

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk Elva Peppers



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Winter 2024



Hello FAEP Members,

Happy new year to all our members! The beginning of a new year brings hope, energy and excitement. The energy within this organization is apparent and I think is contagious. As I begin my third year as president of the FAEP, I am very excited for the events and opportunities that FAEP, each of our chapters and the NAEP will bring this year.

HOT NEWS: The CFAEP will be hosting the FAEP Conference in Orlando this year. There are upgrades to the event including a new conference app, a very accomplished list of speakers and field trips. The conference will be held on April 25th-26th at the B Resort and Spa in Disney Springs [FAEP CONFERENCE](#). New this year we are excited to announce that in conjunction with the FAEP, the NAEP will be presenting an 8-hour NEPA Essentials course on April 24th as an add on to the conference. You will not want to miss this opportunity for excellent training on this subject. Be on the lookout for the conference and add-on registrations in your email box.

MORE HOT NEWS: The Northeast FAEP has established a Board of Directors, and they are planning some great events. They are looking forward to hosting speaker meetings, socials and they have some great field trips in the works. Board members include professionals from the Jacksonville, Gainesville, Palatka and St Augustine areas. This will enable the chapter to hold events over a wide geographic area within the counties of their district. If you work within these areas, please consider joining the NEFAEP in addition to your current chapter to stay in touch with the events they will be having.

I would like to highlight some of the events that the FAEP and its chapters held during 2023. The FAEP conference was held in the spring in Tallahassee, with about 200 attendees. FAEP hosted a booth at the Florida Chamber Environmental Summer School for the first time and had great feedback from current members and those who were interested in learning more about the organization and becoming involved. The FAEP is happy to provide training opportunities to its members at very affordable prices. In 2023 FAEP hosted soils training courses with local chapters and the Southwest FAEP hosted a wetland delineation course. Be on the lookout for some other upcoming training courses including more soil and wetland delineation courses, Phase 1 ESA, and water and soil sampling training. Our chapters have something for every interest including fossil hunts, golf tournaments, member appreciation events, lunch and learns, photography contests, young professional outreach, specialized trainings, women in STEM events, and the list goes on.

I think this will be our best year yet! See you in Orlando in April!
Sincerely,

Elva Peppers
FAEP President 2023-2024

FAEP Board of Directors

- Elva Peppers – President
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Check the last page of our newsletter to determine if you qualify for a discount on your FAEP membership!
New FAEP membership rate for Retirees offered!

Find out more about FAEP Member's Benefits at our website:
WWW.FAEP-FL.ORG

Thanks for reading our newsletter!

Save the Date!

**2024 Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
Annual Conference - Call for Abstracts**



Annual Conference and Symposium
April 25-26, 2024



CENTRAL FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals

Call for Abstracts

The [2024 Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Symposium](#) (April 25 & 26, 2024) is accepting abstracts on topics that will be of interest and provide education to environmental professionals. Topics of interest may include Section 404 – WOTUS, Listed Species Updates, Mitigation Banking, Environmental Restoration, Transportation / Infrastructure, Due Diligence, PFAS/Emerging Contaminants, State of Florida Legislative Updates, Sensitive Land Management, Contaminated Site Cleanup / Brownfields, Stormwater, Geology, Environmental Compliance, Sustainability, GIS Applications, Solid Waste, New Professionals, and Students Poster.

FAEP is a certified provider of continuing professional education. Therefore, abstracts that are technical in nature will be given strong preference over an abstract that is considered more of a marketing piece for a given company or technology. Preference is also given to abstracts received from Sponsors. The website for the FAEP Symposium can be accessed by clicking the link [here](#) or at [CFAEP Conference Page](#). See below for further guidelines and information for your abstract submission, and thank you for your interest in the FAEP Symposium!

