

Nov. 26, 2007

County holds public luncheon to share summer seagrass survey results

Sarasota County is wrapping up its summer seagrass survey with a luncheon to honor the program's volunteers and kick off the winter seagrass survey, which begins in February 2008. The potluck event will take place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at Colonial Oaks Park, 5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota. The public is invited and may bring a dish to share.

The surveys are part of an ambitious effort to map local seagrass — which improves water quality, provides food and cover for a variety of wildlife and stabilizes shorelines — and its environment. Sarasota County began its volunteer mapping program last winter to provide supplemental information to the Southwest Florida Water Management District's existing seagrass mapping program.

Volunteers using their own boats and kayaks visit locations throughout Sarasota Bay and report back with descriptions of seagrass, algae, depth and water clarity. All program volunteers must attend a training session, which consists of a brief project overview and hands-on training in the water.

For more information about the seagrass survey program or to volunteer, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Amanda Dominguez in Water Resources.