

Mark your calendars...

- September 18, noon. Invasive species workshop at St. Johns County Agricultural Center. Training is geared toward people who maintain public lands or rights-of-way. For more information, call Tom or Maia at 904-209-0430.
- October 13-15—Florida Association of Science Teachers conference, Gainesville.
- More on back page!

Busy, busy summer!

As I write this, I have one more day of summer camps and have to admit that I am looking forward to a break from the summer activities! I ran or helped with summer day camps for kids from Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and Putnam Counties this year. It was really great to be able to give some kids the opportunity to visit a beach for the first time (thanks to Anastasia State Park for allowing me to conduct a program there). I typically offer camps for youth, ages 8-12 and 13-18, each summer. If you would like to be notified about these camps, please send me an e-mail, or give me a call. If you are interested in similar programs for adults, please see below!

M. P. McGuire

Maia McGuire, PhD
Marine Extension Agent



Learning fish anatomy by sticking labels on the fish board

Adult day camp waiting list started

- Some of you may have read about the adult environmental day camp, "Exploring our Environment: from the ocean to the river" (EoE), in previous issues of aqua-notes. We have had several calls recently asking when the next class will be offered. We are currently taking a waiting list of names of interested persons and will schedule a date, if we have enough folks on the list.
- The EoE program runs from 9 am—4 pm, Monday through Friday, for one week and is held at the GTMNERR Marineland office. Cost for the week is \$100 per person (this includes supplies for the program, reference materials for participants, bottled water, etc.)
- Each day covers a different topic and consists of a combination of classroom presentations and indoor and outdoor/field activities. Guest speakers have included biologists from state parks, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marineland, the right whale volunteer monitoring program, the GTM NERR, and more. Topics include beaches, marine mammals, estuaries, human interactions with the coastal environment, fish, and sharks.
- To be added to the waiting list, please e-mail Maia (mpmcg@ufl.edu) or April (aalexander@co.st-johns.fl.us) or call either of us at 904-209-0430.

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UF offers “Solutions for Your Life”—<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu>

Solutions for Your Life is the Web site of University of Florida Extension. Here the public can find all of UF’s Extension expertise in one place. People can explore topics in lawn and garden care, family life and consumer choices, agriculture, community development, the environment, and youth development. Above all, the site is focused on giving users timely and relevant solutions for improving their lives.

Solutions for Your Life provides current, science-based answers--free.

Local Extension offices, located in every Florida county, have always been a resource for workshops, classes, consultations, and demonstrations, as well as quality educational materials. Now, with Solutions for Your Life, anyone can access UF Extension publications and other resources from any computer. The Web site also includes timely feature articles and photos, an events calendar, and a database of frequently asked questions.

Real-life success stories show how Extension benefits Floridians around the state.

Through Solutions for Your Life, University of Florida Extension expertise reaches more Floridians than ever.



Extension is the public outreach component of the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), where experts relate research findings to daily life. Extension provides information to agricultural and livestock producers, as well as the general public. Information is always free, research-based, and current.

Extension faculty members work with state and federal agencies, local governments and leaders, and nonprofit agencies to provide you with the most up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive information available.

Solutions for Your Life, the Web site of University of Florida Extension, emphasizes material that could be useful anywhere in the state. Information specific to individual counties--such as schedules for local workshops, meetings, and volunteer opportunities--is available from county Extension offices. The St. Johns County Extension Office, where the NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program is housed, is located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. The phone number is 904-209-0430. You can find the location of other county extension offices at the Solutions for Your Life website.

