

# Florida Beacon—Special Edition



From the President's Desk  
Bruce Hasbrouck

This year's NAEP Annual Conference is shaping up to be another great experience. The conference will be held May 2-6 in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona. The conference will be held at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Casino, a four-diamond resort in the Fountain Hills that is nestled in the Sonoran Desert.

There are numerous professional development opportunities with tracks in Land & Watershed Management, NEPA, Water Resources, and Transportation. Other tracks include Air Resources, Energy, Public Participation, and Environmental Education/Stewardship. I can assure you that you will learn a lot from each of the sessions.

Numerous opportunities exist for guided tours of the Grand Canyon, a restoration project, and a riparian preserve. Of course, there are many other chances for getting cultured at local museums and science centers. Plenty of outdoors activities including hot air balloon rides, four-wheeling adventures, horse back

[Continued on page 9](#)

## In This Issue:

- [Getting Green](#)
- [Protecting Florida](#)
- [Florida Wildflower Donation for Research](#)
- [Let Children Breathe!](#)
- [DEP Grant Funds Largest Green Roof in State](#)
- [Conventioneers—Offset Your Carbon Footprint](#)
- [A Day On... Not A Day Off!](#)
- [ABCEP Introduces “CEP—In Training Program”](#)
- [Quick Legislative News](#)
- [Green Living Tip #5](#)

February 2009



## FAEP 2008-2009

### Board of Directors

Bruce Hasbrouck—President
Don Deis—Vice President
Amy Wright-Daly—Past President
Shannon Ruby Julien —Treasurer
Ed Currie —Secretary
Paul Looney—NAEP Rep.
Barbara Albrecht—NW Chapter
Debbie Tyson—SW Chapter
Jennifer Thomson—CN Chapter
Kristin Bennett—TC Chapter
Erik Neugaard—SO Chapter
Ed Currie —NE Chapter
Mike Dentzau —TL Chapter
Wendy Anastasiou—TB Chapter
Mary Gutierrez—At Large
Erik Neugaard—At Large
Nancy Rodlun—At Large
Kathy Hale—At Large

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

<a href="#">Florida Chamber's 25th Annual Growth Management Workshop</a>	February 18 -20	Daytona Beach, FL
<a href="#">National Ground Water Association's 2009 Ground Water Summit</a>	April 19-23	Tucson, AZ
<a href="#">NAEP 34th Annual Conference: Making Sustainability Happen: Goals, Practices and Challenges</a>	May 3-6	Scottsdale, AZ
<a href="#">Tenth International In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation Symposium</a>	May 5-9	Baltimore, MD

## Getting Green Out of Going Green

*Pollution prevention strategies help businesses cut costs and increase profits*

With the nation's economy slowing, cutting costs is a way of life for businesses and industries throughout Florida and the country. Business owners and managers are looking to lower expenses and improve efficiencies any way they can. To identify potential areas of improvement, companies are scrutinizing every aspect of their operations, from the front office to customer delivery.

### Waste not. Want not.

Waste is an area many businesses miss when searching for cost-saving opportunities. Waste is more than contents emptied from garbage cans into dumpsters; it is *any* material, such as energy or water that may be lost through inefficient procedures or equipment. Waste impacts companies in explicit costs such as the replacement of aging air filtration components to the implicit costs of operating the same system to keep employees cool. In addition, the often overlooked expense of proper disposal of materials also affects the bottom line.

By identifying problem areas and implementing cost-cutting measures to reduce waste, businesses are also practicing "green" strategies. Going "green" is not only popular in today's environmentally conscious marketplace; it is financially beneficial. In addition to improving a company's image and marketability, waste reduction can lower costs associated with cleanup, treatment and disposal as well as decrease exposure to long-term liability and risk. Strategies that allow companies to move ahead of the regulatory curve and protect employee health and safety simply make good business sense.

### So how does a company go green without losing green?

With the cost of every product and service on the rise, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's non-regulatory Pollution Prevention Program, also known as P2, offers *free* technical assistance to help businesses simultaneously increase profits and protect the environment. In the past ten years, the program's professional engineers helped more than 500 Florida companies reduce waste and lower costs through individual consultations, on-site assessments, and recommendations tailored to each facility's needs.

P2 offers businesses of all sizes numerous options, from simple changes to complex overhauls, for reducing waste and increasing revenues.

For more information, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us) or [www.FloridaP2.org](http://www.FloridaP2.org) or call DEP's Pollution Prevention Program at (850) 245-8733.

