

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk...
Amy Guilfoyle



**Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals**
Winter 2016



Happy New Year FAEP members,

I hope this message finds you well and that you have had an enjoyable holiday season. I am honoured to continue serving the members of the FAEP as President for the 2016 year. I would like to thank our outgoing Board Members: Melissa O'Conner, John Lesman, and Elva Peppers. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the FAEP. We recently conducted elections for the Executive Committee and are excited to have Tim Terwilliger serving as Vice President, Debbie Madden as Secretary, and Tim Perry as Treasurer. In addition, we have new Chapter Representatives for the Central Chapter – Hannah Rowe and the Tallahassee Chapter – Echo Gates.

The FAEP Board will continue to work towards increasing membership and participation across the State during the upcoming year. As part of this, we plan on highlighting a local Chapter in the newsletters and emails throughout the year. Please see the following page for information on our Northeast Chapter.

The Southwest Chapter is hard at work planning the 2016 FAEP Conference in Bonita Springs in September. The conference should provide ample educational and networking opportunities. Dates and location should be announced soon.

The FAEP Board Members are committed to growing this organization and supporting its members. Please let us know if you have suggestions or would like to become more involved. Thank you and I look forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

Amy L. Guilfoyle
FAEP President

Cont'd on the next page

FAEP 2016 Board of Directors

Amy Guilfoyle – President

Tim Terwilliger – Vice President

Mary Gutierrez – Past President

Tim Perry – Treasurer

Debbie Madden – Secretary

Bruce Hasbrouck - Parliamentarian

Hannah Rowe – CN Chapter

Stan Stokes – NE Chapter

Amy Mixon - NW Chapter

Stephanie Voris – SO Chapter

Lauren Edinger – SW Chapter

Tim Terwilliger – TB Chapter

Paul Fitzgerald – TC Chapter

Echo Gates – TL Chapter

Debbie Madden – At Large Member

Todd Hodgson – At Large Member

Courtney Arena – At Large Member

Tim Perry – At Large Member

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

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

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!

**The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is February 22nd at 12:00 PM.**

**To join the Board meeting via conference call
dial: 605-475-4000 (code 607028#)**



Northeast Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

The Northeast Chapter of the FAEP (NEFAEP) serves Jacksonville and surrounding areas including Nassau, St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam, Baker, Union, Bradford, and Alachua Counties. The NEFAEP organizes monthly networking or programmed events and has also begun conducting annual service projects to enhance the northeast Florida environment. All proceeds of the NEFAEP are used to enhance the environment and further environmental education for local students. In 1998, NEFAEP started a scholarship fund with the goal of awarding a \$25,000 endowment to one of the local universities. In 2002, the endowment was completed and awarded to Jacksonville University (JU). This endowment has been used by JU to help fund an upper division student whose major focus is environmental studies. Since 1999, NEFAEP also awarded direct scholarships to both JU and the University of North Florida (UNF). In 2005, FCCJ was included in the scholarship fund. In 2015, NEFAEP awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to individual students who completed an application and an essay describing their plans to pursue an environmental career. These scholarships are made possible through the proceeds from the monthly meetings, conferences, and contributions from sponsoring organizations. The NEFAEP looks forward to continuing to enhance the northeast Florida environment and develop the scholarship program in hopes that the program will provide a continued medium for professional contact and information exchange among members, students, and academe. For more information on the NEFAEP, please contact the following board members:

President - [Aaron Ben David](#)

Vice-President - [Jesse Brown](#)

Vice-President at Large - [Jeff Close](#)

Secretary - [Aubyn Williams](#)

Treasurer - [Lee Bienkowski](#)

Programs - [Melissa Fagan](#)

State Representative - [Stan Stokes](#)

Membership Chair or Communications/Webmaster - Contact Aaron if interested in helping!

