

President's Message



John Walkinshaw

As we approach another year, we will continue to face the challenges of protecting Florida's fragile natural resources continue. FLMS is focused on providing environmental professionals information and tools to face these challenges.

Our 2016 symposium will focus on climate change. Ongoing changes to our climate are already having an impact on Florida. Miami Beach and the Florida Keys have begun a cycle of moon phase flooding attributed to sea level rise. To cope with its recurrent flooding, Miami Beach has already spent a hundred million dollars. It is planning on spending several hundred million more. The Florida Keys are seeing standing water in streets for months at a time from normal high tides. Scientists predict that Miami and south Florida will need a massive dike system similar to New Orleans to protect the region. Climate change will impact both Florida's environment and its economy.

We invite you to join us at our 2016 Annual Symposium scheduled this June at The Shores Resort in Daytona Beach Shores. FLMS is currently soliciting abstracts for the symposium. You can find more information about the abstracts and the symposium on the FLMS web site, www.FLMS.net. I hope that you will register for our symposium. As part of the registration fee, you will become a FLMS member. You will appreciate the value of a FLMS membership.

In addition to our annual symposium, FLMS conducts regional workshops for environmental professionals. Upcoming in 2016, we will host several workshops on changes to the NPDES permits and the continued development of TMDL management plans. We hope that you will join your peers in keeping up with the latest information on these important initiatives.

FLMS is continuing to support environmental professionals in facing the significant challenges facing Florida. In order to provide ongoing education, the society needs your support. We have recently accessed Amazon's Smile effort for non-profits. It is easy to help FLMS by going to our web site, click on the Amazon Smile icon, and then do your regular shopping on Amazon. FLMS will receive a donation each time individuals use Amazon Smile through our web site. There is no additional cost to you.

We wish everyone Happy New Year!

John Walkinshaw

Do your shopping on AmazonSmile and support FLMS!



Click on the picture to visit AmazonSmile.

FLMS has registered as an approved organization to receive donations via AmazonSmile. Help us further our mission by using AmazonSmile when you shop.

What is the AmazonSmile Foundation?

The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable organizations selected by Amazon customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

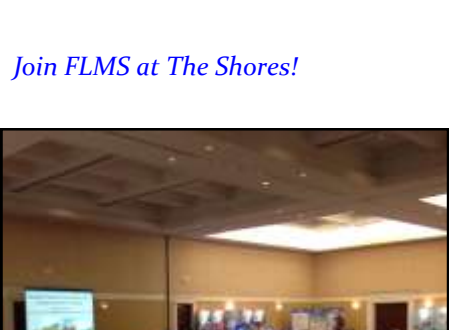
How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

Aquatic Resources in Changing Climates is theme for June symposium



Join FLMS at The Shores!



The Board of Directors for FLMS has chosen "Aquatic Resources in Changing Climates" as this year's technical symposium theme. The goal of the 2016 FLMS Symposium is to bring together researchers, practitioners and policy makers in Florida to share research and discuss creative solutions related to water resources restoration, pollution control and scenarios to climate change impacts. Depending on the number of abstracts accepted, the Symposium will emphasize the importance of climate change impacts on lakes while covering a range of topics related to climate impacts on water use, watersheds, river/stream flows, harmful algal blooms and coastal/estuary areas.

This year's symposium will be held June 7—10, 2016 at The Shores in Daytona Beach Shores.

The Call for Abstracts is available in our website at www.flms.net.

Again this year, we are requesting your abstract title, two sentence topic summary and your bio by **February 15, 2016**. This holds your place in the program and allows us sufficient time to request aquatic continuing education credits from DACS. **Your full abstract is then due by April 15, 2016.**

Have laryngitis and can't make an oral presentation? Submit a poster instead! Details for poster submissions are in the call for abstracts. Contact Rick Baird at rick.baird@osceola.org for poster information.

Program Chair Sergio Duarte is seeking individuals who are interested in putting sessions together. If you have an idea for a topic and would like to assist in developing a session, please contact Sergio and sduarte@lcwa.org.

Interested exhibitors and sponsors should contact Sam Arden at sarden@ufl.edu.