Guidelines & Information for Abstract Submission

- Abstracts should be 500 words in length or less and should be submitted using the [2024 FAEP Symposium Abstract Submission Google Form](#) no later than **January 26, 2024**, to guarantee consideration by the Committee.
- In addition to the answers to the questions in the [2024 FAEP Symposium Abstract Submission Google Form](#), presenters should also be prepared to upload a Word format file (1MB or less) containing the following information:
 - Title of the presentation;
 - Summary of the presentation (approximately 500 words or less);
 - Presentation length;
 - The name, email and phone number for the person submitting the abstract and any co-presenters (if known); and
 - A brief bio of the presenter (and co-presenters if known).
- New Professionals Category, we are seeking those professionals that have been an Environmental Professional for less than 5 years. The abstract should pertain to their past/current work in the environmental industry with a presentation length being targeted for 10 minutes,
- Speakers will receive a discounted speaker rate (\$150) to register for the full Symposium. Each speaker will be responsible for any additional expenses required to attend, such as travel or lodging.
- The FAEP Conference Committee will notify you if your abstract has been accepted no later than March 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

Amy Guilfoyle
2024 Conference Programming Chair
CFAEP Board of Directors Representatives

Follow Conference Links here:
[CFAEP Conference page](#)

[FAEP Conference page](#)

[Abstract Submission Google form](#)

Questions? Email: FAEPConference2024@gmail.com

Treasure Coast Chapter

Recognizing Excellence in our Community

Each year the Treasure Coast Chapter of FAEP seeks nominations for our “Environmental Excellence Awards.” These awards are given at our Annual Awards Banquet, typically held in December. This event is our biggest and most festive celebration of the year, taking our normal event production to new heights! This year’s event attracted our highest number of attendees, with nearly 70 guests participating. Since the TCC has such a wide geographic spread, it can be a challenge to locate a venue that is convenient for our members. Central Palm Beach County seems to be a sweet spot, so we chose a waterfront venue called “Out of the Blue,” an independently operated event space nestled inside the Jonathan’s Landing community in Jupiter. The event featured a three-course dinner, a silent auction and raffle, and the awards ceremony.

The Environmental Excellence Awards are given in five categories and in 2023, for the first time, Chapter members were invited to vote on the award recipients. This was also the first year we offered an award for “Eco Visionary”, a photograph captured within the Treasure Coast Chapter area that embodies the spirit of the region. This year’s winner was Chelsey Petersen, a biologist with Ecological Associates, Inc. for her submission of “Leatherback Sea Turtle Hatchling”. Her photograph was used to create metal photo prints that served as recognition plaques for all award winners and sponsors. The Environmental Excellence Project Award was given to Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management for the Sawfish Island Restoration. Mayra Ashton received the award for PBC ERM. The Cindy Lott Outstanding Individual Award was a tie this year, with Michael Yustin of Martin County and Miranda Cunningham of FDEP/Florida Park Service both receiving an equal number of votes. Daniela Tabilo, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received our Rising Star award. Finally, the Public Engagement and Education award was given to Vincent Encomio with Florida Sea Grant. It is truly an honor to recognize the talent, dedication, passion, and expertise of our members and we take so much pride in offering these awards each year. Congratulations to all the winners!

The Treasure Coast Chapter would also like to thank our event sponsor, Dewberry, for their support. Our annual sponsors are also critical in our Chapter’s success and without them, our awards banquet would not be possible. We’d like to extend heartfelt thanks to our annual Silver Sponsors: CSA Ocean Sciences, Lewis Longman and Walker, P.A., Nason Yeager Gerson Harris and Fumero, P.A., and Subsurface Technologies. Thanks also to our Annual Bronze Sponsors: Cummins Cederberg, Ecological Associates, Inc., Environmental Management and Engineering, Gannet Fleming, Partner Engineering and Science, and SurvTech Solutions.

We are so grateful for all the items donated for our silent auction and raffle. We raised \$1,060.00 which will be used to fund a scholarship for a graduating senior at the Gale Academy of Environmental Science and Technology at the Forest Hill Community High School. The Annual Awards Banquet is an amazing way for the Treasure Coast Chapter to end each year on a high note, honoring our members and celebrating all of the achievements of our incredibly talented group. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead in 2024!



Treasure Coast Chapter Board of Directors



Leatherback Sea Turtle Hatchling



The Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals would like to thank our Sponsors!

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Tampa Bay Chapter News

The Tampa Bay Chapter participated in two Metropolitan Ministries Annual Holiday Community Service events in November and December. MetMin served 30,000 families and 60,000 children for Thanksgiving and Christmas with food for holiday meals as well as toys and bikes for kids. Our members served at the Holiday Tent where generous community members drop off food and toys and families seeking holiday assistance.



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NWRA and RRS Release Report on Threat of Lithium Batteries to Waste and Recycling Infrastructure

A new report from NWRA and RRS estimates that more than 5,000 fires occur annually at recycling facilities. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) process single-stream recycling, and increasingly, these facilities experience catastrophic fires due to lithium-ion batteries erroneously placed by consumers in with their recyclables.

