

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk Elva Peppers



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Summer 2022



Hello FAEP Members,

During the pandemic, FAEP, like so many associations, had a reduction in its membership. I am pleased to report that we are building our membership back through in-person presentations, socials, family events, and online presentations. In addition, we hosted the 2022 NAEP conference in Fort Lauderdale and showcased some fantastic projects to national members from as far away as Hawaii! In addition to our chapter events, the FAEP state chapter is hosting some member-only trainings that are very affordable. Two types of trainings will be hosted by your local chapters to reduce the cost and time involved for our members to travel. Be on the lookout for the Hydric Soils Training course or the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment course announcements through 2022 and 2023. We are also very excited for the Northeast Chapter in Jacksonville to grow their chapter through increased events and membership. If you are in Jacksonville, I encourage you to reach out to that chapter and attend an event or volunteer as a board member, sponsor, or speaker.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Beacon this quarter. It is an important way for the FAEP to communicate with its members and is a good way of forming useful networks and avenues for education in our industry. This newsletter provides short articles from members and chapters throughout the state about what is happening in their chapters, pertinent industry updates, National Association news, calendars of upcoming events and sponsor content. It is an excellent way to stay up to date on what is happening around the state.

Somehow, we are already halfway through this year. I would like to thank the FAEP Board, our administrator and the board members of each chapter for doing a great job. FAEP is here to support all the chapters and members, so please feel free to reach out to them or to me personally with ideas for this organization.

Sincerely,

FAEP President
ElvaPeppers@felsi.org

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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**

Southwest Florida Chapter

Peace River Fossil Hunt - 2022

What a great fossil hunt! The Peace River fossil hunting trip was a great success loaded with plenty of shark teeth and other unique fossil finds. We started with a nice canoe ride up the beautiful Peace River to our hunting grounds. Our guide Fred Mazza with Paleo Discoveries came prepared with plenty of gear for everyone to use. Fred also provided a lot of knowledge on how and where to dig for the best results. Many fragment megalodon teeth were found along with a dozen or so teeth completely intact. Hundreds of shark teeth of all different species were also dug up. No doubt you will find shark's teeth on this trip. I will definitely be in attendance next year!

-Ramsey Fisher, Treasurer – Southwest Chapter



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.

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Tampa Bay Chapter

In March, the Tampa Bay Chapter Board of Directors voted to support four attendees from a local Tampa school to a Five-day Immersive Environmental Studies Field Trip. The students had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with knowledgeable guides who taught them how to enjoy nature without causing harm to the environment.

Students participated in a five-day immersive journey from Tampa Bay to the Everglades and Florida Keys taking part in a nature-oriented field trip. The goal of the trip was to provide students with a chance to submerge themselves in the outdoors in a way that they may not have previously experienced. In-class lessons were moved outdoors with real-life experiences reinforcing the importance of nature and diverse biosystems, the species that depend on conservation, and the enjoyment that can be experienced in nature.

The students departed on a chartered bus on March 28th and stopped to visit the Archbold Biological Research Station which is dedicated to the preservation of the Endangered Florida Scrub ecosystem. They visited Joshua Creek where they dug for and learned about ancient fossil remains in the area known as the "Bone Valley Formation". The following day they visited Highlands Hammock State Park. While at the park they visited the museum and journey through an old-growth cypress swamp before continuing to the Peace River where they canoed and enjoyed fossil hunting. On day 3 the students began exploration of the Everglades, which included air-boating through the marsh, observing wildlife, wading through the wetlands and researching invertebrate lab specimens. On day 4 of the trip students kayaked across the into the mangroves. They stopped along the way for a comparative study of the mangrove ecosystem. Discussions included the importance of mangroves both to humans and wildlife, detritus food chains, and the diversity of organisms that depend on mangrove communities for their continued survival. Students visited Robbie's Marina to feed the giant tarpon, continued down to the keys to Marathon and visited Crane Point Museum and nearby nature trails. On the final day of their adventure the students visited the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary and participated in a coral reef study with snorkeling.



Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
36 th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School	July 19 - 22	Marco Island, FL
Florida Energy Pipeline Association	July 19 - 22	Key West, FL
Florida Environmental Health Association	July 31 – Aug. 6	Howey in the Hills, FL
Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies Conference	Aug. 2 - 5	Panama City Beach, FL
American institute of Professional Geologists National Conference	Aug. 6 - 9	Marquette, MI
Brownfields 2022 – Sustainable Communities Start Here	Aug. 16 - 19	Oklahoma City, OK
13 TH Annual Georgia Environmental Conference	Aug. 23 - 26	Jekyll Island, GA
Florida Lake Management Society 33 rd Annual Technical Symposium	Aug. 30– Sept. 2	Bonita Springs, FL
American Planning Association Florida Annual Conference	Sept. 6 - 9	Orlando, FL
American Water Works Association Water Infrastructure Conference	Sept. 11 - 14	Portland, OR
Association of Water Technologies Annual Convention & Exposition	Sept. 21 - 24	Vancouver, Canada
Reef Futures Symposium	Sept. 26 - 30	Key Largo, FL
Florida Association of Mitigation Bankers Mitigation Banking Workshop	Sept. 29 - 30	Jacksonville, FL
Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association	Oct. 5 - 7	Bonita Springs, FL
Florida Redevelopment Association 2022 Annual Conference	Oct. 12 - 14	Daytona Beach, FL
International Conference on Oil, Gas and Petroleum Engineering	Oct. 21 - 22	Orlando, FL
Global Conference on Biofuels and Bioenergy	Oct. 21 - 22	Orlando, FL
Florida Brownfield Association 2022 Annual Conference	Oct. 25 - 26	Sarasota, FL
National Habitat Conservation Coalition 2022 Annual Meeting	Oct. 25 - 27	Austin, TX
National Disaster Resilience Conference 2022	Nov. 7 -10	Clearwater Beach, FL
The Science of PFAS: Transforming Research into Action – A&WMA	Nov. 8 -10	Durham, NC
Florida Remediation Conference	Nov. 16 - 18	Orlando, FL
14 th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit	Dec. 8 - 9	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit 2022	Dec. 8 - 9	Fort Lauderdale, FL

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

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
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Be Connected

Florida Beacon

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

<p>Nudibranchs Do It Better</p>	<p>In this episode, Maddie and Emily got super nerdy, diving into the incredible world of nudibranchs. These sea slugs eye-catching for their colors, and some of them have evolved to “steal” abilities from other organisms – from the power of photosynthesis to the stinging cells of venomous predators.</p>
<p>Liquid Gold: The Wonder of Honey</p>	<p>Honey bees know a lot about honey, and humans are starting to catch up. Scientists are now looking at how the chemicals in honey affect bee health. With the help of research scientist Bernarda Calla, <i>Short Wave</i> producer Berly Mccoy explains the chemical complexities of honey, how it helps keep honey bees resilient, and what role it may play in saving bees.</p>
<p>Scientists Discover GINORMOUS Bacteria</p>	<p>The Caribbean is home to gorgeous beaches, mangroves and... the biggest bacteria known to humankind. Find out exactly how big from science correspondent Nell Greenfieldboyce in this Micro Wave. Then, stay for the listener mail, where we answer YOUR questions!</p>
<p>The Quest to Save the California Condor</p>	<p>Historically, the California condor soared across the western skies of North America. But by the 1980’s, the bird was on the edge of extinction – just 22 remained.</p>
<p>Good Things Come In Trees</p>	<p>Do you ever feel better after walking down a street that’s lined with lush, green trees? You’re not alone! For decades, researchers have been studying the effects of nature on human health and the verdict is clear: time spent among trees seems to make us less prone to disease, more resistant to infection and happier overall.</p>

Michelle Diffenderfer Receives the 2022 Leadership Excellence Award (Private Sector) from Leadership Palm Beach County



Michelle Diffenderfer (Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. Shareholder and President), long-time FAEP member, received the 2022 Leadership Excellence Award (Private Sector) from Leadership Palm Beach County (LPBC) last month in West Palm Beach. The award recognizes exceptional LPBC Alumni who have made significant contributions to improve their communities. Michelle was recognized for her work with Mayor Keith James’ Task Force for Racial and Ethnic Equality. James Gavrilos, Education Foundation of Palm Beach County received the LEA in the nonprofit sector, Chelsea Reed, Mayor of the City of Palm Beach Gardens received the LEA in the public sector, and Jessica Cecere, Nonprofits First,

received the President’s Award. All award winners have been recognized by their colleagues for upholding LPBC’s core values of “connecting, collaborating, and changing” the community around them.

Michelle is a graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County class of 2000. She assists landowners, businesses and governments with local, state and federal, environmental, natural resource and land development legal requirements. She helps clients navigate these laws and regulations in the permitting of their land development and infrastructure projects. Michelle also serves as Chair of the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, & Resources. Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., is a nonprofit organization designed to foster awareness of community issues and promote efficient communication and cooperative relationships between existing and emerging community leaders. LPBC’s stated mission is to educate and unite leaders to build a better community. Initiated in 1983 through a collaborative effort of the local Chambers of Commerce, LPBC has prepared nearly 3,000 adult and youth graduates for enhanced community leadership roles. Learn more about LPBC at LeadershipPBC.org.

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How To: Florida-Friendly Landscaping!

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

With water quality and quantity issues posing serious threats to the sustainability of our state, Florida-Friendly Landscaping can offer everyone a chance to be a part of the solution!

If not applied properly, nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous coming from residential and commercial lawns can enter our groundwater or local waterways. These nutrients feed aquatic plants and algae, which make it difficult to navigate the waterways for recreation and diminish the pristine waters that contribute to high property values and sustain wildlife. If your yard and lawn seem to need fertilizer because they are showing signs of yellowing, we recommend starting with a soil test for macronutrients, micronutrients and pH. In many counties it is illegal to fertilize with phosphorous without a soil test, so this will not only help your plants, but keep you in compliance! The pH of your soil is very important because if it is not at the optimal level for your plant species, the nutrients you are applying will not be absorbed by the plant roots. Contact your local extension for more info about soil testing or use this [form](#) to send your soil today.

