

**From the President’s Desk
Ryan Goldman**



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Winter 2022



Hello FAEP Members,

Happy Holiday Season everyone!

I hope that the holidays afforded you a chance to visit friends and family and make new memories. While some restrictions to daily life remain in place, fewer businesses and venues have required additional precautions, allowing an increase in travel and reconnection with people you have not seen in a while.

As we enter another calendar year, it is time for the FAEP election cycle as volunteer members’ board positions come to completion. Thank you to the members who have given their time and valuable experience to continue the momentum of this organization. Any member can express interest in participating in their local chapter or at the state level. There is a place for all volunteers and their respective strengths. Individual event planning and coordination takes time and effort, two commodities that are highly valued in the non-profit community. If you have a desire or skill that would help the greater good, please reach out and offer your time, the payback through comradery, friendship, and connections is truly worthwhile.

This election cycle will also mark the end of my tenure as the President of the state chapter. It has been a privilege and honor to volunteer and serve the membership of Environmental Professionals. The last two years have been full of unexpected events, but I am truly grateful and impressed by the members who have continued to press ahead for the benefit of the entire group. The efforts and achievements made in the past two years have been a collaboration of an excellent group of individuals who consistently donate their time and knowledge to keep our group moving forward. I am grateful to be a part of this organization and to serve this seat as a voice for the membership. Thank you for the memories and experiences.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Highlight of 2022. I am of course speaking of the **National Association of Environmental Professionals 2022 Conference & Training Symposium, in Fort Lauderdale May 16-20**. This conference will contain entirely new content consisting of multiple tracks to interest every environmental professional. Abstracts have been submitted and the final program is about to be announced. Happy hour events and multiple field trips will be offered to entice everyone to leave the hotel and explore sunny South Florida. The popular NEPA track is back as well as offerings in the following subjects:

- Climate Change
- Transportation
- Planning and Permitting
- Wildlife
- Ethics
- Career Development
- and More!

[Registration is open!](#) Please consider attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,

Ryan Goldman

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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**

Florida Beacon

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Submitted by the Treasure Coast Chapter Board of Directors

When fall arrives in Florida and that means two things: all things pumpkin spice and the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (FAEP) Annual Conference and Training Symposium! This year's event theme was "Living on the Edge" and was hosted by the Treasure Coast Chapter on September 22-24. And because...well...COVID...the event was conducted virtually! Although the event was not held in person, much time and effort went into organizing the event by a lot of people!

After interviewing several companies to find the perfect platform to host the conference, the planning committee chose Remo, which was a very effective, easy, and fun way to convey information and interact with one another! It included two conference rooms, the "Sea Turtle Room" and the "Mangrove Room" where presentations were held and a "Networking Park" where attendees, members, and presentation speakers could meet and chat.

The event kicked off with keynote speakers Dr. Sylvia Earle and her daughter Liz Taylor. Dr. Earle is the President and Chairman of Mission Blue/The Sylvia Earle Alliance, a National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence, and an iconic oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer, who is called Her Deepness by the New Yorker and the New York Times. The conference program also included:

- 25 presentations covering a broad range of topics under four tracks - Emerging Technologies, Natural Resources, Remediation and Resiliency;
- Five student speed talks on various areas of study;
- An FAEP panel discussion on the value of professional society leadership;
- A panel discussion about specialized certifications (such as CEP, PWS, ISA, and WEDG) to boost your career potential;
- A sponsor recognition gameshow-style quiz show (with a gift card for the winner);
- Virtual networking in the Remo Networking Park;
- A virtual student networking event;
- An in-person networking reception at the South Florida Science Museum for those located in the West Palm Beach area;
- Field trips hosted by the local chapters; and
- Workshops hosted by the local chapters.

A primary goal of the conference planning committee was to make the conference accessible and valuable to students around Florida. Discounted tickets were available to encourage student participation. The program also included a Student "Speed" Session where five students were selected to give mini presentations on their research. Finally, university students, both undergraduate and graduate, were invited to attend a virtual networking event where they could interact with professionals from a wide variety of disciplines. During the event, students asked questions regarding types of certifications that will help improve their skills, tips for starting a business, life after a PhD, best advice for finding an entry level job, and what they could do to make themselves stand out. The event was a lot of fun and rewarding for everyone involved!

Continued....