The Symposium Week at a Glance

Tuesday, June 7

Pre-symposium Workshops & Community Association Manager Classes

Annual Golf Tournament at 1pm

Wednesday - Friday, June 8-10

Technical Symposium

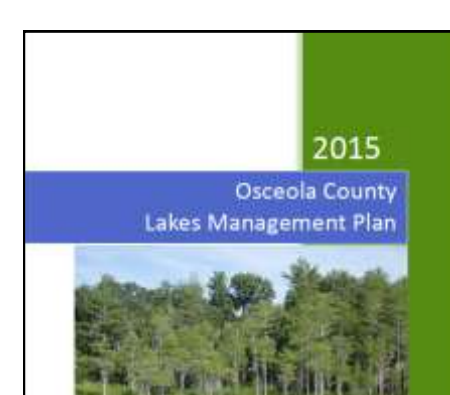
Wednesday, June 8

Poster Session & Exhibitor Social

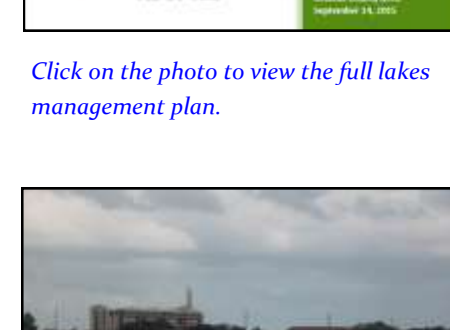
Thursday, June 9

Annual Student Fundraiser Mini Golf Tournament

Osceola County Lake Management Plan Receives Approval by Board of County Commissioners by Rick Baird



Click on the photo to view the full lakes management plan.



Big Lake Toho looking toward the Kissimmee shoreline.

The Osceola County Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a Lakes Management Plan for the major lakes in Osceola County on September 14, 2015. The lakes in Osceola County contain important bass fishing lakes as evidenced by Lake Toho being ranked as the 16th best bass fishing lake in the United States according to the 2015 Bassmaster Magazine survey, beating out Lake Okeechobee and Rodman Reservoir. The lakes are also important nesting habitat for the Everglades Snail Kite, hydrologic driver for the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades, as well as being managed for flood control. The Plan was reviewed by citizens, various government agencies and received positive reviews by everyone associated with its provisions.

There are many agencies that have a role in how the lakes are managed. The Plan describes how the management goals of these agencies mesh with the County's efforts. The Plan also describes the water quality components of the lakes, lake access improvements and strategies for moving forward with funding lake management issues to achieve long term goals of access and water quality improvements. The Plan has detailed discussions about East Lake and Lake Tohopekaliga, Ajay and Runnymede, Cypress Lake, Lakes Hatchineha and Kissimmee, the Alligator Chain of Lakes and Lake Gentry, Lakes Marion and Jackson and Lakes Joel, Myrtle and Preston.

The County's Lakes Management Plan will accomplish its mission by working to protect, enhance, conserve, restore, and manage the County's aquatic resources through education, coordination with other agencies and maintenance of lake systems. Due to the original 1950's and 60's flood control, the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes is a highly altered system, which creates unique challenges for today's managers. By working together the County, the agencies and stakeholders can maintain healthy lake systems that provide environmental and economic benefits to everyone.

The Plan recommends strategies aimed at ensuring the long-term health and recreational value of the county's lakes, including improving the water quality, ensuring safe and adequate lake access, education, outreach, and public involvement, adoption, enforcement, and compliance regulations and the big one: funding. The Plan identifies funding options currently in use by the County and other funding mechanisms used by other municipalities to fund lake management activities.

Hillsborough County's Adopt-a-Pond Program Guides Residents by Jennifer Aragon, Program Coordinator



Brookton Pond, July 2012



Brookton Pond, April 2015



Dedicated Adopt-a-Pond Volunteers

People who live on stormwater ponds in Hillsborough County do not have to feel alone in their pond management efforts. Hillsborough County's Adopt-A-Pond program is there to help. The program began in 1991 and has been providing guidance and resources to assist Hillsborough County residents on stormwater ponds ever since.

Through the program, participants are guided through a series of steps toward pond improvement. Each pond group develops a plan outlining the ways they will reduce stormwater pollution to their pond. They also complete pond plantings with Florida native plants. The plants help clean the water, prevent shoreline erosion, and provide areas for fish, birds and other wildlife. A one-time problem plant clean-up assistance may also be provided, if it helps meet program goals. This step-wise process takes three years to complete, at which time program staff does a final inspection of the pond. The close guidance offered through the program equips pond group members with the skills to continue the techniques they've learned.

The Adopt-A-Pond program was created by Hillsborough County Stormwater Management Section, Environmental Team staff in the early 1990's in an effort to comply with the County's first National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the storm sewer system. This permit required public education regarding stormwater pollution prevention as well as inspection and maintenance of the storm sewer system. At the time, a program such as Adopt-A-Pond would meet both the education and the inspection and maintenance requirements at once. Further, through early social marketing research, it was shown that homeowners in the area were interested in the appearance of ponds but felt they were too daunting to maintain on their own. Thus, Adopt-A-Pond could provide inspection of the storm sewer system, limited maintenance through pond cleanup efforts, and pollution prevention education to residents in the context of a stormwater pond restoration.

