

Florida Beacon



From the President's Desk
Bruce Hasbrouck

January 31, 2008

Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program

In 1990, Florida established the Preservation 2000 (P2000) program, a 10-year program that raised \$300 million per year for a total of \$3 billion. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) website, a total of 1,781,489 acres of lands were protected under the P2000 program.

As the P2000 program came to a close, the Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program was established. FDEP's Division of State Lands has primary responsibility for the Florida Forever program, the world's largest conservation land buying program.

[Continued on page 4](#)



Is Your Mailbox Missing Something?

Last fall, the FAEP Board of Directors voted to make a change to the way memberships expire. For many years, FAEP has operated on the basis that membership renewals occur in January regardless of when you joined during the calendar year.

Starting immediately, your renewal date will be the same month as when you joined. So, if you have been looking for that January 1st renewal notice, it is no longer. You will still receive a renewal notice from FAEP when that anniversary date approaches.

Employment Opportunities

Please visit the following links to review the latest employment opportunities:

- [FAEP](#)
- [NAEP](#)
- [Northwest Chapter](#)
- [Central Chapter](#)
- [Treasure Coast Chapter](#)

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FAEP 2007-2008

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Changing Climates, 2008 NAEP/AEP Annual Conference	March 25-28	San Diego, CA
2008 Waste-To-Fuels Conference & Trade Show	April 6-8	Orlando, FL
Brownfields 2008	May 5-7	Detroit, MI
6th International Conference on Remediation of Chlorinated & Recalcitrant Compounds	May 19-22	Monterey, CA
Florida Local Environmental Resources Agency 2008 Conference	July 30–August 1	Sarasota, FL

FAEP Board Members Provide Biological Experience to International Baccalaureate Students Paul Looney, Northwest Florida Chapter

Environmental Professionals from the Pensacola area provided nearly 50 students from the International Baccalaureate program at Pensacola High School with a unique look at Pensacola's rich biological heritage. The all day program at Big Lagoon State Park was the brainchild of Debbie Looney (NW Chapter BOD and President of Debbie Looney & Associates), her husband Paul Looney (NW Chapter President and Ecologist with Volkert & Associates), and veteran biology teacher for the IB Program, Edie Bidwell.



IB Students from PHS receiving instructions from Debbie Looney

Florida Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas), and Carlos Llull (Fisheries Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute).

The field exercise was developed to provide the students with an experience that showed them the real world applications of classroom study. The goal was to give the students a fun and exciting biology experience. The exercise involved plant and fish identification as well as daylong personal access to local environmental professionals who make their living in biology. The field trip fulfilled an IB program science requirement for the students and each of them will be reporting on their experience.

The team led the students on a botanical treasure hunt where the student groups had to research a list of nearly 50 plants and work as a team to identify them and the habitat where they are found. After lunch, the students got wet performing several seine trawls along the shoreline. They were all impressed with the number of species found in the net and the fact that all of those creatures depend on the sea grass beds to grow and reproduce. The questions and discussions with the volunteers gave the students a better understanding of the important link between coastal sea grasses and the seafood we all love in Pensacola.

The students were happy with a day out of the classroom and the volunteers were happy with a fun day doing what they love. Paul Looney stated, "I was impressed with the level of preparation and knowledge the students completed before arriving this morning. It is obvious that Edie Bidwell is a great biology teacher who can motivate her students and help them appreciate biology."

Edie summed up the overall impressions from this fun and informative learning experience. "Wow, today was more than I could have hoped for! Everything worked out great, and the kids really got into it. Your preparation and direction for the whole venture were tops, and we could not have asked for more."

"Thank you, thank you for such a fantastic experience. I think this will stick with them forever. My hat is off to the both of you for making such a supreme effort to get kids into the "real" biology!"

The environmental professional volunteers included officers and board members of the Northwest Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals and the Secretary of the NAEP. Each of the volunteers provided their expertise as a means of giving back to the community where they work and live. Debbie Looney said that she hopes "the day's fun will encourage students to pursue science as a career."

