

Keep this poster
and remember that
it is up to all of us.



Audubon FLORIDA

Audubon Florida has fought to protect Florida's water, wetlands, and wildlife for over 100 years.

Everglades – Audubon helped pass and implement the Everglades Restoration Plan, restoring freshwater flows and making the sugar industry do more to clean up their pollution.

Wetlands – Audubon fought to establish and defend Florida's wetlands laws so that the swamps and marshes can be safe for wading birds and keep our water clean.

Springs – Audubon won improvements in state law to require enforcement against practices that pollute springs and other waterways.

Coastal Waters – Audubon works with local allies to control upstream discharges of polluted water that harm coastal waters.

Help us do more to end Florida's water crisis.

Please visit www.GivetoAudubonFlorida.org right now.

For more information, please call
Vicky Johnston at 305-371-6396.

What caused Florida's water crisis?



How you can help.



Ten Things You Can Do to Help Coastal Water Quality

Dear Friends,

What caused the brown algae that killed thousands of fish and birds in our coastal waters? The green slime in our springs? The crisis in our coastal waters is decades in the making while politicians promised less regulation and cut budgets.

The threats are not new. The greatest sources of pollution – fertilizers and human wastewater – can be cleaned up if we all work together on practical solutions. It won't be easy or cheap, but the alternative is losing our springs and coastal waters.

Audubon's coastal water quality campaign will get local and state officials to do more. But we need your help, and good water advocacy is not free.

Renew your support at www.GivetoAudubonFlorida.org or mail a gift.



Fertilizer Use

Rain and irrigation wash fertilizers off farm fields and yards into creeks and groundwater. **Limit lawn fertilizer and insist on strong laws limiting fertilizer use.**



Sewage

Septic tanks and sewer systems are a huge source of nutrient pollution. In Florida's sandy coastal soils, nitrogen goes directly into groundwater. Treated sewage used for watering lawns and sewage sludge spread on fields puts huge amounts of pollution to coastal waters. **Hook up to central sewer. Do not use reclaimed wastewater. Ban land disposal of sewage sludge.**



Stormwater

Ditching and draining wetlands for development and flood control flushes stormwater into coastal waters. **Support local stormwater treatment utility fees.**



Landscaping

Lawns and landscaping can be designed to prevent rather than add water pollution. **Plant native plants that require little water and limit fertilizer use.**



Citizen Science

Informed citizens are the best protection against indifferent policy-makers. **Know native ecosystems and how they function. Learn where your water comes from and where it goes when it leaves your home.**



Pollution

Air pollution from cars and power plants accounts for up to 25% of nitrogen water pollution. **Drive a fuel efficient car, conserve energy, and support solar.**



Manage Growth

Conversion of natural areas to development is the major cause of damage to waterways. **Live in existing and redeveloped neighborhoods.**



Preserve Natural Areas.

Undeveloped and undrained land causes no pollution and no stormwater. **Support Florida Forever and other programs to preserve green spaces to prevent development.**



Protect Wetlands

Swamps and floodplains retain floodwaters and filter pollution. **Oppose wetlands destruction, support a strong Clean Water Act, and fight efforts to weaken wetlands protection laws.**



Money For Watershed Restoration

The Governor and Legislature cut water management budgets by 1/3 - restoration projects were canceled. Amendment 1 approved by 75% of Florida voters is only partly implemented. **Insist on adequate funds for water management districts and local governments to control pollution from fertilizers, wastewater, and stormwater.**

These ten things will truly help to solve the problem. But they are not enough. Audubon must mobilize citizens to work with our staff advocates to persuade the Governor and legislators to do a better job of protecting our coastal waters and spend Amendment 1 the way voters approved.

Do these ten things and make a generous contribution to Audubon Florida's coastal water quality campaign. Together we can end this crisis.

Thank you.

Eric Draper
Executive Director