TCC Board and Planning Committee

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The conference would not have been complete without a chance to mix and mingle with each other, so with COVID precautions in place, the Treasure Coast Chapter hosted a stellar networking reception at the South Florida Science Museum in West Palm Beach. The venue was large and featured indoor/outdoor spaces to meet, a chance for conference sponsors to have exhibit tables, and most importantly great food and refreshments! The reception was open to conference attendees as well as area FAEP members, and other local professionals. We were so happy to have the chance to celebrate a successful conference and enjoy each other's company after a long and challenging year!

Finally, field trips and workshops were held on Friday, September 24, following the two half-days of conference presentations. In-person field trips included a tour of Lake Jackson in the Tallahassee Area as well as a tour of the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Virtual workshops gave conference attendees a chance to explore some topics in greater detail, such as mastering your technology skills or environmental survey and monitoring considerations for land development. An in-person python capture training workshop was also hosted by FWC and was an exciting way to end the week!

In summary, the conference had approximately 140 attendees and feedback received by the conference organizers indicates that the event was enjoyable and educational!

On behalf of the Treasure Coast Chapter, we would like to thank our 15 sponsors, speakers, event organizers, the FAEP, and all of the conference attendees for making this year's conference a success!



Conference Reception



Conference Reception Attendees



Sylvia Earle & Liz Taylor

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SFAEP Hosts Ranger-Guided Tour of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

In August, SFAEP hosted a ranger-guided tour of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale. The tour was led by Marc Caruhel, the State Park's Animal Care Specialist/Educator. The Park offers a look into various natural communities nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

During the guided walk, Ranger Marc provided a very enthusiastic and informative tour, educating participants on the native plants that can be found within the park. For example, guests learned about gumbo limbo, comically nicknamed the tourist tree due to the tree's red and peeling bark like the skin of sunburnt tourists. Native Americans would use the wood of gumbo limbo to craft bows and arrows, canoes, paddles, and oars. Furthermore, gumbo limbo produces an anti-inflammatory extract that can be used on wounds and injuries. Participants also learned about the state tree of Florida, the cabbage palm. When cabbage palms mature, they grow and shed "boots" over a continuous life cycle. The pockets that the boots produce provide habitat and protection for insects and other wildlife.

Along the walking trail, participants also had the opportunity and delight of observing gopher tortoise burrows constructed in sandy soils. Gopher tortoise burrows are a common sight within the park and provide protection to the tortoises from extreme temperatures, drought, and fire, as well as shelter from predators.

After the ranger-guided tour concluded, participants had the opportunity to network and socialize with one another at Park & Ocean, an outdoor restaurant and garden located within the park. To complete the day, Ranger Marc provided a live animal presentation for the group, with snakes, baby alligators, and gopher tortoises on display. It is safe to say that everyone learned a very important rhyme that day: "Red touches black, venom lack. Red touches yellow, kill a fellow!"



Manatees, Facing a Crisis, Will Get a Bit of Help: Extra Feeding

In a first, wildlife officials have decided to provide food for the mammals, which have suffered catastrophic losses in Florida waters over the last year.

The starving manatees are easy enough to spot. You can see their ribs through their skin. They surface to breathe more than normal. Those most in need appear off balance, listing to one side.

As manatee deaths spike and Florida rescue centers fill up with malnourished animals, federal and state wildlife officials are trying something new in an urgent effort to help the species through the winter: They will provide food, as needed, at a key location on the state's east coast where hundreds of manatees cluster when water temperatures drop.



"This unprecedented event is worth unprecedented actions," said Thomas Eason, assistant executive director of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, at a news conference on Wednesday.

The decision is a fraught one, because scientists have found that feeding wild animals can do more harm than good. But Florida's manatees, already threatened with extinction, have suffered catastrophic losses over the last year. Statewide, more than 1,000 have died in 2021, a record. (In 2016, about 8,800 of the mammals remained in Florida waters, according to [state wildlife officials](#).)

A joint task force of state and federal officials has linked the increased deaths to the loss of sea grass in the Indian River Lagoon, a 156-mile estuary where manatees, also known as sea cows, seek warm water in winter months.

The sea grass was killed off by algae blooms fueled largely by human waste and fertilizer runoff from lawns and farms, a problem decades in the making. As more people moved to the region and wastewater infrastructure aged, more waste leaked into the estuary, said Duane De Freese, a marine biologist and the executive director of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program.

"The manatee situation is a symptom," Dr. De Freese said. "In 2011, it appears we hit a tipping point."