Earth is Losing Farmland at an Alarming Rate

2015 has marked the International Year of Soils, an event that many members of the public missed — but they shouldn't have, because soil is vitally important for human survival. Ominously, a study from the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures indicates that in the last 40 years, humans have chewed through 33 percent of the Earth's topsoil, thanks to development and harmful farming practices. The grim findings are a bad sign for the future, as we rely on soil not just for sustenance, but also as a carbon trap, key component of nearly every ecosystem on Earth, and breeding ground for organisms with tremendous commercial and humanitarian applications, such as bacteria that could contribute to the development of cutting edge pharmaceuticals. We should be worshiping the ground we walk on, and this study indicates that we've been doing just the opposite.



Soil depletion is often far off on the minds of members of the public because they're not intimately connected with farms and other settings where soil plays a vital role. When they think about soil damage, they might imagine the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, caused by unsustainable farming practices and then-unusual farming conditions, and they may not be aware of the extent of [desertification](#), [soil salination](#), and other problems rendering once vibrant farmland unusable. In the United States alone, [50 acres of farm and rangeland alone fall to the developer's backhoe every hour](#), and that soil loss doesn't account for damage caused by poor farming practices, a problem across the United States as commercial farms attempt to eke as much as possible out of the land.

Heavy ploughing disrupts the soil, making it impossible for microorganisms to survive. When that soil is further treated with fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides and specially treated herbicides, it adds to the problem. Other land is overgrazed, or subjected to aggressive harvesting practices that strip trees and shrubs which normally act to hold the soil in place with their tough networks of roots. The damaged, dry, crumbling soil can't sustain life unless it's shocked with even more fertilizers, compounding the problem, and it washes away in rains and floods, rushing out into the ocean and carrying a burden of agricultural chemicals with it — like the fertilizers causing algae blooms that disrupt marine environments, illustrating the chain effect caused by disruption of soil ecosystems. Continue reading at [Care2](#).

From: s.e. smith, Care2

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Will Styrofoam Get the Plastic Bag Treatment?

Say farewell to Styrofoam take-out containers in the nation's capital. It's been a few years in the making, but Washington, D.C. has finally [enacted a firm ban on polystyrene food and beverage containers](#). Henceforth, all restaurants will have to provide biodegradable alternatives if they want to send their patrons home with leftovers. The ordinance is a big score for the environment since Styrofoam is a harmful material that takes hundreds of years to decompose. Although it was recently discovered that mealworms can safely digest polystyrene, that's not currently a practical approach to handling the world's massive foam waste problem. As it stands, Styrofoam products account for about [30 percent of all space in landfills](#) in the U.S. Altogether, Americans toss approximately [25 billion Styrofoam cups each year](#).

Styrofoam may be a nationwide problem, but lawmakers also factored in local concerns when deciding to enact the ban. The city has undergone a serious effort to clean the highly polluted Anacostia River, and the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) notes that foam containers are some of the most common types of litter fished out of the river. By eliminating Styrofoam boxes and cups, the river should become that much cleaner.



The D.C. law pertains specifically to food and drink containers obtained at restaurants. Styrofoam will still be allowed for a number of other uses, including to pack and ship food products. [The DOEE says](#) it will conduct regular inspections to determine that food industry businesses are complying with the law, and it invites citizens to call in tips to report restaurants that continue to serve Styrofoam.

While D.C. may be the current largest populated city in the United States to ban foam, it's certainly not the first. The [Surfrider Foundation compiles a list](#) of places across America that have similarly kicked out polystyrene containers, including Seattle, Wash., Portland, Ore., and over 60 communities scattered throughout California. Though most municipalities are recent adopters, a handful of places have laws dating back to the late 1980s/early 1990s. New York City was the biggest city to get rid of foam containers until a few months ago. A judge in New York state [undid the ban](#) on polystyrene containers throughout New York City, saying that the city had the responsibility to find better ways to recycle the material before outright banning it. Continue reading at [Care2](#).

