



ECO ART TREASURE COAST SURGES FORWARD!

*“When we solve the problems of water,
we solve everything.” ~Betsy Damon*



Water is life: We know this yet we act as if this is not true in how we live, eat, and plan our cities and communities.

Water is the creative, connective tissue of all life. At birth you are 96% water and at death about 70% water. Your bones: 25 % water. Your brain: 85% water.

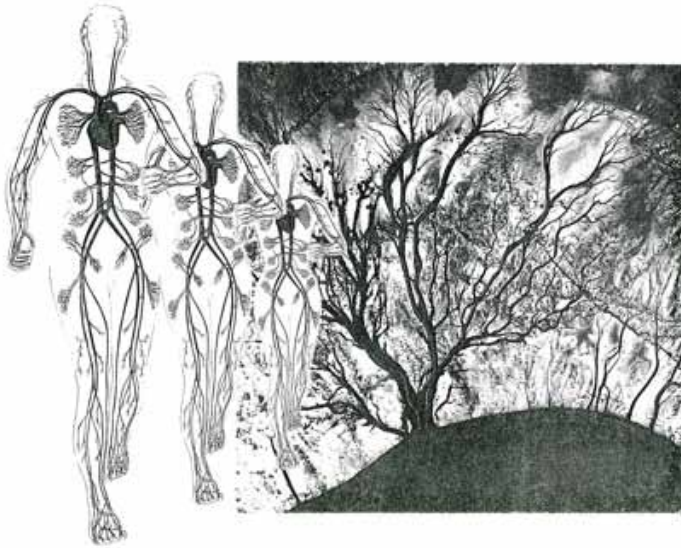
WATER: In order for life to flourish water must be treated as though it were alive because it is as alive as you and we are as alive as our waters. You must move to stay alive, you must breathe to be alive, you must consume pollution free food and drink. Water must move, it must breathe and it must be free of toxic substances or it cannot function for life.

When we restore our waters to their living functions, we solve many issues of food, energy and global warming. We provide people with the means to sustain themselves both personally and economically.

We know what is possible. Every piece of shoreline that is restored or preserved, every bit of storm water that is collected and treated, every yard that is converted to native species with the appropriate water use, or food production, is a victory. Our gray water can be used for nutrients in the yard. Every small water system will all inevitably lead to the reconnection of larger systems and the restoration of the biological strength and integrity of the local water system.

*“What is required is a profound
reversal in our perspective of our-
selves and the universe around us.”
- Thomas Berry*





AERIAL VIEW OF A RIVER SYSTEM



New Model/Old Model
Cooperation -vs- competition
Collaboration -vs- isolation
Connection -vs- fragmentation

When the public becomes educated they will expect and demand the larger systems become alive-reconnected, forever revitalizing the eco-systems in which they live.

“Thanks to technological ‘progress’, water, quintessential life-giving nutrient, has mutated into its opposite: the world’s waters are becoming even filthier and more poisonous. Industrial civilization has granted us the luxury of running water in our homes, though at the expense of its quality. The water that flows from our taps is by no means secure from contact with toxic compounds such as pesticides, herbicides, nitrates and nitrogenous fertilizers that seep into waterways and the water table from farmland and industrial areas. In the United States, the EPA officially regulates safety levels for only 60 substances, yet there are many hundreds of known pollutants.

Technology has bequeathed to us aseptic but impoverished water. The drinking water of the developed world may no longer be a vehicle of infection, but it is one of the factors that contributes most to the general weakening of our constitution, making us more vulnerable to chronic, even lethal long-term disease. Aluminium, chlorine and fluoride are often deliberately added to water; copper can be released from the plumbing it travels through; heavy metals like lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic are often present. Several of these substances are documented as being carcinogenic.” - Paolo Consigli



