



“Spring” Into Action Contest

September is a month-long celebration of Marion County’s springs. Join in the fun early and, at the same time, do something good for our springs.

Contest Guidelines

- ◆ Submission categories:
 - **Home Landscape** – for individuals and families. Suggestions for projects include installing a rain barrel, rain garden or planting native trees and shrubs.
 - **Community** – For youth groups, clubs, neighborhood associations, etc. Suggestions for projects include organizing a neighborhood cleanup, installing native or Florida-friendly plants in public areas.
- ◆ Projects must be completed between August 2009 and August 2010.
- ◆ You may enter more than one project or combine projects into one entry.
- ◆ Project must be completely or partially within Marion County.
- ◆ Judging is based on: impact to the community and springs, appropriateness and creativity/originality.

You will need to submit the following documentation with your entry:

1. Description of project and description of activities conducted.
2. Project location, including full physical address.
3. Photos of project, up to a maximum of five (5).

All qualifying entries will receive a “Friend of the Springs” certificate and will be listed on the Marion County Springs Festival’s Web site. A Grand Prize of \$200 will be awarded in each category. Additional runner-up prizes will also be awarded.

Winning projects will be announced on September 25, between 4pm-8pm, at the Downtown Ocala Square. Winners will also be posted on the Web site.

Visit www.springsfest.org for additional information about this contest or for more project ideas and resources.



“Spring Into Action” Contest Entry Form

Name (Individual or Organization): _____

Project Start Date: _____ Project End Date: _____

Project Location: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please provide a brief description of the project:

By submitting an entry and completing this application form, all entrants acknowledge that all work submitted for consideration was done in compliance with local codes and ordinances and that no criminal and/or copyright laws were infringed in the production of their entry(ies). Entrants grant Marion County Springs Festival and its authorized agents a non-exclusive license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, and/or publicly display or distribute their work or its likeness on any media outlet without present or future compensation.

Send entry submission by **August 15, 2010** to:

Taryn Evans
15620 SE 150th Ave.
Weirsdale, FL 32195

Entry information and documentation may also be sent via e-mail to terevas@comcast.net. Type “Springsfest” in subject area of e-mail.



“Spring” Into Action Contest Project Ideas and Resources

Project Ideas – Home Landscape

- Help reduce potable water consumption in the landscape by installing a rain barrel or cistern.

<http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>

<http://www.harvesth2o.com/faq.shtml>

- Help reduce stormwater pollution by building a rain garden.

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/raingarden.htm>

<http://www.lowimpactliving.com/blog/2008/04/14/how-to-build-a-rain-garden/>

<http://www.raingardennetwork.com/>

<http://www.rainkc.com/>

- Make your yard more Florida-friendly.

<http://www.floridayards.org/>

- Retrofit your irrigation system for more efficient use of water.

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/floridawaterstar/irrigation.html>

- Reduce turf and make your yard a real Florida wildlife habitat by planting native plants, shrubs and trees.

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/gettingstarted.php>

http://www.fufc.org/tree_facts.html

<http://www.nsis.org/>

<http://www.gimmegreen.com/updates/seeGG.htm>

- Combine a number of the above projects for greater effect.

<http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/fhlc/FHtour.shtml>

- More resources to explore:

<http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/>

<http://floridaswater.com/education/activities.html>

http://www.werf.org/livablecommunities/who_homeowner.htm

http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Utilities/Services_WaterConservation.aspx

http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Transportation/Transportation_Stormwater_Home.aspx

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage/default.htm>

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/>

Project Ideas – Community

- Organize a neighborhood cleanup.
- Participate in the planned cleanup (i.e. river cleanup) of another organization.
- Install native or Florida-friendly plants in public areas.
<http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/gettingstarted.php>
- Conduct irrigation audits of local businesses and government offices and offer recommendations on how to water their landscape better.
<http://floridaswater.com/education/activities.html>
- Paint a mural in public space depicting Springs-friendly concepts.
- Organize a mini neighborhood rain garden program similar to Kansas City's "10,000 Rain Gardens" program, with signage.
<http://www.rainkc.com/>
- Explore the possibility of planting retention pond areas.
- Have your organization host a showing of the short film, "*Gimme Green*". Have motivated audience members sign a pledge to reduce turf and make their yards more Florida-friendly.
<http://www.gimmegreen.com/updates/seeGG.htm>
- Use your imagination and come up with more ideas to help our local springs.

Please keep in mind that Florida law now permits the use of Florida-friendly yard principles even in communities that are deed-restricted or have strict Home Owner's Association rules and regulations. Work with your HOA for a plan that meets your needs and theirs. For any other questions concerning a home landscape project you can call Kathleen Patterson, Marion County's Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program Coordinator, at (352) 671-8400. Web site:

<http://www.marioncountyfl.org/CountyExtension/floridayards.aspx>

For information on community projects and volunteer opportunities, please contact Ellie Falbo, Marion County Coordinator – St. Johns River Water Management District Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Program at 352-304-6324, e-mail WAVMarion@sjrwmd.com or visit www.floridaswater.com/wav