



Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 4th Quarter 2016

Environmental News

Native Plant profile

Great American Cleanup

Keep Lee County Beautiful is once again teaming up with the Northwest Cape Coral Neighborhood Association for the Earth Day Trash Bash. The event will kick off at the Burnt Store Public Boat Ramp on April 22nd at 9:00am. Volunteers from the community are encouraged to join in the effort.

Additionally, other cleanup activities will occur in Cape Coral and throughout Lee County that day. Please visit <http://www.klcb.org/great-american-cleanup.html> for more information.

17th Annual Canalwatch Appreciation Luncheon

Save the date!!! The 17th Annual Canalwatch appreciation luncheon will be on April 5th at the Cape Coral Yacht Club Pavilion. Please call 574-0785 to RSVP.

Hope to see you there!

Spring Wildflowers

Spring can seemingly last for months in South Florida with the cooler milder weather that persists over the region. One true sign that spring is near is the appearance of numerous wildflowers that occur along roadways, in medians and vacant lots. Below are a few of the more common varieties, but still eye-catching during this arid time of year.



Clockwise from the top: Oakleaf Fleabane Erigeron quercifolius, Tickseed Coreopsis leavenworthii, Marsh Pink Sabatia grandiflora

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Questions? Comments? Let us know!
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All images Harry Phillips except Tickseed which is credited to Shirley Denton, Florida Native Plant Society

15th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
ROTARY PARK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

February 25, 2017

This year's Owl Festival was held on February 25th and has proved to be an exceptionally successful year for Cape Coral's most popular nature festival.

This year's festival included the Mote Marine Mobile Education Exhibit, representatives from Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida State Parks, Lee County, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and numerous environmental and wildlife organizations with educational exhibits and live animals. Again, this year the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife provided bus tours to nearby burrowing owl burrows, demonstrations on burrowing owl burrow maintenance and residential starter burrows throughout this one day event. Visitors to the festival also had the opportunity to attend wildlife presentations, demonstrations with live animals, tour the live interactive Tom Allen Memorial Butterfly House and learn about many natural wonders of Cape Coral and Southwest Florida.

Vendors were on site to sell nature art, photographs and crafts. The popular Children Creative Corner gave children and families an opportunity to have some hands-on fun. Food vendors were available to be sure that visitors had tasty festival cuisine and treats for nourishment for the day.

The burrowing owl calls much Cape Coral its home. Cape Coral is known to have one of the largest population of the Florida Burrowing Owl. In the State of Florida, the burrowing owl is listed as a threatened species. These petite birds create or take over burrows where they nest from early February through mid-July. The burrowing owl has been deemed the official city bird of Cape Coral.



Missed out on this year's events? Mark your calendars for the 16th Annual Burrowing Owl Festival, February 24th 2018, for a family fun filled event which celebrates the start of the Burrowing Owl nesting season and all of Cape Coral's natural wildlife treasures.

Canalwatch Extra Field Data

4th Quarter 2016

90A	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	4.0	4.8	4.8
pH	8.3	8.0	8.1
Temp	27	23	23
Sal	3	-	15

	Full Name	Units
DO	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L
pH	pH	-
Temp	Temperature	°C
Sal	Salinity	ppt

DO values that are below the state standard of 4 mg/L are highlighted in yellow.

59C	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	4.9	6.2	11.2
pH	7.5	7.6	7.4
Temp	28.8	25	23.7
Sal	5	-	21

64E	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	4.5	6.0	4.8
pH	7.6	8.0	7.6
Temp	29.5	23.0	24.5
Sal	9	-	24

