

## **Cookie House rehabilitation is complete - Administrator's Update for 7/31/13**

### **By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Recently our facilities construction and maintenance department technicians completed the rehabilitation of the Cookie House at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. The cabin is so named because of the "stove wood construction" which uses cross-section cuts of wood that resembles brown cookies when mounted in mortar. The structure was originally built by John F Bass, Jr. founder of the Bass Biological Laboratory and Zoological Research Supply Company in 1931. The company became the first full-time marine station on the Florida mainland and their mission was to promote scientific marine exploration in Southwest Florida. The Cookie House was moved from its original location at the Bass Biological Laboratory site near the former home and garage of Mr. Bass, on the west side of New Point Comfort Road, in 2005 and became a Charlotte County Historical Marker with the approval by the Historical Advisory Committee on April 11, 2007.

Charlotte County facilities construction and maintenance took on the monumental task of carefully preserving and rehabilitating the Cookie House by using all period correct materials and also incorporating as much original materials as possible. Some of the materials used were period correct rough cut wood which were repurposed from an old tobacco company building, ax cut half round river recovered logs, and metal diamond shaped sings that mimic the original asbestos shingles. A visit to this beautiful restoration at Cedar Point Environment Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood is not to be missed.

### **Adopt-A-Pond**

Charlotte County's Adopt-A-Pond Program is a collaboration between Charlotte County's Stormwater Division and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC). The program is designed to help clean up Charlotte County stormwater ponds through the use of volunteers. A stormwater pond is part of the infrastructure for land use management. Stormwater ponds provide water quality protection as well as flood protection. Cleaning up our ponds improves the County's water quality and improves the natural habitat for our local fish and wildlife.

Anyone can adopt a pond: families, civic or non-profit organizations, schools, environmental groups, commercial or private enterprises. The group's only obligation is to provide clean-up services for their adopted ponds at regularly scheduled times. In exchange for service, a sign will be posted near the pond to recognize the volunteers or organization.

Since October 2012, there have been two clean up events at the Buck Creek pond in West County and one clean up event at the pond located at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Placida Road. A total of 8 volunteers worked for two hours to remove trash and debris from these two ponds.

There are still ponds available for adoption throughout the county. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Adopt-A-Pond Volunteer Coordinator, Bobbi Rodgers at (941) 475-0769 or visit <http://checflorida.org/Activities.html> for more information.

### **Sunnybrook sidewalk**

The BCC awarded the Sunnybrook Boulevard Sidewalk construction contract to Frederick Derr and Company, Inc. on July 23, 2013, with construction projected to begin in August 2103. This sidewalk is part of the Sales Tax Sidewalk program approved through a voter referendum in

2008, which allocated \$10 million to construct sidewalks throughout Charlotte County. Sidewalk locations were selected through a process including input from the School Board, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and public input.

We are very excited to see construction begin on the Sunnybrook Sidewalk as it ties in to a network of previously constructed sidewalks. The completed sidewalk will connect to others on Boundary Boulevard, SR 776 South Access Road, and will eventually be crossed by future sidewalks on Gulfstream Boulevard and Oceanspray Boulevard. This sidewalk will be approximately 6,300 feet long and 8 feet wide, a width that accommodates both pedestrian and bicycle traffic and classifies the project as a multi-use recreational trail (MURT). Along with the sidewalk construction, the existing drainage system will be realigned and conduit will be installed underground for future fiber optic facilities for Charlotte County's information technology fiber optic network. Contact the project manager, John Elias, at 941.575.3632 with any questions on this sidewalk project.

Status updates for sidewalk and other engineering projects are always available on the county website. Visit [www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and click Project Status Updates in the "Popular Links" on the left. Community Development engineering project managers keep these postings updated in an ongoing basis.