

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk
Tim Perry



Dear FAEP Members,

I hope that your 2019 is going great!

I am very excited about the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals 2019 Annual Conference and Symposium that is fast approaching! The Tampa Bay Chapter will be hosting it on September 19-20, 2019.

The great schedule is online, registration is now open, and there are still a few sponsor slots available. I would also urge you to check out the special training opportunities available the day before the conference, which cover living shorelines, HAZWOPER, and Advanced NEPA topics.

The tours on Friday afternoon after the conference are also great to attend and include a tour of Port Tampa Bay and a Brownfields Redevelopment Walking Tour! Information on the conference is available on the [TBAEP webpage](#). See you in Tampa in September!

Tim Perry
FAEP President

**Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals**
Summer 2019



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

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!

**The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is August 22, 2019 at 12:00
dial: 605-475-4000 (code 607028#)**

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

Florida Association of Environmental Professionals 2019 Annual Conference



Hosted
By



Conference Dates: September 19th-20th

**Training Sessions on Wednesday, September 18th:
Living Shorelines,
NEPA Workshop,
& HAZWOPER Refresher**

**Evening Reception on Thursday, September 19th at the
Florida Aquarium**

**Presentations on September 19th-20th:
Resiliency, Transportation,
Ecosystem Management,
Living Shorelines,
Assessment & Remediation**

Field Trips on Friday, September 20th

<https://www.faep-fl.org/faep-conference>

Florida Beacon

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Legal Musings: Off the Beaten Path

Contributed by Frank L. Hearne and Travis Moore Hearne – Mechanik Nuccio Hearne & Wester

Have you heard? An historic environmental victory has been achieved in Tampa Bay. The Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium (NMC) is a unique and innovative local decentralized stakeholder organization overseen by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program which has achieved remarkable environmental successes on controlling nitrogen impacts in Tampa Bay and the success has national and international implications. The NMC is a public-private partnership consisting of government regulators at the local, state, and federal levels, other local governments and agencies, utilities, land owners, and private industries. The NMC's central achievements have been based upon sound science to determine what standard should be used to measure nutrient pollution in Tampa Bay and to conduct dispersed and widespread efforts to keep the Bay within those thresholds. The NMC's scientific work led to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's approval in 2002 of chlorophyll-a concentration thresholds—a measure representative of the concentration of phytoplankton in the bay measured in micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$)—as the nutrient impairment criteria for Tampa Bay's four segments. The NMC's criteria were developed from the light requirements of turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), a species of seagrass whose health ecologists use to measure the health of the Bay's estuarine ecosystem. Excessive chlorophyll-a concentrations indicate excessive phytoplankton in the Bay, which blocks light from reaching the sea grass. Excessive total nitrogen loading into the Bay leads to excessive concentrations of phytoplankton. In 2002 the approach was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as the basis for gauging nutrient pollution, and the nitrogen allocations adopted by the NMC became the basis for regulatory permit conditions governing the discharge of nitrogen. This underlying science folded into allocations of nitrogen in each Bay Segment which became a legally-recognized plan of compliance for the Bay in 2017. So long as the NMC membership provides “reasonable assurance” that the problem is being adequately addressed, the EPA and DEP need not take separate independent action to crack down on nutrient pollution.

A complex interaction of the federal Clean Water Act and Florida statutes and rules allow this type of local cooperation which avoids the “top down” approach to environmental regulation in the context of nutrient limitations, but the method has been rarely applied. The result for Tampa Bay? The stunning recovery of seagrass acreage in the last two decades. During the four decades between 1950 and 1990, nutrient pollution led to decimation of as much as 50% of seagrass in the Bay. Seagrass acreage declined from 40,420 acres in 1950 to just over 20,000 in 1982. Much of this loss was a result of nitrogen loading and excess phytoplankton growth. Prior to 1998, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and its local government partners implemented a long-term plan to restore seagrass acreage in Tampa Bay to 95% of levels observed in 1950. Due in great part to the efforts of the NMC, current seagrass acreage in Tampa Bay—41,655 acres—exceeds both the recovery goal—38,000 acres—and the 1950 benchmark—40,420 acres, despite significant population increase in the Bay Area. NMC member efforts have also led to drastically reduced nitrogen loading into the Bay: in 1976, an estimated 15 lbs. / year per capita of nitrogen entered the Bay; as of 2016, that figure is below four. This Florida achievement has received international recognition. In November 2017, the NMC won the Coastal Stewardship Award for Stewardship from the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation for “[promoting] the wise use of science and management toward the stewardship of estuaries and coasts.” *CERF 2017 Scientific Award Recipients*, Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation, <http://www.erf.org/2017-scientific-award-recipients#Coastal>. The complexities of the nutrient enrichment problems in the nation's waters, the system of controls under federal and Florida law,

