

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk Elva Peppers



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Fall 2022



Hello FAEP Members,

As I am finishing up my first year as President of the FAEP, I want to reflect on some of our accomplishments this year and touch on some of the goals for next year. I want to commend our fantastic Board of Directors as well as Teri and Bruce Hasbrouck, all of whom have provided invaluable help to me during this first year as President.

In 2022, we were able to introduce a Hydric Soils Training Course that was open to members at a significant discount to the Tallahassee, Pensacola and Treasure Coast Chapters, and a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment course by an ATSM trainer to the South Florida Chapter. We have also increased member outreach by adding a part time position to provide marketing assistance to the chapters and to help facilitate outreach, advertising, the workshops, and help with program planning. In addition, all of the chapters have consistently provided quality content and networking opportunities. We recently conducted surveys of chapter board members to find out what is most important to our membership so that FAEP can respond with content and services that are most in demand. FAEP also successfully participated in the National Conference, which was held in Ft. Lauderdale in May, and our membership has steadily increased throughout the year.

The outlook for 2023 is equally bright, as we continue to offer training courses to chapters around the state, host the FAEP conference in Tallahassee in May, sponsor a booth at the Florida Chamber Summer School Conference, and we plan to roll out some new member opportunities that you will be hearing about soon!

This organization has proven to be an excellent group to keep informed of relevant changes, network with fellow professionals, and form new friendships in the environmental field. I am energized and excited for our future together!

Sincerely,

FAEP President
ElvaPeppers@felsi.org

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Central Florida Chapter

Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (CFAEP) held an Environmental Networking Event for University of Central Florida (UCF) students in November of 2021. This event not only helped students network with environmental professionals, but also helped a few land internships. This event was the catalyst for inspiring a few students to re-start the UCF chapter.

In just a few weeks, meetings were set up with Brooke Bayer and Joshua Hirten from CFAEP and students Alefiya Kothawala and Natalia Quintero Palomino to kickstart the UCF chapter. In February, the club held a social where students came out to play board games, volleyball, and network. In March, they volunteered to make oyster restoration units for Dr. Walters, a UCF Biology Professor. In April, they attended a wetland tour on the University campus. In collaboration with CFAEP, they continued the new tradition of hosting the Environmental Networking Event each semester for the students as well.

As December approaches the club will have new officers who will continue to take the club forward. The club hopes to continue helping students network with professionals and find guidance for career paths. The club aims to draw more students by coordinating more events and providing more resources.

Environmental Networking Event



UCF Social



Oyster Mat Restoration

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South Florida Chapter

South Florida has existing water quality issues, which has been exacerbated in recent years by sewage infrastructure deterioration, increased bacteria/algal loads, and greater human populations leading to more polluted waters and storm water runoff, further nutrifying the waterways.

One solution SFAEP is working towards to combat these issues includes a local oyster shell bagging, restoration, and rescue project. Research and Broward-based citizen science programming are also to be included in the efforts that will improve water quality by increasing the native oyster population.

Oysters have superpowers! Oysters naturally enhance water quality in several ways including:

1. Carbon sequestration - A percentage of oyster shells are made up of Carbon, as an oyster grows it removes carbon from our environment,
2. Oyster habitat - Oysters provide shelter for juvenile fish and many invertebrate species acting as a nursery and enhancing local biodiversity,
3. Water filtration - Possibly most important, oysters filter the water for food feeding off algae and dinoflagellates improving water quality and reducing nitrogen that leads to algal blooms and red tides in our coastal waterways.

One Oyster Filters 50 Gallons of Water per Day

SFAEP volunteers have also been structuring the development of a project to create oyster mats and bags to give out to community members. Community members will be able to attach the oyster cultch bags to their seawalls, dock pilings, and in their local marinas.



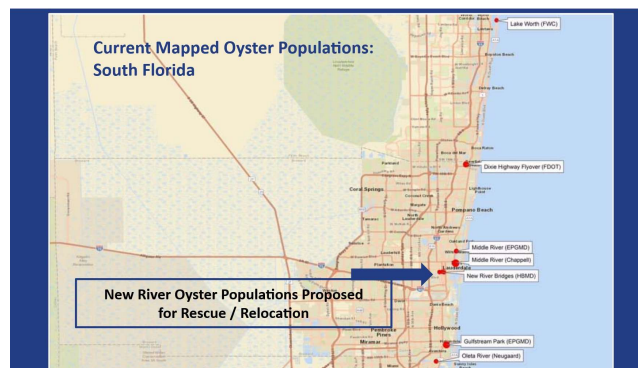
Oyster Clutch Bag

This project has been made possible by a multitude of project collaborators and inspired by the Florida Oceanographic Society (FOS) Oyster Restoration Project. SFAEP members have been developing this project and program for many years and is thankful for Port Everglades allowing us to use port space for shell drying and for SFAEP & Urban Farming Institute's volunteer support during oyster shell collection and bagging events.

FOS runs several sold-out citizen science events monthly in Stuart, FL and SFAEP & UFI will be emulating FOS's successful program to create one for Broward County residents. This project is more of a recycling program for oyster cultch. Our partner Shuck and Share is a Florida based oyster restoration program. Since 2007, over 49,000 community members have helped create Oyster Habitat in Canaveral National Seashore. Currently, for the Broward based Eastern Oyster Conservation Project, Tiki Tiki in Hollywood Beach is our participating restaurant donating oyster shell and SFAEP and UFI volunteers are collecting shells and depositing them at Port Everglades for later use in bagging and matting citizen science events.

Over the past 7 months, the project has collected ten 5-gallon (gal) buckets of oysters weekly, some weeks up to 20 buckets or even truckloads have been delivered! At a weight of 23 pounds (lbs.) per 5-gal bucket = 230 - 460 lbs. of oysters per week during peak collection times. An estimated 500 buckets have been collected since February 2022.