### P2 Working for Florida Business & Industry

Arizona Chemical's Pensacola facility implemented P2 projects over five years, achieving 74% reduction in hazardous waste, 32% reduction in non-hazardous waste, and in the process, recovered nearly \$500,000.

Collier County School Board replaced its air-cooled chiller plant with an energy efficient water-cooled plant using 50% less energy; saving more than \$231,000 per year.

UCT Coatings, Inc., a metal parts plater, installed a state-of-the-art wastewater and chemical recovery system that allows rinse water to be re-used. The first year, UCT saved more than \$22,000 in disposal fees, approximately \$900 in wastewater charges and 150,000 gallons of potable water.

The Beta Center, an Orlando nonprofit, installed programmable thermostats, weather-stripping, solar hot water heaters and Energy Star equipment, saving more than 28,000 KWH of electricity, 18,000 gallons of water and nearly \$3,000 in operating costs.



Specializing In:

- Wetland & Upland Ecology
- Wetland Delineation
- Mitigation Design & Permitting
- Threatened/Endangered Species Studies
- Wildlife Ecology
- Environmental Permitting
- Noise & Air Quality Studies
- Environmental Documentation
- Litigation Support

#### Environmental Management & Design, Inc.

1615 Edgewater Drive, Suite 100  
Orlando, FL 32804

Phone: (407) 843-0615 • Fax: (407) 843-0616  
Email: [emd@emd-inc.net](mailto:emd@emd-inc.net) • [www.emd-inc.net](http://www.emd-inc.net)

A Minority Certified Company  
DB00681913

## Renew your membership today!

Contact Danielle Weitauf to check your status at:

727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

Or visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) to renew online.

## Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

## Protecting the Florida We Love -- Just a Phone Call Away

Courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

When is the last time you saw someone doing harm to Florida's environment? Dumping trash somewhere other than a regulated landfill? Bringing in dozens of fish species from a fishing trip, when the limit was two? Or removing mangroves from Florida's shorelines or islands? These are just a few of the crimes against our state that have sometimes occurred with no consequence to the offender because the one who spotted the illegal activity was unsure how to report it.



That situation has now been remedied by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Law Enforcement who recently implemented a new service for cell phone customers. When encountering a crime or incident harmful to the environment, witnesses can dial #DEP on their wireless phones to report illegal activities.

These can include improper dredge and fill action which can destroy native flora and fauna, alter natural ecosystems and potentially pollute Florida's groundwater. The destruction of mangroves is illegal not only because they serve as storm buffers protecting shorelines, but also provide food and serve as nursery grounds for a variety of commercial and recreational marine species. Toxic spills, deserted oil drums, dumping of hazardous and biological waste or demolition debris are other unlawful occurrences that can harm Florida's magnificent natural environment and threaten the health of humans and wildlife. Even improper disposal of electronics can pollute our waterways, leaking heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, into Florida's groundwater which supplies 90 percent of the state's drinking water.

With the number wireless phone users steadily increasing, it's easy for Florida's citizens to become the eyes and ears for the well-being of the state's valuable natural resources. And by dialing #DEP to report environmental crimes, emergency responders will be able to act quickly to stop illegal activity that could cause potential harm to nearby neighborhoods and water bodies.

In addition to the #DEP service for mobile phone users, callers can also report environmental crimes to the Environmental Crimes Hotline at the State Warning Point by calling 1 (877) 272-8335 or 1 (877) 2-SAVE-FL. For more information on DEP's new Division of Law Enforcement, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us/law](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/law).

It's our Florida. Let's do all we can to protect its beauty and keep it healthy -- both above and below the surface.

### Providing Mitigation Solutions Throughout Florida

*Representing 15 mitigation banks  
that encompass over 28,000 acres  
of protected land throughout Florida*

Mitigation  
Marketing

Contact us for your wetland or habitat mitigation needs:

[www.mitigationmarketing.com](http://www.mitigationmarketing.com)

407.481.0677

## Florida Beacon


Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

**Ecospatial Analysts, Inc.**



- GIS/GPS - ESRI ArcGIS
- Conservation Planning
- Restoration and Mitigation
- Environmental Permitting
- Resource Assessments
- Threatened and Endangered Species Ecology and Habitat Analyses

