



www.FLMS.net Fall 2016

Florida Lake Management Society  
Managing Florida's Water Resources

## President's Message



FLMS President Ron Hart



Let me first wish everyone Happy Holidays. The elves on the FLMS Board of Directors are hard at work improving the society and preparing for this summer's annual technical symposium. Santa has loaded this year's conference at Captiva Island with gifts of beautiful sunsets, warm clear waters, and an expanse of white sandy beach. The suites are decorated with fabulous amenities including refrigerators for those late night snacks. This will certainly be a symposium to remember. It's a super location for friends and family. Make sure you book extra days at the low conference rate the weekend before and after the symposium. Ms. Claus and I are working on some special entertainment options like a sunset cruise. The resort includes many entertainment opportunities including restaurants, fishing trips, shelling, parasailing, and kayaking.

Of course the most important topic of the symposium will be the technical sessions. The following are some of the potential topics that may be highlighted during the meeting: Alum Usage in Surface Waters & Lessons Learned at Alum Treatment Plants, Water Resources Education & Conservation, NPDES Programs, Innovative Approaches to BMPs, Lake Fish Habitat and Population Management, Importance of Hydrology on Lakes and much more.

We are also planning some great new workshops for those who arrive early. These may include basic and advanced plant ID, data analysis and citizen science workshops. We will also once again offer community association managers and homeowners sessions for them too. We are continuing to refine and improve the sessions as the summer approaches.

Bundle up, keep warm, and think about the pristine beaches, starfish and sea shells that await us this summer at the FLMS Annual Symposium.

Santa Ron

## Furthering the vision of Mattie M. Kelly by Dana Stephens



Mattie M. Kelly

Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute (MKEI) is a motivated, growing team integrating science, education, and community impact. MKEI believes in cultivating partnerships to create sustainable environmental change bettering our globe. Through research and teaching, we promote innovation and passion to empower a diversity of communities. We build capacity to inspire global, environments of change.

MKEI exists due to the late Mattie M. Kelly's generous endowment to Northwest Florida State College to create the Mattie M. Kelly Cultural and Environmental Institute. Mattie M. Kelly Cultural and Environmental Institute house the Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute and Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Together these entities are dedicated to Mattie M. Kelly's vision to enhance the culture, environment, history, and instruction of the northwest Florida area and beyond.

This past year, we have work diligently to achieve our MKEI mission. Our annual MKEI Symposium (October) and MKEI Family Estuary Festival (April), with over 2,000 attendees, were a huge success. We joined forces with University of Florida and Florida Sea Grant to bring the Microplastic Project to Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties. Working closely with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA), we analyzed long-term, coastal dune lake water chemistry data collected by CBA. Using such foundation, MKEI is now focused on completing comprehensive lake assessments for each of the coastal dune lakes. We also continue to a focus on building connections with local entities to enhance dissemination of science and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in science.

With many changes to MKEI, we look forward to a great 2016-2017. We would love for you to be a part of this change and the MKEI team. If you are interested in receiving MKEI news and updates (e.g., new MKEI logo and website coming soon, or information from our 9th annual MKEI Symposium held in October in Niceville, FL), please call or email Dana Stephens, MKEI Director (850-729-6469, [stephed@nwfsc.edu](mailto:stephed@nwfsc.edu)).

## Call for Abstracts: FLMS 28th Annual Technical Symposium



Mark your calendars for June 6-9, 2017 as FLMS heads to the beautiful island of Captiva! Next year's annual symposium will be held at the South Seas Island Resort. Pre-symposium workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 6 and the general session will run from June 7 to 9, 2017. The hotel rate is \$169/night and the symposium 3 day rate will remain the same at \$260.



Join FLMS in Captiva!

This year's theme is Balancing Water Resources for the Future. The deadline for your abstract title and a two sentence summary is February 20, 2017. This holds your place in the program and enables FLMS to submit to DACS for continuing education credits. Your full abstract will then be due by April 20, 2017. The most current symposium information can be obtained during the year on our website at [www.flms.net](http://www.flms.net).

## FLMS seeks nominations for the Board of Directors and Annual Awards

Each year, FLMS members honor well-deserving colleagues and champions of the environment during the annual symposium. This is your opportunity to recognize someone in your network for their contributions to our field. Please submit your suggestions to the Board via email at [flms-home@aol.com](mailto:flms-home@aol.com) by March 1, 2017. The categories and full descriptions are available on our website at [www.flms.net](http://www.flms.net).

Would you be interested in serving on the FLMS Board of Directors? The nominating committee is looking for individuals who can offer a few hours every six weeks to attend board meetings either in person or online and help guide the Society's mission. If you'd like to throw your name in the hat, please contact the nominating committee at [flmshome@aol.com](mailto:flmshome@aol.com). Directors serve two year terms.

## Volunteers "SERV" Seminole County by Elizabeth Stephens



SERV's lake restoration volunteers in action.



