

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk...
Amy Guilfoyle



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Fall 2015



FAEP 2015 Annual Conference

A special thank you goes out to the Treasure Coast Chapter for hosting the 2015 FAEP Annual Conference and Training Symposium in Palm Beach Gardens. The September event was a complete success with almost 200 attendees from all over the state. PGA National Resort and Spa was a sumptuous venue with very comfortable meeting rooms and excellent food. The keynote speaker for Thursday's lunch was EPA Region IV Administrator, Heather McTeer Toney, who gave an inspiring talk about current environmental issues the country is facing and how they impact our profession. The sessions were well attended and everyone enjoyed the width and breadth of subject matter throughout the conference. Training and field trips were also offered at the conference with field trips filling up to capacity well before the conference started. The Treasure Coast Chapter and the FAEP would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of this year's conference:

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Cont'd on the next page

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**Check the last page of this
newsletter to determine if you
qualify for a discount on your
membership!**

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!
The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is November 9th at 12:00 PM.
To join the Board meeting via conference call
dial: 605-475-4000 (code 607028#)

Find out more about FAEP
Member's Benefits at our website:
WWW.FAEP-FL.ORG

FAEP 2015 Annual Conference cont'd



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**Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals
South Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals**

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 Annual Conference hosted by the Southwest Chapter!

Photos Have been added to the FAEP website on the Conference page!!!

Southwest Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Dr. Holly Ober – the Florida Bonneted Bat

This July SWFAEP was fortunate to have Dr. Holly Ober come and speak at our membership luncheon about her current research on the Florida Bonneted Bat, Florida's newest listed wildlife species. Dr. Ober is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. Her area of specialty is bats and she has been conducting research on bat conservation and management for over 15 years. Dr. Ober had previously visited the Southwest Florida chapter and spoke about the Bonneted Bat at the beginning of her research and the presentation was so well received by the participants, that we were thrilled to have her back to get an update on her research.

Dr. Ober and her graduate research assistant have conducted acoustic surveys and GPS satellite tracking studies in various areas throughout south Florida to try and gain more information about foraging and roosting preferences and behaviors of the Bonneted Bat. While the data they have collected is still preliminary, they have started to discover some new information about the species. The acoustic studies located several Florida Bonneted Bats outside of the current U.S Fish and Wildlife Service consultation area for the species. In addition, they also discovered a previously unrecorded natural bonneted bat roost in a slash pine in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The research has also begun to confirm previous hypotheses about the species. For example, their GPS studies have supported the belief that the bats are less active in colder temperatures and that the bats will forage several miles away from their roost, often leaving roughly 30 minutes after sunset and returning by at least 4 hours before sunrise.

With further analysis of both landscape feature data (habitat type, canopy cover, distance from roads, etc.) and the Bonneted Bat data, Dr. Ober hopes that trends will appear that will provide insight on habitat preferences of the Bonneted Bat. Such insight may even help to better predict the species occurrences in the future. Dr. Ober predicts that with further studies like hers, future changes to the USFWS consultation area are likely.

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The Clean Water Rule took effect on August 28, 2015

Guest Column Article by Kelly Sands with Westervelt Ecological Services

In an unprecedented rule making, EPA has attempted to restore broad jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, which had been substantially restricted by Supreme Court decisions, SWANCC and Rapanos. The Rule has been a long time in the making. U.S. Supreme Court cases have guided interpretation of federal jurisdiction since 2001, but jurisdiction under the Act has been expressed in varying degrees throughout history. This may be just another moment in that ever-changing history of defining “waters of the U.S.” or it might be the new law of the land - or wetland, as the case may be. This ruling adds new rhetoric to the discussion, namely “neighboring” and “bright line boundaries,” and more specificity on jurisdiction, which could reduce the likelihood of successful court challenges. A summary of the major points of the rule is provided below. Lawsuits from states claim the rule infringes on their sovereignty and have blocked its implementation in 13 states –the rule is in effect in Florida. A resolution “disapproving” of the rule from republican congressmen may mean that the future of wetland jurisdiction under the Act is still uncertain.

The rule in short:

Traditional Navigable Waters, Interstate Waters, Territorial Seas, and Impoundments of Jurisdictional

Waters: These waters are jurisdictional by the rule.

Tributaries: Waters that are characterized by the presence of physical indicators of flow – bed and banks and ordinary high water marks – and that contribute flow directly or indirectly to a traditional navigable water, an interstate water, or the territorial seas. The rule only covers tributaries that provide chemical, physical, and biological functions to downstream waters and that meet the significant nexus standard. Significant nexus is defined in detail the rule and are basically waters significantly affect the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of other “waters of the United States.”

Adjacent Waters: Means bordering, contiguous, or neighboring. Neighboring is defined by bright line boundaries:

- 1) Waters located in whole or in part within 100 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a traditional navigable water, interstate water, the territorial seas, an impoundment of a jurisdictional water, or a tributary, as defined by the rule.
- 2) Waters located in whole or in part in the 100-year floodplain and that are within 1,500 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a traditional navigable water, interstate water, the territorial seas, an impoundment, or a tributary, as defined in the rule (“floodplain waters”).
- 3) Waters located in whole or in part within 1,500 feet of the high tide line of a traditional navigable water or the territorial seas and waters located within 1,500 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the Great Lakes.

