

RiverWatch



Visit our website at www.Stewardsonline.org

Summer2001

Our Mission:

To restore, preserve and protect the waters of the St. Johns River and its tributaries for current and future generations.



Donald Loop named Executive Director

Donald Loop has been named the new Executive Director by unanimous vote of the Steward's Board of Directors. Mr. Loop grew up on the St. Johns, in the Arlington area of Jacksonville, and the river remains an important part of his life. He worked for 35 years at Betz Laboratories, one of the largest industrial water treatment companies in the world, and retired as President. Don has just returned after a 5 year job assignment in Seattle to come back to his home of 23 years on the St. Johns.

He has extensive technical knowledge in all phases of waste water treatment, water chemistry, and local issues. Don has been a member of the Stewards since its beginning in 1990 and has a wide variety of experiences working to protect the river. In the early 1990's he worked to educate the

Clay County Commissioners on the need for improved waste water treatment and monitoring. Today, Clay County has a resolution requiring upgrading and improved monitoring of waste water treatment plants. He helped challenge the permit of the Fleming Oaks Waste Treatment Plants that would have allowed a 40% flow increase with no improvement or safeguards.

Although he has travelled all over the world, he says, "there is no better river than right here." And he regrets that people take this treasure for granted. He commented, "What if we lived in the desert and could not dump our pollution in a river? We would find a way to solve the problems and it can be done here".

Don says he is fortunate now to have the time to become more active in trying to protect our wonderful River.

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In Memoriam

John N. Adsit **1923 - 2001**



Mr. John N. Adsit, first Chairman of the Stewards, passed away October 10, 2001 at the age of 78. Mr. Adsit retired from Union Camp Corp. in 1990 after a long career in chemical sales. A native of Rhode Island, he graduated with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University in 1948 and served in Europe during World War II.

An active environmentalist, John understood complex environmental issues, and advocated finding common ground where businesses, legislators and citizens could work together to improve the quality of life in Jacksonville.

He was a recreational sailor who loved the St. Johns River. Mr. Adsit was a founding member of the Stewards of the St. Johns River, Inc. and served as its chairman from 1990-1994. Under his leadership, the young organization was awarded a \$25,000 grant from "Keep Florida Beautiful".

He spent many hundreds of volunteer hours as a liaison with various agencies toward reducing point source nutrient contamination, and spoke to the Florida House Committee on Natural Resources and to the state Senate on behalf of the River.

John was also a founder of the Water Quality Commission and served as Chairman of that organization. He remained committed, even through periods of poor health, to best management practices of our natural resources, and our community is a better place because his achievements.

Mr. Adsit is survived by his wife of 52 years, Rowena, who is also a Steward and worked closely by his side on water quality issues. John and his two close friends, Tom Beal and Tom Fortson, were together as a team for the last decade laboring to preserve the St. Johns River. Many people will benefit from the behind the scenes work of these three men.

A memorial service was held on October 15 at the Orange Park Presbyterian Church and his ashes were spread in the River he loved. In lieu of flowers, he and his family requested that donations be made to the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida or the Stewards of the St. Johns River.

John will be missed by all who knew him. A gentleman, father of four, scholar, and activists, he gave of his time to champion the cause of preserving our natural resources. We gratefully acknowledge his dedication and will remember his leadership and devotion.

Thank You!



**Carol Matthews
Chairperson**

***Jacksonville Society
plans 2nd Benefit
for Stewards
Feb. 22, 2002
at Queens Harbour***

I hope you will help me welcome our new Executive Director, Don Loop. We are very fortunate to find someone with his talents and enthusiasm. But we would not have had this opportunity without our members and friends who supported the Fund-raiser Gala, "Taste of Society" at the University Club last February and without the generosity of the Jacksonville Society.

This project has been on our organization's list of goals for the past five years, and it is fantastic to finally see it happen.

Hopefully, we are entering a new phase of activism, and we need your help.

We have several Board positions open. The job of Vice-Chair is available for anyone looking for training to lead the organization and work with the Executive Director. We also need Directors for the Young Stewards and the Stenciling Campaign.

I hope more members will decide to make a commitment to their community and volunteer to be an active part of the Board. Just call the Hotline to see how you can help.