10 Things You Should Know (From the Circle of Blue Website)

- 1** – One drop of oil can make up to 25 liters (6.6 gallons) of water undrinkable.
- 2** – Seventy percent of the world’s water is used for agriculture, 22 percent for industry and 8 percent for domestic use.. High income countries use 30 percent of their water for agriculture, 59 percent for industry and 11 percent for domestic use.
- 3** – A person is able to survive one month without food but only five to seven days without water.
- 4** – Of all the Earth’s water, 97.5 percent is salt and 2.5 is fresh. Of that water, about 70 percent is locked in glacial ice and 30 percent in soil, leaving under 1 percent (.007 percent of the total water) readily accessible for human use.
- 5** – A water footprint, or virtual water, is the amount of water used in the entire production and/or growth of a specific product. For example, 1 kilogram (2.2 lbs) of beef has a water footprint of 16,000 liters (4,226.8 gallons); one sheet of paper has a water footprint of 10 liters (2.6 gallons); one cup of tea has a water footprint of 35 liters (9.2 gallons); and one microchip has a water footprint of 32 liters (8.5 gallons).
- 6** – It takes 94.5 to 189.3 liters of water (25 to 50 gallons) to take a five-minute shower; 7.6 to 26.5 liters (2-gallons) to flush a toilet; 7.6 liters (2 gallons) to brush one’s teeth; and 75.7 liters (20 gallons) to hand wash dishes.
- 7** – 6,000 children die each day from preventable water-related diseases.
- 8** – The population of the United States is approximately 304 million; the population of Europe is approximately 732.7 million; 1.1 billion people lack adequate drinking water access; and 2.6 billion people lack basic water sanitation.
- 9** – The average American uses about 575 liters of water (151.9 gallons) per day, with about 60 percent of that being used out-of-doors (watering lawns, washing cars, etc.). The average European uses 250 liters of water (66 gallons) per day. 1.1 billion people lack
- 10** – The average American uses 30.3 times more water than a person who lacks adequate water access; the average European uses 13.2 times more water than a person who lacks adequate water access.

EcoArt Treasure Coast is a collaboration between the Arts Council, Inc. and the South Florida Environmental Art Project. It is the first ever community ecoart education and ecoart apprenticeship in the State of Florida.. The project will serve as a model for the five watersheds in South Florida.

The project’s mentor is Betsy Damon, the founder and director of Keepers of the Waters.

The project’s key volunteers are:

Jesse Etelson
Christel Dussart
Jim Moir
David Vaina

The project’s apprentices are all long-time residents of the Treasure Coast. They are:

Cristina de la Vega
Brenda Leigh
Jennifer Sylvia
Mary Segal
Jamie Powell
Gail Kosowski

Our generous sponsors are:

Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
Saturn of Stuart
RAM Realty Services

PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS UNDER WAY

Florida Oceanographic Society

We will install habitats to remediate above and below the water. One is an island-like, free-floating habitat; two is a shoreline extension. The island with native plants will provide habitat and food for birds, insects, fish, macro-organisms and micro-organisms. The underside of the island will absorb excess nutrients that are harmful to many species.

The fence surrounding the area will illustrate the processes happening with the islands and shoreline extensions and the species living within.

Stormwater Treatments and Drainage Outflows

We will design functionally beautiful drainages and outflows to minimize the dangerous poisons that are killing our waters and sickening the species (including ourselves) that depend on it.

With natural materials--such as clay filters, coir and native plants specific to phytoremediation--we can create a natural system that restores habitat and preserves what is left of this fragile and unique ecosystem.

Audobon site in Four Rivers Palm City

This site is heavily invaded with non-native species such as Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine. We will help restore the site to its native environment by extracting invasive plants and replanting natives. We will also re-establish the shoreline that has been eroded by wave energy and removing the shallow, weak roots of the Australian Pine.

Our ultimate goal is to encourage the community to repair the fractured water system, to reconnect and revitalize every river, stream and aspects of the lagoon until it is established forever as a eco system for all species. We are happy to partner with every organization dedicated to water, food, species, air and energy. Ultimately, all this must be woven into a system that maintains health for the region, the state, the country and the world.

