

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk
Tim Perry



Dear FAEP Members,

I hope that your year has started off great! During the first quarter of this year, many of our chapters have been holding special events geared towards young professionals and students under 35 years of age. Please look for these events at a chapter near you through the month of April. These events provide a great opportunity to introduce a young friend or colleague to the FAEP, which will help them grow as an environmental professional, and help us grow our Association.

Also, I am happy to announce that the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals will be hosting the 2019 Annual Conference and Symposium in Tampa on September 19-20, 2019. The Conference Committee has recently issued its call for Presentation Abstracts, which will be accepted through April 19th. The form for submitting your abstract can be obtained at the FAEP's website. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase your expertise to other FAEP members, and conference attendees. I have been a regular presenter at the FAEP's conference over the last several years, and have found the experience to be very rewarding. I hope to see you in Tampa in September!

Tim Perry
FAEP President

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!

The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is April 22, 2019 at 12:00
dial: 605-475-4000 (code 607028#)

**Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals**
Spring 2019



FAEP 2019 Board of Directors

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Member's Benefits at our website:
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Florida Association of Environmental Professionals 2019 Annual Conference

Call for Presentation Abstracts

Hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter
September 19-20
Embassy Suites Downtown
Tampa, FL

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals is honored to host the 2019 Annual Conference and Symposium in Tampa. The conference will include keynote speakers, technical sessions, networking opportunities, training classes, updates on regulations and policies and field trips. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for professionals and students working in a wide variety of environmental specializations to come together and present recent successful projects, lessons learned, and new techniques and ideas.

We would love to provide the opportunity to present to your peers on a variety of topics including:

- **Resiliency:** sustainable infrastructure initiatives, adaptation and mitigation methods, floodplain management planning, extreme weather event response
- **Transportation:** agency coordination and policy updates, innovative design techniques, NEPA regulations, port operation
- **Assessment and Remediation:** innovative site assessment and cleanup strategies, PRP case studies, program updates, emergency response and clean up strategies, applications of in-situ assessment and remedial strategies
- **Ecosystem Management:** wetland assessment and mitigation, regulatory updates, wildlife conservation, restoration projects, water quality monitoring and evaluation

Instructions for submitting presentation abstracts:

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **April 19, 2019**. Submittals should include full name, address, phone number, email, professional title, affiliation, biography, presentation title, brief description of the presentation topic, estimated length, and which of the tracks your presentation is most related to. The presentation description must be 350 words or less and submitted using the attached Presentation Abstract Submittal Form. Abstracts or any questions should be sent to the conference email address: conference@faep-fl.org. The 2019 Annual Conference Committee will review and approve abstract submissions. A notification of acceptance will be emailed to the author no later than **May 20, 2019**.



Go to www.faep-fl.org to submit your presentation abstract today!

Florida Beacon

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Brew a Greener Cup of Coffee

Exactly how humans came up with the idea of roasting and brewing coffee beans isn't clear. More certain is the fact that coffee has grown into a global industry worth billions of dollars. And with that popularity comes climate consequences.

There's deforestation to grow more beans, the shipping emissions that come from moving them to market and the resources that go into packaging. So, with more than [80 percent of Americans](#) regularly drinking a cup (or three), greening our collective coffee habit could have positive effects.

That process starts at the source. Today, there are myriad labels, seals and certifications that promise you information on the human and environmental impact of your beans. An organic label, for instance, implies limits on the chemicals (like pesticides) used to grow the coffee, while a fair-trade seal should signal better treatment of workers and communities.

Bob Schildgen, who writes the Mr. Green column for the Sierra Club, said the main labels he trusts for coffee are the United States Department of Agriculture organic certification and the Fairtrade seal. He said Smithsonian Bird Friendly and Rainforest Alliance Certified also offer at least some assurances that the beans are produced with care.

Once you've found beans with a lower environmental impact, what else you can do?