Continued on the next page

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and the details of the workings of the NMC are described more fully in Travis M. Hearne's article *From Category 4B to Category 2: How Local Stakeholders in the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium Battled Nutrient Pollution to Improve the Bay*, Stetson Law Review Vol. 48, No. 4 Summer 2019.

Interested in knowing more about the recovery of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium?

There will be a panel about these topics at the FAEP 2019 Annual Conference in Tampa September 19 & 20, 2019 starring some of the key leaders of TBNMC:

Ed Sherwood, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Anthony Janicki, Janicki Environmental Inc.

Jeff Greenwell, TBNMC Government Co-Chair, Hillsborough County Water Resources

Santino Provenzano, TBNMC Industry Co-Chair, Mosaic Co.



**Take a look at the exciting
Schedule of Events
for the 2019 FAEP Conference!**



**Register Here Now!
The 2019 FAEP Conference
will be held in Tampa on
Sept. 19 – 20th**

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FAEP Board Member Spotlight

FAEP will be spotlighting your board members throughout the year in selected newsletter editions. We hope this helps members of our association have a better understanding of board member roles and responsibilities, as well as who we are outside of “the office”. In this edition, we introduce you to: **George Sprehn, MGIS, Southwest Chapter**

What is your occupation?

I apply concepts of spatial analysis as a GIS Analyst for EarthBalance®. EarthBalance® is the leading ecological restoration and consulting firm, specializing in restoring, protecting, and managing ecosystems.

A MGIS is a Master of Geographic Information System degree earned at The Pennsylvania State University World Campus.

Where do you live?

Southwest Florida, Lee County, for over 34 years. Now downsized, my four daughters have established careers and my wife and I are officially empty nesters.

Do you have pets?

Kids and pets have moved out. Although, I do still have a pet rock!

How long have you been a FAEP member?

Long enough to not remember how I came to know about FAEP, but >2 years for sure. Yes, short memory.

What do you like best about FAEP?

Overall, the networking exposure to environmental professionals. I can map for many disciplines, but I find my passion in protecting the environment through spatial analysis.

Have you had an especially good experience with FAEP?

The conferences are particularly memorable. Very well organized, many informative presentations, social activities, field trips, and wonderfully intelligent people make the annual conferences a highlight of membership.

What motivates you to jump out of bed in the morning?

Let's see: not a morning person, I will jump out of bed for the trash truck approaching (are my trash cans curbside yet?). Other than that, coffee is a must, and the anticipation of another day mapping and saving the environment is reason to hit the floor.

What do you do in your free time?

Like a free lunch and free time, there is no such thing. Keeping busy is a must and when I am not GIS-ing at work, I am home tinkering with maps, Python code, and IT. Also, you can find me at the gym every evening.

If you could make one change in the world to leave it as your legacy what would it be?

Striving to always be humble and kind, I am deeply thankful for my wife and four daughters. Hopefully, my daughters will carry forward our family mission based on hope, faith, and love. This is my legacy.

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

Actually, I am already there. GIS is my 'other' profession, following a 31-year career at FedEx. GIS is my encore career.

What made you want to help the environment?

Helping the environment just seems like the natural thing to do. My dad exposed me and my siblings to many outdoor activities, adventures, and experiences. Now as an adult, I appreciate our ecosystems and realize the importance of maintaining the natural systems in which we depend and in which we play such a crucial role.



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That Alaskan Well Was Dry. Here's How We Figured It Out

It began with an intriguing lead. It ended with [the answer to an Arctic mystery](#).

My Times colleague Steve Eder and I had written [an article in December](#) about the Trump administration's efforts to allow oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. We'd mentioned an exploratory well that had been drilled in the refuge three decades ago.

The well was the only one ever drilled there and had obtained mythic status in the state. Designated KIC-1, it held the best clues as to whether there was oil in the refuge, but the results had been kept secret all these years. When we were in Anchorage reporting the story, it seemed that everyone there was talking about it.

