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## Radio Ads

This is (Dave Harter, Nancy Schilling,) with a tip on how you can be a friend to our rivers:

1. When you have to replace or repair your driveway because of tree root problems, consider using pervious concrete, pavers, oyster shells or gravel. Replace your high maintenance lawn with pine straw or bark. Your storm water runoff will be better absorbed by the ground and keep from becoming a problem for your neighbor and our saltwater marshes. A good healthy live oak can use up to 80 gallons a day of that groundwater if you will give it a chance.
2. Don't overuse pesticides or fertilizers on your yard and follow the label instructions. When storm water runs off your property after a rain, the pesticides that kill the fire ants and other bugs in your yard can also kill the marine larvae in our saltwater marshes. Too much fertilizer use can cause algae blooms in our creeks and smother an oyster bed or remove the life sustaining oxygen necessary for our juvenile red fish and shrimp.
3. When you are adding or replacing your rain gutters, consider putting in a cistern or some type of system to capture rainwater to use for irrigation. There are lots of innovative and inexpensive plans available on the internet for you to consider. You can save on your water bill and also help keep your storm water from becoming your neighbor's problem. You also won't have to fill up your bathtub during the next hurricane warning.
4. Pick up after your pets. Fecal coliforms can live for weeks and travel for miles in surface fresh water before reaching our saltwater marshes and contaminating the oyster beds. Keep your septic tank system maintained. Your own discharges of pathogens, antibiotics and drugs can create havoc with our marine wildlife and make our oysters and clams unsafe to eat.
5. Don't bury or dump any hazardous liquids in your yard. They seep into the groundwater and aquifers and stay forever. Sand doesn't filter it. Some of these materials can even kill the bacteria that make a septic system work. Save these materials for the hazardous material collection days offered by the town of Hilton Head and Beaufort County at their recycling centers. If you can't drink it, don't dump it.

6. Our unique Beaufort County saltwater estuaries have a very stable, high salinity feature that has made them the spawning grounds and nurseries for a majority of South Carolina's marine life. The system is not accustomed to getting big flows of freshwater, especially ones that contain sediment or mud. If you see any drainage into our marshes that is off color report it to your community's natural resources staff. Someone upstream is not following the rules.
7. "Whatever happens here stays here" is a cliché that applies to Beaufort County waters as well as Las Vegas vacations. Our unique saltwater estuaries hold storm water pollutants for longer periods of time as our tidal movements slosh them back and forth. Your pollution could just as easily travel upriver for six hours before it ever begins its slow journey to the sound. Pay attention to your stormwater utility rules and help keep Beaufort County a pristine destination.
8. Beaufort County is 50 percent saltwater and is the most important marine wildlife nursery in South Carolina. It is the responsibility of all Beaufort County citizens to be the guardians of this great ecosystem and protect it from the deadly effects of storm water runoff. Make sure that you pass on to your children the legacy of the uniquely productive and pristine saltwater marshes of Beaufort County. Pay attention to your storm water utility rules at home and at work.
9. Maintaining clean water and beautiful saltwater marshes are everyone's responsibility. Although we want the right to do what we want with our yards, we must remember that our right ends at our property line. Protect your neighbors and our waterways by keeping buffers of native vegetation between your yard and our waters. Nature can provide the best filtration of our excesses if we give it a chance.