Board of Directors

Carol Matthews	Chairperson	464-0095
	Vice-Chairperson	OPEN
Nelson Hellmuth	Treasurer	269-5909
Roger Bass	Riverkeeper	732-2288
Kristi Helow	Stencil Campaign	733-0730
Pat McNulty	Hotline\Membership	292-2385
	Young Stewards	OPEN
Tom Beal	Political	284-5250

RiverWatch

**P.O. Box 54123, Jacksonville, FL 32245
www.Stewardsonline.org**

RiverWatch is a publication by the Stewards of the St. Johns River, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to serving as a voice for the St. Johns River and its tributaries since 1990. The newsletter is published quarterly.

We welcome comments from our readers. Please share our message with your friends. Invite them to become a Steward.

**NEWSLETTER
EDITOR
Carol Matthews**

Member of River Network
National Environmental

Group

Water Quality Sampling on the River

by Don Loop



The St. Johns River Management District (SJRWMD) was created by the Florida Legislature in 1972 as one of the state's five water management districts. It includes all or part of 19 counties in northeast Florida. Its stated mission is to manage water resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing environmental and economic benefits.

The author recently had the opportunity to participate in a full day St. Johns River sampling run with several members of the LSJRB Program team. On Sept. 24, sampling of phytoplankton at stations from south of the Shands Bridge to 4 miles from Mayport were conducted. The objective of the intensive river sampling program is to monitor the health of the river and document changes in water quality resulting from improved management or new pollution sources.

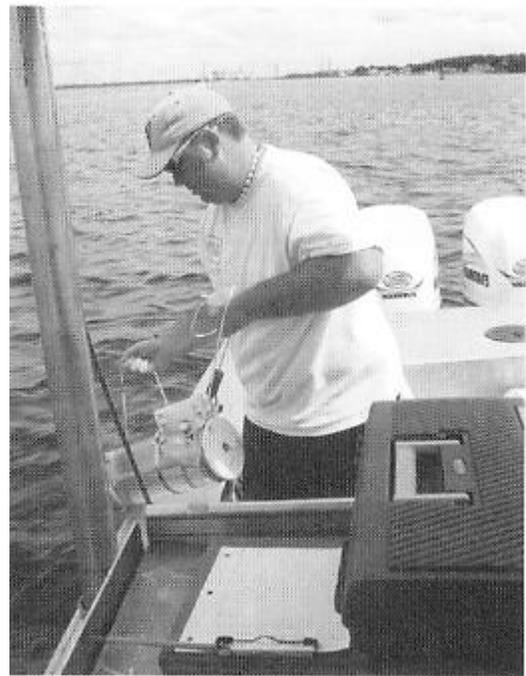
The purpose of this biweekly sampling is to monitor phytoplankton (small plants and algae) populations in the river. Michele Lockwood was the Environmental Scientist in charge of the sampling trip. Other members of the sampling team were Captain Jim Messer, intern Mandy Livingston, and University of Florida student Rob Burns.

Water quality tests conducted during this event were measurements of temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, salinity, light transparency, color, turbidity, nutrients, suspended solids and metals. Scientists targeted ambient conditions riverwide, stormwater from urban and agricultural areas, and monitored grass beds. The scientific data collected will also serve to identify and document areas of the river that are stressed by excessive nutrient discharges and other pollutants having a negative impact on the health of the river.



Secchi disk in front of Mandy measure visibility

Dean Campbell, Technical Program Manager and a 23-year veteran of the Water Management District (SJRWMD), states that the data being collected will be extremely useful to the Department of Environmental Protection as they develop the TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act. TMDLs define the maximum amount of pollutants the river can assimilate without violating water quality standards. Mr. Campbell estimated the annual cost associated with basinwide monitoring and sampling at approximately \$1.5 million.



Rob Burns takes water samples

Many citizens who are concerned about the current state of our beloved St. Johns River are impatient for improvement to be initiated. The SJRWMD shares these same concerns and is strongly committed to improving the health of the St. Johns River. Frequently frustrations are voiced about various agencies that seem prone to inaction or comfort with the status quo. The author's experience with the members of the LSJRB Program team provided a very refreshing insight into their sense of urgency and concern for improving the river's health. The scientists and technicians involved with the river sampling program are dedicated, hard working professionals with a real sense of commitment toward the task of improving the condition of the St. Johns.

Michele Lockwood, the scientist in charge of the sampling, stated that her personal goals were, "To help maintain and improve the quality of the St. Johns River so that our children will be able to enjoy the river like we did." This response is indicative of the attitude demonstrated by the employee group at the Palatka office complex. This type of positive "can do" attitude is very encouraging to all of us who sincerely care about the future of the lower St. Johns River.





Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program Begins in Duval County



Discarded monofilament fishing line kills or injures hundreds of birds, turtles and manatees each year. Recreational and commercial fishing generates a large amount of waste monofilament. It is the greatest cause of entanglement for marine creatures. Monofilament can be recycled, but until now there was no existing program in NE Florida to collect and recycle this type of plastic.



The NE Florida Sea Grant office is working with community groups in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Flagler counties to implement a monofilament recovery and recycling program which will be modeled after the very successful program in Brevard county. Monofilament recovery and recycling is an effective method of removing this environmental hazard. In Brevard county alone, more than 1000 lbs. of monofilament were collected in a six-month period.

Members who want to help can purchase materials for the construction and installation of monofilament recycling stations throughout the 4-county area. Your tax-deductible contribution of \$75 will pay for all materials needed for the construction of one monofilament recycling station. Additionally, the monofilament recycling station will be labeled as "sponsored by".

If you are interested, please send a check to the NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, 233 Marine Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080 in the amount of \$75 for each monofilament recycling station you wish to sponsor. Checks should be made out to "University of Florida SHARE". A receipt for your donation will be mailed, so please be sure that your correct address is on your check. Please also include a note with your name or business name if you wish to have this acknowledged on the recycling station. We will make every effort to install "your" recycling station in a location that is geographically close to your address.



River Flow Characteristics Show Proposed GPC Pipeline Would Have Negative Effect

by Don Loop

Georgia Pacific is asking DEP for a permit to transfer the effluent from Rice Creek into the middle of the St. Johns River via a four mile pipeline, where the larger water volume in the river would supposedly hide the pollution problems. But a hard look at the rivers' characteristics confirms the flawed logic for the proposal.

The lower St. Johns basin is composed of 3 zones with very different tidal energy and flow characteristics. These distinctly different zones can be described as follows:

Zone 1 - the first 25 miles from the ocean is deep and has high tidal energy with a 6 foot tide and moderate to high salinity.

Zone 2 - from Julington Creek to the Ortega River is a transition area with moderate tidal energy, medium depth, and high turbidity.

Zone 3 -from Green Cove Springs to Palatka is characterized by low tidal energy and shallow depth.

The proposed 60 million gallons per day of papermill wastewater would be discharged into this slow flowing Zone 3. This zone has little ability to assimilate the huge volume of paper mill waste water.

At present, the proposed discharge does not meet the water effluent standards designated by the Clean Water Act. Specifically, quality standards require that dissolved oxygen (D.O.) levels average 5mg/l. The proposed permit would cut a 'special deal' for GPC to allow minimum D.O. levels of only 2.7mg per liter. This would create an ever-growing "dead-zone" in the middle of the river.

Paper mill waste water contains over 250 different chemicals, in-

tells us that discharging pathogenic liquid pollution will not help us maintain water quality for fishing, swimming, recreation and supporting wildlife.

It makes no sense for this same sub-standard waste water to be piped to the middle of the St. Johns River. Anything less than GPC bringing its waster water discharge up to current mandated levels, should not be accepted.

The low tidal energy and low depth at the proposed point of discharge will provide little, if any pollution improvement. The reality is that due to the low flows at the pipeline, a large, ever-expanding pool of pollutants will form and meander up and down the river. The discharge will not be flushed due to the low tidal energy at this point in the river. In effect, the proposed 60 million gallon per day discharge will create another Rice Creek in the River.

Stewards are working with the Putnam County Environmental Council to strongly object to the proposed pipeline and are preceding with an administrative hearing scheduled for Dec 10, 2001 to challenge the permit.



cluding dissolved organics, methanol, terpenes, acetones, fatty acids, cellulose decomposition products, lignins, sulfides, mercaptans, resin-acids, saps, chlorine, caustic soda and the most dangerous of all—dioxin. The significance of dioxin in promoting cancer in humans is well documented. Common sense

YES! I want to join the Stewards of the St. Johns River and serve as a "voice for the river". Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Captain | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Admiral | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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New

Renewal

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DIAL 800-EDU-SSJR

RiverWatch Hotline

800-338-7757

E-Mail us at: info@Stewardsonline.net

For all communication, such as reporting spilled fuel, sewage discharge, illegal dumping or any hazards. Call to volunteer or request meeting times and date. A Steward will provide information, or direct your call to the proper authority and follow up.

**STEWARDS OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER, INC.
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