Vickie Larson, *President*  
 475 Robin Hood Drive ■ Merritt Island, FL 32953  
 Phone 321.403.5147 ■ [ecospatial@aol.com](mailto:ecospatial@aol.com)



**Southeast Soil & Environmental Service inc**  
 (772) 359-0038

**Gregory J. Sawka, CPSS**  
 Soil Scientist

Soil & hydrologic investigations – Training  
 Wetland delineation - Expert Testimony

[gsawka@juno.com](mailto:gsawka@juno.com)

**Quick Legislative News**

**DEP Secretary Announces Major Effort to Support Local Governments with Water Quality Protection Projects**—Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that local governments eager to begin building wastewater treatment, re-use and stormwater projects will benefit from \$250 million in bonds issues through DEP’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF awards low-interest loans for water pollution control projects. [Click here](#) to read more.

**EPA Revisits California Waiver Decision**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will reconsider its decision denying California permission to set standards controlling greenhouse gases from motor vehicles per a request made by President Barack Obama on January 26. EPA received on January 21, 2009, a letter from California outlining several issues for Administrator Jackson to review and reconsider about the previous denial of the waiver. Many other states are interested in adopting California’s standards. EPA will take public comment concerning the reconsideration. Visit [EPA’s website](#) to read more.

real vision

# Inspiring reality

The better way ... the next step to innovation ... the small improvement that makes the big difference.

**PBS&J**

Visualize the future.  
 Then call PBS&J.

---

Offices throughout the US • [pbsj.com](http://pbsj.com) • 800.477.7275

**GREEN LIVING TIP #5**

**BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)**

According to the Smithsonian Institution, it takes one 15- to 20-year-old tree to make enough paper for only 700 grocery bags. And, although paper bags are biodegradable, they’re often made from virgin-not yet recycled-paper.

Sure, you can recycle you plastic bags at many grocery stores. But, the recycling process and manufacture of new bags requires much more energy than the production of reusable cloth bags.

Cloth bags are the green alternative! Take them with you every time you shop!

Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Chapter of FAEP.

**Florida Wildflower Founda-  
tion Donates \$100,000 for  
Research**

**UF endowment will support vital exploration into native  
Florida wildflowers**


The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) this week do-  
nated \$100,000 to the Gary Henry Endowment for the  
Study of Florida Native Wildflowers at the University of  
Florida/IFAS.

The endowment was established by the Foundation in  
2007 with the intent of funding a graduate assistantship to  
conduct native species research at the university. It hon-  
ors FWF board member Gary Henry, a landscape architect  
formerly with the Florida Department of Transportation  
who was a driving force behind the establishment of the  
State Wildflower license tag in 2000.

The endowment is made possible by the \$15 donation  
made with the purchase of each tag, said Foundation  
Chair Anne Mackay. “We have many individuals to thank  
for choosing the Florida State Wildflower license tag. Be-  
cause of their generosity, we can pursue research that  
will help our Florida seed and plant growers to discover  
best practices in the production of Florida ecotypes.”

Florida native ecotypes play a key role in the success of  
wildflower plantings in the state. “Because the species  
have adapted to Florida’s weather and soil conditions,  
they are easier to grow and sustain than many exotic  
plant species,” said Lisa Roberts, FWF executive director.

[Continued on page 9](#)




**SURVTECH**  
SOLUTIONS  
*Surveying Today with Tomorrow's Technology*

**SURVEYING &  
MAPPING**

Specializing in  
Environmental  
Surveying

**OSHA/MSHA Safety  
Certified 40 Hour  
Hazwoper Crews  
Brownfields  
Wetlands  
DEP Petroleum  
Cleanup Sites &  
More!**

Visit Us Online  
[SurvTechSolutions.com](http://SurvTechSolutions.com)  
or call (877) 621-4929



**Schedule**  
Contract GS-10F-01 60T

**No Idling - Let Children Breathe!**  
by John Parker

Have you ever left your car running while: Waiting to pick someone up?  
Running errands? Sitting at the drive-through? Mobile source emissions  
are the number one cause of air pollution in central Florida. In an ef-  
fort to reduce respiratory ailments in school children, the Environmental Protection Divi-  
sion (EPD) collaborated with Orange County Public Schools, the American Lung Association,  
Metroplan Orlando and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to institute an  
anti-idling campaign at area elementary schools.

