

## Mcgee, Darcie A

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**From:** Environet-owner@mail.volusia.org on behalf of Environet [environmental@mail.volusia.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2009 1:27 PM  
**To:** Environet@mail.volusia.org  
**Subject:** Indian River Lagoon landowners

As a landowner on the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) you are invited to take part in an effort to restore natural habitat on the privately owned shoreline along the river. The Marine Discovery Center (MDC) invites you to help us make a difference.

Did you know?

- Invasive species, such as Brazilian pepper, displace native plants and have a negative impact on the unique Florida ecosystem.
- When you use fertilizer, herbicides, or pesticides on your lawn, runoff during periods of rain or from irrigation can enter the river directly from your yard or via a stormwater drain. Excess nutrients from fertilizer can cause harmful algal blooms that deplete the water of oxygen, while herbicides and pesticides can harm wildlife.
- One oyster can filter 48 gallons of water per day. Healthy oyster beds help maintain a clean river, but many oyster beds in our area have been lost due to increased boat wake.
- Native plants are better adapted to the humidity, high temperatures, and nutrient poor soils in Florida and often require less irrigation and fertilizer/pesticides than exotic species.
- Many studies following events such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia have shown that communities buffered by mangrove wetlands were strikingly less damaged than those areas without mangroves. Mangroves provide important habitat for a variety of invertebrates and fish and can provide substantial protection against hurricanes for those who live on the water. Mangroves planted waterward of a seawall can increase the life of the structure by bearing the brunt of the storm.

How to get involved:

- The Community Stewardship program seeks to educate shoreline landowners and engage them to restore their private shorelines. If you don't own shoreline property, you can still participate as a volunteer. MDC volunteers are available to assist shoreline landowners with various tasks, such as removing Brazilian pepper, planting native vegetation, and oyster restoration. Please contact Stephanie Wolfe at (386)428-4828 or email at [stephanie@marinediscoverycenter.org](mailto:stephanie@marinediscoverycenter.org). Public workshops will be held throughout the year. Please visit our website at [www.marinediscoverycenter.org](http://www.marinediscoverycenter.org) to view the calendar for workshop dates. We also wish to meet with individual landowners at their property to conduct a shoreline audit, to educate, and to make recommendations on shoreline restoration. Please contact Stephanie Wolfe to schedule an appointment for a shoreline audit.
- You will learn: how to identify invasive species, what herbicides are best to remove certain invasive plants, how to identify the different types of mangroves and how to plant them, what native plants would be suitable for your yard, the details of oyster restoration, the effects of polluted runoff, and much more!

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