We decided to do some digging. (This comes naturally to Steve, an investigative reporter who can think of few better ways to spend a day than poring over old documents [for a story](#). I'm more comfortable reading scientific papers.)

The trail led fairly quickly to a 1987 court case — in Cleveland, of all places. A friendly court clerk there scanned hundreds of pages of microfilmed documents for us to read.

We also reached out to dozens of people involved in the case. One of the key characters in the story — Sidney Silverman, a lawyer, had confirmed to us that he had deposed an oil company executive who told him about the well. But Mr. Silverman, now 86, couldn't remember the name of the executive.

Steve found the name buried deep inside one of the court documents, a mundane list of Mr. Silverman's expenses. (Proof that, as the historian Robert Caro has noted, it's important to "turn every page" when doing research.)

That was one of many "ah ha!" moments. Another was when we found a general reference to the well results in another court document.

There were plenty of dead ends and plenty of dead people, given that we were investigating events from 32 years ago. When we did reach people who had been involved in the case, often their first reaction was something like, "You want me to remember something from 1987?"

But as our reporting proceeded, we got more confirmation of our initial findings. The story got stronger and stronger. In the end, Steve and I thought we'd really nailed it. And judging by what we've heard from Alaska, everybody there is still talking about the well — but also about our story.

Click [here](#) to read the entire story from The New York Times Climate Forward Newsletter.



When the oil companies were finished with the test well, they hauled everything away — even, according to one account, the rock cuttings.

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Treasure Coast Chapter News

Challenges associated with student engagement – lessons from two Treasure Coast Chapter events.

In support of FAEP's 2019 initiative to expand student engagement opportunities, the Treasure Coast Chapter hosted two events with Florida Atlantic University (FAU). The first was a joint event with FAU's Harbor Branch Student Association, held at the Harbor Branch campus on February 28th. We reached out to the student group and worked with them to set up an event that would be interesting to the students. After speaking with the president of the student association, we decided to connect professionals in the environmental field with students looking for career advice or seeking a network to assist in job or internship placement. Twenty-nine individuals participated (13 students and 16 professionals). Students and professionals mingled in a "speed networking" style setting, where professionals rotated among student tables to discuss their careers, using question cards to prompt discussion topics ranging from job placement advice to funniest days in the field. The students included undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. students, while the professional attendees included a coastal engineer, wildlife and regulatory agency staff, planners, ecologists, consultants, surveyors, and an attorney. A representative from FAU's career center was also there to provide information on their programs and the support they offer to students and employers.

We feel this event was a big success and we received a lot of positive feedback from both the students and the FAEP members who participated, but it was not without its challenges. Finding a space to hold the event that was convenient for everyone was difficult. Despite the lure to the students of pizza and refreshments, we still faced conflicts with student schedules and exams taking priority over attendance at this event.

For our second student-focused event, we hosted a lecture-style engineering discussion at the FAU Boca Raton campus on April 10th. For this effort, we coordinated with the professors and staff instead of the students themselves, and as a result, had much lower student turnout (none came). While the topic was engaging, we felt this event did not meet our goal of student outreach.

By holding these two student-driven events close together through the same parent school, we were able to evaluate which method more effectively reached the students, and would like to offer these lessons learned:

- Reach out to the student groups directly, rather than the professors and colleges, results in higher student turnout.
- Planning events on college campuses requires additional time and coordination to address venue, security measures, food and drink vending requirements, parking, and signage. Students also need more lead time to plan around studying and exams.
- College students – even those not participating in the event – appreciate food. It is important that any food and drink be in the same space as the rest of the event – otherwise, you may share with more students than anticipated! Students passing by helped themselves to unsecured food and drinks.
- Coordinate marketing efforts through student groups and colleges to maximize audience.
- Reach out to career centers at the beginning of the process to help coordinate efforts and maximize benefit to the students.
- Events should be free of charge for student attendees.

Florida Forever Acquisition to Preserve Important Habitat in Central Florida

~Okeechobee County Acquisition protects property within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has officially acquired 1,992 acres in Okeechobee County located within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition is part of the Triple Diamond [Florida Forever](#) Project and conserves significant dry prairie habitat, as well as other high-quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities and significant hydrological initiatives.

The permanent protection of the property was made possible through the acquisition work of the Open Space Institute (OSI) with the support of the Wyss Foundation. OSI purchased the land from the Wold Family, who has actively managed the tract as a native range since 1976. OSI conveyed the property to DEP's [Division of State Lands](#) on April 17, 2019.