Anti-idle signs were placed at the pick up / drop off areas of the two elementary schools  
participating in the pilot project; Shenandoah and Pine Castle. Informational packets and  
pledge cards were sent home to parents asking them to refrain from idling while parked,  
and student volunteers were trained to patrol the Anti-Idle Zones looking for errant vehi-  
cles. If the student volunteers observed an idling vehicle, they recorded the time the vehi-  
cle remained idling, the number of occupants in each vehicle, the activities drivers were  
engaged in while idling (watching for child, reading, listening to radio), and the weather  
conditions. Students also documented any obstacles they encountered while implementing  
the program.

In addition to the signs and pledge cards, EPD provided teachers and students with infor-  
mative fact sheets listing the benefits of not idling and the health risks associated with  
auto emissions. Once the pledge cards were returned to the teach-

[Continued on page 9](#)



# Coastal Resources Group, Inc.



A Florida not-for-profit Corporation

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

## WETLANDS RESTORATION TRAINING

**MANGROVE RESTORATION: MARCH 4-6, 2009, AND MARCH 3-5, 2010,  
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA**

[WWW.MANGROVERESTORATION.COM](http://WWW.MANGROVERESTORATION.COM)

**SEAGRASS RESTORATION: TBA**

[WWW.SEAGRASSRESTORATIONNOW.COM](http://WWW.SEAGRASSRESTORATIONNOW.COM)

**INDIVIDUAL COURSES FOR OFFICE STAFF AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST  
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION**

PO Box 5430 Salt Springs, FL 32134-5430  
Street Address: 23797 NE 189th Street, Salt Springs, FL 32134

Phone: (352) 546-4842 Fax: (352) 546-5224 Toll Free: (888) 889-9684  
Mobile: (813) 505-3999 Email: [LESr13@aol.com](mailto:LESr13@aol.com)

## DEP GRANT FUNDS LARGEST GREEN ROOF IN THE STATE

Courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today continued support of innovative land use and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) by awarding a \$1.4 million Urban BMP Research and Demonstration grant to Escambia County. The county will use the funding for construction of a green roof as well as for a pervious pavement parking lot with recessed landscape islands at its One Stop Permitting Center, where all county development applications and building permits will be processed. When the complete, the green roof will total 33,160 square feet, the largest in Florida.

"Investing in new 'green' technologies to reduce stormwater pollution, conserve energy and protect our rivers, lakes and springs will further water quality protection and provide clean water to meet future water supply needs," according to Eric Livingston, chief of the DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration. "This project is a great example of how local governments can adopt environmentally-sustainable practices that not only protect natural resources but help reduce the potential for some of the harmful effects of climate change."

Green roofs use waterproofing, drainage systems that allow a layer of vegetation to grow on flat or sloping roofs, and a cistern to store stormwater. The stormwater filtrate is then used to irrigate the green roof. The environmentally-friendly design reduces energy transfer through a roof, decreases stormwater pollutants, and lessens stormwater volume by naturally evaporating the runoff through the plants. Additionally, the pervious parking lot with recessed landscape islands will reduce stormwater volume and pollution, demonstrating how this innovative technology can be used to beautify parking lots compared to traditional methods.

DEP's grant funds represent the amount of the increase in costs for implementation of the low impact design above what it would have cost for installation of a

[Continued on page 8](#)

**Florida Beacon**

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

## Great Opportunity for Conventioneers to Offset Their Carbon Footprint!

By Beth Bromfield

Thanks to a new initiative, organizers holding an event, meeting, workshop or convention in central Florida can make their event more “green” by offsetting the carbon emissions produced by the event. By purchasing carbon offsets through Orange County, event organizers can combat climate change on a global level by increasing the use of alternative and renewable energy locally.



A carbon offset is a financial tool that allows you to balance your carbon footprint by supporting projects that reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would otherwise be created. The goal is to make your event at least carbon neutral with no net increases in GHGs.

Offsetting the carbon produced offers a way to transition to a clean energy future and support GHG reduction projects. While carbon offsets will help the global community no matter where they are applied, it is important to support local alternative energy initiatives.

The first step is to reduce your carbon emissions as much as possible. This will not only reduce the GHG emissions in the atmosphere, it will also support the local economy and perhaps even save you money. Next, figure out the remainder of your carbon emissions by using one of the numerous on-line calculators. Orange County offers such a calculator designed especially for events on the *Green Your Event* section of the *Orange to Green* Web site, [www.ocfl.net/OrangeToGreen](http://www.ocfl.net/OrangeToGreen). Finally, offset your emissions through Orange County’s Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Conservation Fund (REC Fund). A contribution of \$10 per ton of carbon will help combat global climate change by supporting local, renewable energy projects.

