

ECA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,  
2009

January 16,

Please plan to attend this year's General Membership Meeting of your Estuary Conservation Association (ECA) on Monday, February 16, 2009 at 7 PM in Claussen Hall of the St. John the Evangelist Church.

This past year, our attention has been directed to a number of serious environmental concerns. Some of them are historic and some new; but all, if left unaddressed, would worsen the health of our estuarial environment. **Our concerns continue** to include water quality, beach refurbishment and deterioration of flora and fauna that are dependent on Wiggins Pass and its estuarial waters. Many of these concerns are directly influenced by Wiggins Pass itself. We must continue to focus our collective attention on developing a community wide plan and an implementation strategy for the Pass.

It is apparent that this is the time for all of us to act as one and develop conclusive scientific and technical information about what is going wrong with the Wiggins Eco System and why. Even more important is to understand what can be safely done to renew and maintain its health and ensure the quality of life we enjoy. Considerable progress has been made toward these ends. They include partnering with the Collier County Office of Coastal Zone Management to undertake a state of the art water quality monitoring program and a shell fish shoal development program. Both will be presented at this year's meeting. We are also proud of having initiated a community workshop to study and recommend more innovative and effective measures to address beach and channel erosion. This ECA initiative has been adopted and is now an official County activity of which ECA is a major player.

This is the third anniversary of our unique Estuary Guardian Fellowship Program. A report on this program will again be a part of our Annual Report to the members. It is through this Fellowship Program that we will seek to accomplish many of our goals.

Please make every effort to attend this important and informative meeting! Bring a friend and invite them to join the ECA. We will list our accomplishments and share our plans for the future in which you should be a part. A slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors will be presented and elections held. It is very important that you vote. There is a ballot and proxy in this envelop, either one of which you may use to cast your vote should you not be able to attend in person.

Joseph A. Moreland, President

Estuary Conservation Association