

Florida Beacon



From the President's Desk
Bruce Hasbrouck

FAEP Policy Committee

FAEP is contacted on a regular basis about providing support on various issues. These issues have ranged from requesting support on legislation for preservation of environmentally sensitive lands to supporting hometown democracy. Generally we do not take a position on issues as it is unlikely that a position will represent the entire membership.

We do consider forwarding information that may be of value to members. This is typically sent to the Chapters for dissemination at a local level or included as a newsletter article. As *The Beacon* is provided on a quarterly basis, this information may be old news by the next issue. Website postings are another opportunity for informing members.

Following the protocol that NAEP uses, we are establishing a Policy Committee. This committee will review the various requests, consider the issue, and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Quite frequently, the recommendation is more oriented towards the process than the actual issue. For instance, the committee may recommend that the legislature should include a provision for qualified biologists to perform alligator surveys not that the alligator should be de-listed (I made that up).

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October 2008



FAEP 2007-2008

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Employment Opportunities

Please visit the following links to review the latest employment opportunities:

- [FAEP](#)
- [NAEP](#)
- [Northwest Chapter](#)
- [Central Chapter](#)
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In This Issue:

- [We Want You](#)
- [Water Wars](#)
- [DEP Releases Annual Water Supply Planning Report](#)
- [Gardening for Native Pollinators](#)
- [The College Perspective](#)
- [NAEP Call for Papers](#)

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Creating Solutions Through Collaborative Partnerships	October 11	Providence, RI
Florida Remediation Conference	October 16-17	Orlando, FL
2008 EEBA Excellence In Building Conference & Expo	October 22-24	Phoenix, AZ
Florida Brownfields Conference	October 26-28	St. Pete Beach, FL
SETAC North America 29th Annual Meeting	November 16-20	Tampa, FL
NAEP 34th Annual Conference: Making Sustainability Happen: Goals, Practices and Challenges	May 3-6, 2009	Scottsdale, AZ

We Want You! The Growing Number of Student Chapters

Teri Hasbrouck, Tampa Bay Chapter Member

Since 2004, the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals (TBAEP) has been working with campus representatives on both sides of Tampa Bay to form student chapters. The four schools include Eckerd College and University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, and the University of Tampa and USF Tampa campus. Our first success occurred when Professor Evan Chipouras from the University of Tampa brought a van full of students to Hillsborough Community College to one of our annual presentations: "What does an Environmental Professional Do?" Shortly after that event, Dr. Chipouras began working with UT student Jessica Orlando, to form our first student chapter. To become an official chapter, student chapters and their academic sponsor join NAEP.



Three years later, in 2007, after several outreach events, Eckerd College formed our second student chapter in this area. At Eckerd, the TBAEP student chapter committee recognized the advantages of forming a student chapter that works closely with the campus Career Center. As a result, several students have been hired by our members or their companies, completing the circle that begins with education and ends with gainful employment. We continue to work with the Career Center at Eckerd to find internship, job shadowing, and entry-level positions for students and graduates.

This fall, the students at USF St. Petersburg campus will begin their first activities as a new student chapter of NAEP, FAEP, and TBAEP. Katie Victor, a TBAEP member, has worked with the students towards forming their student chapter and in early fall we will realize the success of those efforts! We have a close relationship with the staff of the Career Center so that we can facilitate internships and gainful employment for the students studying in environmental programs at USF St. Pete.

The USF Tampa campus is also close to forming a student chapter. These efforts began with a meeting that included a faculty advisor, the career center staff and members of the TBAEP student chapter committee. One of our members, Chastity LaRiche, has donated personal time as our campus liaison and has worked with the students to get their chapter up and running. We are very excited to see the fruition of our efforts!

The Tallahassee chapter has worked with a student chapter at Florida A&M University that formed in 2006. That effort has resulted in at least one student landing a full-time position with an FAEP member's firm.

One of the ways we work to expand the horizons of college students is to send a member or two to the NAEP conference each year. In 2007, UT student and Student chapter president, Jessica Orlando attended the conference in Orlando (sounds like fate, doesn't it?!) and met other students from all over the U.S. She also attended the annual conference Career Seminar and considered her trip a very valuable experience. In April of 2008, we were able to send three students to the national conference in San Diego. [Leandra Darden](#), [Danielle Thibodeau](#) of UT and [Andrew Stoffa](#) from Eckerd all had a great experience listening to a variety of presentations, and met many interesting environmental professionals from all over the country (see articles on [page 10](#)).

