



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

aqua-notes

233 Marine Center Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32080
904-461-4014



Volume 1, Issue 1

May, 2001

Special points of interest:

- The Florida Sea Grant program was created in 1972
- The mission of Florida Sea Grant is "To enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources in Florida to create a sustainable economy and environment."
- There are 17 Sea Grant extension agents around the state.
- The Sea Grant Extension Program is part of the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Program

Inside this issue:

<i>Clean Marina Workshop</i> June 13	2
<i>Hurricane Awareness Week</i>	2
<i>Hurricane terms and definitions</i>	2
<i>Clean Boating Habits</i>	3
<i>Boating safety equipment checklist</i>	3
<i>Boaters and Manatee Safety</i>	3

Welcome to aqua-notes!

This will hopefully be a quarterly publication from the NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program office. The first few issues will each have a specific focus (this one focuses on marinas and recreational boating) and will contain any additional timely material pertaining to the coastal environment.

About the author

My name is Maia McGuire and I am the newest member of the Florida Sea Grant extension program. Like all Sea Grant agents, I am a member of the Florida Cooperative Extension Program through the University of Florida. While I am a faculty member at UF, my office is located in the town of Marineland, south of St. Augustine. I am a marine biologist by training (both my BS and PhD degrees are in this field), and have worked in the past as a formal educator (high school science), informal educator and pure researcher in southern and central Florida. I am hoping to use these experiences and the skills they have taught me to develop an effective coastal education program here in NE Florida (Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Flagler counties). My program priorities are K-12 education and coastal stewardship.



The University of Florida Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant Marine Education Center off A1A in Marineland

NE Florida has its First Clean Marina!

On May 11, Lamb's Yacht Center in Jacksonville was designated as NE Florida's first Clean Marina by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Clean Marina Program is an innovative voluntary program, designed by FDEP in partnership with the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program and the Marine Industries Association of Florida, which addresses serious issues that face Florida waterways. Marina operators who participate in the program are given guidance to help them develop environmentally-sound operating practices. Grants are available to help make changes which will benefit the environment (for example, for the installation of pump-out stations). CONGRATULATIONS to Bronson Lamb and his staff for helping to set the standard for all marinas in NE Florida. Several other marinas in the Jacksonville area are close to receiving their Clean Marina designation—these will be listed in future issues of aqua-notes.

Clean Marina Workshop June 13

There will be a workshop for those wishing to participate in the Clean Marina or Clean Boatyard programs. This workshop will be held from 6-8 pm on Wednesday, June 13 at the Sea Grant Marine Education Center (on the west side of A1A about 7 miles south of SR 206, across from the Marineland attraction). Representatives from marinas that have completed or almost completed the Clean Marina Program will be on hand to help answer questions or address concerns about the program. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection will have information about grants that are available to participating marinas. An outline of the programs, educational materials and pledge kits will be available. If you are interested in attending, please call either Maia or Toni at the Sea Grant office (904)-461-4014 or Deena Wells or Aimee Cohen at the Jacksonville DEP office (904)-448-4300.



Bronson Lamb III, owner of Lamb's Yacht Center, prepares to hoist the Clean Marina flag

Hurricane Awareness Week May 21-25

The week of May 21-25 has been designated as "Hurricane Awareness Week" by the National Weather Service. There is a new website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> that offers hurricane education and safety information. Hurricane season begins on June 1. This year's hurricane names are: Allison, Barry, Chantal, Dean, Erin, Felix, Gabrielle, Humberto, Iris, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Michelle, Noel, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van and Wendy. All coastal residents should review their hurricane supplies (non-perishable foods, water storage containers, non-electric tools (can opener, clock, radio), toiletries, prescription medications, flashlights and batteries, valuable documents) and should also be aware of hurricane preparation and evacuation procedures. If you own or live on a boat, be certain to find out the hurricane procedures for the marina or boat storage facility where you keep your boat. Remember that by the time a storm is approaching, marina staff will be busy performing their own duties at the marina and preparing their own homes for the event. If you have questions about evacuation routes, shelters, etc., contact your county's Office of Emergency Management.

*A new website at
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
offers hurricane education and
safety information*

Hurricane terms and definitions

The progression of hurricane formation is as follows: **Tropical Disturbance** → **Tropical Depression** (winds < 39 mph) → **Tropical Storm** (winds 39-73 mph) → **Category 1 Hurricane** (winds 74-95 mph) → **Category 2 Hurricane** (winds 96-110 mph) → **Category 3 Hurricane** (winds 111-130 mph) → **Category 4 Hurricane** (winds 131-155 mph) → **Category 5 Hurricane** (winds > 155 mph).