Please report dead birds

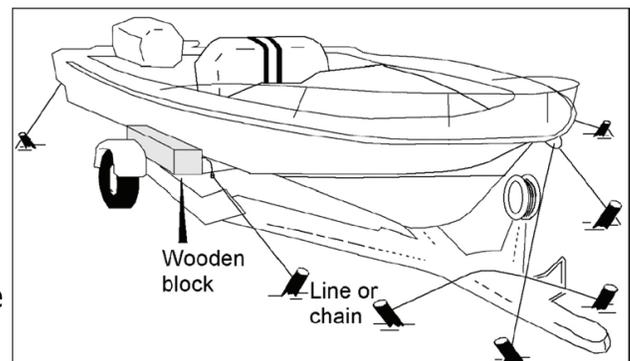
People who find dead birds, especially water birds (marine and freshwater), are asked to report them to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission through the bird mortality database at <http://myfwc.com/bird>. Please do not touch or handle the birds, but do record the location and the type of bird (if you know).

Boat owners—do you know what to do to prepare for a hurricane?

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has developed two documents that might be of interest to boat owners during hurricane season. They are both included in Chapter 7 of The Disaster Handbook—National Edition, and can be accessed online at <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/chap7fr.htm>. Section 7-18, "Hurricane Preparedness for Boat Owners" and Section 7-19, "Protecting Your Boat in a Hurricane" give specific information for boat owners.

Some things to think about:

- Is your boat in a marina, at a mooring, in dry storage or on a trailer? Do you know how it should be tied down? Do you know if the marina staff will do this or is it your responsibility? Have you read a copy of your marina's hurricane preparedness plan?
- Will you leave your boat where it is, or will you want to move it? Will you move it by water or on a trailer? Do you know which bridges might not open if there is an evacuation order in place?
- Is there someone who will take care of your boat if you are out of town when a hurricane threatens?
- If you live on board your boat, where will you go during the storm? You should not plan to stay on board!
- What items are on board your boat? Do you have an inventory of these? Which items could and should be removed if a storm is approaching?
- Where is your insurance policy? Your boat registration? Do you have a recent photograph of your boat? Do you have the phone numbers of the harbor or dockmaster? The Coast Guard?
- Have you checked out your bilge pump lately? Your mooring lines? Are there areas of the ropes that may become chafed and break?
- If you are going to move your vessel, plan to do so at least 48 hours before the storm is expected. Fill your fuel tanks, make sure your batteries are fully charged, your bilges are empty, and your cockpit drains are clear.
- Is your vessel watertight? Use duct tape if necessary to seal windows, doors and hatches. Shut sea cocks, and plug any unvalved through-hull fittings.



Tying down your boat at home

For more information, check out the website. Some other topics covered in the chapter include a checklist for homes, protecting mobile homes, precautions for swimming pools, and evaluating shelters. There are also suggestions for what boat and marina owners should do after a hurricane.



NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program
3125 Agricultural Center Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Phone: 904-209-0430
Fax: 904-209-0431
E-mail: mpmcg@ufl.edu
<http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu>

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coastal Florida*

More “Mark your calendars”

- October 21, 10 am – noon. Practice 4-H Marine Ecology Judging Event at St. Johns County Extension Office (auditorium). Contact Maia for more information.
- October 28—4-H Marine Ecology Judging Event at Camp Cloverleaf. See <http://4h.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information.
- November 1-12—Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair. See www.jacksonvillefair.com for more information.
- November 14-19—St. Johns County Fair. See www.stjohnsfair.com for details.

Please check the calendars at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu> and www.enviroedjax.org for other environmental education programs around the state.

Aqua Notes is provided as one of the many services relating to educational programs offered by the University of Florida/IFAS cooperative extension service. This publication is available on the Web at <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu> or in an alternate format on special request. In compliance with ADA requirements, participants with special needs will be reasonably accommodated with 5 days advance notice by contacting the St. Johns County Extension Service at 904-209-0430. Those needing telecommunications assistance, please call the Florida Relay Service (TDD) at 1-800-955-8771. The use of websites or product names in this publication is not a guarantee, warranty or endorsement of the sites/products named and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others. For more information about this document, contact Maia McGuire at the St. Johns County Extension Service at 904-209-0430.