As a member of FAEP you participated in the funding for this effort! Our chapter was able to pay for three students to attend the conference with matching funds from FAEP. For NAEP's 2009 conference in Phoenix Arizona, TBAEP's goal is to send two students from each of the four campuses where we have student chapters.

The success of this program depends on our ability to provide internships and job opportunities to students and graduates. Our goal is to be a successful link between students at school and employment as an Environmental Professional. So we're asking you, the members of FAEP, to let us know when you have information about an internship or entry-level position that we can forward to the career center at each campus. Help us keep bright, motivated and creative young people here in our wonderful state by giving back to a profession that you feel so passionate about. Please email information to THasbrouck@PinellasCounty.org.

We are always excited to receive articles from the members of FAEP. Thank you to Teri Hasbrouck and the student chapter members for providing us information about future environmental professionals in Florida and their experience at the NAEP Conference.

Please share your stories with us any time, email them to info@faep-fl.org.

Florida Beacon

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Water Wars

Reprinted from the Environmental Services, Inc. Newsletter

Whether you live in the southeastern US or on the Yangtze River in China, the term “Water Wars” has a familiar ring. Water Wars are showing up on virtually every continent. From Chinese attempts to dam or redirect the southward flow of river waters from the Tibetan plateau, to Florida, Georgia, and Alabama US states scrambling to sustain their drinking water resources during the ongoing drought; potential conflict over water resources is a growing global concern.

These conflicts are generally a direct result of the uneven availability of water within various regions/nations. Creative solutions usually translate into benefits for one country or region at the expense of a neighboring one. What’s happening to our water resources?

The current debate over greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, coinciding with the subsequent effects of phenomenon such as El Niño and cyclical droughts, provide a distraction from the more immediate issues surrounding our water. Although droughts may be more prevalent due to climate changes, the impacts of these droughts have been greatly magnified by our patterns of water overuse and dependence as we continue to experience rapid population growth throughout the world.

The signs of drought are often more visible in areas that depend upon surface sources such as lakes and reservoirs as a potable water supply. A good example of this is the low water levels in Lake Lanier, upstream of the Buford Dam on the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta.

Photographs of the drying lake attract people’s attention and inspire water use restrictions as seen in the Atlanta region last fall. On the contrary, states like Florida show fewer visible signs of lowering water levels. This is due to the difference in the primary potable water source. Florida residents draw over 90 percent of their fresh water from the subsurface aquifers. The water levels in these underground sources are not visible and are recorded from monitoring stations throughout the state.

Water consumption has recently been brought back to the surface in Florida with the introduction of several proposals to either withdraw or divert water from sources such as the St. Johns, Chattahoochee, and Apalachicola Rivers. These proposals, and subsequent lawsuits, have resulted in regional actions such as a White House meeting of the governors from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama to explore short- and long-term solutions to the states competing water use demands. Florida wants to protect endangered mussels and the fishing industry while Georgia residents want water to drink. There have also been more localized actions such as a petition for an administrative hearing regarding the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) permit application to allow Seminole County to withdraw up to 5.5 million gallons per day from the St. Johns River.

The Seminole County example also highlights a major difference between US states in the area of water use regulation. Water use and consumption in the State of Florida is regulated by the five Water Management Districts, each with a governing board made up of members appointed by the governor of Florida.

No matter how the current water wars are resolved, if they are resolved, these wars are focused primarily on distributing water based upon current and future projected usage. It is clear now that the long-term challenges and solutions will be in the areas of water use and quality. Currently, over 40 percent of Florida’s potable water consumption is for irrigation of lawns and gardens. In addition, bottled water consumption continues to increase dramatically due, in part, to people’s distrust in the quality of municipal water supplies. These are just two examples of water consumption patterns that are not sustainable in the long term. It will likely take a combination of technological advances on all fronts and reprioritization by consumers to arrive at sustainable water use patterns.

