

Florida Beacon



From the Vice—President’s Desk
Don Deis

Bruce is on vacation so you get me this month! I wanted to inform you of two changes that will occur over the next few months.

The Board has started an effort to offer group memberships in an attempt to give financial relief to some of our members that are employed by local, state, and federal agencies. Upon examination of the membership, it was found that many corporations also support a significant number of members. The Board decided to recognize all corporations, government agencies, and/or other entities that support FAEP membership and encourage others to join by offering group memberships. The following is the new FAEP policy for group membership.

FAEP Group Membership Policy

- Group memberships are available to corporations, government agencies, and/or other entities involved in and related to the environmental profession.
- Each group membership will be for a minimum of 5 qualified employees.

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April 2009



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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

National Ground Water Association’s 2009 Ground Water Summit	April 19-23	Tucson, AZ
NAEP 34th Annual Conference: Making Sustainability Happen: Goals, Practices and Challenges	May 3-6	Scottsdale, AZ
Tenth International In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation Symposium	May 5-9	Baltimore, MD
Brownfields 2009 Conference	November 17-19	New Orleans, LA



Want to help the painted bunting?

The Painted Bunting Observer Team project at the University of North Carolina Wilmington needs your assistance with these brightly colored migratory birds. The team is looking for volunteers to help with research in Florida to develop strategies to bring the bird populations up to healthy and sustainable levels. "Unfortunately, painted bunting populations are declining," said Dr. Jamie Rotenberg, ornithologist in the Department of Environmental Studies at UNCW.

The painted bunting's decline may be due to a variety of factors, including increased coastal development and new agricultural practices, both of which clear shrub-scrub brush vital to breeding birds, according to Mike Delany, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife Research Lab in Gainesville.

In North Carolina and Florida, painted buntings typically breed in a narrow range along coasts and waterways. In South Carolina and Georgia, the birds also favor the coast but breed well inland in low-country shrub and young pine stands. As coastal habitats continue to be developed and as more inland shrub is cleared, these beautiful birds are losing their homes.

In Florida, the team wants to recruit and maintain an active group of volunteers who can make observations and collect data at backyard bird feeders and help band and monitor buntings.



"We hope to determine the abundance and distribution of painted buntings at backyard feeders and to detect population patterns across the coastal-inland and suburban-rural landscapes," said Rotenberg. "We want to know if there are differences in how males and females use feeders and how important these backyard feeders are as a food resource. Ultimately, we want to find out why the species is in decline and do something about it."

Since painted buntings readily visit backyard bird feeders, volunteers can easily participate in gathering a variety of data that can aid the project in comparing populations breeding in suburban, rural and natural habitats, from the coast to more inland areas.

Last year, Rotenberg and his colleagues had more than 7,000 data hits to their Web site, www.paintedbuntings.org, from volunteers in the Carolinas, and the team captured and banded more than 500 painted buntings. The banded birds allow the team to learn about migration, life span, survival rate, reproductive success and population growth, as well as the behavior of individual birds.

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Mayor Crotty's Clean School Bus Initiative

Courtesy of the Orange County Environmental Protection Division

Orange County Board of County Commissioners announced the completion of the 308th School Bus retrofitted with an emission control device on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at the Hanging Moss School Bus Depot.

We already know that school buses are the safest way for children to get to school. Through innovative partnerships, we can also ensure that school buses are the cleanest way to get to school. In accordance with Mayor Crotty's Orange to Green initiative, a project to reduce diesel school bus emissions evolved.

A collaboration between Orange County's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), along with a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, allowed for 308 school buses to be retrofitted with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) provided by Engine Control Systems. These pollution control devices will reduce harmful exhaust emissions and help student riders breathe easier. EPD dedicated over \$100,000 in matching funds to demonstrate that a solution to diesel emissions is currently available and practical.