Every day, MRFs receive dozens of lithium-ion batteries due to public misconceptions about how to properly dispose of them. As lithium-ion battery usage grows, so will the risk of fires. "Lithium-ion batteries are in more items than we might think," said NWRA Interim President and CEO Jim Riley. "Besides recycling facilities, these batteries are a threat to the entire solid waste and recycling system, from collection to disposal, and impact our members every day. Given the risk they pose, it is important that consumers understand that lithium-ion batteries should not be placed in their waste or recycling bins and should be disposed of properly through the right channels."

The report also noted that the increased risk of MRF fires has driven up the cost to insure these facilities. The rate of catastrophic losses has risen by 41% over the last five years. As a result, insurance has increased from less than 20 cents per \$100 insured property value to as much as \$10 per \$100 insured, as providers began to understand the threat to MRFs from fires according to members of the insurance industry. The risk of fires and the cost to insure against them is expected to rise in the coming years as the use of lithium-ion batteries continues to grow exponentially.

"RRS surveyed a large portion of the industry from integrated service providers to stand-alone companies. What we found was that the reporting of fires depends on their severity, reporting requirements by the local response agencies, internal policies, and local management practices. We also found that most MRF managers were measuring their fires frequency locally, regardless of whether they were reported internally or externally, and were getting better at fire detection and vigilance in their facilities. We were especially surprised that the number of fires per year was this high in the survey, though the majority of fires were small events," said Michael Timpane, RRS Principal and Vice President.

From the National Waste and Recycling Association

Northeast Chapter of the FAEP

We're Back! The Northeast Chapter of FAEP has gained renewed interest from consultants and agencies throughout the region. The chapter includes Nassau County south to Flagler County and west to Alachua County. A group of fellow professionals from Jacksonville, St Augustine and Gainesville recently met with the President of FAEP to discuss what is needed to reinvigorate the chapter and allow industry professionals in Northeast Florida expanded opportunities to meet, network, and learn. An interim board of directors with a diverse range of experience and expertise in the industry has been established to tackle the tasks needed to build this chapter back up, increase membership, and lead activities.

The first board meeting will be held soon, where we will be discussing items like updating the website and organizing our first few events for the year. We hope you are as excited as we are to get this chapter growing! If you would like to get involved with the board or attend events, now is the time to make sure your membership for the Northeast chapter is up to date! <https://www.faep-fl.org/renew-join-here>

Please feel free to reach out for any more information and keep an eye out for dates for our first social! See you all soon! The Facebook Page Link is here: <https://www.facebook.com/NEFAEP/>

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
EUEC 2024 Annual Energy, Utility & Environment Conference	February 13 – 15, 2024	Irving, TX
Southeast Recycling Conference	February 18 – 21, 2024	Destin, FL
42 nd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference	March 1 – 3, 2024	Eugene, OR
American Membrane Technology Conference	March 4 – 7, 2024	West Palm Bch, FL
Environmental Information Assn. 2024 National Conference & Exposition	March 16 – 20, 2024	San Diego, CA
AEHS Foundation, Annual West Coast Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, & Air	March 18 - 21, 2024	San Diego, CA
Northeast Sustainable Energy Assn. Conference, Building Energy	March 19 – 20, 2024	Boston, MA
NGWA, Groundwater Fly-in	March 22 - 23, 2024	Washington, DC
League of Environmental Educators	March 22 – 24, 2024	Apopka, FL
Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium and Field Trips	March 27 – 29, 2024	Clemson, SC
AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference	March 27 – 30, 2024	Las Vegas, NV
American Society for Environmental History 2024 Conference	April 3 -7, 2024	Denver, CO
2024 Watershed & Stormwater Conference	April 8 – 11, 2024	Kansas City, MO
Clean Waterways 2024	April 9 – 11, 2024	Cincinnati, OH
SAME 12 th Symposium on Design & Construction Issues at Hazardous Waste Sites	April 10 – 12, 2024	Philadelphia, PA
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals	April 25 – 26, 2024	Orlando, FL
National Association of Environmental Professionals	May 5 – 6, 2024	Minneapolis, MN
AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition	June 10 – 13, 2024	Anaheim, CA
Florida Association For Water Quality Control	June 12 – 14, 2024	Naples, FL
Florida Stormwater Association Conference	June 12 – 14, 2024	Ft. Myers, FL
A&WMA 117th Annual Conference and Expo	June 24 – 27, 2024	Calgary, AB
2024 Georgia Association of Water Professionals Industrial Conference	July 14 – 17, 2024	Savannah, GA
Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School	July 16 – 19, 2024	Marco Island, FL
Association of Water Technologies Annual Convention & Expo	August 9 – 13, 2024	Louisville, MO
American Institute of Professional Geologists National Conference	August 10 – 13, 2024	Durango, CO
Annual Georgia Environmental Conference	August 20 – 23, 2024	Jekyll Island, GA
StormCon 2024 Surface Water Quality Conference	August 27 – 29, 2024	Reno, NV
ASME Power Conference & Nuclear Forum	September 15 – 18, 2024	Washington, DC
AEHS Foundation, Annual East Coast Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, & Air	October 21 – 24, 2024	Amherst, MA