Debbie and Paul were assisted by four other Environmental Professional volunteers: Heather Reed (Treasurer, NW Chapter and President of Ecological Consulting Services), Rayne Maisel (Ecological Consultant with Edmisten and Associates), Shelly Alexander (Manager, Northwest Florida Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas), and Carlos Llull (Fisheries Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute).



FAEP volunteers ready for their field exercise



Left: Students prepare to identify fish species.



Right: Students start to identify coastal plants

Florida Friendly Landscaping

Nancy Rodlun, Central Florida Chapter

On Tuesday, November 27, 2007, Lake Eola Charter School Students, Orange County Master Gardeners, and Florida Native Plant Society Members assisted Orange County Environmental Protection Division to install an Environmentally Friendly Demonstration Garden at 201 South Rosalind Avenue, Orlando (OC Administration Building).

The garden features many native plant species suitable for home and business landscapes. Native plants are a Florida Friendly choice, since they require little to no fertilization or pest control and provide wildlife habitat.



Water use will be reduced by the elimination of unnecessary irrigation. This is accomplished in part due to the drought tolerant plant material selected. The plants, predominately Florida natives as well as some non-native, noninvasive species, will be able to survive on regular rainfall once established.

Low impact drip irrigation will be used to establish the plantings and supplement water needs in extreme drought conditions, ensuring plant survival and aesthetics of the garden.

The garden features an environmentally friendly pervious pathway using a new product called [Flexi-PAVE](#), consisting of recycled

tires. The innovative pavement reduces stormwater runoff and provides recharge percolation for groundwater resources.

This Florida Friendly Garden was made possible, in part, by [Florida Wildflower Foundation](#) through funds provided by [Florida Wildflower Tag](#) sales, [Masuen Consulting, LLC](#), [Dobson's Woods and Water, Inc](#) and [Rain Bird](#) Corporation.

For information about the garden, contact Nancy Rodlun, Community Outreach Coordinator, at nancy.rodلun@ocfl.net or (407) 836-1400.

For more information about Florida Friendly Landscaping, contact the [Orange County Cooperative Extension](#), 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, (407) 254-9200.



Quick Legislative News

[More Than 200 Grant Applications Received for Renewable Energy Technologies](#)

Florida Department of Environmental Management

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) received 215 grant proposals this fall for renewable energy technologies. Part of DEP's Renewable Energy Technologies Grant Program and DACCS' Farm-to-Fuel Grant Program, the grants are designed to stimulate capital investment in the state and promote and enhance the statewide utilization of renewable energy technologies.

[Record \\$2 Billion to be Spent on Environmental Controls and Cleanup in the Southeast](#)

Courtesy of Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 enforcement program will reduce, treat or eliminate 167 million pounds of pollution in the Southeast as a result of agreements and concluded enforcement actions taken in fiscal year 2007. This includes reducing harmful air emissions (sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide) and significant volumes of untreated sewage, as well as cleaning more than 1.9 million cubic yards of contaminated soil. The estimated value of corrective action or cleanup required by EPA Region 4 enforcement agreements will total more than \$2 billion, the highest total ever achieved by Region 4.

More information on EPA's Region 4 enforcement and compliance activities and data for FY 2007 is available at: http://www.epa.gov/region4/ead/2007_annual_results/index.html

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Fertilizer Rule Will Protect Florida's Water Quality

Courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has adopted the final statewide Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule. The rule limits the phosphorus and nitrogen content in fertilizers for urban turf and lawns, significantly reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus applied in urban areas and limiting the amount of those compounds reaching Florida's water resources.

"We are committed to protecting Florida's water resources," Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said. "By establishing responsible nitrogen and phosphorus use rates statewide, Florida's citizens can continue to care for their lawns and landscapes without sacrificing water quality."

DACS expects a 20 to 25 percent reduction in nitrogen and a 15 percent reduction in phosphorus in every bag of fertilizer sold to the public. The new rule requires that all fertilizer products labeled for use on urban turf, sports turf and lawns be limited to the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus needed to support healthy turf maintenance. It was developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with input from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the state's five water management districts, the Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, fertilizer manufacturers and concerned citizens.

President's Desk continued

Collectively, more than 535,643 acres of land has been protected with \$1.8 billion in Florida Forever funds through December 2006.