Since then, sea grass has died off year after year, he said, and is now down by about 90 percent. As climate change brings more severe storms and sea level rise to the region, the problem is expected to worsen. From The New York Times

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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Flip My Florida Yard Show Educates on Florida Friendly Landscaping

By Tina McIntyre, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent at the UF/IFAS Extension in Seminole County

One year ago, 10 homeowners across eight Florida counties were chosen to have their yard “flipped” into a water-wise, Florida-Friendly paradise — three of them were in Seminole County.

The show, ‘Flip My Florida Yard’ has aired on television channels throughout the state and is now available for free to watch through the Discover Florida network!

The Florida-based gardening show traveled to yards around the state and give them the ultimate Florida-Friendly Landscaping makeover. Using the [nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ \(FFL\)](#), the transformation created yards that protect and conserve Florida’s natural resources through science-based landscape practices.

“It is truly an honor to be a part of these great landscape transformations that highlight our home county!” said Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent. “Each transformation was led by an Extension agent. I led one project and we had two agents from neighboring counties who supported the other two flips. We are excited to team up on this project and bring FFL principles to yards in Seminole County, and we’re thankful to our neighboring Extension offices for supporting the project.”

Italis and Manuel Ocampo were one of the lucky winners located in the county.

Their Sanford front lawn now offers a visual feast of bee-attracting flowers in van Gogh colors of yellow, orange, and green. A small pedestrian bridge greets visitors, and a cobalt-blue birdbath makes for a striking visual contrast.

However, it wasn’t always this way. When the Ocampos bought their home, the front yard was wet mowed weeds. They learned about the show through UF/IFAS Extension’s social media and discovered they were competing against 1,500 applicants for a spot.

Each makeover is intense. Homeowners are sent to a state park for the day while a crew of some 30 people gather together to accomplish the makeover in just seven or eight hours.

“That’s the chaos and entertainment part of the show,” says Chad Crawford, the show’s producer. He means, of course, a good kind of chaos.

“It was a blast,” Tina says. “The day of the shoot was such great energy. It was amazing to see the various teams working together.”

Having such a good time while also promoting an important Florida-Friendly message, Tina says, “was a true highlight of my career.”

FFL, based at UF/IFAS and led by Esen Momol, is a 26-year partnership between UF/IFAS and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which is the sole sponsor of the series.

“DEP is proud of its long-standing partnership with UF/IFAS and its Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program,” said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. “Over two decades, DEP has provided approximately \$12.5 million in grant funding to administer this successful statewide program. By encouraging more Floridians to use low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices in their yards, we are all part of the solution to protect our waterways and ecosystems.”

Watch all of the 2021 episodes here: <https://www.flipmyfloridayard.com/> or here <https://www.youtube.com/c/flipmyfloridayard>. Stay tuned, as the team is now recording the next series that will air in 2022!

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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
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Be Connected



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

An Ode to The Manta Ray	A few months ago, on a trip to Hawaii, Short Wave host Emily Kwong encountered manta rays for the first time. The experience was eerie and enchanting. And it left Emily wondering - what more is there to these intelligent, entrancing fish?
Celebrating the Joy of Birds	Lots of people took up bird watching in some form during the pandemic, including Short Wave editor Gisele Grayson. She edited this episode about 2021's #BlackBirdersWeek – its about Celebrating Black joy. Co-organizer Deja Perkins talks about how the week went and why it's important to observe nature wherever you live.
What does a Healthy Rainforest Sound Like?	On a rapidly changing planet, there are many ways to measure the health of an ecosystem. Can sound be one of them?
Seeking Answers to the Universe Deep in a Gold Mine	An underground lab is opening early next year in Australia. Its quest to help detect dark matter and thereby also help answer some of physics' biggest questions about this mysterious force. It is the only detector of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Swinburne University Astronomer Alan Duffy takes us on a journey to the bottom of this active gold mine, where researchers will try to detect a ghost-like particle.
The 2021 Hurricane Season Wrapped	The end of the 2021 hurricane season was officially November 30. Last year there was a lot of hurricane activity. On the show, producer Thomas Lu talks to meteorologist Matthew Cappucci about last year's hurricane season – the ups, the lulls, and the surprising end. Plus, - how climate change might be affecting these storms.

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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. Some of our member organizations renew all of their employee-members at the same time with a single payment. 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:

AECOM	EarthBalance	HSW Engineering	SurvTech, Inc.
Atkins	EPC Hillsborough County	Johnson Engineering Inc.	Terracon
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Broward County	Florida Water Management Districts	Mosaic	Turrell, Hall & Associates
Clark Environmental	FDEP	Orange County EPD	Wantman Group, Inc.
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