



# Environmental Program Branch Holiday Edition

Volume 1, Issue 3

12/30/05

## Want to Get KSC A Christmas Present? Why not give your trash!

### Inside this issue:

KSC Recycles!	1
Chief's Corner	2
NPDES	2
Remedial Cleanup	2
Ask EPB: Brazilian Pepper	3
Other article	3



### EPB Trivia

What was the largest number of manatee counted in KSC waters (from Barge Canal up to VAB Turn Basin)?

Go to page 3 for the answer!

Well maybe not ALL of your trash. But at least your aluminum cans and cardboard boxes! KSC implemented an aluminum can recycle pilot program on November 15, 2005 which will end on February 28, 2006. The pilot program will focus on the Headquarters and O&C Buildings only. Each facility has three containers placed on floors one through three at the east, central and west end of the building and another container is located at the entrance of each cafeteria.

When the containers are full, Yang janitorial employees will remove the bags from the cardboard recycling boxes and drop



the bag into the large red cages provided outside of each facility.

Keep in mind that this is a pilot program and the containers provided are all that are available at this

time. As a reminder once you place your cans into the KSC provided container, they become government property and cannot be removed from the containers.

KSC has expanded the cardboard recycling program as of November 15, 2005. Fifteen new royal blue containers have been added to the program and can easily be identified by the large white lettering "cardboard recycling" stenciled on all sides of the container.

As a reference, please place only cardboard, magazines, catalogs, notepads, spiral bound notebooks, booklets, brochures and newspapers the cardboard in the recycling bins, no exceptions; these bins can be found at various locations around the Center.

**Note:** As a reminder, you are responsible for getting the items into the

new cardboard containers. The janitorial staff is only responsible for small copier size boxes all other recycled commodities are the responsibility of each and every employee to properly dispose of into the correct recycling re-



ceptacle. If you require another desktop container to store these commodities please Alice.F.Smith@nasa.gov.



## Chief's Corner

It's that time of year again; time for New Year's resolutions. Aside from those we regularly make (and break) – lose weight, kick our bad habits, and generally become better people – it's also time to forecast our work priorities for the new year. We can't just rest on our laurels. Have you tried resting on laurels? It smarts! Your But I digress. So what's in store for the KSC Environmental Program in 2006? We will have a major role in the transition of the Shuttle Program and the birth of the next generation of space travel. We'll play a lead role in

developing historical criteria that will be used across the Agency to designate historical property associated with the Shuttle Program. We will also have a major role in the required environmental assessment of impacts from the next generation of space flight vehicles. Also, in order to help the Center support our current and future



missions we continue to assure environmental compliance in all the facility demolition and construction activities, expand our recycling program, and expediting cleanup of historically contaminated sites. The challenges in the new year abound but so do the opportunities and who better than KSC to lead the way.

## NPDES...not just another acronym!

To minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff on waterbodies, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) enforces the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which requires that all construction sites that disturb greater than 1 acre of land must obtain a NPDES stormwater permit. KSC Projects affected under the NPDES permit range from the construction of buildings to the installation of underground utility lines.

The NPDES permit requires the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention techniques to minimize erosion and sedimentation and properly manage stormwater. The permit also requires that inspections be performed to document activities and conditions at the site and to ensure that the controls are being adequately maintained. Once the project is completed and the site is stabilized with sod or grass, the permit can be terminated.

Construction projects at KSC are periodically inspected by FDEP for compliance with the NPDES permit and can face fines and penalties for each day a violation has occurred. To date, all KSC sites have been found to be in compliance when inspected by FDEP.

For more information on the NPDES program, visit the FDEP website at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/npdes/construction1.htm>

## Cleanup at Ransom Road Recycling Reutilization Marketing Facility

**Looking to the Future:** Many improvements to operations at the RRMF have been implemented in recent years to promote responsible management of materials with potential environmental impacts. Example materials include transformers, scrap metal and oil-filled equipment. Policies and procedures are now in place for proper management of these equipment and materials, even before they are received at the RRMF.



Happy Holidays from the EPB!

**Correcting the Past:** To address past releases of hazardous materials, the environmental program branch will remediate approximately 1,550 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil (up to 15 feet deep), and approximately 2,200 cubic yards of solvent-contaminated soil (up to 16 feet deep)

from two areas at the RRMF where PCB-containing transformers and hazardous materials were handled. In addition, affected groundwater will be treated by a combination of technologies involving extraction, air stripping, filtering, in-situ chemical oxidation and long-term monitored natural attenuation. Institutional controls will also be implemented to prevent access to contaminated soil and groundwater until remediation goals are met.

## EPB Answers YOUR Questions!

I am worried about something I saw along the road the other day. I swear I wasn't drinking (yet)...but I believe I saw a Bald Eagle eating "road kill"? Is that possible? I thought Bald Eagles were predators? Are they getting lazy and eating road kill? It is kind of sad to think that our National Symbol eats along side buzzard.

Don't fear, what you saw was an Eagle eating road kill. Eagles, like most predators are opportunistic. If they see an easy meal they will take advantage of it. Just like humans...why do you think fast food joints are so popular?

## WHAT THE HECK.....



### Trivia Answer

April '03: 580 Adults,  
74 Calves  
Total: 654 animals



## Ask EPB: Brazilian Pepper

**Why are so many nice trees and bushes along the Causeways and roadways being cut down? Why do some of them look dead? Is there a disease spreading?**

Great question! First, the trees along the Causeways and roadways that have been cut down, or show signs of being dead (brown) or dying (no leaves), are Brazilian Pepper trees. NASA along with the Fish and Wildlife Office are on a mission to eradicate this invasive plant. There are several methods used to kill Brazilian pepper, but the most effective method is to cut it down, then treat the stumps with an herbicide that is absorbed into the trunk and kills the roots.

**Why do we care about eradicating the pepper?**

**Brazilian pepper-tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)** is one of the most aggressive of the invasive nonindigenous plants in Florida. It is invading aquatic and terrestrial habitats, greatly reducing the quality of native biotic communities in the state. Brazilian pepper is from South America, and was introduced as an ornamental in the mid 1800s. It has spreaded throughout much of the peninsula invading mangrove swamps, pine forests, abandoned farm land, hardwood hammocks, roadsides, and canal banks to form dense thickets that completely shade out other plants. Some populations of endangered plants have been depleted by Brazilian pepper. This tree, although not cold-hardy, occurs as far north as St. Augustine on the Atlantic coast and Cedar Key on the Gulf coast of Florida.

### WARNING!

Like poison ivy, Brazilian pepper is a member of the Anacardiaceae family. Contact with most parts of Brazilian pepper can cause an itchy skin rash and sometimes inflammation and swelling of the face and eyes. The flowers and fruits can cause respiratory irritation. Just trimming, can cause allergic reactions in many people. Ingestion of the berries causes vomiting. Interestingly, birds do not seem to be effected and even forage on these berries as they migrate through the state. Unfortunately, this has helped spread this plant and slowed eradication efforts.



Possession and cultivation of Brazilian pepper is illegal in Florida where the species is listed on the state's official Noxious Weeds List.