One example where a change by consumers can occur is in the area of residential landscaping. The current pattern of creating open lawns planted with turf grasses has created a high de-



The Tibetan plateau is the starting point of the Yangtze River as well as the Indus, Mekong, Yellow, Salween, Brahmaputra, Karnalj and Sutlej Rivers. Attempts by the Chinese to dam or redirect the southern flow of this valuable water resource is creating “Water Wars” in this area of the world.



Lake Lanier’s receding waterline



Residential Landscaping in Florida

[Continued on page 8](#)

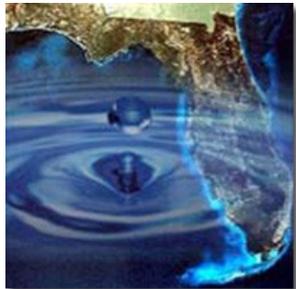
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DEP Releases Annual Water Supply Planning Report

Courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently released Learning from the Drought, Annual Status Report on Regional Water Supply Planning. The report documents Florida's progress in ensuring water for the future, while at the same time protecting wetlands, rivers, and springs.



Overall, the report illustrates clearly that good progress is being made. The water management districts' regional water supply plans have identified projects that will produce sufficient water to meet the reasonable needs of a growing population. However, because these projects are not yet built, many technical, institutional, and financial hurdles will need to be overcome in order to fully secure Florida's water supply future.

"The 2006-2008 drought presented many challenges. Fortunately, Florida has had the foresight and the necessary response mechanisms in place to reduce the most adverse effects of the drought," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "The water management districts have continued to implement the long-term strategies detailed in their respective regional water supply plans, which have mitigated the worst of the drought's impacts."

The Florida Water Protection and Sustainability Program, established in 2005 by the Legislature, has provided significant incentives to help water suppliers fund alternative water supply projects that better protect the state's natural resources. The State and the five regional water management districts provide funding through the program to build alternative water supply projects. Funding assistance has been provided to local water suppliers for the construction of 344 projects, which are expected to produce about 842 million gallons per day of water - about 42% of the additional 2 billion gallons per day of water needed by 2025, according to the report.

In the past three years, the state and the water management districts have invested almost \$423 million toward the \$3.8 billion construction costs for projects for "new" supplies of water. About 63 percent of the projects funded in the first three years of the program involved reuse of reclaimed water. An additional 20 percent of the alternative water supply projects were for brackish groundwater projects.

"Florida has the expert knowledge and has done good planning to meet the projected 2025 demands for water. However, Florida must do more to ensure that we are able to cope with recurring droughts and the uncertainties associated with climate change. A more resilient water management system will rely on source diversification, improved water use efficiency, multi-jurisdictional cooperation, and the development of alternative water supplies," said Secretary Sole.

To view the report, please visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/index.htm>.



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Did You Know?

Employment postings on FAEP's website (www.faep-fl.org) are free! During these difficult economic times, we need to assist our fellow environmental professionals in their employment search. Encourage your company or organization to post openings on FAEP's website by emailing them to info@faep-fl.org.

Quick Legislative News

EPA Provides Incentives for Clean Water Permit Fee Programs

EPA is issuing a new rule that will provide financial incentives for states to use fees when administering a clean water permit program. EPA can give up to a total of \$5.1 million to states that have adequate permit fees for their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) programs. For more information visit the EPA's [NPDES website](#).

Mayor Bloomberg Signs First-of-its -Kind Energy Conservation Law

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed a first of its kind law prohibiting businesses from wasting energy by blasting air conditioning out open doors and onto sidewalks to attract customers. This new energy conservation measure could become a model for municipalities across the country that are seeking to conserve energy, reduce local global warming pollution, and relieve summer peak demands on their power supplies. [Click here](#) to read more about Mayor Bloomberg's full vision to make New York a sustainable city, an effort called [PLANYC 2030](#).

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Visit the new Florida Bird Conservation Initiative website

For those of you that haven't heard, several organizations and agencies in Florida are helping develop a new program called the **Florida Bird Conservation Initiative (FBCI)**. A website has been developed and the FBCI welcomes you to visit [this link](#) for more information about the program.

The FBCI website is meant to serve as a clearinghouse of information on bird conservation in Florida. Please be sure to stop by the "Projects" page on the site and take a few minutes to enter your avian projects into the project database. This database will be a searchable and comprehensive snapshot of avian research going on in Florida.