Currently, Orange County is involved with two projects designed to help transition the County to renewable energy:

- The [Solar Hot Water Incentive Program](#) is intended to encourage the use solar technology by providing a financial incentive of \$200 for the installation of a new solar water heating system on residential and commercial properties. This is in addition to financial incentives from local utility companies along with the federal and state governments. You can get more information at [www.ocfl.net/EPD](http://www.ocfl.net/EPD).
- The installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on the Orange County Convention Center will become a model for clean energy in the community and the nation. The one-megawatt array will be one of the largest in the southeast and will allow for substantial energy savings. In addition, a new Climate Change Center being developed in the Convention Center’s south concourse will be an interactive storehouse of the latest information on alternative energies.

For more information on Orange County’s REC Fund or alternative energy projects, contact Jodi Dittell of EPD at [jodi.dittell@ocfl.net](mailto:jodi.dittell@ocfl.net) or (407) 836-1419.

### *Are you looking for an intern? Or do you just need a shadow?*

In the past year the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals (TBAEP) has been expanding their contacts with local universities. TBAEP now has student chapters at University of Tampa, Eckerd College, USF St. Pete, and soon, USF Tampa. Their goal is to establish student chapters at all of the colleges in the region and to facilitate the exchange of information between the students and employers. TBAEP continues to provide the student chapters with a list of employers that have internship and job shadowing opportunities as well as entry-level positions.

Does your organization have an internship, job shadowing or entry-level position available? Please respond to [thas-brouck@pinellascounty.org](mailto:thas-brouck@pinellascounty.org) if you do.

Florida Beacon

**FAEP Newsletter**

**Published Quarterly by the  
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals**

**P.O. Box 7416**

**St. Petersburg, FL 33734**

**Phone: 727-565-1985**

**Fax: 727-565-1986**

**Email: [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)**

conventional roof and parking lot. The county will be responsible for conducting stormwater monitoring at the site to document the differences in stormwater volume and pollutant loading between the traditional and pervious pavement parking lot as part of a multi-year research project to study low-impact best management practices.

“The funding from this DEP grant and partnership is making it possible for Escambia County to construct our new low impact office building with additional pollution reduction and energy conservation measures,” said Taylor “Chips” Kirschenfeld, Escambia County marine biologist and Environmental Programs Manager. “In addition, this LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building will serve as a demonstration project for northwest Florida builders and contractors who want to touch and feel these low impact green building practices, such as the green roof and pervious pavement, before hopefully incorporating these ideas into their new projects.”

This is the third, and final, green roof research and demonstration project DEP has helped to fund in the past five years. The first project was done in cooperation with the Bonita Bay Group at the Shadow Wood Preserve project near Ft. Myers. The project demonstrated the need for a cistern and irrigation system for the green roof to maintain the plants. It also helped determine which plants can be used successfully on a green roof in a tropical climate. The second project was at the University of Central Florida’s Student Union. This project generated several master’s theses which documented the stormwater quantity and quality benefits of a greenroof/cistern system. Additionally, energy monitoring revealed that the green roof reduces heat transfer through the roof by 40 percent in the summer and 50 percent in the winter when compared to an Energy Star roof.

The TMDL Urban BMP Research and Demonstration program is a sub-element of the Water Quality Restoration Grant Program established by the Florida Legislature in 2005 as part of Senate Bill 444. Funds can be used to reduce urban nonpoint source pollution, primarily untreated urban stormwater, discharged to water bodies on the state’s verified list of impaired waters. The Department’s funds are used primarily for the construction of the stormwater treatment system and for monitoring to determine the actual pollutant load reductions from the treatment

[Continued on page 9](#)



LEWIS  
LONGMAN  
& WALKER | P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## Water is our Work

Providing unparalleled experience representing public and private sector clients throughout Florida in resolving matters before the Water Management Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Protection and local governments.

- Water/Wastewater Utilities
- Water Quality & Water Supply
- Wetlands
- Surface Water
- Land Use
- Regulatory and Permitting Issues
- Due Diligence
- Consumptive Use
- Contract Negotiations
- Litigation Support & Counseling
- Government Relations
- Site Selection, Land Use, Infrastructure & Leases

*For more information contact:*

John J. Fumero  
jfumero@llw-law.com

Erin L. Deady  
edeady@llw-law.com

Julia L. Jennison  
jjennison@llw-law.com

[www.llw-law.com](http://www.llw-law.com)

*The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.*



### From the President's Desk Continued...

riding, and rock climbing are all close to the resort.

