



Volume 4, July 2011

A Word from Our President...

Dear Members,

As I am sure you can all agree, we enjoyed an absolutely fantastic spring! As the weather is heating up, so are all of the activities on Pleasure Island. With an offering of free musical events, fund raising activities, the farmer's market, to name a few, our Environmental Committee and other members will be very busy! Many Island Women members are involved in various charitable organizations and other groups and organizations with which to share and enjoy their special and fun interests. We are always happy to learn of opportunities in which Island Women members can become involved. Barbara Bach brought an opportunity to us. I am happy to inform you that we are now involved with Adopt-A-Highway. This means that four times per year IW members will be asked to participate in cleaning up a section of 421 down by Ft. Fisher.

Some of our challenges are small like Adopt-A-Highway, and others are quite challenging, like those challenges facing the Environmental Committee. But as usual, our Island Women members are up to the task. We always welcome members, especially those who have not yet volunteered their time, knowledge and skills to feel free to contact any of the Island Women members to learn of the volunteer opportunities available. Our volunteer members have enjoyed comradeship, developed friendships and a sense of fulfillment and gratification while improving life on Pleasure Island. I am forever grateful for the friendships I am developing and the opportunities to give back to the community.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Island Women meeting. They are always held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:45 a.m. at Harbor Masters Restaurant on Pleasure Island. The meetings end promptly by 9:00 a.m. Hope to see you soon!

Best regards,

Carol Konicki
President



ZZZZZZZZZZ..... Mosquitoes!

Summer... not only does it bring out sunscreen, beach chairs and coolers, it brings out mosquitoes. New Hanover County has a Vector Control Department that monitors the mosquito populations in designated areas. They set out little green traps along our roadways and when those traps contain a high amount of the pesky critters in a short amount of time, they come around in white pick-up trucks spraying a pesticide called Permethrin.

There is a vector control map that is available to the public on-line and can be accessed through the Vector Control Services website at <http://www.nhcgov.com/Health/enviro-health/mosquito-vector/Pages/vector-control-svcs.aspx>. Simply click on the Mosquito Spray Schedule and a map is



supposed to be updated daily when they are spraying. Vector Control comes out at dusk and sprays a designated community. That is the only notification the county is required to give the public regarding the spraying.

If you are chemically sensitive or have asthma, you may call Vector Control Services at (910) 798-6667 and ask to be put on a notification list. The technician will then call you the day of a scheduled spray in your neighborhood. In addition, you may request that they do not spray in front of your property. However, if you are out and about with the windows down in your car, you may need to be aware of them spraying in certain areas. If you are out in the evening, walking and enjoying the cooler part of the day, Vector Control will not reroute and does not turn off spraying.

The MSDS sheet on Permethrin and the EPA say, "Pyrethroids, such as permethrin, can be used for public health mosquito control programs without posing unreasonable risks to human health when applied according to the label. Pyrethroids are considered to pose slight risks of acute toxicity to humans, but at high doses, pyrethroids can affect the nervous system." Studies are showing lower doses can cause as many issues as higher doses. Testing is almost always done on higher doses and it is how it gets its toxicity ranking.

If you or your child has asthma, your lungs may be overly sensitive to the chemical. Or, if you have any neurological disorder or have been on chemotherapy and have neuropathy, you may be more sensitive to the effects of Permethrin. The EPA has now put Permethrin on a list of potential endocrine disruptors, which means, this chemical may mimic hormones in humans. This may be potentially damaging to children. Pyrethroids are highly toxic to fish and bees. The EPA claims pyrethroids are "practically" non-toxic to birds. Pyrethroids break down rapidly in heat and sunlight so they have added a chemical called piperonyl butoxide (PBO) to make them last longer in the environment. It is an inert synergist ingredient and the EPA does not require it to be reported.

PBO is a cholinesterase inhibitor that interferes with enzymes called P450s. The job of P450s is to break down toxins in the body. When they are inhibited it increases the toxicity in the body of other toxins, including mercury. Mercury is emitted in almost every community by coal fired power plants and other manufacturing processes.

So, what can we do to reduce having to have our neighborhoods sprayed? As a homeowner, take good preventative measures to reduce the amount of mosquitoes in your area. Do not allow for water to stand. If you have corrugated drains from downspouts that are exposed, cover them with a fine mesh to keep mosquitoes out. Use your lawn watering system as infrequently as possible. Mosquitoes love sprinkler heads. And if you have pots and other containers that have any water, take measure to help them drain. It only takes a thimble full of water to make a mosquito very happy.

The Environmental Committee of Island Women urges you to become savvy and wise consumers. It is important to remember when using over-the-counter products; it is your responsibility to understand the implications of using that product. A 30 second commercial makes using chemicals look quick and easy, but they are not required to show the environmental impact of the product. Their job is to sell you something. The EPA does not require warnings to be given during a commercial, as the FDA requires of drugs, yet, many pesticides have drug-like reactions on the body. You, as a consumer have the ability to make a decision as to what you put into our environment. In an aquatic environment, we have lots of other "neighbors" to consider, so please use chemicals with caution.

Now get out and play!

Bev Veals

Co-Chair of the Environmental Committee



Summer Has Come and Bought a Season's Pass!