GREEN LIVING TIP #3

Simple Laundry Tips:

- Believe it or not, your laundry detergent works just as well with cold water. So always wash with cold water and save 50 cents per load.
- A warm dryer uses less energy. Try to wash and dry several loads at once, so your dryer isn't completely cooled down when it heats up for the next load.

Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Chapter of FAEP.

From the President's Desk Continued...

There are three different issues that have been sent to FAEP for our consideration:

- [Amendment 4](#) Tax Exemption for perpetual conservation easements
- [Gopher tortoise rule](#) changes regarding experience with respect to permitting
- FWC's [Wildlife Surveyor](#) Certification

Please read the articles in this newsletter and provide your perspective about the various policy issues under consideration. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me at bhas-brouck@fallerdavis.com. This is a good opportunity to network with environmental professionals from around the state. It is also a good chance to consider issues from various perspectives.

Bruce Hasbrouck



AMENDMENT 4

Amendment 4 is proposed as a change to Florida's constitution so that owners of real estate that is placed in perpetual conservation easement are exempt from paying ad valorem taxes on that property. FAEP has been asked to join a large group of NGO's that support this legislation.

Amendment 4 will appear on the ballot on November 4, 2008. With the approval of 60% or more of general election voters, this measure will be incorporated into the state's constitution.

According to the Florida Wildlife Federation, Amendment 4 accomplishes two extremely significant goals:

“Landowners who put their environmentally significant lands into perpetual conservation protection, by a conservation easement or other mechanism, will be exempted from property taxes. The land that is set aside will be saved forever, no matter who the owner is in the future. No houses or malls, just fish and wildlife habitat and water recharge - FOREVER.

Amendment 4 also allows those who use their lands for conservation purposes to be taxed at the same rate as those who have agricultural lands. While not perpetual in nature, the lessening of the tax burden on these landowners will keep desirable lands green that otherwise might have been lost to development.

Amendment 4, while slightly diminishing governmental revenue, will also reduce public expenditures as conserved lands cost the public very little, requiring no ongoing public services, such as police, roads and public schools as are required with developed lands.

The Florida Forever program and local government conservation programs can only go so far on limited dollars to protect needed lands. If no other effort is made, by 2060, at our present rate of growth, another 7 million acres will have been lost to development. That means more than the doubling of the size of current urbanized areas. It is time to act to help ensure that future generations have clean estuaries, abundant fresh water, wild landscapes, Florida panthers, camping areas, hunting lands and fishing spots. Without the adequate preservation of private conservation property, along with public lands, the outlook for clean water and open spaces is very dim.”

GOPHER TORTOISE RULE CHANGES

According to the new Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines, the requirements include new experience criteria for individuals authorized to perform the work. Concerns have been expressed to FAEP that the criteria are too restrictive and create an elite group of consultants who are able to do the work that a lot of qualified people are currently providing.

The specifics shown below are copied from FWC's website:

Gopher tortoise surveys:

Applicant must have completed either (1) at least 120 hours conducting gopher tortoise surveys over the past year, or (2) a cumulative total of 480 hours conducting gopher tortoise surveys. Completion of an FWC-approved training course module in gopher tortoise surveying may be substituted for the experience requirements.

Editor's note: The training course criteria have not yet been fully developed.

Gopher tortoise capture using bucket trapping or live trapping or hand shovel excavation:

Applicant must have captured, with no gopher tortoise injuries or mortality, either: (1) an average of 10 gopher tortoises per year by a single method over a four-year time period, or (2) a cumulative total of 40 gopher tortoises captured by a single method. Applicants are to list experience for each method separately in the agent permit application, as applicable. Completion of an FWC-approved training course module in gopher tortoise capture methods may be substituted for the experience requirements.

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"Gardening for Native Pollinators" TV Program Now in Production

Nancy Rodlun, FAEP Board Member



Pollinators are a remarkable group of small creatures, important to human and ecosystem survival. If plants, including food and forage crops, rely on pollinator insects to survive, then animals, including human beings, could not live without pollinator insects as well. The majority of flowering plants in Florida must have pollinator insects to survive and reproduce year to year.