Ditching single-serving pods is one step. Not only do they require more packaging, but single servings also take significantly [more energy to brew](#) than traditional drip methods.

Even John Sylvan, one of the founders of Keurig, says he wishes he'd never introduced coffee pods to the world. "I feel bad sometimes that I ever did it," he [told The Atlantic, in 2015](#). "No matter what they say about recycling, those things will never be recyclable." (A Keurig representative disputed that, saying many of the company's pods were already recyclable and that it aimed make all of them recyclable by 2020).

You can skip the pods, and the electric coffee machine, by opting for pour-over preparations. You might also consider a metal or cloth filter instead of paper (though the metal allows more acid to pass through). Or, eliminate the filter altogether with by pressing your coffee. Best yet, try cold brew. No boiling water, and thus no electricity, needed. And some aficionados says it delivers better flavor with less acidity.

Once you've made your coffee, some of the things that go with it can be just as important as the brew itself. Milk, for instance, [accounts for more than half the emissions footprint of the average coffee](#) (and that percentage is drastically higher for dairy-heavy orders like lattes).

Single-use cups generate a lot of waste, so be sure to reach for that a reusable mug instead.

Finally, don't forget: Those coffee grounds are compostable. Next time forgo the trash for the compost bin, or dump them directly in the garden.

From: New York Times Climate Forward Newsletter

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UWF Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences to Begin Offering Synchronous Master's Level Classes

The University of West Florida Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences will begin offering synchronous master's degree classes beginning in the Fall 2019 semester.

"This is a professional development opportunity for working professionals," said Dr. Johan Liebens, professor and chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. "We're offering these classes in the late afternoon and early evening so they can attend."

Synchronous classes allow students to take classes online that are already being taught real-time in a face-to-face format. The program offers a unique blend of geoscience, environmental science, and GIS. Departmental areas of concentration include coastal science, human-environment interactions, GIS, soil science, dendrochronology, meteorology/climatology, and environmental planning, policy and politics. A detailed program of study is determined by the student's graduate advisor in consultation with the student. As many as three courses, including two from outside of the University, may be from outside of the department. The program requires a total of 30 credit hours, approximately 10 classes.

Classes offered in the synchronous program in Fall 2019 will be Introduction to GIS and Urban Planning. Registration for the Fall semester begins April 22. For more information about the program, go [here](#) or email Johan Liebens at liebens@uwf.edu.

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UWF also offers a fully online master's degree in Geographic Information Science (GIS) Administration. Go [here](#) for more information or contact Director Amber Bloechle at abloechle@uwf.edu.

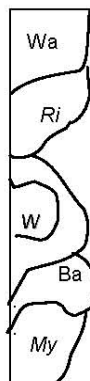
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USEPA Will Study Limits on Cancer-Linked Chemicals - Critics Say the Plan Delays Action

On February 14th, 2019 the USEPA said it will start work by the end of the year on a long-awaited plan to set national drinking water limits for two harmful chemicals linked to cancer, low infant birth weight and other health issues. But environmentalists and Democratic lawmakers criticized the plan, saying it in effect delayed desperately needed regulation on a clear public health threat from chemicals that are commonly used in cookware, pizza boxes, stain repellents and fire retardants.

EPA officials described their proposal as the “first-ever nationwide action plan” to address the health effects of human-made chemicals known as poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFASs. There are currently no federal regulations on the production or monitoring of that class of about 5,000 chemicals, which are manufactured and used in a wide variety of industries and products. Studies have shown that they can linger in the human body for years, causing harmful impacts.

“The PFAS action plan is the most comprehensive action plan for a chemical of concern ever taken by the agency,” said David Ross, EPA’s assistant administrator for water, in a telephone call with reporters on February 14th. Andrew Wheeler, Trump’s confirmed EPA Administrator, called the plan a “pivotal moment in the history of the agency.”

Critics called on the agency to move more quickly, citing 2016 action by the Obama administration on two of the chemicals that suggested the urgency of the risk.

