

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk Elva Peppers



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Spring 2022



Hello FAEP Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this first issue for 2022 and my first President's Message. First, a little bit on my background. I have been a member of FAEP since 2012 and have been very involved in the Tallahassee Area chapter and the State chapter through the years. I am a biologist, business owner, outdoors woman, mother and soon to be grandmother. I am very excited to begin my tenure as your President and am thankful for the excellent board members and administrators that I will be working with.

I would like to congratulate you for making the important step of joining FAEP and taking advantage of the wonderful relationships, education and opportunities that come with it. During the upcoming year there are many quality events. Our big event this year is the National Association of Environmental Professionals Conference being held in Ft Lauderdale from May 16th to 19th. This is a great opportunity to meet professionals from around the country and trade knowledge with them, as well as make new acquaintances. If you have not attended one of the many Chapter events, I would encourage you to get involved, there is something for everyone. There are luncheons, socials, webinars, trainings, community service projects, and member-only events. I would also like to thank our sponsors, without their support and participation, we would not have the strong membership that we have and would not be able to present so many high-quality events.

In closing, I am looking forward to serving as your president and encourage you to communicate your needs or thoughts with me and your chapter representatives to help us serve you best.

Sincerely,



FAEP President

FAEP Board of Directors

Elva Peppers – President

Ryan Goldman – Past President

Gina Chiello – Vice Pres. & TC Chapter

Kelley Samuels – Treasurer

Jen Savaro – Secretary & SO Chapter

Bruce Hasbrouck - Parliamentarian

Joshua Hirten – CN Chapter

David Wood – NE Chapter

Michael Cobb - NW Chapter

Jen Savaro – SO Chapter

Emma Berger-Fain – SW Chapter

Brian Bendis – TB Chapter

Susan Martin – At Large

Joe Penta – At Large Member

Jane Gregory – At Large Member

Don Medellin – At Large Member

Tim Perry – NAEP Representative

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

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

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

South Florida Chapter

Key Largo Environmental Restoration and Native Flora Field Trip

On March 12, 2022, Janice Duquesnel, Environmental Specialist with FDEP, hosted a field trip for SFAEP members at two state parks in the Florida Keys. During the morning portion of the trip, the group visited the Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park and enjoyed a guided walking tour through the Park's tropical hardwood hammocks. The group also learned about environmental impacts caused many years ago at this location by an old development project and of recent efforts by FDEP to restore sensitive wetlands and the upland habitat of many imperiled species including the Key Largo woodrat, Key Largo cotton mouse, Eastern indigo snake, American crocodile, and the Schaus swallowtail butterfly.



SFAEP Members and Janice Duquesnel, FDEP, at the Entrance of Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical Park.

After lunch, the group also visited John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, which is renowned for being the country's first undersea park and encompasses an impressive 70 nautical square miles including mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and coral reefs. The group met at the Park's Visitor Center where Janice Duquesnel provided an informative presentation on the Park's ongoing coastal restoration projects and future environmental restoration plans for the park. The group also toured the Key Largo Hammock Nursery which is the source of native plants used by the park for the ongoing environmental restoration projects.



Key Largo Hammock Nursery Tour



Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals



90.7 WMFE

FCR

In the final days of his administration, with the eyes of the world on Florida where the epic 2000 election recount was underway, President Bill Clinton quietly signed into law a plan to restore the Everglades. Twenty years and \$17 billion later, the grandiose vision of reversing decades of environmental damage remains stuck in the swamp. In DRAINED, a podcast from WMFE and the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting, Amy Green wades into the controversy around one of the most ambitious environmental restoration efforts ever undertaken. From rivers of toxic slime to a mind-boggling plan to inject a giant bubble of freshwater a thousand feet underground, DRAINED examines the massive plan to restore the river of grass and poses the big question about the future of this natural wonder: Can it be saved?

DRAINED: New podcast looks at massive plan to save the Everglades, 20 years & \$17 billion later - 90.7 WMFE

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.

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Central Florida Chapter 2022 Legislative Update

The 2022 Legislative Session went into overtime, as the Senate and House were not able to agree on the budget in time to adjourn by Friday. They returned on Monday, March 14 to approve the budget and adjourn *sine die* at 1:03 pm. The Legislature approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 in a record amount of \$112 billion. Attention now turns to the Governor and his veto power over passed legislation, including line-item veto power over the budget.