Hurricane Watch: A hurricane may threaten your area within 24-36 hours.

Hurricane Warning: A hurricane may strike your area within 24 hours or less.

Storm Surge: a rise in tide caused by the hurricane as it moves over or near the coastline.



Clean Boating Habits

There are several common-sense things that boaters can do that can help preserve coastal water quality. Coastal water quality is important as these shallow waters often serve as nursery-grounds for commercial and recreational fisheries (shrimp, lobsters, grouper, redfish, etc.). In fact, many marine fish spend at least part of their life in coastal estuaries (areas where salt and fresh water meet).

- When fueling your boat, use caution to prevent spillage of petroleum into the water. Dispose of used oil and oil and fuel filters properly (ask your marina operator where to dispose of hazardous waste, or find oil recyclers in your area at www.recycleoil.org. Federal regulations prohibit the use of detergents to clean up spilled oil—if you have to clean up spilled oil, use absorbent pads. Detergents cause oils to break up into small droplets, but the oil is still there, just spread throughout the water.
- When cleaning your boat, use biodegradable spray-type cleaners, or non-toxic cleansers like hydrogen peroxide (bleach alternative), baking soda (scouring powder, toilet cleaner), vinegar (window/floor/varnish cleaner), lemon juice and salt (mildew remover). Use upland cleaning facilities whenever possible (for you and your boat!).
- Be aware that there are plants and animals that get transported in boat bilges and propellers from one area to another. In the new area, these organisms may become a real nuisance. Two common “exotic” aquatic plants in Florida are Hydrilla and Water Hyacinth. If you find these plants wrapped around your prop, dispose of them in the garbage on land, not by dropping them into the water. When trailering a boat from one state to another, flush raw water cooling systems and drain bilges before leaving the home area.

Boating safety equipment checklist

The safety equipment required on recreational boats depends on the length of the boat. Below are the minimum requirements.

- USCG approved Personal Flotation Devices: 1 for each person on board or being rowed on water skis (ALL BOATS). Boats over 16 feet in length must also have a throwable device on board.
- Fire extinguisher: Boats under 26 feet must have one on board, 26-40 feet must have the equivalent of 2 Type B-1 extinguishers, 40-65 feet must have the equivalent of 3 Type B-1 extinguishers.
- Visual distress signal (high seas and coastal waters only): ALL BOATS must carry a visual distress signal for daytime and nighttime use. Additionally, boats under 40 feet must have an efficient sound-producing device, while boats 40-65 feet long must have a whistle that can be heard for 0.5 nautical miles and at least a 7.87” diameter bell on board.

*Boating safety awareness
week is May 19-25*



Manatees are commonly sighted throughout the intracoastal waterway and St. Johns River in summer months

Boaters and Manatee Safety

Boaters in coastal areas of NE Florida (especially the intracoastal waterway and the St. Johns River) should be aware that manatees share these waters, especially in the summer months. If there is a marked channel, try and keep your boat as close to the center of the channel as possible—the deeper the water, the better chance there is for the manatee to avoid being hit. Slow down—not only will you conserve gas, you’ll have a better chance of being able to see and avoid manatees if they are around. It is especially important to slow down near marinas, bridges and other coastal structures, not only are manatees likely to gather in these areas, but other boaters may be entering the waterway or slowing down in preparation for docking. Pay attention to manatee speed zone signs—state and federal laws prohibit harming or harassing manatees; fines for violating these laws range up to \$20,000. To report manatee deaths, injuries, harassment or radio-tagged manatees, call the Florida Marine Patrol at 1-808-DIAL-FMP



NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program
233 Marine Center Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Phone/fax: 904-461-4014

We're on the web!
www.flseagrant.org

Coming in future issues...

- This issue of aqua-notes is focused on marinas and recreational boating, with articles about hurricanes. Themes for future issues include the following: Fishing, Water quality and Coastal environments.
- Your input is welcomed! If you have ideas about topics you would like to see addressed or have a question pertaining to the local coastal area, let us know!
- **SPONSORS NEEDED FOR MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING STATIONS!** There is a great need in NE Florida for monofilament recycling stations (where anglers can dispose of old fishing line so that it does not become a hazard to birds, turtles and manatees). Individuals or businesses can sponsor these recycling stations. The cost for one station is \$75; this donation is tax-deductible. For details, please contact the NE Florida Sea Grant office at 904-461-4014.

