

Florida Beacon



From the President's Desk
Bruce Hasbrouck

Awards were recently presented to FAEP members in recognition of their efforts. Peter Gottfried and Amy Wright-Daly were given plaques during the CFAEP (Central Florida Chapter) monthly meeting in recognition for their service to FAEP. Peter was the Executive Director from 2003 to 2007. He is the President of Natural Systems Analysts in Orlando. Amy was President from 2005 to 2007 and is the Environmental Services Director for CPH Engineers in Sanford.

A plaque was provided to Paul Schmidt for his efforts as Vice President from 2005 to 2007. He is currently a Senior Environmental Planner for RS&H in Jacksonville.

A big thank you goes out to Erik Neugaard for Chairing the Awards Committee.



April 11, 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](#)
- [Treasure Coast Chapter](#)

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Brownfields 2008	May 5-7	Detroit, MI
Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference; Estuaries to Uplands: Celebrating Florida's Native Plant Heritage	May 14-18	Palmetto, FL
6th International Conference on Remediation of Chlorinated & Recalcitrant Compounds	May 19-22	Monterey, CA
Greater Everglads Ecosystem Restoration Conference	July 28—August 1	Naples, FL
Florida Local Environmental Resources Agency 2008 Conference	July 30—August 1	Sarasota, FL

Florida Forever

Barbara Albrecht (Northwest Chapter) & Bruce Hasbrouck (FAEP President)



As indicated in last month's newsletter, the time to renew the Florida Forever is now. With the Legislature in session, now is the time to contact your legislators. Urge them to take the necessary steps to preserve this critical program.

The Nature Conservancy has compiled a [flyer](#) and [talking points](#) with information about the legislation.

Additionally, a sample support letter is provided below:

Sample Letter in Support of Florida Forever

(Date)

The Honorable (Full Name)
(Street Address)
(City, State and Zip)

Dear (Governor or Senator or Representative) (Insert Last Name):

As a constituent, I am writing to urge you to increase Florida Forever funding to \$600 million this year to take advantage of today's favorable market for conservation. Please also support the creation of a new Florida Forever program to succeed the current program, which will expire in 2010. Florida Forever protects wildlife habitat, drinking water resources, and places for Florida's families and visitors to enjoy. The expansion and continuation of this successful program is essential to maintaining our quality of life.

Large tracts of land that have been targeted for protection under Florida Forever are now coming on the market. But while the opportunity to protect these landscapes is unprecedented, Florida Forever is essentially out of money. The amount of money allocated for Florida Forever (\$300 million) has not changed in 18 years – while growth and population in Florida have boomed, and the costs of land have skyrocketed.

(Insert your personal reasons why you support Florida Forever.)

Thank you for your support of conservation of Florida's natural heritage.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Diversity Project: Enhancing Local Capacity to Reach Underserved and Underrepresented Populations



FAEP has been invited to participate in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Diversity Project. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance has identified the need to improve environmental education opportunities for underserved and underrepresented populations in the five states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Hosted by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), the GOMA Diversity Project aims to establish a network of support for organizations within this region to strengthen their capacity to serve these populations and to encourage innovation and interaction among these groups and their members. The project topics will target water quality, eutrophication, gulf habitats, and coastal and wetland restoration.

These goals will be accomplished by:

- An introductory workgroup session to bring together a core group of leaders from communities and environmental organizations to participate in workshops and forums designed to identify and analyze examples of both successful and unsuccessful education and outreach programs, discuss challenges and opportunities, and plan specific activities for the coming year
- An eight-month mini-grant program to provide matching funds to help at least five groups who attend the introductory workgroup session to implement their plans
- A project website and discussion group through which participants can share their experiences, ask for help, and offer advice to others
- A follow-up symposium to share results of the funded projects and programs, identify and analyze what worked and what did not, and plan follow-up activities for the next year; this symposium will be open to the core workgroup plus a larger audience who is interested in learning from the core group's experiences.

If you are interested in representing FAEP in this important effort, please contact Bruce Hasbrouck at 813/261-5136 or bhasbrouck@fallerdavis.com.

Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule Development

Bruce Hasbrouck, FAEP President

To address growing concerns about over-enrichment of Florida's surface waters, ground waters, and springs by nutrients, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Water Management Districts are developing a statewide stormwater treatment rule. According to FDEP's website, this rule represents a significant step forward in the control of nutrient loadings from stormwater discharges.

