



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

File - Lox River Preservation Initiative 009  
**Cooperative Extension Service**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

# Loxahatchee River Watershed

**Environmental Education and Awareness**

Summer, 2000



*Loxahatchee River Watershed  
Environmental Educational Committee  
DEP  
Florida Center for Environmental Studies  
Florida Yards and Neighborhoods  
Friends of the Loxahatchee  
Jupiter/Tequesta/Juno Beach  
Chamber of Commerce  
Palm Beach County ERM  
Jupiter inlet District  
Loxahatchee River District*

*I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers. Most of what I love about the country is a gift of the rivers. . . . America is a great story, and there is a river on every page of it.*

Charles Kuralt, *On the Road With Charles Kuralt*

## THE LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

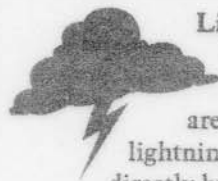
by Cheryl McKee,

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

For many years local, state and federal agencies have been working together with concerned citizens and stakeholders to protect the Loxahatchee River. One group, the Loxahatchee River Watershed Planning Committee, was formed four years ago. This committee described the state of the 270 square mile watershed and proposed actions to protect and restore the watershed's natural resources in their action plan dated October 1998. Since completing the second draft of the action plan, the committee has sought to implement many of the proposed projects. At a planning committee meeting last spring David Brown, the Town of Jupiter Utilities Director, suggested that a small group form to find funding for the important water restoration projects in the Loxahatchee River watershed. This group began meeting in May 2000 and calls its work the "Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative."

The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative began by examining over 100 potential environmental projects from various plans that address all or part of the watershed. About twenty of those projects were identified as water quality improvement projects that might be eligible for state funding. According to the Executive Order Number 99-288, all water quality improvement projects that will be submitted to the legislature for funding must be reviewed first by the Florida Water Advisory Panel (WAP). Surface water restoration projects being proposed for the fiscal year 2000-2001 state budget must meet certain criteria set forward by the panel. In most cases, the local government sponsoring the water project must be able to provide 50% of the funding. If the projects meet the WAP criteria, they can avoid being vetoed by Governor Bush as "turkeys".

### Lightning Tip



Many people who are "struck" by lightning are not hit directly by the flash, but are affected by the electricity of the flash as it travels along the surface of the ground (especially if the ground is wet) where it makes contact with an object.