Case-Specific Significant Nexus: Waters outside of the “neighboring” boundaries stated above where the science demonstrates a significant nexus are jurisdictional based on a case-specific analysis. A case-specific significant nexus determination also applies to waters within the 100-year floodplain of a traditional navigable water, interstate water, or the territorial seas and waters within 4,000 feet of the high tide line or the ordinary high water mark of a traditional navigable water interstate water, the territorial seas, impoundments, or covered tributary, as well as “similarly situated” waters. A “similarly situated” analysis is conducted where it is determined that there is a likelihood that there are waters that function together to affect downstream water integrity. In addition, five specific types of waters should be subject to a significant nexus analysis: Prairie potholes, Carolina and Delmarva bays, pocosins, western vernal pools in California, and Texas coastal prairie wetlands .

Exclusions: Prior converted cropland and waste treatment systems have been excluded, as well as stormwater control features constructed in dry land. The rule excludes ditches that flow only after precipitation. Also, explicitly excluded are features that do not contain a bed and banks and ordinary high water mark.

GOVERNOR, CABINET HONOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGERS OF THE YEAR

~Award recognizes commitment to Florida's environment~



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet honored Samantha McGee, park biologist of St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, as one of three top Florida resource managers of the year for her commitment to the park's habitat restoration and stewardship of state lands. Recipients are selected by a committee of environmental professionals representing the Sierra Club, Florida Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.

"I'm proud to recognize Samantha McGee as one of Florida's top resource managers," said Donald Forgione, director of the Florida Park Service. "She is dedicated to restoring and protecting the 22,000 acres of St. Sebastian River Preserve."

Ms. Samantha "Sammy" McGee has served as a park biologist at St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park since 2004. Ms. McGee demonstrates her commitment to preserving the park's resources every day through habitat restoration, prescribed fire, and removal of invasive and exotic plants and animals. She has worked with five organizations to write and manage nearly \$1 million in grants to restore scrub habitat, remove exotic plants, improve habitat for gopher tortoises and restore more than 10,000 acres of pine flatwoods. Ms. McGee is also active in the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative to advance monitoring and survival of red-cockaded woodpeckers, along with Florida scrub-jay, brown-headed nuthatch and carnivorous pitcher plants at the park.

This prestigious environmental honor is bestowed annually to a natural resource manager from DEP, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The other award recipients were Cathy Lowenstein, forest resource administrator for the Florida Forest Service and Jean McCollum, land manager for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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“Fall For Fakahatchee” Swamp Buggy Tour



This is a FAEP Members-Only Event

November 7, 2015
At
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve
State Park
137 Coast Line Drive, Copeland, FL



10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Only \$60.00 per person!
(Retail for +\$120.00)
Lunch will be provided.

All proceeds will benefit
Friends of Fakahatchee.
Additional donations
are welcome.

Join us for a spectacular swamp buggy tour of
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

At 10:00 am participants will meet at the main entrance of
the park .

From there participants will travel to the camp site where
lunch will be served.

There will be opportunity to explore Fourstakes Prairie be-
fore heading out into the Strand on swamp buggies.

The tour will be from 1:00 to around 6:00 pm.
Following the tour, there will be an opportunity for
participants to stay and enjoy a bonfire if they wish.

The event is open to all FAEP members, on a first come-first
serve basis.

Space is limited so reserve your seats early!

To Reserve Your Seats
RSVP to SVFAEP@gmail.com



Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
FAEP Northwest Chapter 2015 Symposium	November 6, 2015	Pensacola, FL
The Gathering Threat of Climate Change and Its Implications for Water Security and Sea Level Rise, University of Miami	November 13, 2015	Coral Gables, FL
Science, Society and the Climate Story, University of Florida	November 13, 2015	Gainesville, FL
National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium,	November 16 – 19, 2015	Tampa, FL
Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit	December 1-3, 2015	Key West, FL
FLERA 2015 Winter Symposium	December 3 – 4, 2015	St. Petersburg, FL
Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference, USF	January 25 – 27, 2016	Tampa, FL
UF Water Institute Symposium	February 16 – 17, 2016	Gainesville, FL
Sea Level Rise Summit: Shared Futures From Alaska to Florida, Florida Atlantic University	Spring, 2016	Ft Lauderdale, FL
NAEP Conference	April 11-14, 2016	Chicago, IL
Florida Water Resources Conference	April 24 – 27, 2016	Kissimmee, FL
FLERA Winter Symposium	December 3 – 4, 2015	St. Petersburg, FL
UF Public Interest Environmental Conference	February 11 – 13, 2016	Gainesville, FL
League of Environmental Educators	March 18 – 20, 2016	St. Marks, FL
26 th Annual Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air	March 21 – 24, 2016	San Diego, CA
Battelle 2016 Chlorinated Conference	May 22 – 26, 2016	Palm Springs, CA
World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2016	May 22 – 26, 2016	Palm Beach, FL
Society of Wetland Scientists	May 31 – June 24, 2016	Corpus Christi, TX
Battelle - Ninth International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments	January 9 – 12, 2017	New Orleans, LA

FAEP shares information about conferences pertaining to the environmental professions. FAEP does not endorse any of the referenced conferences.



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and Engineering

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The Northwest Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals would like to invite you to our

Annual Symposium

November 6th, 2015

From 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

at the University of West Florida
Conference Center (2nd Floor)

Building 22
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
Pensacola, FL

Additional Information and Registration at

<http://goo.gl/K8jcMS>



Florida Association of
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To promote the goal of enhancing, maintaining, and protecting the quality of the natural and human environment.

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FAEP Group Discount Memberships

Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our membership to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or renewing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$40 to \$35 for everyone from your company or organization. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's professional development and the FAEP mission:

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 St. Petersburg, FL 33734
 Email: info@faep-fl.org

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