"This acquisition represents a successful multi-agency public and nonprofit partnership to protect property within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "By working together, we are now permanently protecting nearly 2,000 more acres of high-quality, critical natural lands, which brings us to more than half of the area identified within the Triple Diamond Project."

"By permanently protecting these biologically rich grasslands in the heart of the Everglades Headwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Open Space Institute is thrilled to convey this property to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection," said Open Space Institute President and CEO Kim Elliman. "Thanks to all the partners who made this large-scale conservation project a reality, in particular the Wyss Foundation. Through their commitment and dedication, this nationally significant and unique landscape will continue to protect wildlife habitat and water quality forever, both in the immediate area and downstream into the Everglades."

"The Everglades headwaters are renowned for their incredible array of wildlife and raw beauty. Today is an exciting day for Floridians and all Americans who have secured this important piece of one of our nation's crown jewels," said The Wyss Foundation President Molly McUsic. "Permanently protecting Triple Diamond Ranch will safeguard this unique natural area for future generations, conserving one of the most biologically diverse places in the United States, and securing a critical source of freshwater for downstream communities."

With the acquisition, more than half of this project has been acquired. The parcel is bordered by Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands in the near vicinity include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is purchasing the adjacent tract.

"The acquisition of Triple Diamond will preserve significant dry prairie, a globally imperiled natural community that supports a myriad of rare species, while providing excellent recreational opportunities," said Julie Morris of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "The conservation of this intact and well-managed landscape will protect thousands of acres of high-quality habitat within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and significantly contribute to the protection of water quality and quantity in the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee watershed."

From: FDEP Press Release

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SFAEP Adopt-an-Island

Every quarter, SFAEP members step up as environmental stewards of two islands in Biscayne Bay, and in the process, get to have some fun in beautiful surroundings. SFAEP adopted Sandspur Island and Little Sandspur four years ago and have been taking care of the islands ever since. Under the Adopt-an-Island program, SFAEP conducts quarterly cleanups of the islands.

The trip to the islands is about two miles round-trip through diverse habitats including a mangrove-lined channel, open water, seagrass beds, and spoil islands. Participants see birds, oysters, fish, crabs, and often sea turtles and dolphins. The trip is an amazing opportunity for SFAEP members to share their enthusiasm for the environment with their colleagues and guests.

The success of the project is primarily due to partnerships. The islands are only accessible by boat; therefore, SFAEP members have to either provide their own boat or rent kayaks to reach the islands. The local outfitter, BG Oleta River Outdoors, provides free rental of kayaks to SFAEP members participating in the cleanup. SFAEP members benefit with free kayak use and a morning full of exercise and paddling, and in return, BG Oleta River Outdoors has cleaner islands available for their other customers. Friends of Oleta River State Park is also an active partner, which waives the state park entrance fee for SFAEP members, and they coordinate for the removal of the recovered trash. As a result, there is no cost to SFAEP members for this event, and SFAEP members do not have to haul the heavy bags of recovered trash off the islands.



SFAEP has experimented with partnering with other events and groups to increase awareness of the project and potentially recruit new members. SFAEP has coincided the island cleanup with the International Coastal Cleanup Day, the Baynanza Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day, and have included VolunteerCleanup.org as well as other organizations.

These quarterly events are such great fun that they are considered one of the highlights of the year for some participants, many who come back each time. SFAEP will continue to work on keeping these islands clean for future visitors, and next time we hope you will join us!

For more information, contact John.Abbott@wginc.com.



MORE TRENCH

...since 1931.

A Coalition of Giant Brands is About to Change How We Shop Forever, With a New Zero-Waste Platform

In the not-too-distant future if you live in or near New York City or Paris, you'll be able to buy ice cream or shampoo in a reusable container. When you're done eating a tub of Haagen-Dazs, you'll toss the sleek stainless steel package in your personal reuse bin instead of your trash can. The it will be picked up for delivery back to a cleaning and sterilization facility so that it can be refilled with more ice cream for another customer.

Loop, a new zero-waste platform from a coalition of major consumer product companies, will launch its first pilots this year. "While recycling is critically important, it is not going to solve waste at the root cause," says Tom Szaky, CEO and cofounder of TerraCycle, a company that is known for recycling hard-to-recycle materials, and one of the partners behind the project.