As indicated on the website, a [Technical Advisory Committee](#) has been established to assist the Department and Water Management Districts in developing this rule. FDEP will be using this web site and a mailing list to distribute information about the development of the stormwater rule and keep the public informed.

Rule Development Schedule

TAC meetings March - October 2008

Rule workshops November 2008 - March 2009

Rule adoption May 2009

Rule effective date July 1, 2009

[Click here](#) to take you to the FDEP webpage dealing with the development of the new Statewide Stormwater Rule. On this page you will not only find the draft rule, but you will also find information regarding the agency workgroups dealing with a variety of stormwater issues, relevant research reports, and a way to sign up for the mailing list for future drafts.

FAEP's Website Expansion



FAEP has added new functionality to our online member services. An email was sent to all members on March 31st with their newly assigned user name and password for the [member only online community](#) of FAEP's website.

Members can now view and edit their member information that is on file with FAEP. They can also renew online with a credit card or check. And they can scan the member database for other member's names and company affiliation. To protect the privacy of our members, we have limited the member contact information that is available to other members.

In a continued effort to increase the benefits to FAEP members, the Board of Director's is excited about this new functionality. If you have not received your user name and password, please contact Danielle Weitlauf, FAEP's Administrator, at 727-565-1985 or info@faep-fl.org.

Quick Legislative News

EPA Launches the Risk Assessment Portal

EPA has launched a new [Risk Assessment Portal](#) to help the public learn what a risk assessment is; to be a resource for scientists to find key agency guidance/guidelines and other technical information on risk; and to bridge the gap in general risk assessment concepts and terminology across related EPA webpages.

Florida Communities Trust Announces Dates for 2008 Florida Forever Funding Cycle

Florida Communities Trust, the state's premier program for helping local communities preserve parks and recreational space, will open its eighth Florida Forever application cycle on February 22, 2008. An expected \$66 million in Florida Forever funds will be available to local governments and non-profit environmental organizations to acquire land for green space, conservation, and recreation purposes. The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 p.m. (EDT), May 7, 2008. In conjunction with the 75-day application cycle, a series of application workshops will be held at different locations across Florida to help local communities navigate the application process. The workshops are free of charge and registration is not required. For a copy of the FCT-4 grant application and more information about the FCT program, visit the website at <http://www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org/fct/>.

Resolution Supports Fertilizer Task Force Decision

Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners approved a [resolution](#) supporting the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force decision. The Task Force's [Final Report](#) was adopted unanimously and preserves the ability of local governments to adopt more stringent standards than those of the state. It also provides that the "model" fertilizer ordinance is just that - an example of what a city or county could do concerning fertilizer - as opposed to being directly codified as a statewide regulation. [FLERA](#) is asking that members stay vigilant during 2008 legislative session beginning March 4th as fertilizer and related interests/ industries could seek passage of legislation that will impose uniform standards statewide and pre-empt the ability of cities or counties to adopt measures that are more stringent than those of the state.

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Major League Baseball Goes Green

Courtesy of Environmental Resource Center

Major League Baseball and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have announced the creation of a Team Greening Program. This program was developed to support and coordinate the many environmentally sensitive practices now pursued by virtually every Major League Baseball Club. The announcement marks the first time that Major League Baseball will implement a league-wide environmental protection strategy.



“Baseball is a social institution with social responsibilities and caring for the environment is inextricably linked to all aspects of our game,” said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. “Sound environmental practices make sense in every way and protect our natural resources for future generations of baseball fans.”

The [Team Greening Program](#), a collaboration of Major League Baseball and NRDC, will provide to each Club an individualized NRDC Team Greening Advisor for Major League Baseball, which is a Web-based software tool featuring advice and resources for every aspect of a club’s operations. This unprecedented program, more than two years in development, will expand on the industry’s best practices, offering specific local advice concerning such topics as energy use, purchasing, concession operations, water use, recycling, and transportation.

The NRDC Team Greening Advisor for Major League Baseball was developed through surveys that assessed the environmental practices in a number of operational areas, throughout the 2006 season. The surveys, sent to all 30 clubs, demonstrated a high level of interest among clubs in environmentally sensitive operating policies and creative implementation of sound policies that should be more widely recognized and shared throughout the industry.

“The commitment by our national pastime to enhance its ecological profile in a meaningful and public way marks a watershed in the history of baseball and the environmental movement,” said Allen Hershkowitz, Senior Scientist, NRDC. “No other sporting institution has influenced American culture as much as baseball, and the League is once again putting that influence to very good use.”

