



Conservation News



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

Free Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar to focus on "My Florida Yard"

The fourth annual Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar is titled, "My Florida Yard." This year's annual event will focus on helping homeowners in Melbourne and throughout Brevard County create an attractive, low-maintenance yard while maximizing the performance of their irrigation systems. This free seminar will be held in early February before the spring planting and growing season begins.

The event is put on by the Brevard Water Resources Conservation Team, comprised of the cities of Melbourne, Cocoa and Palm Bay, and Brevard County Water Resources, in conjunction with the St. Johns River Water Management District.

This free landscape seminar will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Imperial's Hotel and Conference Center in Viera. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Sally Scalera, horticultural extension agent with the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service and *Florida Today* columnist, will be one of the featured speakers. Other speakers include Michael Prevost, an irrigation design and maintenance professional, and Kim Zarillo, president of the



Michael Prevost conducts a hands-on demonstration activity at last year's Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar.

consumptive-use permit public education and outreach requirements, along with those for Florida NPDES stormwater permitting.

Imperial's Hotel is located in Viera at I-95 and Wickham

Florida Native Plant Society.

While information will be provided on good plant selection and placement, advice will also be given on design and maintenance of irrigation systems and methods to irrigate efficiently.

These seminars have continued to be very popular with Brevard County residents. They help residents achieve their gardening goals. At the same time, they help Melbourne's water utility, along with the other water utilities in Brevard County, meet water management district

Road. The seminar includes a free continental breakfast, rain and sprinkler gauges, hose nozzles and other items. Pre-registration is mandatory and space is limited. **To make reservations call (321) 674-5761 or send an e-mail to jwilster@melbourneflorida.org** and be sure to include your name and any names of others in your party who will be attending, your address, phone number and let us know if you have attended other Florida Friendly Landscaping seminars.

The City of
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Groundwater Guardian status earned for the sixth year

For the sixth year in a row the City of Melbourne has earned the designation of Groundwater Guardian.

Groundwater Guardian is a program of the Groundwater Foundation, a private, not-for-profit educational organization that informs and motivates

people to care about and for groundwater.

Melbourne's designation is based on groundwater protection related projects the City's team performed during the year.

For more information about the program, visit the web site at www.groundwater.org.

Help keep our waterways clean

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers ten simple steps you can take to prevent nonpoint source pollution (also called “people pollution”):

1. If you have a septic tank, have it pumped and inspected regularly.
2. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.
3. Never dump anything down storm drains.
4. Revegetate or mulch disturbed soil as soon as possible.
5. Clean up spills of vehicle fluids or household chemicals and properly dispose of cleanup materials.
6. Minimize pesticide use and learn about integrated pest management.
7. Direct roof drains away from paved surfaces and bare soil.
8. Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it on the driveway.
9. Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
10. Pick up after your pet.



City earns awards for various water conservation outreach programs

The City of Melbourne recently received a number of awards from two statewide organizations for water conservation outreach and education programs and publications.

The City received an award for “Show of Excellence” for a publication that was recently produced titled “Water is Water” from the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FS/AWWA). This multi-page, full-color publication was inserted into the Florida Today newspaper earlier this year and continues to be used in various outreach efforts. It combines information about water conservation, reuse education and stormwater education.

The City also received a Crystal Award for “Water is Water” from the Florida Government Communicators Association at their annual conference held in November.

In addition, the Brevard Water

Resources Conservation Team received awards from the FS/AWWA. Besides the City of Melbourne, the team includes representatives from Brevard County Water Resources, the City of Cocoa, the City of Palm Bay and the City of Titusville. The team earned three FS/AWWA Meritorious Awards for the following:

- First annual Showerhead Exchange Program that was held last spring to provide customers with water-conserving showerheads in exchange for water guzzling units. The event was held in May during National Drinking Water Week.
- Water Conservation Posters which were developed for school-age children and for adults.
- 3rd Annual Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar held last February at Imperial’s Hotel and Conference Center with more than 500 people attending. (Please see the article on page one for information about this year’s event.)

Arbor Day activities planned for Jan. 16

Melbourne’s annual Arbor Day celebration will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 16 at the City’s new fire station located on the corner of Hickory Street and Hibiscus Boulevard.

Two peltophorum trees will be planted that have been donated by the Melbourne Garden Club and red bay seedlings will be given to attendees.

The public is invited to attend this event which is sponsored by the Melbourne Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mall show scheduled

Mark you calendars now and plan to join the City of Melbourne on Feb. 28 and 29 at Melbourne Square Mall during regular mall hours.

The City will be participating in the Better Business Council’s 17th annual Better Living Expo. City booths will be found in the area adjacent to Auntie Anne’s Pretzels and the women’s Dillards’ department store.

Booths will be on display offering information on water conservation, recycling, and the water production and reclaimed water processes.

There will be hands-on activities and free items you can collect that will help you save water around your house.

Recycle your old Christmas tree

When the holiday is over, you can give your old Christmas tree a new life by recycling it. On your regular yard trash collection day, place your old tree curbside. It does not need to be cut into four foot lengths. You must remove all tinsel and any other decorations and do not place the old tree in a bag.

Your old tree will be taken to the landfill and turned into mulch, which is free to residents.