We run what is today the world's largest supply chain on ocean plastic, collecting it and going into Unilever and Procter & Gamble products and so on," Szaky says. "But every day, more and more gets put in the ocean, so no matter how much we clean the ocean, we're never going to solve the problem. That's really where Loop emerged...To us, the root cause of waste is not plastic, per se, it's using things once, and that's really what Loop tries to change as much as possible."

TerraCycle worked with companies like Procter & Gamble, Nestle, PepsiCo, Unilever, and more than a dozen others for over a year to develop the new platform. Each package in the system is designed for 100 or more uses. In the initial launch, products will be available through Loop's e-commerce site. When you order, say, deodorant or mouthwash, you'll pay a deposit for the bottle. The order will show up in a reusable tote—designed by engineers at UPS to withstand repeated journeys—instead of a cardboard box. As you use up products, you'll throw the empty containers back in the tote. When it's full, you can go to the Loop website to request a delivery driver to pick it up (or, if you prefer, drop it off at a UPS store).

For consumers, the process is designed to be as seamless as possible. "The goal isn't as much to get you to change, it's instead to create systems that don't make you change—but have you then solve the issue in the process," Szaky says. "Creating consumer change is phenomenally difficult. So the first question we asked in developing the model was why did disposability win? Why did it take over? I think it did because disposability is convenient and affordable."

Others have tried to tackle the problem of trash through other models, like refillable packaging or [zero-waste grocery stores](#). But when those solutions fall short of the convenience or affordability of standard plastic packaging, they struggle to gain mass adoption. Loop aims to be essentially as convenient as throwing something in the trash; you don't even need to rinse the container, so in that respect, it's simpler than recycling. Apart from the refundable deposit on the package, the cost of the products will be similar to what customers pay now. Read more about this [here](#).

From www.fastcompany.com

	Environmental Science and Engineering
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PPM Consultants 750 South Northlake Blvd, Suite 1012 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701 www.ppmco.com	tel 407.240.1127 fax 407.240.1310 amy.guilfoyle@ppmco.com <i>Exceeding Client Expectations</i>

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Florida Beer Used Butterflies in the Brewing Process

A tiny brown butterfly from Florida provided a key ingredient for a new conservation-minded beer from Gainesville's First Magnitude Brewing. The yeast for Frosted Elfin New England-Style Session Pale Ale originated from the bodies of live frosted elfins in the Apalachicola National Forest. The butterflies once ranged from central Florida to Ontario, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service said, but have declined nationwide due to habitat loss.

The beer was a collaboration between the brewery and scientists at the Florida Museum of Natural History, who netted the butterflies and gently swabbed them for yeast before releasing them back into the forest. Those yeast samples were multiplied in petri dishes to produce what was needed for brewing.

That flowery-smelling yeast was part of what resulted in a tropical, fruity, hoppy and hazy pale ale that went on sale at First Magnitude's tasting room on May 17 for \$12.50 per four pack. The beer is also being sold in some stores around Gainesville, including Lucky's Market. The brewery will hold another release event at the Brass Tap in Tallahassee on May 25.



Jaret Daniels, a professor at the University of Florida and director of the museum's Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity told U.S. Fish & Wildlife he was looking for a way to engage a new demographic, specifically beer drinkers, in conservation.

A portion of the proceeds from every can is going directly to butterfly research. The researchers also hope the exposure raises awareness for the frosted elfin.

The butterflies naturally collect yeast on their bodies from the forest's plant life. In a news release posted to the museum website, Daniels noted although the scientists could have collected the yeast straight from the host plants, they thought "it would be much cooler to get it off the butterfly itself."

Wild yeast from plants has been collected for beer-making before, but the project appears to be the first time it has been collected from an insect.



From the Tampa Bay Times

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
14 th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference	Aug. 21 – 23, 2019	Jekyll Island, FL
American Planning Association Florida Annual Conference	Sept. 10 – 13, 2019	Sandestin, FL
Association of Water Technologies Annual Convention & Expo	Sept. 11 - 14, 2019	Palm Springs, CA
2019 EPB-UNF Environmental Symposium – Building Resiliency	Sept. 13, 2019	Jacksonville, FL
American Institute of Professional Geologists National Conference	Sept. 14 – 17, 2019	Burlington, VT
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference	Sept. 19 – 20, 2019	Tampa, FL
Advanced Clean Energy Summit 2019	Sept. 22 - 25, 2019	Denver, CO
25 th Annual Florida Remediation Conference	Nov. 7 – 8, 2019	Orlando, FL
NGWA 2018 Groundwater Week	Dec. 2 – 5, 2019	Las Vegas, NV

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

Lacoste Swaps Famous Cocodile Logo for Ten Endangered Species

For the first time in the fashion brand's history, Lacoste has changed its logo and replaced the famous crocodile with ten endangered species, all of which face imminent threat of extinction. The launch marks Save the Species, a three-year partnership between Lacoste and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to support and raise awareness for endangered animals. The IUCN has been a global authority on the status of the natural world for 70 years.

