0.1	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	0.06	bd	1.9	1.96	bd	41.83
62C							bd	bd	bd	1.6	1.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	bd	41.47
64B	bd	0.07	bd	1.9	1.97	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	bd	bd	0.06	bd	1.6	1.66	bd	41.14
64C	bd	0.07	bd	2.1	2.17	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	bd	bd	0.07	0.3	1.6	1.67	bd	40.56
66A	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd													41.47
67A							bd	0.05	bd	1.7	1.75	bd	bd	0.09	0.1	1.8	1.89	bd	38.37
67C	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	bd	bd	0.05	bd	1.5	1.55	bd	41.89
69A	bd	0.06	bd	2.0	2.06	bd	bd	bd	bd	2	2	bd	bd	0.11	0.2	2.3	2.41	bd	41.47
70E	bd	0.07	bd	2.0	2.07	bd	bd	bd	0.1	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	0.08	0.1	1.7	1.78	bd	41.47
72A	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.9	1.9	bd							38.94
74B	bd	0.07	bd	1.8	1.87	bd							bd	0.07	0.1	1.8	1.87	bd	41.47
74C	bd	0.09	bd	1.8	1.89	bd	bd	0.1	0.3	3.18	3.19	bd	bd	0.13	0.2	2.5	2.63	bd	40.00
83A	bd	bd	0.1	2.2	2.2	bd							bd	bd	bd	2.1	2.1	bd	48.90
85C	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	bd			bd	1.3	1.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.5	1.5	bd	41.47
88B	bd	bd	bd	1.4	1.4	bd			bd	1.6	1.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.6	1.6	bd	42.05
90A	bd	bd	0.2	2.2	2.2	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.8	1.8	bd	48.15
Median		0.06	0.15	1.90	1.94	0.06		0.06	0.10	2.05	2.05	0.05		0.06	0.20	1.90	1.90	0.05	42.05
Max		0.15	0.30	2.70	2.75	0.09		0.10	0.30	3.90	3.90	0.06		0.13	1.10	3.10	3.10	0.1	65.59

NO2 = Nitrite (inorganic)	TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (organic + NH4)	High levels of nutrients in our canals can
NO3 = Nitrate (inorganic)	TN = Total Nitrogen (inorganic + organic)	or effluent from wastewater or septic
NH3 = Ammonia (inorganic)	TPO4 = Total Phosphate	nuisance plant growth and algal blooms.

sites this quarter scored as GOOD (<60). Only 2 sites were FAIR (60-70), and none were POOR (>70).

It should be noted that the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) does not have nutrient standards - what we've been calling "standards" in this newsletter are not, as it turns out, standards. They are benchmarks from a study done by Hand, et. al: 1988 Florida Water Quality Assessment. 80% of the samples they took in that study fell below the benchmarks we present in blue.

TSI = Trophic State Index, a quick indicator of canal health. Most

TKN values have been higher than normal since December. TKN is used to calculate T-N; this is why T-N is high.

All nutrient concentrations shown in mg/L

# April

#### $2^{nd}$

#### Sunset Celebration

Cape Coral Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm Info: 574-0806

#### 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Spring Native Plant Sale

Rotary Park Environmental Center 9am-2pm Info: 549-4606

#### $22^{nd}$

#### Earth Day

City of Cape Coral

P.O. BOX 150027

**Environmental Resources Division** 

Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027

## May

## Sunset Celebration

Cape Coral Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm Info: 574-0806

#### **9**th

1st

Mangrove Gathering Rutenberg Park Fort Myers Info: 432-2163

#### $17^{th}$

#### Inaugural Cape Coral Yacht Club Triathlon Cape Coral Yacht Club Info: 574-0806

## June

#### 4th Sunset Celebration Cape Coral Yacht Club Pier 4-7pm Info: 574-0806