NAEP will be presenting the Annual Environmental Excellence Awards, an Environmental Careers Seminar, and a Job Fair/Networking mixer. For more information, please visit [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org).



## Making Sustainability Happen: Goals, Practices and Challenges

May 3-6, 2009  
Radisson Fort McDowell  
Scottsdale, AZ

### No Idling Continued...

ers, participating parents received a “turn the key - be idle free” window cling tag, which they were asked to display on their passenger-side window, and parents were rewarded for their participation with a key chain bearing the same message.

At the close of the school year, idling data was collected and analyzed to determine if idle reductions were achieved. Shendoah had the greatest overall participation at 60%, while Pine Castle achieved the greatest overall idle reductions.

Idling at both schools was reduced by over 50% since the program was implemented. Student volunteers were provided leadership training, which served to improve their interpersonal and communication skills. This year, EPD plans to expand the campaign by instituting the program in approximately 18 additional schools.



Like driving, idling releases emissions into the air. Unlike driving, idling is unnecessary. An hour of automobile idling burns approximately 1/5 of a gallon of gasoline and releases nearly 4 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the air. Excessive amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere can lead to global warming.

### DEP Grant Continued...

system. The 50-percent matching funds provided by local governments or water management districts typically pay for land acquisition, design, permitting, and maintenance.

For more information on the TMDL Water Quality Restoration Grant Program, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/tmdl\\_grant.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/tmdl_grant.htm).

### Wildflower Foundation Continued...

The Foundation uses funds collected through the State Wildflower tag to conduct native wildflower research, education and planting projects statewide. In 2007, it granted more than \$395,000 for initiatives such as wildflower demonstration gardens, roadside plantings and educational publications.

For more information on the Foundation's work, contact Lisa Roberts at 407-353-6164 or visit its Web site, [www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org](http://www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org), or blog, [www.floridawildflowerfoundation.blogspot.com](http://www.floridawildflowerfoundation.blogspot.com).



## Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

## Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent Training

Register Now to meet the New FWC requirements for Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agents

(A partnership between Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute and Wildlands Conservation, Inc.)

Please contact us to register, or for more information on our programs.

Tel. **941.485.6001**

Email **wildlands@wildlandsconservation.org**

[www.gophertortoisetraining.org](http://www.gophertortoisetraining.org)



## A Day On... Not a Day Off!

The Martin Luther King’s Day of Service transformed a federal holiday honoring Dr. King into a national day of community service grounded in his teachings of nonviolence and social justice. The aim is to make the holiday a day ON, where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned.



During the 1950s and '60s, civil rights activists and Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. On Monday, January 19, over 100 inspired residents young and old joined to plant trees and shrubs at Ivey Lane Elementary and Park. The park is in front of Ivey Lane Elementary school on Old Winter Garden Road. Ivey Lane Park was created through a special partnership between Orange County Government, the City of Orlando, and Orange County Public Schools to bring needed recreational and community amenities to hard working residents living in a community of need. In the tough economic times facing local governments, new partnership and collaboration will be developed based on the examples set by partnerships like this.

Keep Orlando Beautiful, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and certified as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. The program is administered by the City of Orlando. Keep Orlando Beautiful provided over 1,000 trees and shrubs that were planted by the volunteers. The volunteers were individuals and groups like churches, sororities, fraternities, UCF students, Cub and Boy Scouts. When the planting was finished, volunteers were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs.

There were also many individuals participating that work for Orange County Government, the City of Orlando, and the Orange County Sheriff’s Office. The participation of Orange County staff in this and many other volunteer events shows that our staff is committed to making Orange County one of the best places to live.



**Florida Beacon**

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

New environmental professionals are welcome to join the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) Certified Environmental Professional - In Training program (CEP-IT). This program is for those environmental professionals who do not yet meet the requirements of a CEP, but who would like to take advantage of some of the benefits that a CEP offers. If you know individuals who may be interested in this program, please forward them the outline of this program presented below, or have them contact ABCEP at [abcep.org](http://abcep.org) for more information.