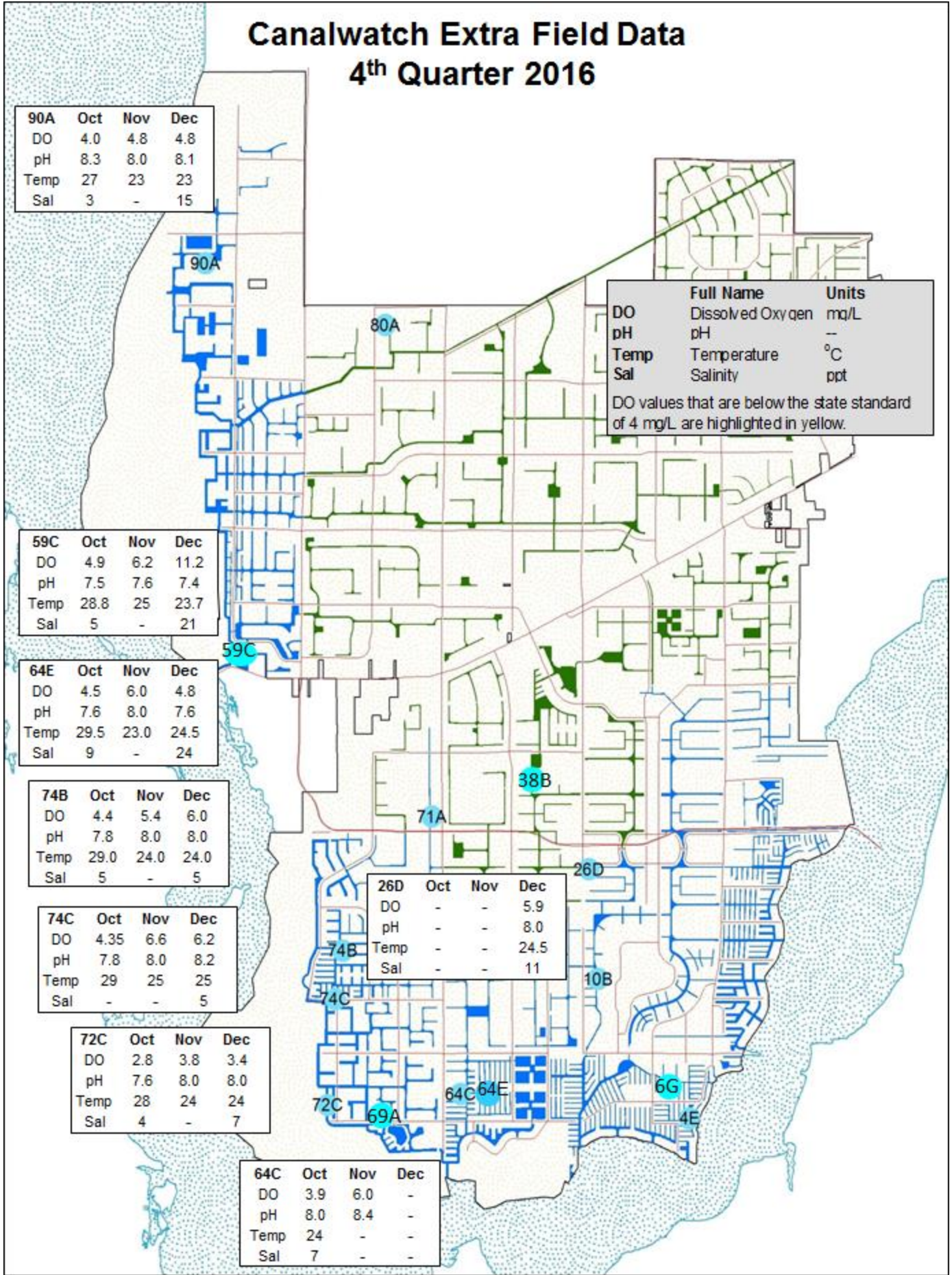
74B	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	4.4	5.4	6.0
pH	7.8	8.0	8.0
Temp	29.0	24.0	24.0
Sal	5	-	5

74C	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	4.35	6.6	6.2
pH	7.8	8.0	8.2
Temp	29	25	25
Sal	-	-	5

72C	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	2.8	3.8	3.4
pH	7.6	8.0	8.0
Temp	28	24	24
Sal	4	-	7

64C	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	3.9	6.0	-
pH	8.0	8.4	-
Temp	24	-	-
Sal	7	-	-

26D	Oct	Nov	Dec
DO	-	-	5.9
pH	-	-	8.0
Temp	-	-	24.5
Sal	-	-	11



bd = below detection

benchmark numbers: Marked data are in the highest 20% of values found by Hand et. al, 1988.

	October 2016						November 2016						December 2016						Avg TSI
	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	NO2	NO3	NH3	TKN	T-N	T-PO4	
	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46	<1.0	<1.0	none set	<2.0	<0.46				
3F	bd	bd	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.04	bd	0.27	0.5	0.4	0.40	0.02	bd	0.08	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.04	10.55
5D	bd	0.06	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.08	bd	0.25	0.2	0.3	0.55	0.03	bd	0.09	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.05	42.17
6F	bd	bd	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.02	bd	0.05	0.1	0.4	0.45	0.02	bd	0.05	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.04	37.12
6G							bd	0.09	0.1	0.4	0.49	0.02							53.41
6J	bd	bd	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.06	bd	0.07	0.5	0.3	0.37	0.02							68.71
7E	bd	0.11	0.4	0.8	0.91	0.10	bd	0.16	0.5	0.2	0.36	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.04	44.34
7F	bd	0.07	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.15	bd	0.16	0.5	0.3	0.46	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.04	47.95
10C	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.11	bd	0.18	0.5	0.3	0.48	0.02	bd	0.07	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.03	43.31
11E	bd	0.16	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.11	bd	0.27	0.5	0.4	0.67	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.05	32.33
12H	bd	0.04	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.09	bd	0.29	0.5	0.3	0.59	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.04	33.64
15E							bd	0.10	0.5	0.4	0.50	0.02							50.00
16E	bd	bd	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.06	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.03	23.08
16H	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.10	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.03	35.62
19D	bd	0.07	0.3	0.9	0.67	0.11	bd	0.12	0.5	0.4	0.52	0.03	bd	0.09	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.05	48.91
19K	bd	bd	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.03	bd	0.08	0.5	0.3	0.38	0.03	bd	bd	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.05	51.49
21D	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.04	bd	0.06	0.5	0.5	0.56	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.04	27.63
21J	bd	bd	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.12													56.90
22G	bd	bd	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.11	bd	0.06	0.5	0.5	0.56	0.02							44.06
23C	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.05	bd	bd	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.02							40.17
26D							bd	0.06	0.1	0.3	0.36	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.02	48.92
27A	bd	bd	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.05	bd	0.05	0.5	0.3	0.35	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	2.0	2.0	0.07	54.36
27B	bd	bd	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.05	bd	bd	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.9	2.8	2.8	0.24	56.99
27C	bd	bd	0.3	1.9	1.9	0.05	bd	bd	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.03	bd	0.28	0.4	2.2	2.2	0.15	54.36
27D	bd	bd	0.5	1.8	1.8	0.03	bd	bd	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	10.4	10.4	0.61	44.86
28D							bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.02	20.12
31C	bd	0.20	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.02	bd	0.12	0.5	0.3	0.42	0.02	bd	0.20	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.02	22.04
38B	bd	bd	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.06	bd	bd	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.03	42.59
41A	bd	bd	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.07	bd	bd	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.02	31.57
41B	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.14	bd	bd	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.02	31.01
45D							bd	bd	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.03	39.54
45F	bd	bd	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.18	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	0.05	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.03	52.18
48A	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.02							bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.02	39.98
52B	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	0.06	0.1	0.2	0.26	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.02	35.44

