

with guidance from District environmental staff. It may be permissible to selectively trim, plant, or remove undesirable species in order to enhance the looks and the wildlife habitat value of the wetland. Don't forget though, that the "messiest" wetlands are often the best homes for wildlife.

If the wetland is unsightly, you might want to plant a screen of native shrubs. The screen could also serve to feed birds, provide cover for rabbits and other wildlife. Convert part of your back yard adjacent to a wetland into a wildlife sanctuary by restricting your pets to the landscaped portion. Plant the sanctuary portion thickly with native, food-producing plants like wax myrtle, dahoon holly, and other berry or seed-producing plants.

There are other simple things you can do to protect the wildlife inhabiting your wetland, including being careful not to direct light into the wetlands at night and trying to limit the amount of noise coming from your home. And remember to drive cautiously along roads that cut through wetlands or border preserved, natural uplands. Wildlife do not know to yield to traffic and the effort we take in preserving their habitat is wasted if the animals are killed on the roadways.

## A Thousand Thanks

Thank you for taking the time to read this pamphlet! This is the first step you have taken toward understanding Florida's wonderful wetlands and toward living in harmony with the plants and animals that depend on your cooperation for their continued survival.



## Where To Go For Help

*For information about native plants:*

**Florida Native Plant Society**  
P.O. Box 6116  
Spring Hill, Florida 34611  
(813) 856-8202

*For information about wildlife:*

**Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**  
3900 Drane Field Road  
Lakeland, Florida 33811  
(941) 648-3205

*To contact the District:*

**Bartow**  
170 Century Blvd.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
(941) 534-1448  
Suncom 572-6200

**Inverness**  
2303 Hwy 44 West  
Inverness, FL 34453  
(352) 637-1360

**Venice**  
115 Corporation Way  
Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 483-5970  
(941) 486-1212  
Suncom 526-6900

**Brooksville (Headquarters)**  
2379 Broad St.  
Brooksville, FL 34609-6899  
(352) 796-7211  
Suncom 628-4150  
1-800-423-1476

**Tampa**  
7601 Hwy. 301 N.  
Tampa, FL 33637  
(813) 985-7481  
Suncom 578-2070



Protecting *Your*  
Water Resources



printed on  
recycled paper

*The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy borders every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requesting reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act should contact the Public Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida), extension 4757; TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (Florida); fax (352) 754-6883/Suncom 663-6883.*

Revised January 1997

**"What Is  
This Swamp  
Doing In My  
Back Yard?"**

