



Welcome to Prospective Water Monitors

Thank you for your interest in the *Indian River Lagoon Watch* volunteer water quality monitoring program! When you join the *Indian River Lagoon Watch*, you also undertake a responsibility, not only for the testing equipment we supply, but also to participate in generating the data that is used to make so many management decisions on the future of the lagoon. We rely on our monitors to do sampling on a weekly basis for a minimum of one year and normally report their results on the MRC website, also weekly. You would be joining more than 90 other individuals who dedicate about an hour or so each week because they also love the Indian River Lagoon and want to see it, one day, restored to the way it once was, crystal clear and teeming with life.

Volunteering to become a water quality monitor involves an ongoing commitment. It is not for everyone. We have high expectations of our monitors. We train you to generate valid scientific data and provide you with the equipment to do so. It naturally means you become involved in the overall efforts of the organization and promote its values and mission. That is why we ask you to join us as a member of the MRC so you can be kept apprised of developments, get our regular newsletters and BE INVOLVED in the overall lagoon protection and restoration efforts of the organization. Please also note that the testing kits we give out to our monitors and which cost us over \$150 each remain the property of the Marine Resources Council.

Enclosed, you will find the following:

- An *Indian River Lagoon Watch* Fact Sheet
- A Water Quality Monitor Agreement
- An MRC Membership Application

Please read all these documents. If you would like to participate (and we hope you do), please fill out the forms and mail them back to us. Note that we ask you for your suggestion of a suitable site to monitor. This should be a location that is convenient and easily accessible to you at the time you select to do your testing, is safe and is not heavily disturbed by boat and other lagoon recreational activities (at least, when you are there). With your forms, please send a road map (or a copy of one) that shows with an "X" the spot you suggest along with a physical description or photo of the site. We strongly recommend a site close to where you live. Long weekly trips to the lagoon get tiresome quickly and the water should NOT be transported home to measure, as the dissolved oxygen and temperature results will always be wrong. (Please recognize, that we may already have a monitor near any site you select, so, in spite of your diligence in finding a site, you may be asked to monitor somewhere else. We shall try and keep any assigned site as convenient as possible and, of course, get your agreement on it.) **As a cost reduction measure and to enhance communication, please note that we now require all new monitors to have e-mail access either at home, work or via the local public library.** Please also let us know if you want to be placed on a waiting list if the entire area in which you have an interest is currently being monitored. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 321-504-4500. I generally work part-time Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Gerald Rosebery, Ph.D.
Chief Chemist
Water Quality Programs