Go here to read more: [The New York Times](#)



Environmental Practice, the peer-reviewed journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and published by Taylor & Francis, is soliciting original manuscripts from the professional and academic communities on a continuous basis. The journal provides the opportunity to submit applied articles that guide other environmental practitioners and offer recommendations to improve the work we do. Publishing in *Environmental Practice* is also a great venue to showcase your expertise and continue your professional development. Articles are sought that address solving environmental problems from a multidisciplinary perspective and provide data and findings in science and technology to address environmental issues. Article Categories include, Research, Environmental Reviews, and Case Studies (these are peer-reviewed), Reviews of books or films, Perspectives from the Field, and Dialogue. More information can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruth Gaulke, Managing Editor, at rebelwriter@mindspring.com or Betty Dehoney at betty.dehoney@hdrinc.com.



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News from the Northeast Chapter!

Greetings from the Northeast Florida chapter! We recently elected our new chapter president David Wood. David is a Program Manager with Apex Companies, LLC specializing in water resources. David has worked in the environmental industry for 28 years. He is originally from Jacksonville and has been in St. Augustine area since 2014. David is excited to be in a leadership role with FAEP and looks forward to promoting the environmental profession through the NE Chapter.

The Northeast Chapter has had a fun start to the year with new social events, new speakers, and new board members.

This past December NEFAEP returned to the Jacksonville Icemen hockey team to watch them play the Orlando Solar Bears as a member appreciation night. Central Florida Chapter President, Todd Hodgson, joined the festivities as well! The Icemen put on a fun show.





January was an off month, but we started the new year in February with a Social at Wicked Barley Brewing Company. We switched things up with our social by changing the day to Wednesday rather than Thursday and we noted a marked increase in our turnout.



For March, we will be hosting our luncheon at the Embassy Suites. This is a new venue for us, which offers us a meeting room and buffet lunch. Our speaker is Shannon Blankinship who is the Advocacy Director with the St Johns Riverkeeper. She will speak on ways that we can work together to enhance resiliency to better protect our communities, waterways and improve the local health and quality of life.

For April we will make our yearly trip to the Kings Head British Pub in St. Augustine. The Kings Head is an authentically decorated British Pub with a double-decker bus out front. This location provides a convenient social location for our members who reside in the St Augustine and Palm Coast areas.



We are working to build a new web page for our Chapter after our last web page was corrupted by malware. We hope to have that available soon. Currently you can check us out on Facebook  and LinkedIn .

Our Chapter again plans to offer two \$1,000 scholarships to students from (or studying in) Northeast Florida with plans to enter the environmental field and who are currently enrolled in a related field of study. The deadline to submit an application is May 31 and applications may be obtained by emailing Paul Gunsaulies at pgunsaulies@aellab.com.

Save-the-Date
The 2019 FAEP Conference
will be held in
Tampa on
Sept. 19 – 20th



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and Engineering

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FDEP Secretary Valenstein Issues Statement on the State of the State

On March 5, 2019, following Governor Ron DeSantis delivering the 2019 State of the State address in the Chamber of the Florida House of Representatives, FDEP Secretary Noah Valenstein issued the following statement:

Secretary Valenstein said, "It was great to hear today from Governor DeSantis on the State of the State, the issues we're facing, and his bold vision for the future. It's clear that the Governor and his team understand the urgency behind restoring Florida's water quality, and thanks to their leadership, I am confident we can protect Florida together. On behalf of the department, I'd like to thank the Governor for his strong commitment to achieving more now for Florida's environment – the foundation of our economy and our way of life.

"In just two short months, the Governor has swiftly demonstrated that Florida's environment is a priority, and that accountability, transparency, collaboration, and sound science are essential to ensuring Florida's environment is protected now and for future generations."