In the near future, GIS mapping of the oyster populations will begin.





Location: Port Everglades - Earth Day 2022

Port Representatives including Eirk Neugaard (back center), Broward Coastal Conservation Association President Mike Lambrechts (front left), SFAEP Board Member and Project Volunteer Stacy Brown (front second to right), and Manager of restaurant partner Tiki Tiki Alex Serafin (far right).



Earth Day at Port Everglades - April of 2022. The oyster shells are piling up, in the 4 months since this photo the oyster shells are now almost covering the grassy area in the top right photo!

Currently, few eastern oyster populations have been mapped in South Florida. This project will utilize GIS to map the New and Middle River Oyster populations to determine population densities.

In addition to GIS colony mapping, other research projects proposed include bacterial colony, oyster genomics, and water quality analysis.

Once permitting is complete, this project will provide opportunities for Broward residents to participate in bagging, matting, and deployment events similar to those happening in other counties across Florida such as Brevard and Volusia County oyster restoration programs. Oyster mats can be affixed to sea walls, marinas, and dock pilings to increase water filtration in our local waterways. Please contact info@sfaep.org for more information and check our website for future oyster events!

ABCEP



The Academy of Board Certified Professionals (ABCEP) is the certifying body for NAEP and the lead organization certifying environmental professionals; maintaining exemplary standards of ethics and technical practice; and supporting individuals, our profession, and the public relying upon our services. It is a board-certified recognition.

Beyond the acknowledgement by your peers, earning and maintaining the Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) designation is beneficial as a key differentiator when bidding on projects. It also opens new doors personally and professionally.

ABCEP would like to enhance the CEP (and CEP-IT) by growing our numbers and raising the awareness and value of the credential. If interested, you can find more details about the CEP and the application process on our website <https://www.abcep.org>. If you email the office (office@abcep.org), our Administrator will follow up to see if you have additional questions about the application process and offer to assign a mentor to help guide you through it.

The initial CEP application fee is typically \$200. ABCEP is offering a 10% discount through the end of 2020 reducing the initial CEP application fee to \$180. This is a great time to submit your application! We also have a CEP-IT application for those that don't quite meet the CEP requirements.

Making the decision to pursue a certification can feel like a daunting task, but in this climate, having the designation after your name can prove that crucial differentiator. Please share this with anyone in your office that might be interested.

NAEP

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE BULLETIN

The NAEP Environmental Practice Bulletin is published four times a year and emailed to all NAEP members. The newsletter is published in mid-February, May, August and November. Deadline for submissions is the end of the month prior to publication. NAEP is always looking for articles for this great practitioner-based publication. Consider providing NAEP's nationwide audience a bit of your professional experience and insight. For more information about publishing in the Environmental Practice Bulletin visit: <https://www.naep.org/publications>.



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If you are interested in sponsoring, please visit the [sponsor inquiry](#) page.

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
27 th Florida Remediation Conference	Nov. 16 - 18	Orlando, FL
14 th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit	Dec. 8 - 9	Fort Lauderdale, FL
47 th Annual A&WMA Informational Exchange	Dec. 6 - 7	Durham, NC
NGWA 2022 Groundwater Week	Dec. 6 - 8	Las Vegas, NV
Florida Water Environment Association In-Person Seminar	Feb. 22, 2023	Clearwater, FL
National Association of Environmental Professionals	May 7 – 10, 2023	Phoenix, AZ
37 th Annual Summer School	July 18-21, 2023	Naples, FL
Southwest Florida Water/Wastewater Exposition	TBA	
Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies	TBA	

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

Science Shorts ~NPR Short Wave~ The Science Behind the Headlines

<p>The Scorpion Renaissance Is Upon Us</p>	<p>Scorpions: They're found pretty much everywhere, and new species are being identified all the time. Arachnologist Lauren Esposito says there's a lot to love about this oft-misunderstood creature. Most are harmless – they can't even jump – and they play a critical role in their diverse ecosystems as a top invertebrate predator.</p>
<p>Predicting Landslides: After Disaster, Alaska Town Turns To Science</p>	<p>On August 18, 2015, in Sitka, Alaska, a slope above a subdivision of homes under construction gave way. This landslide demolished a building and killed three people. Today on the show, host Emily Kwong recounts the story of the Kramer Avenue landslide and talks about how scientists and residents implemented an early warning system for landslides to prevent a future disaster.</p>
<p>Sustainable Seafood? It's a Question of Data</p>	<p>The last several decades have taken a toll on the oceans: Some fish populations are collapsing, plastic is an increasing problem and climate change is leading to coral bleaching — as well as a host of other problems. But marine biologist and World Economic Forum program lead Alfredo Giron says there's room to hope for the seas. He works to create systems that governments and the fishing industry can use to make sure fishing is legal and sustainable so oceans thrive for years to come. He talks to host Aaron Scott about his work and how managing the ocean is a lot about managing people.</p>
<p>Grasslands: The Unsung Carbon Hero</p>	<p>What's in a grassland? There are all sorts of wildflowers, many insects, animals like prairie dogs, bison and antelope — and beneath the surface, there's a lot of carbon. According to some estimates, up to a third of the carbon stored on land is found in grasslands. But grasslands are disappearing — just like forests. Today, journalist Julia Rosen shares her reporting on the hidden majesty and importance of the grasslands.</p>

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**The FAEP Board of Directors would like to extend a big
THANK-YOU
to the organizations who continue to support FAEP
with group memberships for five or more of their employees.**

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*GROUP MEMBERSHIP Each group membership will be for a minimum of 5 qualified employees.

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½ Page	\$175	\$650
1 Page	\$250	\$900

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