



Save the Manatee® Club

The Voice for Manatees Since 1981

Dear Fellow Springs Advocates,

Save the Manatee Club, with support and funding from the Protect Florida Springs Grant Program, is excited to announce the release of an educational program geared towards spring conservation. We would like to invite you to use this curriculum - which is available online free of charge - in your classroom or community.

The course is designed for high school and undergraduate students, but should nevertheless have broad appeal to younger students and adults as well. The program is a course of seven modules, designed to inform students and to promote critical thinking. The lessons can be used together as a unit, or individually. Each module is delivered as a PowerPoint with visual and audial components. Each slide contains informative graphics and photographs, and is accompanied by a voiceover narrative that provides detailed information on each topic. The course introduces the audience to aquifers, springs, and springsheds, by discussing their importance to the Florida water supply and describing impacts from development, pollution, and groundwater pumping. The modules also present information on ecosystem services and water conservation. The program serves as a primer on Florida water policy, and helps young people develop the skills needed to participate in public policy as engaged citizens. All of the lessons encourage students to apply what they have learned to their local waterways and to share their newfound knowledge with their families and communities. The lessons are in line with the Next Generation Sunshine State and Common Core educational standards.

The ultimate goal of the program is to promote effective springs management and conservation. We believe this program will facilitate a deeper understanding of springs systems and will stimulate a new appreciation for the critical role the environment plays in human society. Kindling a passion for the environment in the hearts of Florida's citizens is the only sure way to motivate Floridians to protect springs, and we hope to spark that enthusiasm through our education program.

Save the Manatee Club would like to thank you for your time, and we hope that you decide to use these educational modules in your classroom or community. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program, please contact conservation staff member Anne Harvey at aharvey@savethemanatee.org. We would also welcome any feedback you may have regarding the success of the modules and their reception from your students or community.

Sincerely,

Anne Harvey
Conservation Staff
Save the Manatee Club