



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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www.sfwmd.gov/news

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Stars Illuminate Public Lands for Astronomy Night

DuPuis Management Area at the Martin/Palm Beach county line hosts stargazing event



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: Removed from the bright lights of urban South Florida, the expansive DuPuis Management Area in western Martin and Palm Beach counties is an ideal spot for exploring the night sky.

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide recreational opportunities on public lands, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is partnering with Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies (CES) to host a galactic tour of the Milky Way. The CES's Chris Stephan, an amateur astronomer for more than 30 years, will guide the tour.

Telescopes will be set up for observations at the free event. Visitors may bring their own telescopes. The event is another in a free Nature Lecture Series sponsored by the District and the CES at DuPuis.

The DuPuis Management Area is a 22,000-acre natural area open to public recreation throughout the year. The area was part of the historic Everglades and features an ecologically diverse and significant vegetative community.

The South Florida Water Management District is steadily increasing recreational access to public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District owns 621,000 acres of land that are open to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails. For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 2011

TIME: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

WHERE: DuPuis Management Area
23500 S.W. Kanner Highway
Canal Point, FL 33438

The Visitor Center entrance is located at Gate 5 on State Road 76 in Martin County, two miles east of Port Mayaca or seven miles west of the intersection with State Road 710.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.