From: Kevin Matthews, Care2



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Solar Gaining on Coal in India

A KPMG study shows that the cost of solar power in India, revealed by public auctions, is barely half a cent above that of cheap local coal, writes Chris Goodall, with generators bids falling well below 5p (UK) / 7¢ (US) per kWh. The idea put about at COP21 that India and other poor but sunny countries need coal to develop their economies is fast running out of steam.

When the accountants have fully loaded the network and other costs PV ends up as very slightly cheaper than using Indian-mined coal. And, of course, this advantage will grow as solar gets cheaper.

Commentators eager to arrest the move towards renewable energy are facing increasing difficulties finding arguments for the continued use of fossil fuel.

The latest attempt to justify the use of carbon fuels is that 'otherwise people in poorer countries will never get electricity'. Coal is vital, they say, for the alleviation of the conditions of life in less developed countries.

I have recently finished a draft of a book chapter on the growth of solar around the world. The very unpolished extract below is largely based on an exceptional piece of [work by KPMG India](#) on the likely evolution of the costs of solar versus coal in that country.

I think their conclusion - essentially that solar is already competitive with coal even after including distribution charges and grid integration costs, and will become much cheaper in future - is an effective response to the 'coal alleviates poverty' meme.

Governments are increasingly using open auctions as the means by which they attract developers into building solar farms. Each participant offers an electricity price, expressed in cents per kilowatt hour, for power from individual locations. The past year (2015) has seen a sharp decline in the prices bid into these auctions everywhere around the world. Read more at the Ecologist.

From: Chris Goodall, Ecologist

Florida Brownfields News!!

Chairman of the Florida House Finance and Tax Committee, Matt Gaetz, recently released the House Finance and Tax Meeting materials for a committee meeting that includes a draft bill representing the House Tax Package. The bill increases the amount of credits that may be awarded in the Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit program from \$5 million to \$10 million in fiscal year 2016-17. It does so by using non-recurring money.

The amount of recurring money going into the session was limited. As well, the Revenue Estimating Conference met last week and concluded there will be \$388.5 million less than initially expected by the Legislature. Conjecture is that most if not all recurring money available to Gaetz will be used to try and satisfy the Governor's lobbying effort to achieve a total of \$1 billion tax cuts.

The Florida Brownfield Association language begins at line 1946 of the draft bill. Section 31. Subsection (4) of section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

---376.30781 Tax credits for rehabilitation of dry cleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority; revocation authority.

---(4) The Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for allocating the tax credits provided for in s.220.1845, which may not exceed a total of \$21.6 million in tax credits in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$10 million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and \$5 million in tax credits annually thereafter.