The NRDC Team Greening Advisor for Major League Baseball aggregates the best practices of the clubs and dramatically expands the range of advice and potential sources of assistance concerning environmentally sensitive and sensible business operations for each Club. Topics include:

- Adopting an official environmental policy
- Incorporating environmental language into contracts, purchasing policies, and requests for proposals that specify preferences for environmentally sound products and services
- Encouraging the use of renewable energy
- Providing information about how to credibly offset the carbon emissions related to team and fan transportation
- Using post-consumer recycled content paper for all paper products
- Implementing paper reduction strategies in offices
- Offsetting the environmental impact of up to half team and employee travel
- Establishing club eco-committee

As part of this ongoing relationship, Major League Baseball and NRDC will also [provide materials](#) throughout the League’s ballparks to encourage fans to make environmental changes in their own homes and businesses.



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IT'S A BUSY SEASON AHEAD.....

There are many state and nationally recognized environmentally designated days in the coming months. A few are listed below. If you or your company are involved in programs or events supporting these days, please [email](#) us information and pictures of the programs or events that we can include in FAEP's next newsletter. It would be great to show what has taken place across Florida to save our environment!

April

- Water Conservation Month



[Conserve Florida Water](#) is a statewide comprehensive water conservation program for water supply. Its mission is to develop collaborative relationships with related programs, and to collect, analyze, and make available reliable information and technical assistance to public water supply utilities and water managers for use in developing effective and efficient water conservation programs.

- [Car Care Month](#)

- [Earth Day](#) (April 22)



- [National Arbor Day](#) (April 25th)

May

- Clean Air Month

As a leader in adopting clean air technologies, Florida is one of just three states east of the Mississippi that currently meets all National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and the only highly urbanized state. [See how you can help!](#)



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Renew your membership today!

Contact Danielle Weitlauf to check your status at:
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Inn at the Springs and Inn at Pelican Bay Receive Florida Green Lodging Program Designation

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today welcomed the Inn at the Springs and the Inn at Pelican Bay to the Florida *Green Lodging Program*. The Inn at the Springs in Bonita Springs and the Inn at Pelican Bay in Naples, both managed by Guest Services, Inc., are the 106th and 107th properties in the state to become designated members. The voluntary state initiative provides the lodging industry with technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving “green” practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

“Guest Services, Inc., and the staff at the Inn at the Springs and Inn at Pelican Bay have recognized that environmentally-friendly initiatives not only make good business sense, but help to protect Florida’s unique environment for the continued enjoyment of our millions of residents and visitors,” said DEP South District Assistant Director Audrey Wright. “We proudly welcome these two properties to the Florida *Green Lodging Program*.”

To become a designated member of the Florida *Green Lodging Program*, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures and a linen reuse program, and energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated members of the Florida *Green Lodging Program* must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters, and clean air handler units frequently.

“Our properties in both Lee and Collier counties are proud to join forces in adopting green practices for the future preservation of our natural resources,” said Regional Director of Sales for Guest Services, Inc. Teri Lamaine.

On July 13, 2007, at his Serve to Preserve Florida Summit on Global Climate Change, Governor Crist signed three executive orders initiating state energy-use policies, including one that requires state agencies and departments to hold meetings and conferences only at hotels with Florida *Green Lodging Program* designation starting January 1, 2008, whenever possible. The Summit was a bold first step to explore groundbreaking technologies and strategies that will place our state at the forefront of the growing world-wide movement to reduce greenhouse gases.

Launched in March 2004, the Florida *Green Lodging Program* establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. As reward for designation, the state is recommending designated properties in the Florida *Green Lodging Program* to companies and trade organizations seeking environmentally conscious lodging and convention facilities. With the addition of the Inn at the Springs and the Inn at Pelican Bay, the program has 128 designated properties and more than 325 applicants.

For more information about the Florida *Green Lodging Program*, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

GREEN LIVING TIP #1

Hold the catalogs. Your mailbox is probably growing under the weight of shopping catalogs. Retailers send about 19-billion annually which is a lot of trees. If you’d like retailers to desist, visit www.catalogchoice.org. This web site was developed by three non-profit environmental groups: the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Ecology Center. They relay requests to retailers to remove names from mailing lists. Retailers are glad to clean their lists; why spend money sending a catalog to someone who doesn’t want it? The service is free. Sign on, designate the catalogs you no longer wish to receive, and you’ll be deleted. Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Chapter of FAEP.