58I	bd	bd	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.03	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.08	35.08
58J							bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.15	62.39
59C	bd	bd	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.12	bd	bd	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	0.08	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.02	34.25
59D	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.03													48.65
60C							bd	bd	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.02							37.83
64B	bd	0.14	0.5	0.4	0.54	0.12													40.01
64C	bd	0.14	0.4	0.4	0.54	0.12	bd	bd	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.02							40.05
64E	bd	0.16	0.4	0.5	0.66	0.11	bd	0.06	0.2	0.2	0.26	0.02	bd	0.05	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.04	24.52
64F	bd	0.17	0.5	0.4	0.57	0.11	bd	bd	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.02	bd	0.06	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.06	21.99
64G	bd	0.16	0.5	0.4	0.56	0.11	bd	bd	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	0.07	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.05	32.88
65C	bd	0.13	0.6	0.4	0.53	0.10							bd	0.07	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.05	20.05
65D	bd	0.14	0.5	0.3	0.44	0.12													28.91
69A							bd	bd	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.03	bd	0.06	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.11	42.88
69D	bd	0.05	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.12	bd	bd	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.04	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.11	46.85
71B	bd	0.06	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.01	bd	bd	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.02							24.43
72C	bd	bd	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.10	bd	0.16	0.5	0.3	0.46	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.05	41.07
72E	bd	0.05	0.4	0.7	0.75	0.10	bd	bd	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.05	44.42
74B	bd	bd	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.07	bd	bd	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.04	38.07
74C	bd	bd	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.06	bd	bd	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.04	46.26
82A	bd	bd	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.02	40.62
83C	bd	bd	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.02	38.65
89A	bd	bd	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.15	bd	bd	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.02	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.06	50.12
90A	bd	0.08	0.3	0.5	0.58	0.02	bd	bd	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.02	bd	bd	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.02	41.81
Median		0.12	0.40	0.50	0.58	0.08		bd	0.45	0.40	0.41	0.02		bd	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.04	40.40
Max		0.20	0.70	1.90	1.90	0.18		0.29	0.50	1.10	1.10	0.04		0.28	0.90	10.40	10.40	0.61	68.71

NO2 = Nitrite (inorganic)	TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (organic + NH4)	High levels of nutrients in our canals can indicate the presence of fertilizer runoff or effluent from wastewater or septic systems. Excessive nutrients can lead to nuisance plant growth and algal blooms.
NO3 = Nitrate (inorganic)	TN = Total Nitrogen (inorganic + organic)	
NH3 = Ammonia (inorganic)	TP04 = Total Phosphate	

All nutrient concentrations shown in mg/L

TSI = Trophic State Index, a quick indicator of canal health. 53 sites this quarter scored as GOOD (<60). 2 sites scored FAIR (60-70), and zero scored POOR (>70). Fourth quarter water quality has seen much improvement with the lack of stormwater influence. A drawback to this is the low water levels in many of the freshwater basin areas. This is a direct result of little to no rainfall combined with evaporative effects. Please heed watering restrictions during these dryer months.



Interested in learning about design consideration for home landscapes using all Florida natives. Register for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Yard Design course. Two consecutive Fridays, April 14th and the 21st. For more information, please call 239-549-4606

Don't miss out on the Earth Day Native Plant Sale

held Saturday, April 22nd 9:00 to 1:00pm at Rotary Pak Environmental Center.

Also in conjunction with the Native Plant Sale is the Rain Barrel Workshop.

Become educated in rainwater storage and build a rain barrel for your home landscape needs. For more information please call 239-549-4606.

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods



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