Lacoste has worked closely with BTEC and the IUCN to design the limited edition logos, which are in the same embroidery style as the globally renowned crocodile. The French fashion company has correlated the number of available shirts with the number of animals that remain in the wild. This ranges from 30 shirts with Vaquita porpoises on them to 450 Anegada Rock Iguana-embroidered shirts. A total of 1,775 shirts have been made, each of which is selling for between 150€ – 180€. The money of each sale will be donated to the species' conservation.



Environmental Practice, the peer-reviewed journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and published by Taylor & Francis, is soliciting original manuscripts from the professional and academic communities on a continuous basis. The journal provides the opportunity to submit applied articles that guide other environmental practitioners and offer recommendations to improve the work we do. Publishing in *Environmental Practice* is also a great venue to showcase your expertise and continue your professional development. Articles are sought that address solving environmental problems from a multidisciplinary perspective and provide data and findings in science and technology to address environmental issues. Article Categories include, Research, Environmental Reviews, and Case Studies (these are peer-reviewed), Reviews of books or films, Perspectives from the Field, and Dialogue. More information can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruth Gaulke, Managing Editor, at rebelwriter@mindspring.com or Betty Dehoney at betty.dehoney@hdrinc.com.



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South Chapter News!!



National
Association of
Environmental
Professionals
Be Connected

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) annual conference was held in Baltimore on May 19-23, 2019. This year's conference was hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Region of Environmental Professionals. Presentations focused on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), climate resiliency, ecological restoration, water management, cultural resources, and regional issues like the Chesapeake Bay.

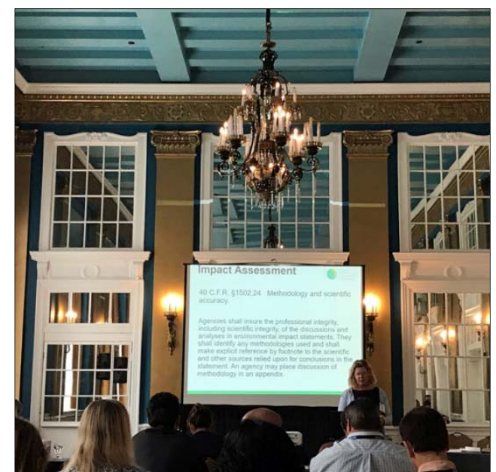
Keynote speakers included Ben Grumbles (Maryland's Secretary of the Environment), Colleen Turner (Assistant Director of Maryland Dept. of Transportation), Dr. Peter Grevatt (CEO of the Water Research Foundation), and Ted Boling (Associate Director for NEPA at CEQ). Attendance at the conference was even higher than expected, exceeding 425 participants, with numerous attendees registering on site.

One of the over-arching themes of the conference was how to streamline the NEPA process under Executive Order 13807 to reduce time, cost, and document size while still adhering to the thoroughness and high-quality standards expected by NEPA practitioners. In addition to the main tracks, there were sessions on ethics, how to become a Certified Environmental Professional, and advanced NEPA workshops. There were fun excursions including a walking eco-tour around the inner harbor and a relaxing evening of networking at an Orioles baseball game in Camden Yards.

Because the South Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (SFAEP) will host the NAEP annual conference next year in Fort Lauderdale, several members of SFAEP (SFAEP Past President Ryan Goldman, SFAEP President John Abbott, and SFAEP Vice President Jen Savaro) attended the Baltimore conference to bring back lessons learned that can be applied to the 2020 conference. A few of these lessons include the following:

- Many volunteers will be needed to make the conference run smoothly. Volunteers will be needed to help with the registration desk, help attendees find the conference rooms, and help monitor each conference room.
- It will be necessary to organize a variety of side-trips and activities for attendees. An important part of the conference is networking outside the presentation rooms. Further, some attendees will bring family and friends and the conference experience is enhanced if those guests have activities to participate in.
- It is important to have a scheduled time to visit the poster session and sponsors booths.