Florida has over 2,000 species of native pollinator insects that are responsible for pollinating our native wildflowers, keeping our ecosystems healthy and pollinating our crops. This includes over 200 species of native bees, hundreds of species of wasps, and numerous species of beetles, moths, butterflies, mosquitoes and bee flies. Due to biodiversity threats such as land development, pollution, and pesticide poisoning, we are losing pollinators around the world at an alarming rate.

Because of the importance of sustaining our native pollinator populations to keep Florida's wonderful and unique native plants and animals healthy and vibrant, Nature Wise, Inc. is producing a ½ hour TV documentary in the "Wildlife Matters" series, featured on many government stations throughout the state. It is titled, "Gardening for Native Pollinators". This timely and important TV program introduces viewers to the vast diversity of native pollinators we have in Florida, helps people understand how pollination works to enable flowering plants to reproduce, and gives people tips they can use in their landscapes to help attract and sustain our native pollinator populations.

Nature Wise is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to "improving the environment through educational television and video". Their TV programs air on over 75 government access, education and PBS channels throughout Florida to a viewing audience of almost 15 million people. For more information about Nature Wise, Inc. and how you can contribute to this TV program and others, please visit their website at www.naturewisetv.org. All donations are tax deductible.



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Water Wars continued...

mand for irrigation water. A transition to native landscaping that is not only more drought tolerant but also less dependant upon fertilizers would greatly reduce consumption rates and also decrease the nutrient runoff to wetlands and aquatic habitats.

In addition to decreasing our consumption rates, we must also focus on alternative sources of water. One example of an area ripe for advancement is desalination. This is a process by which salts and other molecules are removed from seawater, thus making it a potable freshwater source. The salt brine left behind in the process is one of the challenges, but the cost incurred remains the largest obstacle to increased use of desalination plants. Given that the largest population increases are occurring on or near the coast, desalination has the potential to positively affect a large percentage of the world's population.

A second alternative water source primarily used for irrigation is reuse of treated waste water. This water source has been incorporated into new developments throughout the US, but it is more difficult and costly to retrofit developed areas. The other challenge in using this treated effluent is its availability. Waste water treatment facilities discharge at a rate dependant upon the rate of intake from customers. There may be inadequate supply of this source during periods of increased demand, and the supply may be diminished when local conservation efforts increase.

Finally, it is apparent that shifts need to occur in how water is emphasized in various regulations and programs. For example, the U.S. Green Building Council administers a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program to rate and certify green buildings. This certification allows for only 5 points in water related categories out of the total of 69 points. There are other programs, such as the Florida Water Star program administered by SJRWMD, that focus on water use. The speed of implementation and effectiveness of programs like these will have a large impact on our water consumption in the near future.

The increased focus on water consumption has also highlighted the need to better protect our water resources from contamination and maintain water quality in our potable supplies as well as in our fresh water and marine resources.

Many things contribute to the status of an impaired watershed. Some of these include air pollutants, runoff from agriculture and impervious surfaces, and antiquated wastewater facilities. These treatment plants cannot handle the combined storm and wastewater during large rain events sometimes causing uncontrollable overflows of raw sewage to enter the area's surface waters.

In areas with karst topography, groundwater can be easily contaminated by polluted runoff and failing septic systems. Also, a new type of contaminant to water resources has been identified - pharmaceuticals, which have been affecting aquatic life (more prevalent in the Mid Atlantic States at this time). Intersex in fishes in the Potomac River has been detected. Specifically, smallmouth bass have been observed with the presence of oocytes in the male gonad. Put simply, this is the presence of both male and female characteristics in the same animal. This is possibly due to exposure to estrogenic compounds found in human wastewater effluent. As of this date, wastewater treatment plants are unable to filter out pharmaceuticals. A recent Associated Press investigation showed a vast array of pharmaceuticals -- including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones -- have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.

It is clear that we are all stakeholders, but those with expertise in the areas of water quality and conservation will play important roles in determining the direction and success of water resource management in the future.

