

September 2019

IMPROVING STORMWATER POND QUALITY

There are over 10,000 stormwater ponds in Lee and Collier County, according to Dr. Serge Thomas, a professor in the Marine & Earth Sciences Division at FGCU. During a TedX talk, Dr. Thomas outlined the importance of these ponds, why they are in serious danger today, and what we can do to help them recover.

When these hydrosystems were added to community master plans in the 1980s, the role of these ponds was to collect and filter rainwater with an output that produced 80% clean water back into the aquifer. As development continued over the decades, the ponds became landscape features rather than natural wetland filters.

Consequently, with increased use of fertilizers, pesticides, and most recently – copper sulfate to destroy algae blooms – many ponds are now at -190% clean water. YES! Negative 190 percent!



Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

Water Quality Advisory



As the voice of REALTORS® in the Naples area, NABOR® has and will always advocate for action to reduce or eliminate any manmade or environmental threats to homeownership, property values and the living standards in Florida.

CELEBRATE A CLEAN WATER EVENT, OCT 5th

Oyster Reef Habitats built using broken NHL-hockey sticks by members of the Naples Area Board of REALTORS® (NABOR®) 2019 Leadership class will be secured to docks at several locations on the water off Bayshore Drive in Naples and celebrated with a public party at Celebration Park on **Saturday, October 5th from 3pm to 6pm.**

The reefs were assembled by Leadership class members from NABOR® and BEAR® in early September at the Florida Gulf Coast University-Vester Marine and Environmental Science Research Field Station in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Scheduled to speak at the October 5th reef installation event at Celebration Park are **Dr. Michael Parsons**, Professor of Marine Science, Director of the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station and is on the Blue Green Algae Task Force; Florida State Senate Majority Leader **Kathleen Passidomo** (District 28); and Florida House of Representatives **Byron Donalds** (District 80).

The Leadership class chose the oyster reef habitat project after its members voiced interest in doing a special project that would reduce algae blooms and improve the quality of our coastal ecology. NABOR® 2019 Leadership class candidate James Hinson said he approached members of the NABOR® Water Quality Task Force, including Corey McCloskey and Adam Vellano, who put him in contact with FGCU's Marine Science Division.

**NABOR®
RINK2REEFS
PARTY**

**Saturday
Oct. 5th
3pm - 6pm
Celebration Park
Register at
NABOR.com**

Rink2Reefs Installation Party...



(l-r) BEAR® Leadership and NABOR® Leadership candidates build oyster reefs on Sept 9th.



The 2019 NABOR® Leadership candidates show off their finished reefs made from hockey sticks.

The Rink2Reefs program uses otherwise useless broken hockey sticks to create habitats for oysters, sponges and other filter-feeding aquatic organisms that remove pollutants and excessive nutrients from local waterways. To date, the Rink2Reef Oyster Habitats Waterways Restoration Program has sparked more than 400 oyster restoration projects in coastal states.

Bring your friends or family for a fun evening as you show your support for projects that improve water quality by joining the Leadership Class of 2019 at Celebration Park off Bayshore Drive in South Naples on October 5th from 3pm to 6pm. [Register for the event at NABOR.com](https://www.nabor.com).

Stormwater Ponds...

As REALTORS®, you can encourage homeowners to remove grass at the edge of ponds and replace it with native plants to reduce chemical nutrient runoff and promote water quality for faster pond recovery.

Another solution is [Beemats](#), floating wetlands that feature an island of hydroponically grown native plants that sequester harmful nutrients. When mature plants on the Beemats are removed regularly, the captured nutrients are taken out of the lake. Over time, the pond's natural balance returns and mature plants can be replanted along pond edges.

When the City of Naples lost a battle to add an ordinance that would ban copper sulfate applications (it's regulated by the State of Florida), the city offered homeowners Beemats if they would agree not to apply copper sulfate to the ponds. Help us advocate for better stormwater pond quality by talking to developers and new homeowners about the benefits of natural pond plantings and floating wetlands. Watch Dr. Serge Thomas' TedX Talk, "Ponds of Southwest Florida: Ticking Time Bombs," on Youtube.



Naples Area Board of REALTORS®

CYANOBACTERIA EXPOSURE CAN HURT PETS

Reports of dogs getting sick or dying after swimming in ponds, lakes, and streams are more common during the summer months.

Dogs can be exposed to toxins by skin contact with water contaminated with cyanobacteria when swallowing water while playing in the water, or by licking it off fur or hair. If you suspect your dog has been exposed to a toxic algal bloom, please seek immediate veterinary care.

The EPA says don't let your dog drink or swim in water if:

- It's slimy or looks like foam, scum or mats on the surface;
- The color is weird; or
- It stinks.

RESOURCES

[CLEAN WATER EVENT - OCT 5th](#)

[Beemats](#)

[Calusa WaterKeeper](#)

[Captains for Clean Water](#)

[Collier County Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Daily Red Tide Reports](#)