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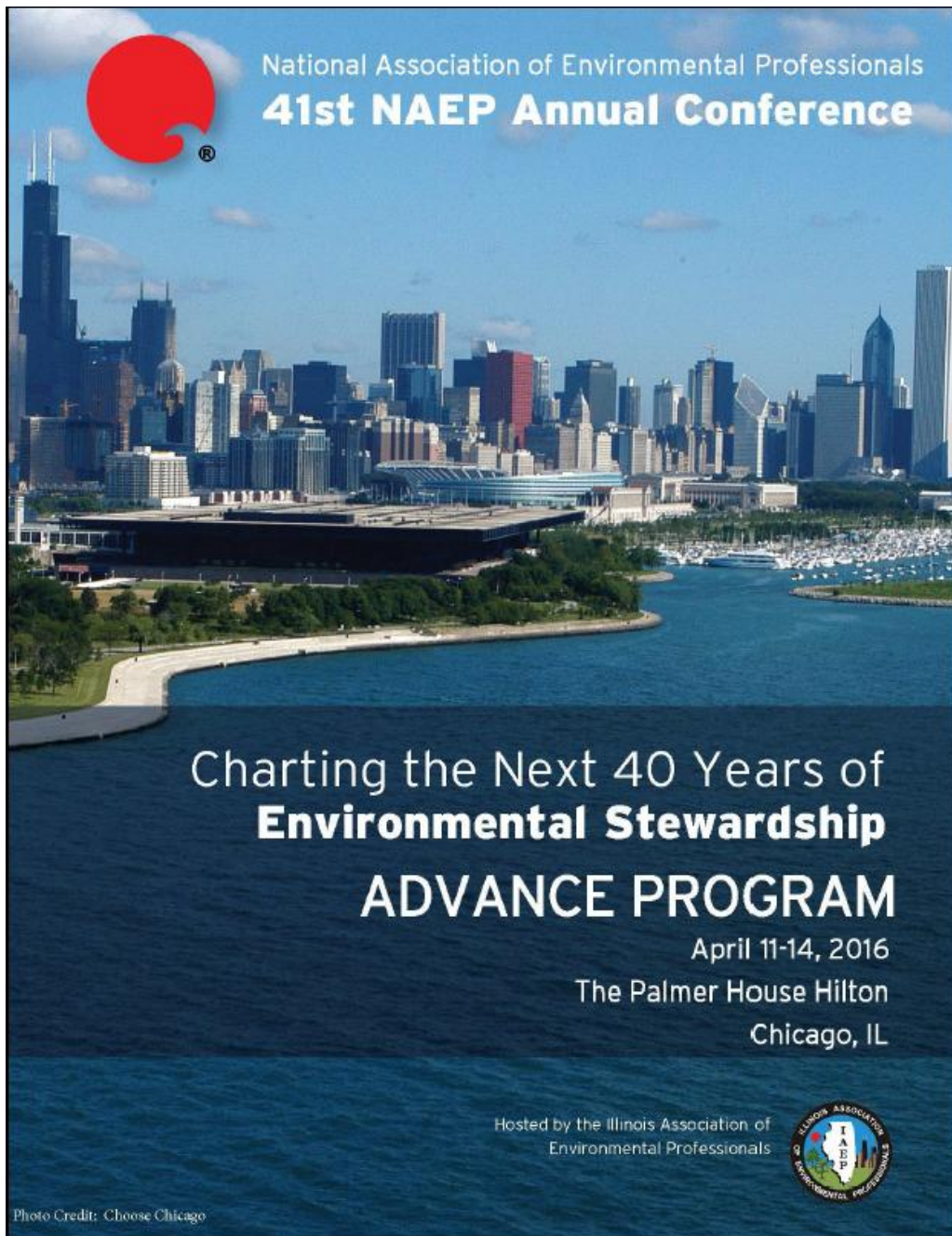
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App Now Available!

The 2016 NAEP Conference information is now accessible through an easy access [app](#) from your mobile device or pc. Conference schedules, session information and details, and networking events can be found here. View the Advance Program and Schedule at a Glance now. Begin connecting to other conference attendees and plan your schedule for conference sessions. Enter NAEP in your app store search bar for the [free download](#) of this feature to your mobile device or pc. Upon logging in, you can connect your profile to Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Select your two preferred session tracks to get started. Click on the things to do menu item to check out fun things to do in Chicago while you are here.

Registration

Don't wait any longer. It's time to get registered for this great conference. You don't want to miss it. Use this [link to register](#) for an investment in yourself and your career.

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CRCP and SEFCRI Partner with the US Coast Guard to Reduce Impacts to 600 Acres of Coral Reef Habitat

Through a Coastal Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI), and United States Coast Guard (USCG) partnership that began in 2008, a proposal to reconfigure the Port Miami Commercial Anchorage has taken a major step forward. After several years of collaboration with Port officials and users, the potential new design will not only reduce impacts to reef resources but also improve the safety of vessel traffic.