It is that wonderful time on the island again. The Environmental Committee of Island Women is especially excited this year to welcome in the summer. At events over the past few months, the public, in general, is becoming more and more receptive to recycling. And disposing of their cigarette butts in provided receptacles at events (clay pots filled with sand and very cost efficient!). Our community leaders are becoming more aware of how beneficial it can be.

It is important to remember what can and cannot be recycled. The county now accepts the following:

- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Glass
- Food & Beverage Bottles
- Aluminum Cans
- Plastic containers # 1 through # 7 (no plastic bags or styrofoam please) prefer 3 gallon containers or smaller
- Mixed Paper (magazines, white paper, colored paper, computer paper, file folders, brochures, catalogues, magazines, phone books, paperback books, paper bags, junk mail, drink boxes, cereal & food boxes)
- Rechargeable Household Batteries

One question that keeps coming up is, "Why do I have to pay for recycling?" Recycling is a business and operating expenses can be very unpredictable, especially with the cost of fuel. But when we recycle, the money comes back to the county and helps save taxpayers overall. That is why it is especially important that we provide recycling opportunities for our guests. They can come here, enjoy the amenities and then contribute to the area's tax base, which can then be used to help further the recycling program, help keep roads in good shape for them to travel on, or help pay for personnel to keep them safe while they are visiting.

Also, please keep in mind, that when you put your recycling out, it is best to clean the containers as best you can. One problem that may arise if you don't clean containers is the attraction of unwanted pests. Food particles attract ants and roaches, which do include our famed palmetto bugs. Then, we complicate the workings of our environment when we have to spray pesticides to rid ourselves of these pests. If you keep your materials as clean as you can and clean your bins and areas around them regularly, you reduce the need for chemicals that complicate the natural cycles in our aquatic environment. You may also use methods to combat pests such as boric acid or diatomaceous earth. Both, if used properly, can help keep the pest problem down. It will not eliminate the problem completely, as nor will any pesticide. But if you take a little time to monitor the environment you provide for our friends, you can help control it without chemicals.

Bev Veals
Co-Chair of the Environmental Committee



Island Women Business

The Island Women in Business group has been meeting monthly. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month and currently our meeting time is 6:30pm. We've tried different times this last quarter, 7:00pm, 5:00pm and 6:30pm. The 6:30 slot seems to be the best. We have also been adding more social time to our agenda and during the summer we are having "networking" socials. Last month's topic was social media, this month's topic is advertising but since this month's meeting is a joint Island Women, Island Women in Business meeting, I bet there will be more social and not much talking about advertising. This quarter we also had someone from the Social Security commission speak to our group about Social Security. The meeting was very informative. Please join us for future meetings. For more information, email Claire.cates@sas.com, or check us out on our Island Women in Business Facebook page.

Claire Cates



Island Women are twice honored!

In April Island Women was invited to attend the Carolina Beach Town Council Meeting. There we were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of our work done for Christmas by the Sea this past holiday season from the Boardwalk Makeover Group.

Then at our June meeting we were presented with a very generous acknowledgement from the Pleasure Island Foundation and the Chamber for all of the work that Island Women has done over the years. It was certainly unexpected and left many of us speechless – which is a rare event to say the least!



A message from our Yard Sale Committee Chair

Ladies, what a wonderful time and experience I had while working with the yard sale committee members. It is when we work towards a common goal that we get to know and appreciate our fellow Island Women members. I encourage each of you to get involved in a project because not only does it benefit our group, the cause we are working for but our selves as well. Sure the meetings are informative, the socials are fun but it is in the actual work that we do that we all gel together as a group. Heading up this year's yard sale was my first experience and I have offered to do it again.

Leslie Lewis

Note: The income from the 2011 Yard Sale was \$1,642.50; net expenses the total was \$1,110.29.

We want to thank each and every one of you who contributed items, baked goods and your services to this year's sale. Overall it was another total success.



Island Women Socials

The Island Women's Spring Social was held on March 31 at Kay Hoffman's house. The theme of the evening was a pasta bar dinner. IW contributed a delicious variety of sauces and ingredients for topping the various pastas. Everyone then helped themselves to their favorites for a customized pasta plate. Dinner was completed with sherbets and sweets. The usual IW revelry ensued throughout the evening along with some "creative" solicitation for volunteers for our IW Annual Yard Sale. "Admission" to the social was a donation of nonperishable goods for The Help Center. A grocery cart full of food was delivered to The Help Center as a result of the IW's contributions.

The Summer Social was a joint event of Island Women and Island Women in Business. This time each member brought something sweet or something savory to share with the group. According to our sign-in sheet we had 31 attendees and 14 of them were guests! We had one guest become a member and a number of others showed real interest in joining our organization. During all of the revelry Bev Veals and her husband were busy filming segments for our new PSA on recycling. They're now wrapping up the editing and the PSA will premier in the near future at movie night down on Carolina Beach. Watch the weekly email for updates on this.

Both evenings were full of food and fun, all with a focus on making Pleasure Island a better place! I hope that those who missed out on these socials will join us at our September event.

Kay Hoffman
Social Committee Chair