DOCs, similar to the catalytic converters on cars, reduce emissions by capturing and incinerating unburned particles, preventing their release into the atmosphere. These devices are capable of removing up to 40% of the particulate matter, 70% of the unburned hydrocarbons, and 40% of the carbon monoxide typically emitted by school buses.

Through this project, EPD and the OCPS are taking steps toward cleaner air for our children and the community. This is an opportunity to introduce Central Florida to the existing technologies for reducing emissions from diesel vehicles, with the hopes of launching additional voluntary efforts with area businesses and municipalities.



For more information about this project, please contact the EPD at 407-836-1400.



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Quick Legislative News

EPA Launches Guidance on Environmental Models –EPA develops and uses a wide range of computer models to simulate the fate of various pollutants, estimate pollution’s impact on public health and the environment, and evaluate the cost and benefits of alternative policies. EPA has been a global leader in the development and use of environmental computer models for environmental protection and continues to improve model development and use. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/crem>

New Clean Energy Legislation Draft Released –Chairman Henry A. Waxman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman Edward J. Markey of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee and Select Committee on Global Warming released a draft of clean energy legislation that will create jobs, help end U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and combat global warming.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will complete consideration of the legislation by Memorial Day. To learn more, [click here](#).

GREEN LIVING TIP #6

Shade your air conditioner.

When the blistering Florida sun is beating down on your air conditioner, the unit works harder and wastes electricity. Buy a shade from a local hardware store, make your own, or even better, plant a tree nearby.

Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Chapter of FAEP.



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Orange County Announces County-Wide Earth Day Event



Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is asking residents to **Take Your Own Tote (T.Y.O.T.)** on Earth Day 2009, Wednesday, April 22nd, and leave the paper and plastic bags at the store. This countywide effort will demonstrate the ease and benefits of reusable bags, while educating

the public on the negative environmental impacts of single use bags.

According to national statistics, the excessive use and disposal of plastic and paper bags adds up to enormous ecological consequences. The average U.S. citizen uses up to 500 bags a year; that is almost 22,000 bags in a lifetime. If an individual simply cuts that use in half, the effect will greatly reduce the negative impacts of single-use bags; imagine what an entire community can do!

“Even though recycling paper and plastic bags is good, there is an easier and more effective way to handle this waste issue. Don’t use them at all, T.Y.O.T!” says EPD spokesperson Nancy Rodlun.

The **T. Y. O. T. Earth Day** campaign will include pledge stations set up across the county at public buildings and college campuses prior to April 22nd (dates and locations TBA). Residents can pledge to help reduce single use waste and receive tools to participate on Earth Day.

For more information and to find out how you, your business, or an organization can participate, contact the Orange County Environmental Protection Division at 407-836-1400 or orangetogreen@ocfl.net.



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Biologists Seek Public's Help for Horseshoe Crab Research

Biologists at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute need help from the public in identifying horseshoe crabs spawning on beaches throughout the state.

The best time to find horseshoe crabs spawning is around high tide, right before or just after a full or new moon. The full moon on March 12 and similar conditions on March 13 will create good conditions for viewing the crabs. The next full moon will occur on April 10.

Observant beachgoers can report the time, date and location of horseshoe-crab sightings through one of several convenient options. Go to http://research.MyFWC.com/horseshoe_crab and fill out an online survey; e-mail findings to horseshoe@MyFWC.com; or call the FWC at 866-252-9326.

Biologists also want to know the number of horseshoe crabs seen by observers and whether the horseshoe crabs are mating. They also want to know the date, time, location and habitat conditions. If possible, specify roughly how many are coupled and how many are juveniles (4 inches wide or smaller).

Horseshoe crabs benefit humans in several ways. For instance, research on the compound eyes of horseshoe crabs led to better understanding of the human vision system, and horseshoe crab blood is useful in the biomedical industry. In addition, manufacturers use the material of a horseshoe crab's shell (chitin) to make contact lenses, skin creams and hair sprays.