In 1999 the Florida Legislature also created the nine-member Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), which makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes private citizen members, in addition to five state agency representatives with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences. Twice a year the Council evaluates and selects Florida Forever acquisition projects. The projects are grouped in three lists: Full Fee projects, Less-than-Fee projects, and Small Parcels projects.

After projects are approved and grouped, the overall Florida Forever list is submitted to the Governor and Cabinet for approval. The Governor and Cabinet may remove projects from the list but cannot otherwise change the list.

However, the Florida Forever program will sunset in 2008. A group lead by John Hankinson is focused on creating the next phase. I participated in a special meeting organized in conjunction with the Florida Forever Coalition on creating the next state program to advance environmental protection in Florida. Dialogues on Funding and Tools for Florida Land and Water Conservation brought together a select group of regional and state leaders that discussed conservation priorities and tools for achieving more land and water conservation at locations around the state.

This is one of several similar dialogues taking place around the state. In several locations other local, regional and state conservation advocates, local government environmental resource staff, local elected officials, and local business leaders will meet to discuss the issues. The series of discussions will culminate in a summit in early 2008, where we will present a well rounded and supportable list of recommendations gleaned from the diversity of interests represented by the events' participants.

The discussion was organized around the following questions:

- What are the land and water conservation priorities in this region?
- What tools and strategies are available to secure these priorities?
- Are current conservation policies and programs achieving their goals?
- What policies and funding strategies should be recommended?
- How can advocates create more public and political support for the goals?

This is an opportunity for FAEP to participate in the future of preservation of ecologically valuable lands in Florida. If you are interested in participating in future meetings, please contact me at bhas-brouck@fallerdavis.com.

Waste Management Launches Green Consumer Website

Courtesy of Environmental Leader

Waste Management launched thinkgreen.com, a marketing campaign that includes an interactive Website that shows consumers how to manage the four-and-a-half pounds of waste the average citizen generates each day. Thinkgreen.com features a landfill tour in three dimensions and touts the ways in which Waste Management reduces, reuses, recycles and recovers the resources that are in waste.



The Website is part of the company's Think Green campaign. Next month, another component will be launched at Innoventions at Epcot at the Walt Disney World Resort. Visitors will have the opportunity to virtually experience the operations on a single-stream recycling line, feed the boiler at a waste-to-energy facility and run the bulldozer at a landfill in a hands-on, interactive exhibit called "Don't Waste It."

Epcot is becoming a destination for companies that want to market their green initiatives. Last January, GM launched experiential campaigns to put potential buyers behind the wheels of their hybrid vehicles by raising the curtain on a new exhibit at Disney's Epcot center.

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Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies 2008 Annual Conference CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

Climate Change is with us! What has your agency done to address the critical issue of climate change? What measures can you take to reduce emissions? What contingency plans have you initiated to be better prepared for more severe weather events? Share your expertise and learn from your colleagues in the environmental resource community.

The Florida Local Resources Agencies invites you to submit session proposals for the 2008 Annual Conference. The conference theme is Climate Change and Local Government, Roles Responsibilities and Opportunities focusing on the role of local governments as Florida addresses the critical issue of climate change. Professionals in state, regional and local government and in the environmental, academic and consulting communities are encouraged to make presentations. Visit the FLERA website at <http://www.flera.org/conference.html> for more information including an application to submit a presentation. **Proposals will be accepted until February 8, 2008.**

Don't forget to mark your calendars to join us July 30 – August 1, 2008 at the Hyatt on Sarasota Bay!

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Student Experience continued

Edie Bidwell (left) relaxes at lunch with IB Director Deanna Gordon.



Even crutches couldn't stop students from having fun. Michael Boyd carries Avery Bullock over obstacles along the shoreline.



Lunch is a welcome break from field work for the IB students. Nora McGee is all smiles as her team prepares for the fish identification portion of the day.



Brownfields Provide Green Benefits

Renee Parker, Central Florida Chapter

Greenfields are pristine tracts of land and are becoming scarce as demand for building new residential and commercial property continues to rise in Florida. The question on everyone's mind is how will Florida meet current developer demand for residential and commercial/industrial properties while protecting previously unused land a.k.a. "greenfields"?