Authors: Mike Harrington, Mike Eagan, and Doug Hutzell of the Environmental Services, Inc. Water Resource team



Desalination Plant in Salmiya
(located 12 kilometers southeast of Kuwait City)



Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, US



Potomac River - Great Falls, US

From the President's Desk Continued...**Gopher tortoise capture using a modified pulling rod:**

The applicant must have captured, with no gopher tortoise injuries or mortality, an average of 10 gopher tortoises per year over a four-year period by safely using a modified pulling rod. Applicants must include references to the permits under which the claimed experience was earned. Certification of additional agents beyond those who meet these criteria will be considered only after further evaluation of this technique by FWC in April 2010. Completion of a training course will not be accepted in lieu of the experience requirements listed.

Transport, marking and release of gopher tortoises:

The applicant must have completed, with no gopher tortoise injuries or mortality, either: (1) an average of 10 gopher tortoises/year transported, marked, and released over a four-year time period, or (2) a cumulative total of 40 gopher tortoises transported, marked, and released. These activities are considered together as one skill in the agent permit application. Completion of an FWC-approved training course module in gopher tortoise transport, marking, and release methods may be substituted for the experience requirements.

Supervision of gopher tortoise burrow excavations using mechanical equipment:

The applicant must demonstrate with no gopher tortoise injuries or mortality, either: (1) on-site experience of supervising at least 50 gopher tortoise burrow excavations with the successful extraction of at least 20 gopher tortoises (include references to the permits under which those occurred) or, (2) on-site experience under the supervision of another Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent who was directing backhoe operators in the excavation of at least 50 gopher tortoise burrows with the successful extraction of at least 20 gopher tortoises, with the applicant actively participating in the recovery of gopher tortoises from the excavated burrows (include references to the permits under which those occurred).

Completion of an FWC-approved training course module in this activity, combined with experience directing backhoe excavation of 30 gopher tortoise burrows with successful extraction of at least 12 gopher tortoises, may be substituted for the full experience requirements above. Experience directing backhoe excavation must be under the on-site supervision of an Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent certified in this technique, with the applicant actively participating in the recovery of gopher tortoises from the excavated burrows.

The entire text of the new guidelines can be found at:

http://myfwc.com/permits/Protected-Wildlife/apps/GopherTortoise_PermitGuidelines.pdf

WILDLIFE SURVEY CERTIFICATION

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has put together an action team to consider the establishment of a wildlife surveyor certification program. This team has been established as a result of wildlife surveys that have been submitted to FWC that do not meet the minimum criteria such as seasonality, time of day, weather conditions, etc. For the most part, it is expected that these surveys have been performed by unqualified individuals.

The action team is looking at existing certification programs that may fill the need. As an example, a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) is specifically listed in the Mangrove Trimming rule. If you are a CEP and your area of practice involves contamination assessments, you are bound by your ethics to **not** claim the ability to trim mangroves, even though the statute allows such. As a result, the team recognizes that NAEP's certification program may help fill the need. Furthermore, if a CEP is found to submit false or incompetent wildlife survey results, there is a process to suspend that person's certification.

It is important to recognize the difference in registration, certification, and licensure. A registration is typically a list that you pay to get your name on and may include two or three letters to put after your name. A certification requires some form of qualification and may include appropriate education, experience, references, and an exam. The more stringent the requirements, the better the respect gained by certification. Certifications that do not require membership to that organization are considered more objective.

Licensure is defined by the New Merriam-Webster Dictionary as:

“permission to act; *esp.*: legal permission to engage in an activity.”

In other words, if you do not have an engineering license, you cannot practice engineering. Florida does not currently have a license for environmental professionals, biologists, or other natural sciences. Generally speaking, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Registration (DBPR) issues licenses. Private or not-for-profit organizations that claim to provide the “Licensed Environmental Professional” moniker are not associated with DBPR and do not have any legal standing to issue licenses.

One of the cornerstones for the founding of FAEP was licensure of environmental professionals. We were concerned that any person or organization could claim they have the necessary education and experience to practice. Just think about how many pesticide and herbicide companies use the word environmental in their logos. Since when did spraying poisons in our houses and yards become environmental practice?

In the late 1980's and early 1990's we placed bills in both the Florida House and Senate to license Environmental Professionals. We were not successful, but still believe there is a need to do so. This may be an opportunity for the revival of that effort. If you are interested in participating please contact me at bhasbrouck@fallerdavis.com.