Environmental Accomplishments Since January 8

- Less than 48 hours after being sworn in, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an Executive Order outlining his bold vision to achieve more now for Florida's environment.
- Governor DeSantis requested the resignations of South Florida Water Management District Board Members and has since appointed eight new members.
- Governor DeSantis recommended to the Legislature a more than \$4 billion investment to protect our environment, agriculture and natural resources, including nearly \$1.9 billion specifically for the DEP. This budget recommendation includes an unprecedented \$360 million for Everglades Restoration.
- Governor DeSantis sent a letter to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Andrew Kelly requesting that the USACE engage with stakeholders throughout South Florida as they make updates to the management of Lake Okeechobee and schedule releases.
- Governor DeSantis, along with U.S. Senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting the prioritization of the \$200 million annual commitment from the Federal Government for its portion of Everglades Restoration.
- Governor DeSantis appointed Noah Valenstein as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, which was unanimously confirmed by the Florida Cabinet.
- Governor DeSantis has held seven environmental events.
- Governor DeSantis announced he would appoint a Chief Resiliency Officer to be housed in the Executive Office of the Governor and DEP has begun searching for individuals for the Governor to consider.
- DEP filed a Motion for Rehearing and a Request to Certify the case to the Florida Supreme Court regarding the recent opinion reversing the Department's decision to deny the Kanter Real Estate exploratory oil drilling permit in the Everglades.
- DEP established the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency to ensure key water quality objectives are clearly communicated to the public, as well as, organize agency resources and scientific expertise, data and research to focus on and solve complex water quality challenges.
- DEP initiated a worldwide search for the Chief Science Officer and received 22 applications to date.
- DEP established the Blue-Green Algae Task Force and initiated search to select members, including sending letters to state universities to encourage Florida's academic leaders to participate.
- DEP directed each Water Management District to prioritize its budget to reflect the vision laid out by Governor DeSantis in his Executive Order and to increase collaboration, transparency and accountability.
- DEP participated in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public meeting regarding updates to the Lake Okeechobee Release Schedule.
- DEP, DEO and VISIT Florida have initiated work to increase green infrastructure collaboration.
- DEP restructured to establish the Office of Resiliency and Coastal Protection.

DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein testified before the Florida Congressional Delegation regarding the state's important water concerns and solutions.

From: DEP Press Office

DEP Celebrates April as Springs Protection Awareness Month

~Science, partnership and funding are vital to Florida's restoration efforts~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Recognizing springs as a natural resource unique to Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis has proclaimed April as [Springs Protection Awareness Month](#). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is proud to celebrate this month in recognition of the environmental, recreational and economic importance of Florida's 900 iconic freshwater springs.

Per the Governor's proclamation, the Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget recommends \$50 million in funding to restore Florida's world-renowned springs and safeguard these natural resources through nationally recognized [water quality assessment and restoration programs](#).

"Florida's water and natural resources are the foundation of our state's communities, economy and way of life," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "Partnership is the key to their protection and restoration. I look forward to continuing to work with Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, the water management districts, and partners in the environmental, agricultural and local communities to protect Florida together for future generations."

"We are pleased to partner with Secretary Valenstein, Governor DeSantis and the Legislature to protect and restore Florida's springs," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. "Since 2014, the District has partnered on 114 springs protection cost-share projects that are reducing total nitrogen loading to our spring systems by more than 1 million pounds per year and resulting in more than 79 million gallons per day of groundwater withdrawal offsets and alternative water supply. We are making great progress."

"Thanks to Governor DeSantis and Secretary Valenstein, northwest Florida is making real transformative progress with springs restoration and water quality improvement," said Executive Director of the Northwest Florida Water Management District Brett Cyphers.

"Florida is entering a remarkable era for environmental protection under the leadership of Governor DeSantis and Secretary Valenstein," said Executive Director of the Suwannee River Water Management District Hugh Thomas. "The challenges our springs and water resources face need solutions and we stand ready to work alongside the Governor and DEP to bring much-needed relief to the water resources of the Suwannee Valley."

