

Florida Keys Water Watch currently has **71 sites & more than 525 water quality data entries** into the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Water Quality Database!!!

Wow! Great job volunteers! The University of Florida IFAS Monroe County Extension thanks you for your dedication monitoring water quality in the Florida Keys!

Updates

In 2017, we will be working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in Tallahassee on a study to validate volunteer collected data.

The goal is for volunteer data to be uploaded into the EPA STORET Database (Storage & Retrieval and Water Quality Exchange) where it can be used by resource managers. I shall keep you updated as we move forward.

Annual Recertification

Volunteers must be recertified annually. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream sends email reminders. Contact Shelly and she will come to your site, replace your reagents and calibrate or replace your pH meter.

If you no longer want to be a Florida Keys Water Watch volunteer, call Shelly and she will pick up your equipment to give to another group.

shellykrueger@ufl.edu

305-292-4501



What is Water Quality? Water quality is the measure of the conditions of a body of water, relative to the needs of the species that reside in & around it. Humans need good water quality for swimming, fishing & recreation.

Fish, birds & marine life need good water quality to live & reproduce. For the Florida Keys waters to be clean & clear we must reduce the nutrients, pollutants & sediments from entering surface waters



where they degrade water quality. Good water quality comes from controlling pollution from two sources: point source & nonpoint source pollution.

Since the Clean Water Act of 1972, the United States has done a great job controlling point source pollution. The type of pollution that is more difficult to control is called non-point source pollution, which carries pollution into waterways from the land every time it rains. Non-point source pollution comes from fertilizers, pesticides, sediments, animal & human waste, petroleum products, & other pollutants, like heavy metals, that come from places we can't pinpoint to a single source. These pollutants arise from many sources, including yards, roadways, parking lots, boats, & improper disposal of household chemicals --- reducing this type of pollution is up to you! We like to encourage people to think of their canals like a swimming pool – if you wouldn't put it in your pool, DON'T put it in the water!