



# PUD Quarterly

Pertinent Information for Neighborhood Associations

## Community Association Manual for Rules, Elections & Duties “The RED Book”

Over the past decade, homeowner and condominium associations have experienced a dramatic rise nationally and particularly here in Collier County. It's clear that, for many, the benefits of belonging to these communities – protecting property values, access to recreational amenities, and maintenance services – adequately compensate for any perceived drawbacks (for instance, ceding control over how owners may personalize their property).

Soon, new reference materials will be available to help developers, community associations, Boards of Directors, association officers, and property owners navigate the rules, regulations, and processes. These guiding principles are necessary to achieve orderly growth and ensure balance between the required management of shared assets while respecting the individuality of the association's property owners.

to recommendations on setting up and conducting board meetings. Whether you're a developer starting a new project, an association board member, or an existing or prospective owner, the Collier County Community Association manual (“The RED Book”) will provide the answers you need!



Gathering the detailed information required to cover a topic of such scope is an intensive task. But, the resulting value

To meet the demands of Collier County's continued growth, the county's outreach group is addressing the concerns that many residents of these common interest communities share.

So, if you're new to association-style living or have lived in similar environments in the past, this handy resource will guide you through everything from association inception

that will come of this effort is worth the time invested! Currently under development, The RED Book is slated for completion in early 2007.

### Inside this issue:

Solar-Powered Solution	2
PONDer this!	2
North Collier Government Center Opens	3
Lake Side Butterfly Gardens	3
Council for Sustainable Florida Awards Collier	4
Green Investments	4
Storm Surge Map	Insert



### New Government Center Opens:

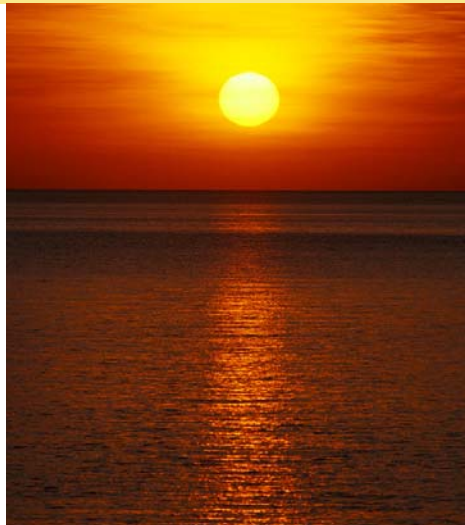
- North Collier Government Center is operating. The center is located at, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive (next to Collier County Headquarters Library). Details on page 3.

# Solar-Powered Solution

Florida homeowners living in developed communities are increasingly facing a tough problem: how to maintain the aesthetic and recreational value of their lakes.

In the early stages of the development, the lakes are clear and beautiful - perhaps the centerpiece of the community. Unfortunately, each rainstorm brings nutrients (fertilizers, animal feces, etc.) into the lake. Without proper circulation, nutrients build up and continue to recycle into algae blooms that cause surface scum, nuisance aquatic weeds, and odors from decaying algae and plants. The centerpiece soon turns into the community eyesore.

Common methods of attacking the problem include applying chemicals or installing energy-intensive turbulent aeration devices such as fountains or bubbler



systems. These methods have a variety of environmental drawbacks, and seldom restore the lake to its former beauty.

An increasing number of property owners are following the lead of municipalities around the U.S. who have turned to a sustain-

able, natural solution for restoring the aesthetic and recreational value of their lakes: solar-powered circulation.

Floating high-flow circulators harness the sun's power to gently and completely circulate entire bodies of water. They operate day and night, are virtually silent, and require no ongoing maintenance. Benefits include a cleaner, healthier ecosystem through effective control of algae, nuisance aquatic weeds, harmful bacteria and odors.

Independent studies have consistently shown that investing in water quality improvements offers a big dividend - not only environmentally, but also economically via increased property values.

