



Sarasota Waters

SEPT. 26, 1996 • PELICAN PRESS 11

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mental rules, they must do any necessary sanding to prevent the dust from escaping and polluting local waters.

Cuts Edge also charges \$25 a day and you're required to buy your supplies from them.

Two more yards allowing do-it-yourself work are both in Ruskin. They're Bahia Beach Marine (645-6286) and Shell Point Marine (645-1313) where they charge just \$16 a day.

If you know of any other facilities of this kind locally, I'd like to hear about them so the names can be passed on to folks still needing this kind of service.

Bay reef improvements

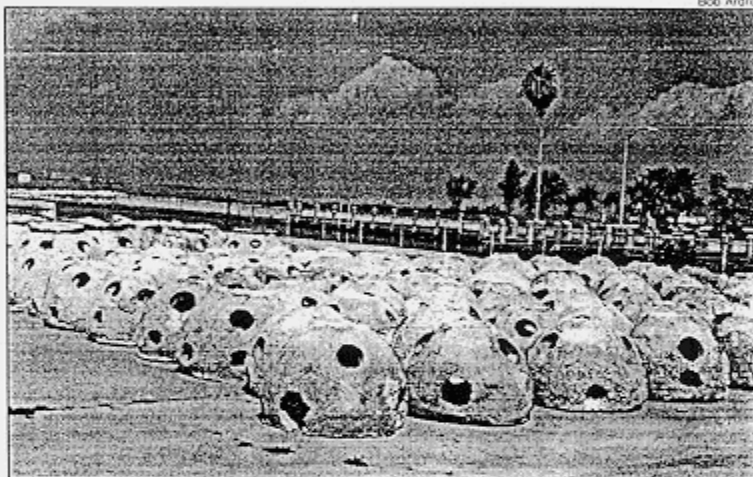
Dozens of reef balls, those hollow concrete structures perforated with holes that are state-of-the-art artificial reef materials, will be improving the Jantzen and Hart reefs in Sarasota Bay over coming weeks. That means we're now beyond just dumping junk culverts and the like into the bay and hoping they attract sealife.

Not that the old system didn't work, because it did....at least to some extent. But Mike Solum of the county's Coastal Zone Division recognized and started spreading the word about the wonders of reef balls a couple of years ago, and his efforts to use them in Sarasota Bay are finally paying off.

Mike has both in-depth experience in aquaculture and the ability to go out and find the money needed to improve the bay's artificial reefs. That's a great combination from the public's point of view.

Even we unschooled types can easily see the advantages of these reef modules at a glance. Each one is a miniature reef unto itself from the moment it hits the water. They can be arranged in patterns and even stacked for greater reef depth. Made of concrete, they're soon covered with marine growth.

Now being used widely throughout



Fish are quite fond of these concrete reef balls, making them perfect to improving artificial reef areas.

Florida, reef balls promise to dramatically improve our bay reefs' ability to attract and produce additional sealife. Local fishers owe Mike and the county Natural Resources Department big thanks for the efforts made to finally accomplish this \$17,000 project.