The 2022 Legislature addressed a number of major issues during Session, including creating new maps for Congressional and state House and Senate districts. However, the Congressional maps are likely unresolved as Governor DeSantis has vowed to veto the new maps. Other headlining issues included a litany of controversial social issues, election reform, failed attempts to deal with the growing property insurance problems and reform of condominium regulations after the horrible collapse of Surfside.

Water Resources Management (Seagrass Mitigation) – SB 198 (A.M. Rodriguez)/HB 349 (Sirois) - Died

These bills were heard in only one committee and received significant opposition from the environmental community. The groups cited concerns with the bills making it easier for developers to destroy existing seagrass, the uncertainty of seagrass mitigation success, and using public submerged lands for mitigation. The environmental opposition also generated several news articles, all of which took a decidedly negative view of the bills. Both bills ultimately died.

Water Quality Enhancement Areas – HB 965 (Truenow) - Passed

HB 965 creates water quality enhancement areas and nutrient credit banking. It authorizes the creation of water quality enhancement areas (WQEAs), which are defined as natural systems constructed, operated, managed, and maintained for the purpose of providing offsite regional treatment for which enhancement credits may be provided. The bill requires the construction, operation, management, and maintenance of a WQEA be approved through the ERP permitting process and requires a WQEA to address the contributions of pollutants or constituents within a specific area determined by DEP that does not meet state water quality criteria.

To obtain a WQEA permit, the bill requires an applicant to provide certain reasonable assurances about the proposed WQEA and to propose a performance and success criteria monitoring and verification plan. The bill also requires that the WQEA permit provide for the assessment, valuation and award of credits based on units of pollutants removed.

HB 965 specifies that a WQEA may only provide enhancement credits in an enhancement service area determined by DEP and specifies that enhancement credits may only be sold to governmental entities. The bill requires DEP or the water management districts to authorize the sale and use of enhancement credits to address adverse water quality impacts of permitted activities or to assist governmental entities seeking to meet certain required reductions assigned in a BMAP or Reasonable Assurance Plan.

Fish and Wildlife Commission – SB 494 (Hutson) - Passed

SB 494 was filed as FWC's 2022 legislative package. The bill became the vehicle for an amendment to address gopher tortoise issues. There was significant interest by some legislators to address the current shortage of recipient sites and the alleged high cost of relocation. It was a priority of the development community, who wanted to open public lands for gopher tortoise relocation.

What ultimately passed in SB 494, is language requiring each land managing agency, in consultation with FWC, to consider the feasibility of using a portion of state lands as gopher tortoise recipient sites on lands greater than 40 contiguous acres. If the agency determines that gopher tortoise relocation does not conflict with the primary management objectives of the lands, the management plan must contain a component prepared by the agency that assesses the feasibility of gopher tortoise relocation consistent with FWC rules. The feasibility assessment must consider the economic feasibility of establishing a recipient site, including initial and recurring management costs and revenue projections necessary to establish and perpetually maintain the recipient site without creating an increased recurring expense for the agency.

The bill also authorizes landowners to establish a recipient site or conservation bank where a conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest has been acquired by the board, a state agency or a regional or local government, as long as the recipient site or conservation bank does not interfere with the management plan for the conservation easement and the landowner complies with all state and federal permitting requirements.

The bill directs FWC to streamline and improve the review of recipient site applications, including requiring that requests for additional information must be received by the applicant within 45 days after FWC receives an application and that FWC shall approve or deny a complete application within 45 days of receipt.

Central Florida Chapter Legislative Update Cont'd

By February 1, 2023, FWC shall submit a report to the Senate President and House Speaker that includes the progress made in establishing new private and public recipient sites, average time it takes to approve or deny an application, any federal action taken to modify the gopher tortoise listing under the Endangered Species Act and any other information relevant to gopher tortoise conservation programs.

By October 31, 2023, subject to appropriation, FWC shall establish an ongoing effort to encourage new private recipient sites and create an online dashboard to show permitted and available capacity for reservations in recipient sites.