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

Snow flies' funky adaption to survive (and get frisky) in the cold



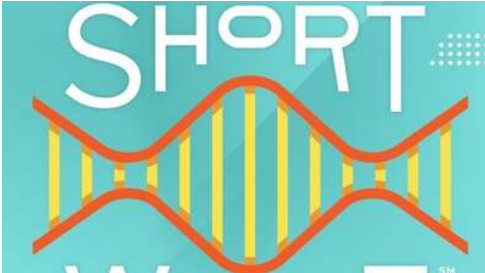
The winter is usually when insects die or go into a state of paused development, but for tiny specks on the white snow called snow flies, it's time to run around, find a lover and make baby snow flies. Neuroscientist John Tuthill has been studying these creatures since he first came across them in 2016. He's found that not only can they survive in the cold, but if one of their limbs starts to freeze, they can self-amputate and pop it right off. That buys the snow fly time to find a mate and make sweet, sweet snow fly love.

Why big numbers break our brains



In celebration of our 1000th episode, we're wrapping our heads around big numbers. Educational neuroscientist Elizabeth Toomarian talks about why humans' evolutionarily-old brains are so bad at comprehending large quantities—like the national debt and the size of the universe—and how to better equip ourselves to understand important issues like our finances and the impacts of climate change.

2023 in science: AI, The hottest year on record, and galactic controversy



2023 was filled with scientific innovation, exploration and new discoveries. A few of the biggest threads we saw unraveling this year came from the James Webb Space Telescope, the changing climate and artificial intelligence. Today, host Regina G. Barber wraps up these three areas of science news with the help of correspondent Geoff Brumfiel and *All Things Considered* host Ari Shapiro.

Once a satirical conspiracy theory, bird drones could soon be a reality



Millions of people in the U.S. are bird watchers. But a couple of years ago a satirical conspiracy theory gained popularity because of an absurd claim: That those birds were also watching people.

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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.

NAEP

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE BULLETIN

The NAEP Environmental Practice Bulletin is published four times a year and emailed to all NAEP members. The newsletter is published in mid-February, May, August and November. Deadline for submissions is the end of the month prior to publication. NAEP is always looking for articles for this great practitioner-based publication. Consider providing NAEP's nationwide audience a bit of your professional experience and insight. For more information about publishing in the Environmental Practice Bulletin visit: <https://www.naep.org/publications>.



National
Association of
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Be Connected

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**The FAEP Board of Directors would like to extend a big
THANK-YOU
to the organizations who continue to support FAEP
with group memberships for five or more of their employees.**

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Bio-tech Consulting, Inc.	FDEP	Lewis, Longman, & Walker, P.A.	Terracon
Broward County	Flatwoods Consulting Group	Mosaic	Tetra Tech, Inc.
City of Tampa	FELSI	Montrose Environmental	Turrell, Hall & Associates
Cummins Cederberg, Inc.	Florida Power & Light	Orange County EPD	USF
DRMP, Inc.	Florida Water Management Districts	Palm Beach County	Verdantas
EarthBalance	GeoSyntec Consultants	Passarella & Associates	VHB
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*GROUP MEMBERSHIP Each group membership will be for a minimum of 5 qualified employees.

Group memberships are available to corporations, government agencies, and/or other entities involved in and related to the environmental profession. Employers that do not have 5 or more employees who are members can join as General or Associate members. The cost of each Group Membership is \$45.

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Size	One Issue	One Year Plus Logo on Website
Biz Card	\$35	\$100
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1 Page	\$250	\$900

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