With an average of 50% of home water usage being consumed in the landscape, it is critical that homeowners and professionals alike make strides to plant Florida-Friendly plants and check their irrigation. A simple way to prevent waste of our precious water resources is to calibrate your irrigation system with the catch-can method. By following these steps, you can ensure your landscape irrigation is watering your plants the recommended ½- ¾ of an inch per zone per application.

1. Collect several small tuna or cat food cans, clean them.
2. Place the cans around zone 1 in various locations.
3. Turn on your irrigation system for 15 minutes.
4. Measure the amount of water in each can; the ideal amount is an average of ½- ¾ of an inch. If you have ¼ of an inch after 15 minutes, you should run the zone for 30-45 minutes to get the desired amount.

Remember, new plants will need to be watered daily to be established, and older trees and shrubs can typically survive on rain water. It is also highly recommended that you convert your landscape beds to micro-irrigation, which more efficiently waters the plants at the roots.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) is in our state law and is a program developed by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The nine principles of FFL offer great ways for you to make your landscape more sustainable and easier to maintain. FFL can take many different looks and forms, but the common thread is that they all select the right plant for the right place. By selecting Florida-Friendly plants for the right place in your yard, you can reduce the amount of fertilizer, pesticides, water, and maintenance needed for your landscape. **Learn more about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL)** <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

Did you Know???

Did you Know? – In 1985 Mr. Valcar Bowman was asked by his employer, Mobile Oil Corporation, to alter internal company environmental audits. He knew the requests were unethical and he repeatedly refused. Subsequently, his performance reviews turned poor and, in 1986, he was out of a job. Val sued claiming that the preamble to NAEP's Code of Ethics required him to conduct himself with integrity and to serve the interests of the public.

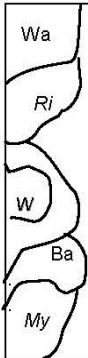
The jury agreed and awarded him \$1,375,000. Mobil Oil appealed and eventually the US 3rd District Court agreed in 1991, cementing legal recognition of NAEP's Code of Ethics.

Environmental Practice December 2001

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Act Now to Access Florida's Flood Funding

Resilient Florida legislation in 2021 (SB 1954) ushered in a period of climate action new to Florida which focuses on flooding – both today and in the future – along with the funding to support it. The Resilient Florida legislation made major headway in Florida by establishing a grant funding program for planning and resilience implementation projects, set new statewide standards for flood-related vulnerability assessments, defined critical assets, required the development of a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, established the Florida Flood Hub, and solidified support for regional resilience entities. This marks a new commitment to Florida communities to address sea level rise and a changing climate.

The Resilient Florida Grant Program, now in Florida Statute 380.093, is administered out of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and replaced the previous FDEP Resilient Coastlines Grant Funding Program. Unlike its predecessor, the Resilient Florida Grant Program is open to both coastal and inland communities. Last year, \$20 Million was set aside for planning grants to address flood-related vulnerability studies and required no matching funds. About half of the 191 planning grant requests received by FDEP were funded. Additionally, approximately \$500M was set aside from state and federal Coronavirus recovery funds for resilience projects, with a 50% match requirement. The funded project lists can be found at <https://floridadep.gov/Resilient-Florida-Program/Grants>. Standardizing the parameters of a vulnerability assessment (VA) was an important aspect of the legislation. The VA must look at the risk to critical assets from current and future tidal and storm surge flooding, and to the extent practicable, also from rainfall and compound flooding. At least two planning horizons that include 2040 and 2070 and NOAA intermediate-low and intermediate-high sea level rise projections are required. Critical assets are defined in four classes: (1) transportation assets and evacuation routes, (2) critical infrastructure, (3) critical community and emergency facilities, and (4) natural, cultural, and historical assets.

In 2022, Resilient Florida was further developed by legislation, signed into law by Governor DeSantis on May 3, 2022, that establishes the statewide Office of Resilience in the Executive Office of the Governor and created the role of Chief Resiliency Officer, now held by Dr. Wes Brooks. A recurring funding source of NO LESS THAN \$100M annually is now established to fund resilience projects. The entities eligible to apply for grants was broadened to include special drainage, erosion and flood control, and water management districts. New definitions were included, notably cont'd

for “regionally significant assets” which span multiple jurisdictional boundaries. New guidance for non-tidal communities was also included requiring future precipitation from the 100-yr and 500-yr storms to be considered. Moreover, FDOT is now required to develop a state highway system resilience action plan, due to the Legislature in June 2023.

The Resilient Florida Grant Window is now open for both planning and adaptation projects until September 1, 2022. This is a golden opportunity to submit projects benefitting our local communities and our state. Don’t delay!

Danielle Irwin @ dirwin@cumminscederberg.com

**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

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