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Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III, President, CEP, PWS

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DON'T FEED THE ALGAE

The City of Lakeland Lakes & Stormwater Division is excited to launch the "DON'T FEED THE ALGAE" community action campaign. The campaign focus is to create awareness on the negative effects that improper management of fertilizer, grass clippings, and yard debris have on our lakes and streams.



The logo character "BAD AL-G" and the slogan "DON'T FEED THE ALGAE" put a face on and action to the pollution problems we are all responsible to reduce. Fertilizer, grass clippings, and yard debris washed from yards, driveways, parking lots, and streets by rain enter our lakes and streams as polluted runoff. These wasted nutrients result in too much of the wrong kind of algae growth turning the lakes green.

The purpose of the campaign is to build awareness in our community that "bad" algae like it when we are not responsible with our landscape efforts. The goal is for everyone to take active steps to reduce fertilizer use and keep grass clippings and yard debris on the yard or in the trash.

The City of Lakeland's "Bad Al-G" character connects the citizen's personal responsibility for pollution and algae blooms in a lake. This educational message can extend beyond the City limits and is intended to make a direct connection to people's actions and the environment. Making the choice to prevent pollution can apply to any neighborhood, community, city or county.

To learn more about the "Don't Feed the Algae" campaign and other stormwater pollution prevention programs, please visit the City of Lakeland's website at www.lakelandgov.net/publicworks/lakes.

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Going Green

W. Dwight Hatfield, SurvTech Solutions Surveying and Mapping

I don't remember when I first heard the term "going green". This phrase has become so ingrained in the lexicon of pop culture that it's hard to go anywhere without seeing it or hearing it. At first it appeared to be another set of buzzwords, along the lines of "alternative" or "extreme" or any other number of words that come and go in our society that were attached to something memorable, only to be overused and losing their importance. I've never considered myself to be an outright environmentalist, but I did grow up in a rural area where a lot of your day to day survival depended on a cooperation and respect for the natural world. When I began to see "going green" more and more, the fear that it was just a passing fad soon faded and I began to realize that this was really a true movement, both in consciousness and in action. It's quite beautiful really. However, I was vexed. You see, it's easy to say something, but it takes action to make ideas manifest. How could we go green? Would it make sense financially? Could we effectively do this?

The good news is that the process wasn't difficult and all the answers were resounding positives. In fact, both personally and with the company I am employed by, many of the things we were already doing from a financial standpoint were what would be considered "green practices". So what does "going green" really mean? For us it meant that we began to make conscious decisions about business practices with the environment in mind first and how to reconcile those fiscally secondary. Believe it or not, many of the things you can do actually lower operating costs. I do not know how it started, but many people think that "going green" increases costs and is a hindrance to working. That's not the case at all, I can personally attest. I will add the caveat that you must do proper prior planning (the Three P Rule) and it must be a company wide policy, otherwise, it won't work as well as it should and the results you seek will be skewed.

So what did we do and furthermore, what can you do? The vast majority are simple things, things you may have not thought of or that you might not have realized how much impact they have on the environment. For example, we now use CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs in place of the traditional light bulb. A CFL saves about \$22 a year, and you can multiply that by the number of light fixtures, (e.g. 30 light fixtures over a five year period = \$3300 in savings) Add on the fact that a CFL saves over two thousand times in own weight in green house gases over it's lifetime, and it's really a no brainer to make the switch to CFLs. Like any "green initiative", ours is a constantly evolving process, we are always looking to add, refine, and improve existing procedures. As technology comes more in line with protecting the world we live in, more options will become available. This is something to be conscious of for sure, and also to be aware of in your pursuits. Other things we have done: Using electronic communication ; Using water filtering systems instead of bottled water; Re-using packing materials; Using Digital Storage & paper saving techniques ; Using rechargeable batteries ; Fleet Maintenance and Fuel Savers; and many others. Many of these techniques will be self revealing in their validity and usefulness. Others take a little research, but you will find things that work for your firm. Another great addition is the

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amount of overhead cost that we save. I like win-win situations. Going green has more than been that.