The Seminole Education, Restoration, and Volunteer (SERV) Program engages the community in restoration activities that help to protect our precious aquatic resources, and in educational outreach to promote watershed awareness. The SERV Program is part of Seminole County Public Works, in the Watershed Management Division, and works closely with the county's Lake Management Program (LMP). SERV volunteers make a significant contribution to the preservation of Seminole County waterways, and all volunteer activities are quantified and included as part of Seminole County's compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/Total Maximum Daily Loads (NPDES/TMDL) regulatory requirements. Since the program was initiated in 2010, over 10,000 wonderful volunteers have contributed over 32,000 hours of their time to SERV activities!

Volunteers with the SERV Program have the opportunity to participate in a variety of restoration activities. The largest SERV events are waterway restoration projects, in which volunteers can help plant native vegetation along the shores of lakes and ponds. SERV and LMP staff teach participants about the benefits of aquatic plants, and guide volunteers in the planting. These events are open to the public, and are concentrated in the spring and fall.

The SERV Program also offers invasive species removal activities, litter clean-ups, and stormdrain marking throughout the year, which can be scheduled as group-tailored events. Invasive removal events focus on aquatic weeds or island apple snails, and volunteers are educated about the importance of biodiversity. Litter clean-up events involve the removal of litter/trash from roadways, shorelines of waterways, or directly from rivers and creeks. These events involve a discussion with volunteers about pointless personal pollution. Stormdrain marking gives volunteers a chance to both educate the public and do an active outdoor project; volunteers glue educational plaques ("no dumping, drains to lake" or "no dumping, drains to river") above the stormdrain inlets and distribute informative doorhanger brochures.

This program is open to all individuals and groups interested in helping to preserve and protect their watershed and local environment. Many local groups have helped to achieve SERV restoration goals, including universities and colleges (University of Central Florida, Seminole State College, Valencia College), Seminole County Public Schools and private schools, community groups such as Rotary Club, Optimist Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, groups from environmentally focused organizations such as Keep Seminole Beautiful and the Central Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, as well as individuals and families.

Anyone interested in participating in the SERV Program can contact the SERV Coordinator by email ([serv@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:serv@seminolecountyfl.gov)), phone (407-665-2457), or post (200 W. County Home Rd., Sanford, FL 32773). No membership is required, and SERV activities are always free to the public. To read about upcoming SERV events and see activity photos, individuals can visit the web ([www.seminolecountyfl.gov/serv](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/serv)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SERVProgram](http://www.facebook.com/SERVProgram)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/SERVProgram](http://www.twitter.com/SERVProgram)), and LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/SERVProgram](http://www.linkedin.com/SERVProgram)), or request to be added to the SERV e-list for quarterly newsletters. SERV further utilizes these outlets to connect volunteers to the Seminole County Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-River Programs, as well as the LAKEWATCH Program (for lakeshore residents interested in monitoring water quality).

## Polk County to host next local area FLMS workshop



Circle B Bar Reserve, photos by SWFWMD & Polk County

Join us on March 14, 2017 at the Circle B Bar Reserve south of Lakeland as Polk County and the central chapter of FLMS hosts the spring workshop and networking event. The agenda is currently being prepared and speakers are being sought. Do you have a project or research update you'd like to share with the group? Contact us at [flms-home@aol.com](mailto:flms-home@aol.com) so we can work you into the agenda. As always, the workshop is free for FLMS members and \$20 for non-members. Lunch is included and everyone is welcome!

The Circle B Bar Reserve is over 1,200 acres located on the northwestern shore of Lake Hancock. The property was jointly acquired by the Polk County Environmental Lands Program and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to protect the floodplain of the lake and to restore the Banana Creek marsh system. The property is maintained by Polk County and provides great hiking, biking and birding opportunities. The Polk County Nature Discovery Center was opened here in late 2008 and provides educational opportunities for the public.



## SJRWMD builds safer lagoon monitoring platforms

St. Johns River Water Management District researchers will be safer while checking the status of water quality monitoring equipment in the Indian River Lagoon, thanks to new platforms the agency is constructing at five locations.

"The district takes safety seriously, particularly in an unpredictable environment like the Indian River Lagoon," St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle said. "Moving monitoring stations from causeway fenders to free-standing platforms removes our scientists from potentially hazardous wakes from boats that pass only yards away."

The monitoring stations, installed at five locations from Vero to the Mosquito Lagoon, contain sensors that collect real-time data on water quality parameters, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, plankton, salinity and water temperature. Data flows continuously from the monitors to the District's telemetry network located at the District's headquarters in Palatka. The sensors at the stations were funded through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant in 2014.

## Meet NALMS President-elect Dr. Frank Browne



Dr. Frank Browne, P.E., President elect of NALMS

The North American Lake Management Society, of which FLMS is an affiliate, recently held its annual symposium in Lake Louise, Canada. During this meeting, several new officers and directors were elected. Florida has been home at one time or another to many NALMS board members and this year is no different. Meet former UF student Frank Browne.