Bruce Hasbrouck

The College Perspective



Left to right: Leandra Darden, Andrew Stoffa, Bao-Shan Zhao (San Diego State University), and Danielle Thibodeau

Leandra Darden, University of Tampa

Attending the National Association of Environmental Professionals conference was a rewarding and helpful experience to me. As a sophomore in college and also as a marine biology major, I am still learning about myself and what I will want to do when I enter the “real world”. The day we got to the conference, we had the opportunity to meet with professionals in a social meet and greet. There were stations set up to talk to people about consulting firms, government jobs, and other opportunities that a person passionate about the environment can take advantage of. The professionals were very willing to talk to me about the programs that they provide and what they expect of someone beginning an entry level job. From these discussions I had over the course of the night, I realized that I would be more comfortable in a smaller company in the beginning of my career.

One of the most exciting parts of the conference was the opportunity to listen and absorb the knowledge that these professionals have gained over the years. In all of the presentations that I attended, the professionals were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and personable. These professionals wanted to impart the knowledge that they had gained since the last conference, so that others can learn from it. What made the presentations even more valuable were the practical questions that came from the audience members. The carefully thought out questions often went right to the heart of the matter, allowing us to see the big picture on how the information in this presentation could be applied in different situations.

I am very grateful that the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals was able to sponsor me to attend this event. I would highly advise other students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Danielle Thibodeau, University of Tampa

The trip to San Diego for the 33rd annual NAEP conference proved to be a memorable one for me because of the knowledge I gained through the presentations. As someone who has recently changed their major, I found this conference to be a worthwhile experience. I am a car enthusiast, so I found the presentations about transportation highly relevant to me.

One of the highlights of the conference was listening to the Senior Vice President of Subaru Indiana and Vice President of Toyota discuss their goals to make their factories 100% waste free. In fact, Subaru is already at 95% waste free, recycling plastic and metal parts that are used to keep their automotive parts safe during shipment. The workers of the factory have even created their own compost heap using left-overs from their lunches. Every month, the workers get together and plant vegetable seeds using the compost as mulch, and then donate those grown vegetables to half-way houses in the area. It makes you wonder, if a factory filled with full-time workers can take extra time out of their day to recycle and help other people while helping the environment can do all this, why can't the average household?

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Andrew Stoffa, Eckerd College

Being able to attend the 33rd Annual NAEP Conference in San Diego, California as a senior in college has provided me with an enriching experience to learn as well as understand new issues surrounding our changing climates. This experience has opened my eyes to many more intriguing solutions for solving the problems that surround changing climates as well as global warming. While attending the conference, I not only had the pleasure of interacting with other students, but I was also given the opportunity to listen to passionate professionals discuss important issues on this pertinent topic. This year's topic for me is one that has always been something that I hold dear in my heart and has been of ever increasing concern.

Looking back at the conference, one of my favorite topics that was addressed was transportation. As I listened to the lectures and observed the exchange of ideas, I realized that this conference was a symbol of how much people care about the environment. It gave me the understanding that humankind is realizing how fragile our earth is and how much we are interconnected to it. This conference has helped me to see that environmental professionals are making a positive difference in their everyday careers.

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Danielle Thibodeau continued...

Another highlight of the conference was Jane Leonard, an architect from Australia. She has lived her entire life off the grid and now designs green houses and buildings for companies who hope to be more environmentally friendly. This peaked my interest because I am very fascinated with design, and still wanting to be a part of the cause, I figured what better way to do that.

All of the information that was presented to the group I found would be of use to anyone, regardless of their professional status. With this experience, I have thus been able to see how if we are able to change little details in our lifestyles, changes in the harsh conditions of our environment will start to happen.

Andrew Stoffa continued...

Having been in the presence of such a positive group of environmental professionals, I have become even more enthusiastic about the environmental field. Receiving insight on how to build a successful environmental career as well as networking with environmental companies has given me a strong foundation for starting my career as a future environmental professional. The information I learned also helped to further expand my existing knowledge about the environment as well as lead me to have an even greater thrust for knowledge and understanding about changing climates.

I would like to thank the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals for sponsoring me for the 33rd Annual NAEP Conference as well as giving me the chance to be able to be a part of such an enriching experience. I would also like to thank Bruce and Teri Hasbrouck for helping coordinate my trip as well as supporting me at the conference.



Making Sustainability Happen: Goals, Practices and Challenges

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