We're going to get into some things you can do now. One of the most rewarding feelings about the whole process is that it's really a lot of fun. It can truly be a bonding experience and I personally feel that it offers a greater connection to the living world. I don't want to get too esoteric, but it's nice knowing that you are helping to alleviate a problem to the Earth instead of contributing to it. Here are seven easy things you can do personally to do your part :

1. Save energy (and it saves \$ too!!) : Set your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer to save on heating and cooling costs. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) when your older incandescent bulbs burn out. Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible.
2. Become Water Usage Conscious : Simply taking a shorter or timed shower will lower your water and heating bills. The installation of a low-flow showerhead doesn't cost much, and the water and energy savings can quickly pay back your investment. Make sure you have a faucet aerator on each faucet. Don't constantly run water when doing simple task like brushing your teeth or cleaning vegetables.
3. Walk or Bike! : Walk or bike instead of driving. This saves on gas and fuel emissions. At the same it improves cardiovascular health and both are the best forms of enjoyable exercise. Lobby your local government to increase spending on sidewalks and bike lanes. Fortunately here in Florida, we have some of the best places for bike riding in the country. Another great thing is that more and more people are becoming conscious of bike riders and the amount and quality of safety gear makes bike riding not only more fun, but the safest it's ever been.
4. Think before you buy : Your purchases have a real impact, for better or worse. Unfortunately, we live in a fad society where far too much money and a gross misuse of natural resources has been given over to the production and consumption of useless items. When you're purchasing something really think, "Do we *need* this? Can I get a perfectly fine product from a second hand store? What is this product made from? Where was it made? How does buying this impact the environment?"
5. Buy smart : Invest in high-quality, long-lasting products. Much like CFLs, spending a little more on the initial purchase will save a tremendous amount in the long term. Another great thing you can do is to buy in bulk. Especially if it is something you use frequently. Buying in bulk reduces on packaging cost and waste associated with those packages, as well as, the overall production cost of the item to start with.
6. Keep electronics out of the trash : keep electronics as long as possible. Donate or recycle them, most electronics contain mercury, which is very hard to dispose of and typically is not disposed of properly.
7. Make your own cleaning supplies : You can make your very own effective, non-toxic cleaning products and not only can it be a fun family activity, but it's also an inexpensive way to help. A little research can yield big results and just imagine the feeling of knowing that you created something so useful !

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FAEP Newsletter

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Making Sustainability Happen:
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May 3-6, 2009
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Painted Bunting Continued...

"When we began, most of our volunteers wanted to know if the same birds were returning to their feeders every year," said Rotenberg. "With the bands, our volunteers can actually identify individual birds and know if the same ones are visiting."

"We put four colored bands on each painted bunting. That color combination is unique to that individual bird," said Laurel Barnhill, bird conservation coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. "This allows observers to identify and distinguish a particular painted bunting from all the rest."

Each painted bunting receives three predetermined colors and one silver band with inscribed numbers. This silver band is a federal band from the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory. The bands are easily viewed with binoculars.

To become a Painted Bunting Observer Team volunteer or to learn more about the project, please sign up at www.paintedbuntings.org, or e-mail the project coordinator at pbot.mns@ncmail.net.

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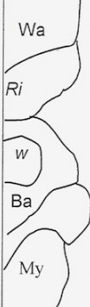
Going Green Continued...

These are just a few of the things that we have done and that you can do. By no means is it meant to be an all encompassing list, more so it's meant to be a starting point. As with any new initiative or change, at first glance it can be overwhelming. To some, the benefits are not readily recognized, but this shouldn't dissuade you. Many times it only takes one person to bring up the point. If you would like your company to start the "going green" process, say something about it. You should realize that the majority of people don't understand what the term really means and what they can do. If you do some research and present the facts, then your company will probably thank you. Even more than that is what we do in our daily lives, the wisdom we impart to our friends, family, and those we come in contact with. It has been said that we teach what we need to learn. Hopefully, this article has been an exercise in that endeavor. We must remain vigilant and do what we can. Protecting the environment is no longer someone else's problem, it is our problem, and we are beginning to have viable and economically sound solutions. The first part of the equation is the change of consciousness, the growing of awareness, and the implementation of ideas. The simple base fact is that all of us have the ability and the chance to make a positive impact. There's no better time to start than right now.

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FWC SCIENTISTS HELP CREATE BENCHMARK FOR FUTURE RED TIDE RESEARCH

Courtesy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Red tide experts with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) have contributed to the most comprehensive assessment of Florida red tide published to date. This month’s special issue of the scientific journal “Harmful Algae” summarizes current red tide research.

In 2006, FWRI, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mote Marine Laboratory sponsored the “State of the Research on Red Tide in the Gulf of Mexico” scientific workshop. Nine articles resulting from this workshop appear in this special issue of “Harmful Algae,” including three landmark articles by FWRI scientists.

Having studied Florida’s red tide for more than 40 years, Dr. Karen Steidinger provides historical perspective on red tide research in the Gulf of Mexico. Drs. Jan Landsberg and Leanne Flewelling review recent research on how red tide toxins affect marine life, including manatees and birds, both during and after a red tide event. Drs. Cindy Heil and Steidinger address how the state monitors and manages red tide to protect human and environmental health.

The articles in “Harmful Algae,” which also summarize Florida red tide biology, research and technology, will help FWRI scientists and their partners continue their efforts to predict, monitor and manage red tide’s environmental impacts and will provide a benchmark for future research.

A Florida red tide is a dense concentration of a microscopic, single-celled, plant-like organism called *Karenia brevis*. This organism produces toxins that can kill fish, birds, manatees and other marine animals, affecting endangered species and important fisheries. Red tide toxins in the air can irritate the human respiratory system, and eating shellfish exposed to red tide toxins can cause food poisoning. To ensure public safety, FWRI works with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to monitor Florida’s shellfish beds for red tide toxins.


To learn more about FWRI’s red tide research programs, visit <http://research.MyFWC.com/redtide>.

Employment Opportunities

Please visit the following links to review the latest postings:

- [FAEP](#)
- [Northwest Chapter](#)
- [Florida DEP Careers](#)
- [NAEP](#)
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What's Happening at our Chapters!

TBAEP Green Iguana Networking Happy Hours a Huge Success!

In September 2008, the TBAEP held a networking happy hour at the Green Iguana on North Westshore Boulevard. A crowd of approximately 78 environmental professionals attended and had a great time meeting new people, seeing familiar faces, and making new business connections!

Due to the success of that first networking happy hour of 2008, we held another in October and approximately 50 people attended, and enjoyed appetizers while watching the Rays game. If anyone remembers the heat during the September event, the October event was much cooler! If you missed our January 2009 networking happy hour, we had approximately 75 people attend. Many new faces were in the group this time around and based upon the comments we received, this may have been the best networking happy hour yet.

Due to the gaining popularity, we are planning on having these events once or twice a quarter. ***Don't miss our April 9th networking happy hour at 5:30 at the Green Iguana on North Westshore!*** Visit www.tbaep.org for more information.



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Florida-Holland Connection Project *Stan Bronson, Florida Earth Foundation*



Florida Earth Foundation has developed a program that acts as an exchange between the State of Florida and the Nation of the Netherlands called the Florida-Holland Connection Project. The program focuses on three aspects of commonality between the two regions, which are water management, climate change and growth stewardship (how do cities grow in a sustainable manner). Last year's inaugural team who went to Holland brought back invaluable information on how the Dutch were approaching the three areas of exchange. This year's team will be in the Netherlands from May 25 through May 29. A tentative agenda is available by going to the Florida Earth website, <http://floridaearth.org>, and following the fly-outs in the main menu's International Programs link. Highlights of this year's agenda are:

- The Dutch government asked us last year to put together an emergency management seminar for Rijkswaterstaat, their Ministry of Transportation, Public Works and Water Management. This will be delivered in The Hague on the first day of the visit, May 25. Leading that part of the experience is Rebecca Griffith, the new Planning Director for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She will have on her sub-team two more USACE people, a FEMA representative from Washington DC, Dr. Garth Redfield, who will represent the State of Florida from the South Florida Water Management District, and Vincent Bonvento, Assistant County Administrator for Palm Beach County, who oversees emergency management on a local level.
- A day will be spent with the Port and City of Rotterdam to look at how they are dealing with water challenges and climate change with respect to sea level rise. In an effort expand the port area, they are in the development stages of the world's largest dredging project, which will make new land for port expansion into the North Sea.
- A state dinner is scheduled with the Governor's office of Zeeland, Holland's southernmost province. This dinner is a highlight of the trip, being held in the famous Middleburg Abbey, built about 1120 AD.
- Research is the final focus of the experience as the team spends time on the last day with Deltares, one of the largest research organizations in the world that does work on water, climate change and sea level rise.
- The FHC Team operates out of Delft at UNESCO-IHE, also called the Institute for Water Education, whose faculty sets up the agenda.

It takes a tremendous effort to put a program like this together and we would like to have as many people as possible take advantage of this opportunity. Please let your colleagues and contacts know of its availability and we certainly invite you to be on the team.

EARTH DAY

The first Earth Day started 39 years ago when 20 million Americans decided we needed to do something about our environment. This year the EPA launched interactive web tools in celebration of Earth Month and their message to the public is Earth Day is Every Day. Below, FAEP is providing a link to EPA's tools as well as other sites focused on Earth Day and Environmental Education Week (April 12-18).

- [EPA's Earth Month Interactive Web Tools](#)
- [National Environmental Education Week](#)
- [Earth Day Network](#)
- [EarthDay.gov](#)
- [Earth Force](#)

If you or your company are involved in programs or events such as these, please [email](#) us information and pictures of the programs or events that we can include in FAEP's next newsletter.

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From the President's Desk Continued...

- All members must adhere to the Environmental Code of Ethics and Standard Practice of the FAEP.
 - Pricing structure will be \$25 for each employee under the group membership option beginning January 1, 2009.
 - Each employee of the group membership will be entered as such in MemberClicks and be responsible for their personal profiles.
- The group membership will include placement of the group member's logo in a Group Members section in the Florida Beacon.

We are encouraging group members to use that additional free membership (i.e., after the initial five members) to have another employee join FAEP for free. At present, we have about 30 groups that may be eligible for group membership. Please check the status of your organization with Danielle Weitlauf (info@faep-fl.org) and take advantage of this new policy. This policy applies only to FAEP membership dues. Through independent efforts, individual FAEP Chapters may also be initiating group membership policies.

Since Bruce is not around this month, I wanted to say a few words about him and his vision for FAEP. Since joining the Board, he has always challenged FAEP to make a difference and become relevant to the Chapters. We on the Board are in a peculiar position because the real grass-roots efforts of this organization occur at the individual Chapter level with the informational meetings and networking. It is really our job on the Board job of FAEP to facilitate these grass roots efforts. Hopefully, we have done this by bringing Danielle on board as the FAEP Administrator and initiating MemberClicks on the website. We have struggled to make it easier to join NAEP, FAEP, and the local Chapter at the same time each year (I know that we may not be there yet for all).

This is coming around to announcing that both Bruce and I are stepping down from the FAEP Board this year. We will be working on other challenges and need to give more time to those efforts. I have been a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) since 1991 and on the American Board of Certified Environmental Professional (ABCEP)'s Certification Review Board for several years so I have decided to take the next step and have volunteered to join the ABCEP Board.

We have an exciting new Board that will meet at the NAEP annual meeting in Arizona. I challenge some of you to step up and get involved. FAEP needs new leaders.

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Watch for it.....

Coming in July

This area will highlight our Corporate Members with their company logos.

For more information on how your organization can become a corporate member, email info@faep-fl.org

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