Dr. Frank Browne, P.E. received his doctorate degree from the University of Florida. He is president of F.X. Browne, Inc., an environmental consulting firm specializing in lake and watershed management. Frank was a member of the 11 - person committee that founded NALMS. He has attended every NALMS meeting from the first organizing meeting in Portland, Maine in 1980. Frank has been active in NALMS, serving on several planning and financial committees; he was a NALMS Board member and also served as NALMS Secretary. He is a member of the NALMS Education Committee. He is co-chair of the NALMS Student Awards Committee. Frank has over 35 years of experience in lake and watershed management. He wrote major sections of the EPA Clean Lakes Manual. He also wrote a chapter in the NALMS Lake and Reservoir Restoration Handbook. Frank created the Pennsylvania Lake Management Society (PALMS), and was its first president. Frank is also an Adjunct Professor at Villanova University where he teaches graduate courses in Lake and Stream Ecology and Stormwater Management.

Also elected this year were Secretary Amy Smagula of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Region 1 Director Perry Thomas with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 3 Director Lisa Borre of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, New York, Region 5 Director Eugene Braig with Ohio State University Extension, Region 9 Director Ellen Precece with Robertson-Bryan, Inc. in Elk Grove, California and Student At-large Director Sarah Burnet who is pursuing her PhD at the University of Idaho.

## 2017 Adopt-a-Lake calendar highlights Lake County's waterbodies



The calendar also contains important tips on protecting our water resources.

The Adopt-a-Lake calendar, which includes submitted photos of waterbodies in Lake County, is back in publication for its 9th year.

The top-scoring photograph of Lake Eustis was submitted by Anne McKinney and is featured on the calendar's cover. It was chosen by voters from a narrowed down pool of 200 photos originally entered into the contest.

The calendar, featuring the 14 winning photos and runners up, is available for a suggested donation of \$5 beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the following locations in Tavares: the Lake County Water Lab at 12923 County Landfill Road, the Solid Waste Administration Office at 13130 County Landfill Road and the Lake County Administration building at 315 W. Main Street. Calendars will also be available during the Love Our Lakes Clean-up on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Wootton Park and Hickory Point in Tavares. Calendars can also be ordered by mailing a check to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, Adopt-a-Lake Program, P.O. Box 7800, Tavares, FL 32778. If requesting a calendar by mail, include an additional \$1 for postage and a mailing address.

The Lake County Adopt-a-Lake Program is comprised of three separate components: water-quality monitoring, public education and pollution prevention. Volunteers can elect which components of the program best fit their desired level of participation.

Contact Cathie Catusus at 352-253-1659 or [ccatusus@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:ccatusus@lakecountyfl.gov) for more information about the Adopt-a-Lake program.

## Follow up from the southwest FLMS Chapter local workshop at Brooker Creek



Our Wildest Place  
A Pinellas County Government Program



On a beautifully sunny day in October, FLMS held a local workshop at Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs. The event, hosted by Pinellas County Watershed Management and sponsored by Aquatic Systems, Inc. brought together folks from round the area to discuss lake management topics. Although FLMS does not keep copies of presentations, we do provide a link on our website to contact the presenter following each local workshop. Here's the topics and contacts from the Brooker Creek workshop.

**"The Importance of Hydrology to Lake Management: It's not just nutrients"**  
[Dave Tomasko, Environmental Science Associates \(ESA\)](#)

**"The Proper use of Polymers in the Aquatic Environment"**  
[Eddie Snell, Applied Polymer Systems](#)

**"The Lake Apopka Nutrient Reduction Strategy and 7 Years of Lessons Learned"**  
[Ron Hart, Lake County Water Authority](#)

**"Evaluating Internal Nutrient Loading through Flux Measurements and Empirical Modeling"**  
[Mary Szafraniec, AMEC Foster Wheeler](#)

**"Coastal Dune Lakes of Walton County"**  
[Tony Janicki, Janicki Environmental](#)

**"Mapping our Monitoring - The Water-CAT Project"**  
[Jan Allyn, USF Water Institute](#)

**"Seeing Blind Spots: The messages you don't think you're sending"**  
[John McGee, Hillsborough County](#)

## Notes from the FLMS Office



MAY YOUR STUFFING BE TASTY,  
MAY YOUR TURKEY BE PLUMP,  
MAY YOUR POTATOES'N GRAVY...  
HAVE NARY A LUMP.  
MAY YOUR YAMS BE DELICIOUS,  
MAY YOUR PIES TAKE THE PRIZE,  
MAY YOUR THANKSGIVING DINNER  
STAY OFF OF YOUR THIGHS.  
Happy Thanksgiving

As you begin your holiday shopping list, don't forget to use *AmazonSmile* and select the Florida Lake Management Society as your organization that. The *AmazonSmile* Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to FLMS at no extra cost to you.

Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Maryann



## Our Mission

The mission of the Florida Lake Management Society is to promote protection, enhancement, conservation, restoration and management of Florida's aquatic resources; provide a forum for education and information exchange; and advocate environmentally sound and economically feasible lake and aquatic resource management for the citizens of Florida.