Brownfields redevelopment may be the answer to help meet the need. Brownfields help curb the demand by providing residential and commercial/industrial properties within key urban core areas. Brownfields are "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Environmentally speaking, cleaning up Brownfields give green benefits, because it improves the environment; removes toxins from commercial/industrial areas and, in their place, opens the opportunity to creating development opportunities for mixed used residential/retail, affordable housing, and parks.

Orange County is doing its part in helping meet this demand for developable land. On August 28, 2007, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners officially designated the first Brownfield Area in Orange County; the Holden Heights: ROCC (Holden Heights: Redeveloping Orange County Communities) Area as a Brownfield Area pursuant to Florida Statute, Chapter 376 (F.S. 376). The area consists of several parcels located in the Orange County Community Redevelopment Area see map [Exhibit A](#). The Brownfield Designation will help to address & reduce perceived or actual public health and environmental hazards on existing commercial and industrial sites that are abandoned or under-used due to these hazards; create financial and regulatory incentives to encourage voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of sites.

Brownfield development appears to be a great example of true land-recycling", allowing more of the "greenfields" to remain untouched and preserved environment for flora fauna and the recreational enjoyment of the Florida citizens.

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FAEP Newsletter

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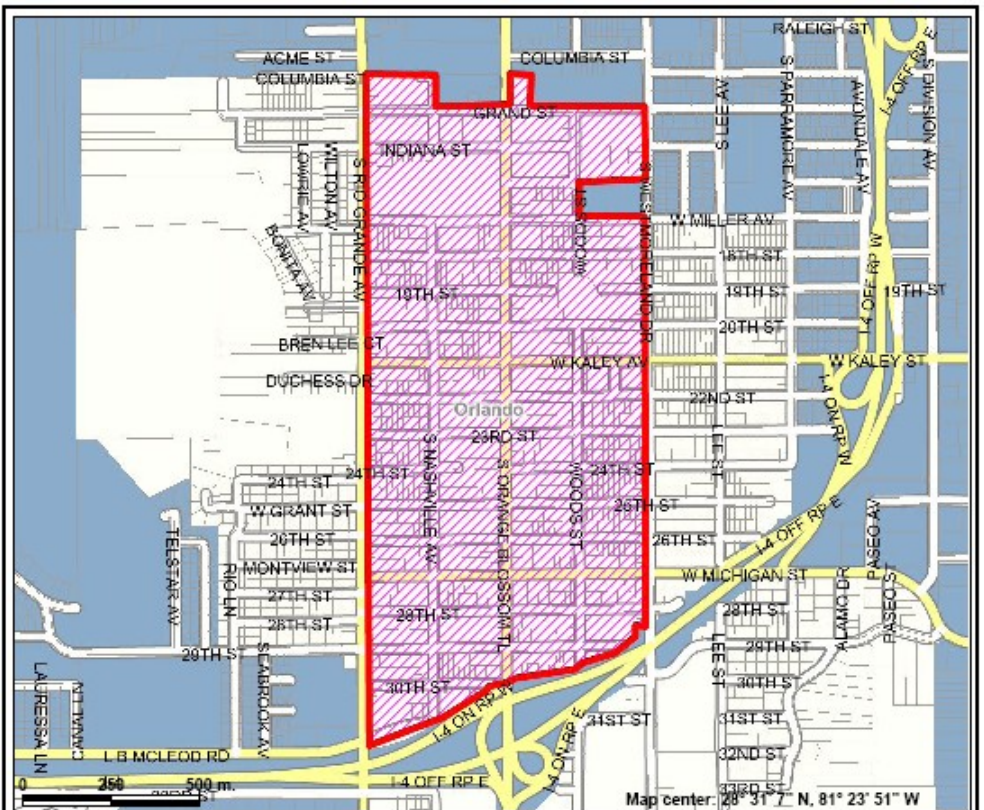
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Brownfield Provide Green Benefits Continued

Exhibit A



Map center: 28° 31' 7" N, 81° 23' 51" W

Legend:

- City of Orlando
- Unincorporated Orange County
- Proposed Holden Heights: ROCC