Funding for Wildlife Corridors - Passed

As part of the record-breaking \$112 billion budget, the Legislature included funding in the amount of \$300 million for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to purchase land or conservation easements to protect natural and working landscapes, including wildlife corridors. There is specific language in the budget that prohibits purchased easements from restricting a landowner's ability to use the land for conservation banking/recipient sites for imperiled species or wetlands mitigation banking. The \$300 million is held in reserve until January 2023, when current DACS Commissioner Nikki Fried leaves office and the new DACS Commissioner, likely Senate President Wilton Simpson, takes office.

Inventories of Critical Wetlands – SB 882 (Brodeur) - Passed

SB 882 requires each WMD, as part of its district water management plan and in cooperation with local governments, to develop a list of critical wetlands to be acquired using funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and specifies the criteria that the WMD must consider in designating such wetlands.

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>.



National
Association of
Environmental
Professionals
Be Connected

NAEP 2022

Annual Conference & Training Symposium

Fort Lauderdale, FL | May 16-19

THE NAEP'S 47TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

HOSTED BY FAEP AND SFAEP IS ALMOST HERE!

Join us for the NAEP Conference & Training Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, May 16-19, 2022, at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach. The NAEP 2022 Conference will be NAEP's first in-person event since 2019, and will also serve as the FAEP Conference for 2022, so start dusting off your business cards! Information on room blocks, registration, sponsoring and exhibiting at the conference and more is available here: <https://naep.memberclicks.net/naep-2022-conference---training-symposium>.

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Plant this, Not That: Avoiding Invasive Plant Species in Florida

By Tina McIntyre, MS, CEP, FCHP, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent

How are invasive plant species introduced?

The ornamental plant industry is the primary pathway for movement of invasive plants worldwide, with invasives accounting for a significant portion of the inventory and revenue. For example, Rose Peppertree, *Schinus terebinthifolia*, was introduced to Florida as an ornamental plant in the mid-1800s that later escaped cultivation. With a quick growth rate, wide climate tolerance, profuse seed production, and a high germination rate, this plant rapidly displaces native vegetation.

What you can do

You can play a part in fostering a sustainable landscape by selecting plants that will reduce the prevalence of invasive species! To help in the fight against invasive plants, you can:

- recognize and remove invasive species from the landscape
- learn the differences between common names, scientific names, and cultivars
- use alternatives to invasive species, such as native plants or sterile, non-invasive cultivars
- practice [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™](#) principles by ensuring that you're choosing the right plant for the right place
- participate in invasive species round ups or educational events
- if you have a question, talk with your local UF/IFAS Extension Office and/or Master Gardener Volunteer

A new book can help you!

There is a [new book at the University of Florida IFAS Extension Bookstore](#) that can help you select the right non-invasive plants! *Plant This Not That: A Guide to Avoiding Invasive Plant Species in Florida* is a field friendly guide that features over 20 entries, each detailing a commercially available invasive plant. Each entry contains:

- the common and scientific names of the plant
- a description of its appearance, growth habit, distribution, and range in Florida
- the ecological implications of the plant
- alternatives plants or approved cultivars to plant instead

Here is a sneak photo of one of the plants!



Golden Rain Tree, scientific name *Koelreuteria paniculate* is a branched tree that grows up to 20-30 ft. tall with a globe-shaped, open growth habit. Feather-like leaves with clusters of many yellow flowers produce seeds with a dry, papery covering that turns pinkish-brown when mature and rides the wind for dispersal. For distribution and range it can be found statewide throughout North, Central, and South Florida. It is an ecological threat and denoted by the

Florida Invasive Species Partnership and the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants as a Category 2 invasive in both Central and South Florida. The UF/IFAS Assessment recommends caution for those who have planted it in both Central and South Florida. We recommend that you plant the following species instead:

- Sapphire Shower (*Duranta erecta*)
- Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)
- Pink Trumpet Tree (*Tabebuia heterophylla*)
- Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Don't wait, get your copy of this great resource today at <https://bit.ly/AvoidInvasive!>



FAEP Sponsors



**Southeast
Soil & Environmental
Service inc**

(772) 359-0038
gsawka@juno.com

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

Hydric soil investigations – Training
Wetland delineation – Expert testimony
Permit facilitation



Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

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

Can Skiing Survive Climate Change?	Climate change poses an existential threat to the ski industry. A warmer climate means less snow and less snow means a shorter season for snowboarders and skiers. NPR correspondent Kirk Siegler first covered the issue 15 years ago as local station reporter in Aspen. Now he returns to that world-renowned destination and tells Short Wave co-host Aaron Scott about one resort's efforts to push the nation toward clean energy while it continues catering to the carbon-generating, jet-set crowd.
Addressing Water Contamination With Indigenous Science	Ranalda Tsosie grew up in the Navajo Nation, close to a number of abandoned uranium mines. The uranium from those mines leached into the groundwater, contaminating some of the unregulated wells that Ranalda and many others relied on for cooking, cleaning and drinking water. Today on the show, Ranalda talks to host Aaron Scott about her path to becoming an environmental chemist to study the extent of contamination in her home community using a blend of western and Diné science methods.
Planet Money: How Manatees Got Into Hot Water	Today we share the mic with our colleagues at Planet Money to talk about one of our favorite aquatic creatures: manatees. Decades ago, manatees nearly went extinct as their habitat dwindled and boats threatened their lives. But power companies noticed something: manatees were hanging out near their power plants, seeking out warm water. So, the power companies teamed up with environmentalists to turn the warm waters near power plants into manatee refuges — saving manatee lives and the power companies money in the process. Now, there's a new conundrum: manatees that are hooked on fossil fuels.
Lemurs Will Rock You	There's a lot for scientists to learn about the origins of humans' musical abilities. In the last few years, though, they've discovered homo sapiens have some company in our ability to make musical rhythm. Producer Berly McCoy brings the story of singing lemurs to host Aaron Scott. She explains how their harmonies could help answer questions about the beginnings of our own musical abilities, and what all of this has to do with Queen.
What Octopus Minds May Tell Us About Aliens	Octopuses! They are escape artists, they camouflage in all kinds of surroundings, and they are incredibly intelligent creatures--and that intelligence evolved completely separately from humans'. That separate evolution makes them the perfect animal to study for Dominic Sivitilli, a PhD candidate in astrobiology and behavioral neuroscience at the University of Washington.
Can Nuclear Power Save A Struggling Coal Town?	A struggling Wyoming coal town may soon go nuclear with help from an unlikely partner, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates. NPR Correspondent Kirk Siegler takes us to Kemmerer, Wyo., where Gates' power company, supported by public funds, plans to open a new type of nuclear energy plant in hopes of replacing a closing coal plant. The model facility would create jobs and provide the flexible baseline energy needed to back up solar, wind and other renewables. But is it a good fit for rural Kemmerer?
What We Gain From Dark Night Skies	For many of us, seeing stars in the night sky is challenging because of light pollution. But there are some communities that are trying to change that. Today on the show, we visit cultural astronomer Danielle Adams in the world's first international dark sky city.

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

**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.**

AECOM	EarthBalance	Verdantas	SurvTech, Inc.
Atkins	EPC Hillsborough County	Johnson Engineering Inc.	Terracon
Bio-tech Consulting, Inc.	Flatwoods Consulting Group	Lewis, Longman, & Walker, P.A.	Tetra Tech, Inc.
Broward County	Florida Water Management Districts	Mosaic	Turrell, Hall & Associates
Clark Environmental	FDEP	Orange County EPD	Wantman Group, Inc.
Cummins Cederberg	GeoSyntec Consultants	Passarella & Associates	WRA Engineering
DRMP, Inc.	GHD	Stantec Consulting	

Did you know that you can arrange to renew all of your employees at one time?

If your employer would like to take advantage of the Group Membership discount* and utilize FAEP’s company invoicing services please email info@faep-fl.org.

***GROUP MEMBERSHIP** Each group membership will be for a minimum of 5 qualified employees. Group memberships are available to corporations, government agencies, and/or other entities involved in and related to the environmental profession. Employers that do not have 5 or more employees who are members can join as General or Associate members. The cost of each Group Membership is \$35.

**Interested in advertising to almost 2000 Environmental Professionals in the FAEP’s newsletter and on our website?
One year sponsorships also get your organization logo on our webpage!**

Sponsorship Rates

Size	One Issue	One Year Plus Logo on Website
Biz Card	\$35	\$100
¼ Page	\$100	\$375
½ Page	\$175	\$650
1 Page	\$250	\$900

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
Teri Hasbrouck, Editor
PO Box 7416
St. Petersburg, FL 33734
Email: info@faep-fl.org

If you would like to submit an article to the Beacon contact the editor at info@faep-fl.org.

Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals