



February Seminars

Wednesday, February 3 ★ 12:00 Noon

Desert or Dessert?: Water Issues in Sarasota County

This presentation will review the water resources of the region surrounding Sarasota County, with emphasis on quantity and quality concerns. It will look at different water uses and their effects on humans and our natural resources.

Becky Ayech,

President, Environmental
Confederation of
Southwest Florida

Wednesday, February 10 ★ 12:00 Noon

Phosphate Mining: Not in my backyard

Few people realize that Florida has the largest contiguously mined-out area in the U.S. until they fly over and view the massive upheavals of land and see acres of green toxic slime ponds resulting from phosphate mining operations. The Peace River is emerging as the critical environmental background of a much wider conflict—the expansion of phosphate strip mining operations in our region and its potential to inflict ecological and environmental disaster. Florida phosphate mining is a formidable opponent. It is an industry of oil, chemical and mineral giants with vast legislative influence. This environmentally devastating activity should not be permitted to further expand into the Peace River watershed, the source of our regional drinking water.

Glenn Compton

Chairman, ManaSota-88
Member, Venice
environmental Advisory
Committee

Wednesday, February 17 ★ 12:00 Noon

Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment

All Florida counties and municipalities are required by state law to have adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Amendment 4 to the State Constitution will require a voter referendum in the affected jurisdiction as the *final* step to approve any amendment to that county or city's Comprehensive Plan. Current law has failed in that county and municipal commissions (whose campaigns are often financed by developers) have approved plans that, if built out, will allow Florida's present roughly 18 million population to expand to around 100 million. Polls have shown that voters generally oppose such unsustainable growth. The amendment should considerably slow it by confining development to already approved areas and densities, while allowing the best projects a chance to win voter approval.

Wade Matthews,

Retired diplomat,
US Foreign Service
Environmental Activist

**All lectures will be held at Sarasota County Democratic headquarters,
7358 S. Tamiami Trail in Coral Cove Mall.**

Please register to attend. Call 330-9400 or email headquarters@sarasotadems.org

Suggested donation: \$10

Paid for and approved by the Democratic Party of Sarasota County, P.O. Box 5833, Sarasota, FL 34277