

## Environmental Stewardship Award Summary

### **The Fort Pierce City Marina**

When the City of Fort Pierce Marina was destroyed by back-to-back twin hurricanes of Frances and Jeanne in 2004, the city embarked on a ten-year project to build a protection system of islands that would safeguard the waterfront and marina against future storms, create habitats for sea life and birds and provide water-cleaning ecosystems. The islands are situated close to the downtown waterfront in the biologically diverse and fragile Indian River Lagoon. Mangrove and coastal dune vegetation was planted to stabilize the islands and provide habitat; oyster shells and lime rock at the lower elevations promote oyster beds and other essential fish habitats. A pilot project of the State of Florida requiring two years of monitoring after completion, the project was engineered and permitted under a variety of federal and state agencies. The project is successful, innovative and can be adapted to other waterfront locations.