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## **Water Matters Day 2005**

### **Water for Everyone: People, Plants, Animals**

### **Come Take The Journey with Us!**

It's time once again for Water Matters Day and this year there's more in store than ever before!

The Broward County Audubon Society will kick-off Water Matters Day 2005 with a special screening of the award winning film *Water's Journey*, which details the journey of water in Florida through the Florida Aquifer. The event will be held on Thursday, March 17 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek. The program begins with a guided nature walk, followed by refreshments and a 7:30 p.m. meeting. A Broward NatureScape display will also be featured to educate people about this water conservation effort. Come see how you can make over your home with native plants and save money and water with this unique program. The event is free.

**On Saturday, March 19, Broward County will celebrate the third annual Broward Water Matters Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tree Tops Park, 3900 Southwest 100th Avenue, Davie. The event is part of the overall campaign: *Water for Everyone. People. Plants. Animals.***

The program encourages homeowners to understand the role they play in managing water resources in their homes, yards and communities. Admission to the park is \$1 per person and free for children 5 and under.

"This is the third year we've done this and each year it gets better and better," says Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs, who declared 2005 the Year of the Environment. "We initiated this program so families could learn about the environment and enjoy one of our wonderful parks at the same time. This year the Broward NatureScape program is featured and I want to encourage everyone to learn how to NatureScape their yards."

NatureScapes are "Florida friendly" yards and landscapes that conserve water by using native plants within a lawn design and provide a healthy habitat for resident and migrating wildlife. Adequate food, water, and shelter will draw critters from birds to butterflies to landscapes. Some NatureScapes also use integrated pest control

practices, reduce storm water contamination from pesticides and fertilizers, and recycle yard waste into mulch and compost.

**At noon, one lucky winner will be chosen to receive a FREE irrigation system from Rain Bird. The value of the system is nearly \$3,000. Installation is not included. The winner will be selected by random drawing and must be present to win.**

Broward Water Matters Day will feature giveaways and a series of mini workshops to help residents learn how to maintain beautiful yet environmentally friendly yards. Workshops and how-to sessions include: *Designing a NatureScape*, *Broward County's Water History*, *The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program*, and *Subterranean Termite Control through Integrated Pest Management*.

**Event participants who visit at least 10 of the educational exhibits on display will be eligible to receive FREE trees, plants, mulch, a rain gauge, and bottled water.**

One of the main goals of Water Matters Day is to help educate children about personal stewardship in environmental protection. Children will be invited to build a birdhouse with help from the experts at Home Depot. Environmental folk singer Grant Livingston will return this year, and with guitar in hand he'll encourage everyone to sing along! There will be face-painting too!

Sponsors of Water Matters Day 2005 include the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Town of Davie, the City of Cooper City, the South Florida Water Management District, Central Broward Water Control District, the City of Coconut Creek, Florida Power and Light and Rain Bird.

For more information, visit [www.broward.org/watermatters](http://www.broward.org/watermatters) or call 954-519-1270.

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