

Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne Public Works & Utilities Dept.

Free Classes Will Provide Florida Friendly Landscape Help to Local Homeowners

Another successful Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar was held in February. Sponsored by the Cities of Melbourne, Cocoa and Palm Bay, along with Brevard County Water Resources and the St. Johns River Water Management District, close to 600 gardening enthusiasts attended the half-day program.

Picking up where that program left off, Kim Zarillo, one of the featured speakers of the seminar held in February, will be holding free Florida Friendly landscaping classes. A series of two classes will be held March 13 and March 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Center in Melbourne Beach.

Zarillo's presentation will

provide an introduction to the natural communities of Florida with an emphasis on the Brevard County coastal environment. She will help participants learn how to select native plants from natural communities that can save water, reduce the need for yard chemicals, and attract birds and butterflies.

The basics of Xeriscaping will be covered, along with site assessment, identification of natural communities and native plants.

The free classes are being sponsored by the St. Johns



Almost 600 people attended the 4th Annual Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar in Viera. Speaker Kim Zarillo will be holding classes in Melbourne Beach in March to expand on the topics covered at the seminar.

River Water Management District. To register, call Zarillo at 255-5074.

If attending, bring a brown bag lunch each day and wear comfortable walking shoes since there will be both indoor sessions and outdoor walking tours.

Video of Recent Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar Now Available

If you were not able to attend the Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar held February 7 at Imperial's Hotel in Viera, or if you did but you want to hear the speakers again, the entire program was filmed and VHS videos are now available to purchase. The videos will also be placed in libraries throughout Brevard County and will be featured on Space Coast Government TV in March.

The seminar featured Sally Scalera, whose topic was "Florida Gardening 101 — It's Different Here." Michael Prevost spoke about irrigation system operations, and Kim Zarillo covered native plants.

If you would like to order a video, call the City's Public Works & Utilities Administration Department at 674-5761. The cost is \$3.97.

Landscape Tips — Quick Notes on Irrigation

- Water deeply but infrequently.
- Let the turf tell you when to water (i.e. blades folding).
- For turf, apply one-half inch each time you water.
- For trees, apply one inch each time.
- For systems run by a timer, use a rain shut-off device to save water.
- Watch for signs of too much watering (i.e. dollar weed and fungal growth).



The City of
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April 17 Trash Bash Volunteers Needed

Nothing can spoil the beauty of Melbourne's natural areas and parks like a bunch of litter. There is a great opportunity to get rid of the unsightly garbage during Trash Bash, which is part of the 2004 Great American Clean Up.

Five sites in Melbourne are slated for clean up on April 17. The City will be providing captains for Lipscomb Park and Wells Park. Other check-in sites include the VFW on Aurora Road, Front Street Park and Booker T. Washington Community Center.

Last year in Melbourne, 77 volunteers picked up 1,460 pounds of trash during Trash Bash, with 93,970 pounds being collected throughout Brevard County by 1,778 volunteers.

If you would like to participate call the City's Solid Waste/Recycling Division at 953-6302 to register or to obtain more information. However, registration is not mandatory.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Some volunteers choose to work the entire four-hour period but others find an hour or so to get involved in the clean up.

Latex gloves, bags, water and insect repellent will be provided. Some may prefer to bring their own water bottles and gloves, especially if they have a latex allergy.

Volunteers will receive a commemorative memo board, which is an 8x10 magnetic board that can be placed on the refrigerator. Each year it

features a different scenic Brevard County photograph. This year's photo is a shot of the sunset as viewed over the causeway looking at the Indian River Lagoon. Key chains are also given to volunteers which have

become especially popular with school children. In addition to these free items, volunteers can purchase a Trash Bash T-shirt for \$6 which is a fund raiser for Keep Brevard

Beautiful (KBB). A T-shirt order form is available on the KBB web site at www.keepbrevardbeautiful.com.

Waste Management sponsors a friendly competition between the cities. Based on population, Melbourne will compete with Palm Bay and Titusville. Volunteering is a great way to care for the environment, show community pride, and for students to earn coveted volunteer hours.



Art work that will be used for this year's Trash Bash T-shirts, designed by Rachel Harrell of Rockledge High School.



Volunteers pick up trash at Front Street Park during last year's Trash Bash.

Look for Showerhead Exchange in May

The 2nd Annual Showerhead Exchange Program will be held the first week of May, which is National Drinking Water Week, in Melbourne Square Mall. Look for details in the "Melbourne Messenger" newsletter and

on the City's web site (www.melbourneflorida.org) in April.

To participate, Melbourne water customers bring in old, water-guzzling showerheads and they are replaced for free with water conserving models.

Household Hazardous Waste & E-scrap Collection Event Planned

It's time again for the hazardous waste and electronic scrap roundup event. If you have old paint cans, used oil filters, old car batteries, pool chemical containers and other similar products stored around your house or garage, or old computers, printers and TVs that don't work anymore, it is the perfect time to get rid of them in an environmentally-responsible way.

The roundups will be held at the following locations:

■ Lowe's Home Improvement Store, 2150 Minton Road, Melbourne, on Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only.

■ Barefoot Bay Community Center, 625 Barefoot Boulevard, Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only.

The event is free to Brevard County residents. For more information, call Brevard County Solid Waste and Recycling at 635-7954.

Please note that residents can drop off no more than five household electronic items.

Businesses must contact EQ Industrial Services at 1-800-624-5302, ext. 231 for disposal information.

Phone Book Recycling Extended Extra Month

The phone book recycling program will be extended an extra month (through the end of May) this year to provide extra time for residents to get their old books to the drop-off locations. New phone books should begin arriving in April.

There are three designated drop-off locations in the City where they can be placed for recycling collection. These include:

■ North Melbourne — Melbourne Fire Station #77 at 3271 N. Wickham Road, just south of BCC

■ Central Melbourne — Melbourne Auditorium at 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.

■ South Melbourne — Melbourne Fire Station #75 at 151 E. University Blvd.