**Be sure to attend the November 7<sup>th</sup> POAP meeting where Mike Lipparelli, Southern US Regional Manager for SolarBee, will explain why this simple solution has been effective in more than 130 lakes nationwide.**

## PONDER this!

**The peacefulness of a lake** is an inspiring amenity in our urban landscapes. Besides their natural beauty they play an important role in controlling flooding and improving water quality. Since lakes are the lowest elevation in the community, rain runoff from streets and ditches throughout the neighborhood drain to them. They are, in fact, the central component of the "storm water" drainage system.



*Properly Fertilized Landscape Adjacent to Lake System*

Lakes are fairly delicate and within a few years our year-round growing season can cause them to age quickly unless preventive steps are taken. Fortunately, steps to keep them beautiful also reduce maintenance costs. First and foremost to keep in mind is that lawn fertilizer is by far the most costly and destructive agent to an urban lake. The same nutrients that make lawns green cause lake algae to proliferate. Overproduction of algae

short-circuits a lake's ecology, stifling plant and fish production and degrading its overall quality.

Wise landscape maintenance is the most cost-effective strategy for keeping a healthy lake. Over-irrigating easily washes fertilizer past hungry roots where it accumulates in deeper soil only to be washed into the lake when summer rains arrive and rising ground water washes it laterally through our sandy soil toward lakes.

**Follow these fertilizing guidelines:**

- ◆ Use low-phosphorous fertilizer
- ◆ Apply smaller amounts more frequently
- ◆ Fertilize only during the dry season,
- ◆ Keeping fertilizer at least five feet from the lake and out of ditches and street gutters

To maintain a healthy lake, keep lawn clippings and leaves away from street gutters and storm sewer inlets, as well as rinse water from activities like car washing, carpet cleaning, and pool draining. Next time you see something in your street or near a storm inlet, ask yourself if you want it going into the lake.



*Result of Progressive Algae Growth*

# North Collier Government Center Opens

Over 7000 customers have been served at the North Collier Government Services Center since it opened to the public on June 5th.



## North Collier Government Services Center

North Naples residents can now conduct county business at a convenient location, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive (next to

Collier County Headquarters Library).

Offices located at the center are:

**BCC, Tax Collector, Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Clerk of Courts, and Supervisor of Elections.** Services include:

- ◆ Beach parking stickers
- ◆ Pet license
- ◆ Utility payments (Water & Sewer)

### Hours of Operation

**Monday - Friday**

**9 a.m.- 6 p.m.**

- ◆ Passport applications
- ◆ Florida Driver's License Services



Community Associations may be interested in using these additional services:

- ◆ Public Meeting room
- ◆ On-line viewing of property aerials
- ◆ Voter registration
- ◆ Homestead applications
- ◆ Crime prevention information
- ◆ Neighborhood watch program information

# Lakeside Butterfly Gardens

Littoral Shelf Planting Areas (LSPA's) as discussed in our first Quarterly Newsletter are areas within your storm water lakes designated for native wetland plant species. LSPA's are multifunctional; they improve water quality by using up excess nutrients, provide habitat for wildlife, help stabilize lake bank slopes and ... make great butterfly gardens.

That's right, your development can meet the counties lake planting requirements by creating a butterfly garden with wetland plant species. Many littoral plant species are desirable to butterflies of all kinds. Butterflies need host plants on which to lay their eggs and plants that provide a source of nectar. Female butterflies carefully select the host plants for their eggs to ensure the young caterpillars have the right greens to munch on. Each species of butterfly



prefer certain host plants, so it is good to have a diverse selection of plants in your butterfly garden. Whether your lakes already have some plantings and just need some additions or you are starting from bare banks, you can make it an enjoyable community project.

Here are some plant material suggestions to get your butterfly oasis started.

**Pickerelweed** and **Buttonbush** are great wetland sources of nectar for

butterflies.

**Bacopa monnieri**, aka water hyssop, is a great wetland ground cover to help stabilize banks, and is the main host plant for the White Peacock butterfly.

Pink and white **swamp milkweeds** are beautiful flowering wetland plants and

are great host plants for Queen, Soldier, and Monarch butterflies.