In 2004, the original SEFCRI team identified a local action strategy “Project 8: Modify the footprint of existing anchorages to avoid hard bottoms.” That project was contracted to, and begun by, Dr. Brian Walker of Nova Southeastern University. His report on the status of Florida’s current commercial anchorages and how they could be impacting reef resources was completed in 2010. Walkers’ work found that there were approximately 700 acres of reef within the Port Miami Commercial Anchorage. He recommended alternative configurations that completely avoided reef impacts; however, there were concerns that those configurations, which were in deeper water and further from the Port, would cause economic hardship and make it more difficult for the USCG to respond to vessels in distress. There was also very little known about vessel traffic patterns in the current anchorage and or what, if any, impacts were occurring.

A follow-up thesis study, in part supported and funded by the CRCP, provided the necessary vessel use information and resource impact information. That study, completed by Lauren Waters, found that impacts were occurring both to the stony corals and octocorals, as well as the habitat that they require to grow and survive. Further investigation found a serious safety concern with the current anchorage, as it has areas so shallow that vessels are “bumping” the bottom.

After the USCG received the necessary information to understand the traffic, impact, safety concerns, and needs of the users, they decided to move forward with a proposal to create two smaller anchorages – one placed in deeper water allowing for safe anchorage for deep drawing vessels, and another placed in shallow water allowing for safe anchorage for smaller vessels. This compromise will reduce impacts to at least 600 acres of coral reef habitat! This reduction of direct impact is a huge win for the reefs and it all started with the SEFCRI team.

The official Notice of Study and proposal of the new anchorages is open for public comment through February 1, 2016. To review the Notice and submit comments of concern or support to the USCG, please visit: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-01/pdf/2015-30406.pdf>.

From: SEFCRI Newsletter

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
UF Public Interest Environmental Conference	February 11 – 13, 2016	Gainesville, FL
UF Water Institute Symposium	February 16 – 17, 2016	Gainesville, FL
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration	March 6 – 9, 2016	Phoenix, AZ
SAME – DOD Federal Program Briefing	March 8 - 9, 2016	Alexandria, VA
Louisiana Solid Waste Conference	March 16 – 18, 2016	Lafayette, LA
League of Environmental Educators	March 18 – 20, 2016	St. Marks, FL
International Petro-Chemical	March 20 – 22, 2016	Dallas, TX
26 th Annual Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air	March 21 – 24, 2016	San Diego, CA
AEHS – Soil, Water, Energy & Air	March 23 – 24, 2016	San Diego, CA
Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium	March 23 – 24, 2016	Clemson, SC
NAEP Conference	April 11-14, 2016	Chicago, IL
Joint Rail Conference	April 12 – 15, 2016	Columbia, SC
Florida Water Resources Conference	April 24 – 27, 2016	Kissimmee, FL
Powder and Bulk Solids	May 3 – 5, 2016	Chicago, IL
Texas Environmental Conference	May 3 – 5, 2016	Austin, TX
3 rd Sea Level Rise Summit: Connected Futures From Alaska to Florida, Florida Atlantic University	May 3 – 5, 2016	Ft Lauderdale, FL
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
Florida Association of Water Quality 2016 Annual Conference	June 15 – 17, 2016	Naples, FL
Georgia Environmental Conference	August 24 – 26, 2016	Jekyll Island, GA
Florida Remediation Conference	October 6 -7, 2016	Orlando, FL
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration	October 13 – 14, 2016	Lakeland, FL
AEHS – Soils, Sediments & Energy	October 17 – 20, 2016	Amherst, MA
Southeast Brownfields Conference	October, 17 – 18, 2016	Jacksonville, FL
Clean Gulf	November 1 – 3, 2016	Tampa, FL
Railroad Environmental Conference	November 1 – 2, 2016	Champaign, IL
SAME – Small Business Conference for Construction & Environmental	November 14 – 16, 2016	Atlanta, GA
FLERA Winter Symposium	December 3 – 4, 2016	St. Petersburg, FL
SAME – Industry Day	December 9, 2016	Jacksonville, FL
Battelle 9 th International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments	January 9 – 12, 2017	New Orleans, LA
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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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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