



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No.1013
Foley, AL 36535

Friends of Perdido Bay
10738 Lillian Highway
Pensacola, FL 32506
850-453-5488

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tidings

The Newsletter of the Friends of Perdido Bay

October 2013

Volume 26 Number 5

Jackie Lane -Editor

www.friendsofperdidobay.com

Thank You for Your Support

While I would like to list the successes Friends of Perdido Bay has had over the years, I can't really say we have had too many "wins". In the early 1990's when we were involved with some of the first Escambia County land-use plans, we had some success in convincing our county commissioners that the environment was important. They passed regulations limiting growth in environmentally sensitive areas. Since that time, Friends of Perdido Bay has been involved with trying to curb the pollution from the International Paper's paper mill in Cantonment and lately ECUA's domestic wastewater plants. In spite of going to several administrative hearings and participating in several lawsuits, the pollution from the paper mill continues. It has not really ever abated and in fact has gotten worse. But we have tried to present the facts and a "truer" picture of the situation in these newsletters. Many of you have responded by being members of Friends of Perdido Bay and faithfully paying your dues and giving donations. Thank you.

What Now?

Many of you are probably wondering what we are going to do now. In 2014, International Paper's current permit and Consent Order are set to expire. It is hard to believe that since 1988 (26 years and more), the paper mill in Cantonment has been operating on a permit with a Consent Order. Having a Consent Order means that the paper mill has been violating the State of Florida's (and federal) water quality standards - they have been operating while trying to achieve these standards. This has really made a mockery of the environmental standards and enforcement because the paper mill **could** achieve standards but won't. During the last administrative hearing, we introduced evidence of a mill in Australia (similar to the one in Cantonment) which reduced their water usage sufficiently so that they no longer had to discharge a liquid waste. Yes, it can be done. But no paper mill in the U.S. wants to improve. So International Paper is pumping 30 million gallons of water a day out of the ground and getting another 5 million gallons from ECUA so that they can carry their waste away. They are basically using our bay as their settling pond (for free). The wetland is doing very little to remove the pollution. Paper mills are massive polluters which have always relied on public utilities or water ways to treat their wastes. Even in