"Springs are vital to the environment, economy, citizens and visitors of the state," said Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Brian Armstrong. "The District, in partnership with DEP, the Governor and the Legislature, is committed to implementing projects to conserve and restore the ecological balance of our spring systems, supporting the regional economies and quality of life."

In celebration of Springs Protection Awareness Month, DEP is partnering with Florida's water management districts to continue the statewide public education initiative "My Home. My Springs." The initiative highlights the uniqueness and importance of Florida's springs, as well as the state's restoration efforts and the expertise behind them. By visiting www.MyHomeMySprings.org, residents can access informative resources, such as fact sheets, videos, educator resources, a springs locator tool and more.



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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
American Society for Environmental History 2018 Conference	Apr. 10 – 14, 2019	Columbus, OH
Clean Waterways 2019	Apr. 16 - 18, 2019	Vancouver, B.C.
National Sustainability Summit & National Extension Energy Joint Summit	Apr. 16 – 19, 2019	Tampa, FL
Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference	Apr. 22 – 25, 2019	Coral Springs, FL
2019 Watershed & Stormwater Conference	Apr. 29 – May 2, 2019	Charleston, SC
SAME 2019 Joint Engineering Training Conference & EXPO	May 7 – 9, 2019	Tampa, FL
Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Symposium	May 8 – 10, 2019	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
STEAM Leadership Conference 2019	May 10 – 11, 2019	Atlanta, GA
National Association of Environmental Professionals	May 19 - 23, 2019	Baltimore, MD
Algae Bloom Remediation Workshop	May 21 – 22, 2019	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts Spring Meeting & Tech. Session	May 22 – 24, 2019	Clearwater, FL
Society of Wetland Scientists 2019 Annual Meeting	May 28 – 31, 2019	Baltimore, MD
30 th Annual AWMA Joint Florida/Alabama Technical Conference	June 7, 2019	Pensacola, FL
AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition	June 9 - 12, 2019	Denver, CO
Florida Association For Water Quality Control	June 12 - 14, 2019	Naples, FL
RECYCLE Florida Today Summer Conference	June 17 – 19, 2019	Bonita Springs, FL
Florida Stormwater Association Conference	June 19 – 21, 2019	Ft. Myers, FL
A&WMA 2019 Annual Conference and Expo	June 25 -28, 2019	Quebec City, Quebec
Georgia Association of Water Professionals	July 14 – 17, 2019	Savannah, GA
ASME Power Conference & Nuclear Forum	July 14 - 18, 2019	Salt Lake City, UT
33 rd Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School	July 16 – 19, 2019	Marco Island, FL
14 th Annual Georgia Environmental Conference	Aug. 21 – 23, 2019	Jekyll Island, FL
American Planning Association Florida Annual Conference	Sept. 10 – 13, 2019	Sandestin, FL
Association of Water Technologies Annual Convention & Expo	Sept. 11 - 14, 2019	Palm Springs, CA
2019 EPB-UNF Environmental Symposium – Building Resiliency	Sept. 13, 2019	Jacksonville, FL
American Institute of Professional Geologists National Conference	Sept. 14 – 17, 2019	Burlington, VT
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference	Sept. 19 – 20, 2019	Tampa, FL
Advanced Clean Energy Summit 2019	Sept. 22 - 25, 2019	Denver, CO
25 th Annual Florida Remediation Conference	Nov. 7 – 8, 2019	Orlando, FL
NGWA 2018 Groundwater Week	Dec. 2 – 5, 2019	Las Vegas, NV

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

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FAEP Group Discount Memberships

Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our membership to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or renewing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$40 to \$35 for everyone from your company or organization. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's professional development and the FAEP mission:

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Broward County	FDEP	Lewis, Longman & Walker P.A.	TetraTech, Inc.
Cardno Group	Flatwoods Consulting Group	Moran Environmental Recovery	USF
Clark Environmental	Florida Water Management Districts	Mosaic	UWF

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