

# Community

## Environmental stewardship gaining prominence

By Marcia Mattson

**B**oth port and industry are embracing the importance of protecting the environment in Northeast Florida while also servicing business needs.

To preserve and protect the environment in which the port operates, JAXPORT supports several organizations and events throughout Northeast Florida, including the Tree Hill Nature Center, Greenscape of Jacksonville, and the Academy of Coastal and Environmental Sciences (ACES), in addition to programs to protect the North Atlantic Right Whale and West Indian Manatee.

JAXPORT actively participates in the Annual Right Whale Festival, an event that teaches children and the community about the annual migration of the whales and measures in place to protect them.

The port also has an operating procedure in place to protect manatees, and designs its facilities to provide water "roadways" for marine life to move to safety if they happen to be swimming between a docking ship and the berth.

"At JAXPORT, we're committed to protecting the environment, and we also encourage anyone bringing a ship in or out of this harbor to do what's environmentally right," said David Stubbs, JAXPORT Director of Properties and Environmental Compliance.

JAXPORT and its tenants adhere to all local, state and federal environmental regulations. While local, state and federal agencies enforce environmental laws, service providers like Moran Environmental Recovery (MER) assist port businesses with their environmental needs.

"We focus on being prepared to enter both planned and emergency response situations so that our workers and the public are safe from harm, and so we can quickly and efficiently conduct work that first prevents any impacts to the environment and then helps to clean up existing areas," said Jay Daniel, MER Regional Vice President.

MER expanded in January with the acquisition of Water Recovery, LLC (WRI), and again in May with the addition of oil spill removal organization Jacksonville Pollution Control (JPC). Moran Towing Corporation is a partial owner as well as a valued business partner of MER.

WRI is a Jacksonville centralized waste water treatment plant that



specializes in non-hazardous industrial waste water transportation, treatment and disposal. The plant is also fully integrated and permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a used oil recycling facility.

"Our staff is truly committed to WRI's reputation for honesty, integrity, and industry leading regulatory compliance," said Greg Reynolds, WRI's Vice President and General Manager.

In the past four years, WRI has won three consecutive Environmental Stewardship awards from local electric authority JEA, and in 2008, was honored with JEA's highest award, the Platinum Award for Environmental Excellence. The partnership allows MER to provide services that include integrated waste management by specialists in the industry. □



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