**Sweet Bay Magnolia** is preferred by many varieties of Swallowtails.

Other great littoral plants for attracting butterflies are:

**Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*)

**Swamp Bay & Red Bay** (*Persea* spp.)

**Prairie Iris** (*Iris hexagona*)

**Golden Canna** (*Canna flaccida*)

**Alligator Flag** (*Thalia geniculata*)

**Redroot** (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*)

**Marshmallow** (*Kosteletzkva virginica*)

When creating your wetland butterfly habitat remember to take water depths and planting elevations into consideration for each plant species. For more information on littoral zones and littoral plant species contact us at 239-213-2947 for a brochure.





**COLLIER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &  
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***Our Mission :***  
***To deliver to our residents and visitors local  
government services that  
exceed all expectations***



## Council for Sustainable Florida Awards Collier 2006 Promising Practice



**Collier County Government's – Educational Public Outreach Program**, lead by Maryann Devanas, PUD Monitoring Supervisor, is a recipient of the 2006 Sustainable Florida Promising Practice Award presented by The Council for Sustainable Florida.

The Council, a program of the Collins Center for Public Policy, has been defining excellence for Florida's economic, environmental, and social future since 1990.

Nominations were received from across the state. "The caliber of applicants and the fact that they came from across Florida is a testament to the commitment of Floridians to help create a sustainable Florida for future generations," said Council Chairman Otis Wragg, President of Wragg and Casas Public Relations in Miami.

Since initiating the awards program in 1998, the Council has recognized and honored more than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental groups, and individuals whose work demonstrates that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are mutually supportive.

A sustainable community is one that uses natural and human resources wisely. By blending environmental respect with economic growth and equity in opportunities, Florida will enjoy neighborhoods with beautiful parks and green spaces, job opportunities and a variety of cultural offerings for residents. Even more important is the fact that the natural resources that we enjoy today – clean air and water, pristine coastlines, and a lush and vibrant natural habitat of flora and fauna – will be enjoyed for generations to come.

## Green Investments



**Think of tree care as an investment. A healthy tree increases in value with age—paying big dividends, increasing property values, beautifying our surroundings, purifying our air, and saving energy by providing cooling shade and protection from damaging wind.**

Regular maintenance, designed to promote plant health and vigor, ensures their value will continue to grow. An effective maintenance program, including regular inspections and the neces-

sary follow-up care of mulching, fertilizing, and pruning, can detect problems and correct them before they become damaging or fatal.

You can actively inspect your landscape investment by checking for your trees vigor by examining for these four characteristics: new leaves or buds, leaf size, twig growth, and ab-

sence of dieback (the gradual death of the upper part of the tree). Any abnormalities found during these inspections, including insect activity and spotted, deformed, discolored, or dead leaves and twigs, should be noted and watched closely. Maintenance can identify defect problems that could lead to failure during a storm.



*Help grow our natural resources for future generations.*

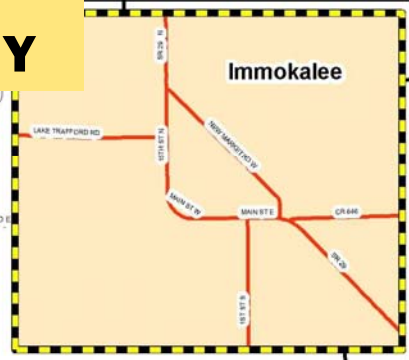
If you are uncertain as to what should be done, have your trees inspected annually by a competent I.S.A.- Certified Arborist. Our University of Florida Extension Services is an excellent source of information. If you should have further questions contact the center at 239-353-4244.

