



**Johnson Education Center
HBOI-FAU, Fort Pierce, Florida**

Friday, February 10, 2017 – *Engaging the Public: An Estuary in Peril*

The focus of this year's public forum for the Indian River Lagoon Symposium centers on its theme of *An Estuary in Peril*: how all of us are impacted by recent algal blooms and how citizens can participate in scientific research and restoration in the Lagoon. In addition to two panel discussions, a number of organizations involved with citizen science will be on hand to meet with the public on the work they do and the opportunity for the public to become more involved.

0845 - 0900 Registration and Coffee & Tea

0900 - 0930 Informal Dialogue with Representatives from Various IRL Organizations

0930 - 1030 Panel 1: *Stories from the Front Lines*

Moderators: Deborah Drum & Dianne Hughes, Martin County Engineering Department, Stuart, FL

Panelists: Melissa Martin, Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, Cocoa, FL; David Lane, A1A Beach Rentals, Cape Canaveral, FL; Carl Frost, Kai-Kai Farm, Indiantown; Mary Radabaugh, Central Marine, Stuart, FL

In this session you will hear from speakers who are agriculturists, business owners, citizen scientists, or other stakeholders who will share their experiences from the southern IRL blue-green algae blooms from last summer, the fish kill in the northern IRL, or how they have personally succeeded in improving water quality in their own area of influence. We believe these stories of successes and failures can help to inform scientists and managers on where to focus research, monitoring, and construction projects.

1030 - 1100 Break & Informal Dialogue with Representatives from Various IRL Organizations

1100 - 1200 Panel 2: *Citizen Science in the Indian River Lagoon*

Moderator: Kelli Hunsucker, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL

Panelists: Sammy Anderson, Brevard Zoo, Melbourne, FL; Vincent Encomio, Florida Oceanographic Society, Stuart, FL; Leesa Souto, Marine Resources Council, Palm Bay, FL; Chad Truxall, Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach, FL

In this session you will learn how the public can participate in scientific research on the Lagoon. Join in a panel discussion with a cross-section of scientists and educators working in the Lagoon and find out what opportunities exist to contribute to various research projects and some of the outcomes of these efforts.

1200 - 1300 Informal Dialogue with Representatives from Various IRL Organizations