



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Stars Shine on Public Lands

Residents are welcome to stargaze at the expansive DuPuis Management Area

WHAT: Far 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 to host a two-hour stargazing event at DuPuis.

"Starry Nights" is part of the celebration of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. The event is free, and telescopes will be provided for visitors to take a visual tour of the Milky Way.

"Starry Nights" is the latest event in the DuPuis Management Area Nature Lecture Series, sponsored by the District and coordinated by the Center for Environmental Studies. Past events in the series have included a hike on DuPuis' new boardwalk and a presentation about butterfly gardening with native plants.

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 District is committed to increasing recreational access to District lands, while continuing to manage them effectively to meet its environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. For more information on recreational opportunities, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

WHEN: **Friday, January 23, 2009.** The rain date for this event is Saturday, January 24, 2009.

TIME: **6 - 8 p.m.**

WHERE: DuPuis Management Area
23500 SW Kanner Highway
Canal Point, FL 33438

All events in the DuPuis Management Area Nature Lecture Series are based at the Visitors' Center entrance at Gate 5. The entrance is located on State Road 76 in Martin County, 2 miles east of Port Mayaca or 7 miles west of the intersection with State Road 710.

CONTACT: For more information on this event or to sign up, please call (800) 432-2045, Ext. 3339.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

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.