The International Society of Arborists provides free brochures at [www.treesaregood.com/treecare/hire\\_arborist.aspx](http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/hire_arborist.aspx)



# COLLIER COUNTY

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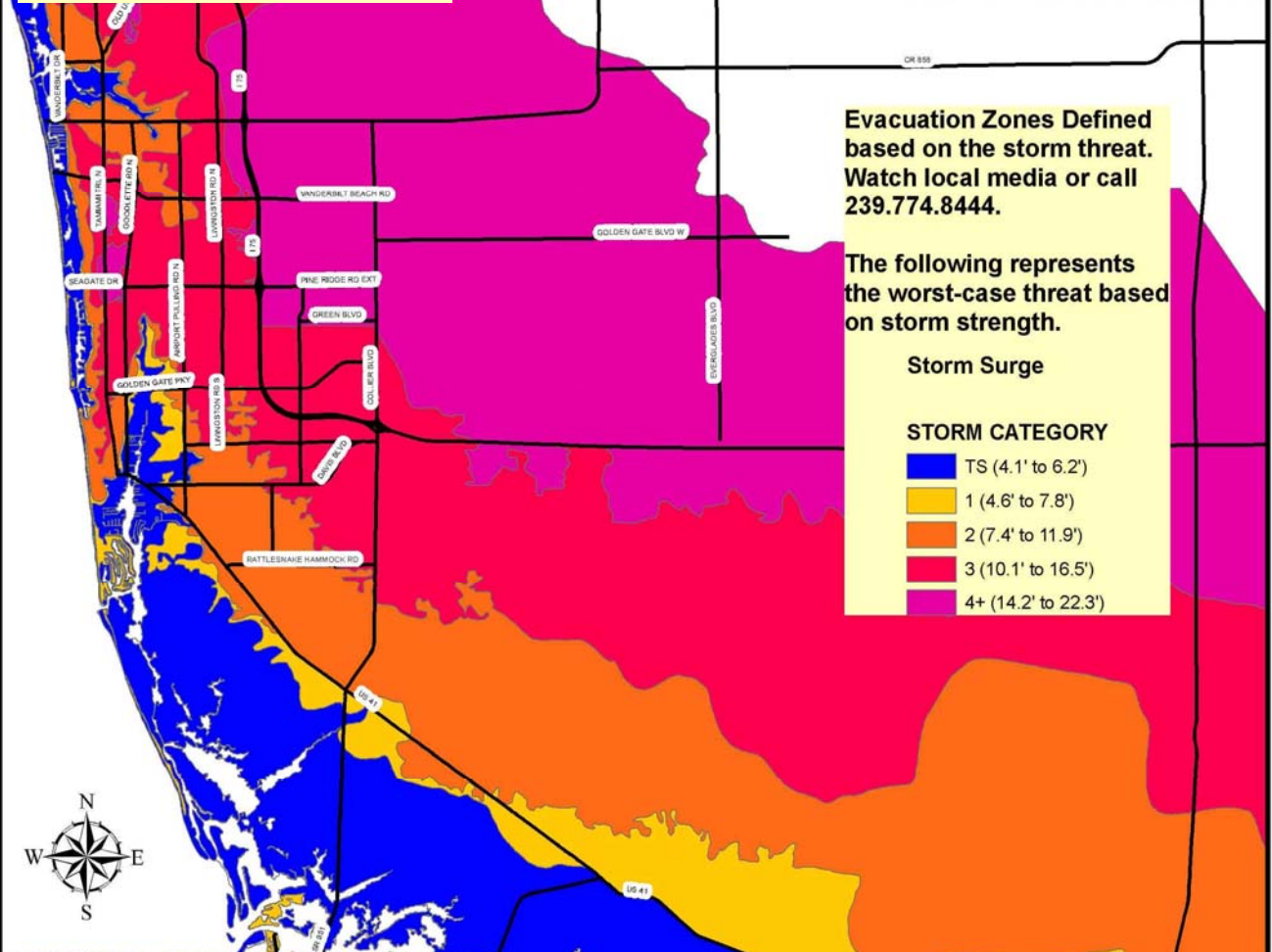
Evacuation Zones Defined based on the storm threat. Watch local media or call 239.774.8444.

The following represents the worst-case threat based on storm strength.

### Storm Surge

#### STORM CATEGORY

- TS (4.1' to 6.2')
- 1 (4.6' to 7.8')
- 2 (7.4' to 11.9')
- 3 (10.1' to 16.5')
- 4+ (14.2' to 22.3')



Marco Island

Everglades City