The NAEP conference is an opportunity to showcase on a national scale. The Save the Date and Call for Abstracts for the 2020 NAEP Conference have already been widely advertised. Please put the 2020 NAEP Conference on your calendars – it will be held at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort May 18-22, 2020. If you would like to assist in this exciting planning effort; contact Ryan Goldman at rgoldman@broward.org. Assisting with conference planning is a great way to connect with other environmental professionals from across the country.



Don't Buy Bottled Water: This App Tells You the Closest Place You Can Fill Up for Free

The Tap app can help you make sure you're always hydrated,
by providing walking directions to the nearest fountain or restaurant with a fill-up station

Millions of plastic bottles are sold around the world each minute. Many of those are water bottles that end up in the trash a few minutes later, despite the fact that the people who buy them are not far from a drinking fountain or a restaurant willing to refill a bottle.

A new app called Tap maps out those refill locations and gives walking directions to the closest place that you can get water without extra plastic. "So long as you carry your own bottle, you never have to buy a bottle of water ever again," says Samuel Ian Rosen, founder and CEO of Tap.

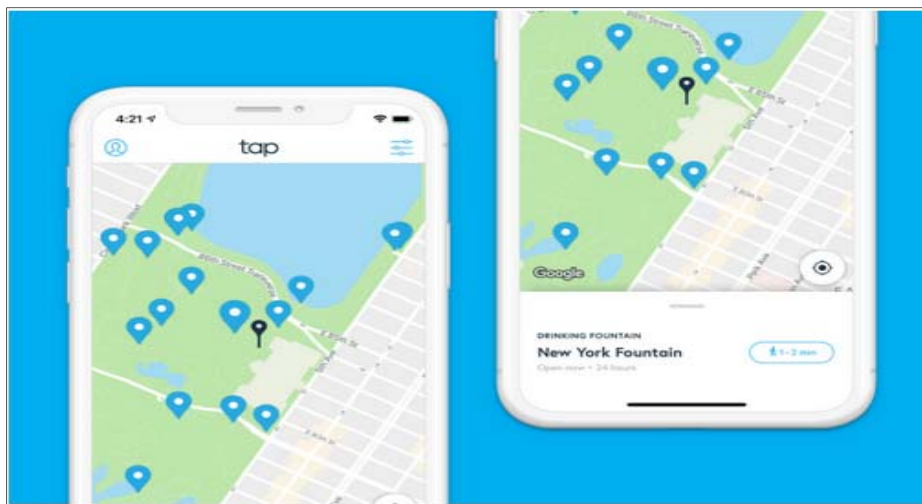
Rosen, the cofounder and previous CEO of the storage company MakeSpace, started thinking about the problem of bottled water while traveling. The usual explanation of why people choose bottled water is convenience; Rosen believed that a large part of the problem is really that people just don't know where they can refill a bottle of their own. He searched Google Maps for water fountains in New York City, and found nothing. "I think people drink bottled water because they can't find water," he says.

As of launch last October, the app lists more than 34,000 refill stations in 30 countries. Some of the locations are traditional water fountains, while others are restaurants or stores, like Sweetgreen, Lululemon, or Adidas, that either have refill stations or are willing to refill a bottle over the counter as a way to draw in customers. "I just realized that all these places were already giving out free water and none of them had a map that connects all of it," he says.

In the U.K., a similar app called Refill also lists restaurants and cafes that can refill water bottles; like Tap, the project also gives stickers to cafes to put in their windows to encourage people to come inside and ask for water. But Tap, with a global presence, plans to expand more quickly. The app will soon add a feature to let users add new refill stations to the list, and later plans to let users rate locations, so it can refer someone to the best-tasting water nearby. "By connecting water to the internet, we can now start reporting on the quality of water and use Tap as a search engine for thirst," says Rosen.

The app also includes locations that offer refills of sparkling and flavored water—Penn State University, for example, has a free Aquafina station with flavored water, and others offer refills for a small fee. It could later expand to other drinks, Rosen says, like soda, kombucha, or beer taps where users can refill growlers. "The future is happening now," he says. "PepsiCo bought SodaStream for \$3.2 billion. That's the number two player essentially saying our way to become number one is to go bottle-less, right? That's what I see happening."

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