### **CEP-IT’s Application Requirements are Simple**

To receive a CEP In-Training certificate, individuals must:

1. Submit application form (similar to CEP)
2. Enclose 1/2 the application fee of a CEP (currently  $\$125/2 = \$62.50$ ).
3. Submit transcript that indicates the individual has at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university in an applicable field (same as CEP).
4. Sign an ethics pledge (same as CEP).
5. Provide 3 references (using same form as for CEP)

### **CEP-IT’s Gain Immediate Access to a CEP Mentor**

As soon as a CEP-IT’s application is deemed completed, the ABCEP Executive Administrator will notify the chair of the ABCEP Mentor Committee, who will assign a CEP mentor to that individual. This is a great opportunity for a new environmental professional to receive guidance from an experienced person who is highly regarded in this field. The CEP-IT is welcome to contact the mentor as needed to discuss progress, to solicit feedback regarding the CEP-IT’s career, and to obtain suggested opportunities for growth. CEPs who supervise a CEP-IT gain hours toward their annual maintenance requirements, so the CEP-IT can be assured that the mentor is motivated to provide support to the CEP-IT as needed for their mutual benefit.

### **CEP-IT Maintenance Requirements Help Advance Careers**

To maintain a CEP In-Training certificate, individuals must:

1. Report at least 20 hrs of annual effort to maintain In-Training status (using the same form used by CEPs).
2. Submit an annual maintenance fee of half the requirements for CEP maintenance (currently  $\$100/2 = \$50$ ).
3. Submit a form briefly describing career goals and plans for meeting them (see the new career plan form). This form is forwarded to the mentor for review. Meeting the goals is not a requirement for maintaining CEP-IT status, but submitting a plan is required.

### **A CEP-IT Certificate Reduces Requirements to Obtain a CEP**

If an individual receives a CEP-IT and maintains it for at least three years, CEP requirements for total experience are reduced by one year, as shown below.

#### **Years of Experience Required to Apply for CEP Without CEP-IT**

Bachelor’s Degree 9 years

Master’s Degree 8 years

Ph.D 7 years

#### **Years of Experience Required to Apply for CEP With a CEP-IT for at least 3 years**

Bachelor’s Degree 8 years

Master’s Degree 7 years

Ph.D 6 years

Those CEP applicants who are not certified because of a lack of experience have the option of becoming a CEP-IT to get an early start on becoming a CEP

### **Additional Benefits of a CEP-IT**

Besides access to an assigned CEP mentor who will provide career guidance and a reduced CEP experience requirement, the CEP-IT provides the following additional benefits:

1. Electronic newsletter
2. Access to CEP website
3. Access to CEP members
4. Notices of CEP Board meetings

[Continued on page 12](#)

5. Notices of CEP member meetings
  6. Notification to existing and potential employers that the individual is recognized by the environmental profession
  7. Better understanding of the environmental profession
  8. Contacts that will reduce effort needed to become a CEP
  9. Enhanced personal qualifications on proposals submitted to clients
  10. Enhanced to opportunities to participate on ABCEP committees and at ABCEP-sponsored events
  11. Authorization by ABCEP to put "CEP-IT" on business cards, resumes, and signature title
  12. Increased salary for organizations that reward staff with professional certifications
- Increased potential for career advancement

For those of you who are new to the environmental profession, consider applying for a Certified Environmental Professional In Training. For those of you who know potential candidates for this certification, reach out and let them know about this new program. Achieving a CEP-IT could be an important milestone in a successful career in this field.

Richard Burke, CEP  
Chairperson, Mentor Committee



## Become a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP)

OBTAIN THE RECOGNITION YOUR CAREER DESERVES

*Celebrating 30 Years*

The CEP program was initiated by the National Association of Environmental Professionals. Since 1999, it has been managed by the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP). The program is accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards.

**Certification is granted in five areas:**

**Environmental Assessment**  
**Environmental Documentation**  
**Environmental Operations**  
**Environmental Planning**  
**Environmental Research/Education**

**Benefits to You as an Individual**

Serves as a basis for performance awards and promotions;  
Increases marketability and enhanced career opportunities; and  
Enhances networking opportunities.

**Benefits to the Employer**

Enhanced confidence in the capabilities of the employee;  
Strengthens technical proposals to your clients; and  
Demonstrates the depth of technical skills in your organization.

**For more information, contact ABCEP at:**

**Toll-free:** 866-767-8073  
**Fax:** 410.254.5542  
**Email:** [office@abcep.org](mailto:office@abcep.org)  
**Internet:** [www.abcep.org](http://www.abcep.org)