



## *An Opportunity to Protect and Enhance Cape Coral's Aquatic Environment*

Canalwatch Volunteers Beryl and Prudy McGuire enjoy their waterfront on Meadowview Lake.



### Cape Coral's Canalwatch Volunteer Program

Cape Coral's 400-mile canal system is a definitive feature of our City and one of our most vital economic assets. Our canals offer residents waterfront living and recreation. The canals also protect our homes from floods, enhance property values, supply us with irrigation water and attract wildlife to our City. Cape Coral's citizens recognize the canal system's impact on their quality of life and are highly protective of our aquatic assets. This protective attitude is our canal network's first line of defense against pollution. Calls from alert residents are usually the first indication of a canal-related problem. Our citizens' concern for their canals has led to the formation of the Cape Coral Canalwatch Volunteer program.

The Canalwatch program is a proactive component of the City's canal management effort. Canalwatch volunteers act as sentinels for any emerging problems in the canal system. Each month, volunteers collect environmental data and water samples throughout our City. The samples and data are then brought to Cape Coral's water quality laboratory for analysis. This volunteer monitoring process effectively screens large portions of our City for potential canal problems.

Canalwatch volunteers are not limited to sampling and data collection. Volunteers determine their own level of participation. Many volunteers act as observers and only contact the city if a problem arises. Other Canalwatch team members organize shoreline clean-ups in their neighborhoods. Some volunteers have created fish and wildlife habitat by reintroducing native wetland plants to their waterfronts. People who join the Canalwatch program benefit both the resource and themselves. Canalwatch volunteers develop analytical and hands-on skills that enhance their understanding and enjoyment of Cape Coral's canal system.

The Canalwatch program subscribes to the strength-in-numbers philosophy. Additional volunteers are always welcome to enhance this cooperative effort. Anyone who would like to become a Canalwatch volunteer or has questions concerning Cape Coral's aquatic resources may call 574-0745 or 574-0746. You may also print the form below and send it in to the listed address.

## Canalwatch Volunteer Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any of the following activities that might interest you:

Receive Newsletter       Neighborhood Representative       Adopt-A-Canal

Water Sampling / Data Collection       Shoreline Clean-ups / Exotic Removal

*Please mail this completed form to:*

*Canalwatch  
City of Cape Coral*

*Environmental Resources Division*

*P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027*