Florida Keys Water Watch

FOR THE
#GATORGGOOD

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UF/IFAS Extension Monroe County, Florida Sea Grant
Water Watch Program Goals

• **A:** AWARENESS – Importance of water quality

• **D:** DATA – Collect ambient water quality data

• **A:** ADOPT – BMPs to prevent non-point source pollution

• **P:** PARTNERSHIPS – Citizens, UF extension & agencies

• **T:** TOOLS & TRAINING – To evaluate local waterways
**Trained Volunteer Responsibilities**

**HOW:** At least 1 site, at least monthly, legal access

**WHO:** Individuals, schools, HOA’s

**WHY:** MC-CMMP and nonpoint source pollution
Timeline

- November 2014: Florida Keys Water Watch funded by EPA South Florida Initiative
- October 2015: Program development and training workshops
- October 2016: EPA-approved QAPP
Initiated working w/ FDEP QA staff for approved alternative methods: Lamotte Winkler Titration and Refractometer

Train-the-Trainer Program w/ Florida Keys Community College

University of Florida In-Service Training – WW goes statewide

2017
2018

• GOMA funding for University of Florida Water Watch Website

Future

• Establishing Advisory Council
• Side-by-side study with FDEP and Water Watch volunteers

Next steps

• State-wide dedicated funding...
Summary 2015-Present

• FKWW Training
  • 61 workshops to 458 participants (180 adults and 278 students)
  • 72 volunteers and teachers* have adopted a FKWW site
• 885 Volunteer hours w/ $19,926 value to state of Florida
• >922 data collection events
  • *students participate under teacher guidance

• Train-the-Trainer
  • 8 Florida Sea Grant agents
  • 3 FKCC professors
    • Data collection course OCB2102C
• General Public
  • 746+ people at rotary, garden clubs, HOA’s, invited seminars
Program Evaluation

- Annual Qualtrics Survey
- 47-87% adopted at least 1 BMP
  - No fish carcasses, leaf litter
  - Rain barrel
  - Florida Friendly Landscaping
- Documented Success Story
  - Coral Key Village Marina HOA
  - “Fish carcasses, pet litter, plant trimmings and all other trash shall be disposed of in receptacles provided by the Association or removed from Coral Key Village Marina (Section 3L)”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Knowledge Gain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Causes of poor water quality in the Florida Keys</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is nonpoint source pollution?</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>How excess nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) stimulate algal growth, and how decomposition lowers dissolved oxygen levels in the water</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>How to find the Monroe County canal restoration demonstration projects and canal rankings</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>92%</td>
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<td>Why dissolved oxygen is such an important factor for good water quality</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>46%</td>
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