

Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative



Newsletter February 2019

The Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative (HIPI) is a Florida nonprofit corporation committed to preserving and protecting Hutchinson Island in Martin County.

Website: <http://hipi.ch2v.com> Email: hipi.stuart@gmail.com



Gov. DeSantis Appoints Thurlow-Lippisch to SFWMD

During the February 21 meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Oceanographic Society, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his appointment of Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, former Sewall's Point Mayor, to the South Florida Water Management District. Thurlow-Lippisch, a life-long Martin County resident, has served on the board of directors of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Rivers Coalition. In 2015, Thurlow-Lippisch was awarded the Everglades Coalition's *John V. Kabler Award* for grassroots activism for her work educating the public on Everglades restoration, the St. Lucie River, and Indian River Lagoon. For many years she has documented the algae crisis by posting aerial photos on her blog. [CLICK HERE to read Thurlow-Lippisch's blog](#) [CLICK HERE to read the TCPalm article.](#)

US Army Corps of Engineers Seeks Public Input on Lake O

The US Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public input on the new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Members of the public are invited to provide comments, including the identification of issues with the current regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee, what aspects need to be changed, and how those issues and changes should be implemented and evaluated.



On February 18, Bullsugar, Congressman Brian Mast and the Center for Biodiversity hosted a meeting at the Martin County Commissioner's chambers to discuss the LOSOM and help residents focus their comments. Martin County and City of Stuart are asking for zero discharges into the St. Lucie River. Two public meetings were held at Indian State College on February 19, when approximately 170 people addressed their concerns to the Corps of Engineers.

There is still time for your voice to be heard. Three more scoping meetings will be held in Palm Beach, Broward and Dade Counties. Additionally, comments may be emailed through April 22, 2019 to LakeOComments@usace.army.mil or mailed to Dr. Ann Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019. [CLICK HERE to read the US Army Corps of Engineers press release and all meeting information.](#)



Lake O Discharges into St. Lucie River Feb. 23-Mar. 16

Due to rising lake water levels and anticipated rain, Col. Andrew Kelly, Jacksonville District Commander for the Army Corps of Engineers, said 323 million gallons of water per day will be headed into the St. Lucie River beginning February 23. The discharges will continue for three weeks before the Corps evaluates the need to continue them again. If you see blue-green algae, take a photo and note the date, time, and location, and send that info, with your name and phone number to the appropriate contact below:

- Florida Oceanographic Society - waterdata@floridaocean.org
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) - 855-305-3903 or [submit online](#)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) - 800-636-0511 or [submit online](#)

To check local water quality [CLICK HERE for the Florida Oceanographic Society Weekly Water Quality Report](#) or call the Martin County Beach Condition Hotline 772-320-3112 for ocean and beach conditions.

Lights Off--Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins March 1

Hutchinson Island beaches are among the most important nesting grounds in North America for the loggerhead, leatherback and green sea turtles. Sea turtle nesting season is March 1-October 31. Help protect the nesting turtles and their hatchlings by following all state and local regulations. [Read Martin County Sea Turtle Protection Laws](#)
[Read the Martin County Sea Turtle Flyer](#)



In addition to keeping lights off the beach, residents can help protect nesting turtles and their hatchlings by

- using only designated dune crosswalks.
- filling in any holes in the sand and removing any sand or shell walls that are left after children play.
- keeping dogs away from turtle nests.
- not leaving chairs or umbrellas on the beach.
- properly disposing of trash.
- not using fireworks on or near the beach.
- view nesting turtles only with state approved public turtle watches. Click [HERE](#) for a list of approved sea turtle walks.



HIPI Joins Rivers Coalition

The mission of the Rivers Coalition is to fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast. Paul Laura, HIPI board member and environmental officer, will represent HIPI as our Rivers Coalition member. HIPI proudly joins approximately 100 other organizations in supporting the work of the Rivers Coalition to keep our rivers healthy and safe. <http://riverscoalition.org/>



ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 25, 7:00 p.m.

The first Annual Meeting of the Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative will be Monday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vince Bocchino Community Center, 2369 NE Dixie Highway, located within Langford Park in Jensen Beach. There is ample on-site parking. Anyone interested in learning more about HIPI and issues affecting Hutchinson Island in Martin Co. is invited and encouraged to attend. *We hope to get the email addresses of as many homeowners as possible, so that we may contact them when important issues arise that may affect them, their property or Hutchinson Island.*

**Want to continue to receive our newsletter? Want to support our efforts?
JOIN HIPI!**

[CLICK HERE to submit your membership form.](#)

You will need to register on the website in order to submit your membership form. We welcome anyone interested in preserving and protecting Hutchinson Island in Martin County.