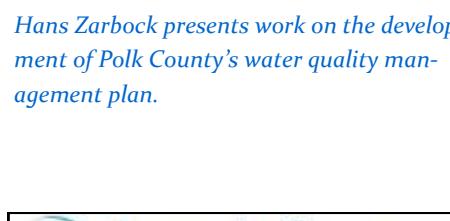
Since 1991, program staff have worked with over 300 pond groups to empower them with the skills and knowledge to make good pond maintenance decisions. Now run by the Hillsborough County, Public Works, Environmental Services team, they have successfully helped tackle issues with invasive plants, trash, algae, duckweed, lack of native plants, erosion; you name it, they have done it.

If you would like more information on Hillsborough County's Adopt-A-Pond program, visit www.HillsboroughCounty.org/AdoptAPond.

Southwest FLMS Chapter hosts successful workshop at Weedon Island



Hans Zarbock presents work on the development of Polk County's water quality management plan.



Thank you to our event sponsor Aquatic Systems for their support of this workshop!

On a beautiful November morning, 40 people gathered at Weedon Island Preserve in Pinellas County for a FLMS workshop hosted by the southwest chapter of the Society. Weedon Island Preserve is a 3,190 acre natural area located on Tampa Bay and includes both upland and aquatic habitats. The educational center contains many superb exhibits on natural history as well as human habitation. One of the highlights include a 1,100 year old dugout canoe. The canoe was excavated from the Weedon Island shoreline in 2011.

To request information on any of the presentations below, [visit our website](http://www.flms.net) and click on the presenter's link.

- **A preliminary assessment of the ability of barley straw, cypress leaves and L-lysine to inhibit cyanobacteria in Lake Hancock, a hypereutrophic lake in Central Florida** – Dave Tomasko, ESA Associates
- **Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Chlorophyll A in Selected Storm Water Ponds Relative to the 2008 Fertilizer Ordinance in Lee County, FL.** - Dr. Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, Lee County Hyacinth Control District
- **Effecting Environmental Change—the misnomer of “soft BMPs”** – John McGee, Hillsborough County
- **The Impacts of Reuse in the Urban Environment**- Dr. Harvey Harper, Environmental Research & Design, Inc.
- **Water quality management plan development for priority lakes in Polk County** – Hans Zarbock, P.E., Polk County
- **Rapid Assessment of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Communities on a Large 2,500 Acre Lake in West-Central Florida** – David Eilers, UCF Water Institute

Notes from the FLMS Office



In case this thing with FLMS doesn't work out, Maryann plans to become a gator wrestler.

It's Been Ten Years!

As of October 1st, it has been my honor to work with the wonderful members of the Florida Lake Management Society for ten years! The time has gone by so quickly and I have enjoyed every moment of it! I have learned so much from our Society. My first annual symposium was at the Casa Monica in St. Augustine where I knew just a few of you. Now, I am pretty sure that not only do I know when you are out of the office, but I can recall your email address off the top of my head and what you signed up for at the symposium. (I think I need a hobby...)

Ten years would not have been possible without the support of many great Boards of Directors. All have been great to work with and, after ten years of board meetings and ten conferences and numerous workshops, I look forward to at least ten more!

Happy New Year Everyone!

Maryann

P.S. The FLMS Business Office will be closed from December 18 and January 4.

Member Directory

The 2015-2016 FLMS membership directory will be sent out again in January with updates. If you didn't already check your listing and notify Maryann of any changes, please take a moment to do so now.

Love Your Lake Grants Closed

The grant cycle for the Love Your Lake grants closed on December 1, 2015. However, the small shoreline grants are open for homeowners interested in improving their shoreline. [Information for these grants can be found on our website under the Programs tab.](http://www.flms.net)

Job Opportunities

New listings have been added to our [job postings page](http://www.flms.net). Check back often for updates. If you have an opening, please send it to flms@flms.net!

FLMS Would Like to Recognize Our Non-Profit & Corporate Members

Non-Profits

Lake Powell Community Alliance
&
Friends of Erin Park Canals &
Little Lake Jackson

BSA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

23400 Mercantile Road Suite 8
Beachwood, OH 44122
TEL: 216-765-0582 j.beaver@bsaenv.com

Beautiful Ponds

140 Triple Diamond Blvd Suite G, Nokomis,
FL 34275
TEL: 941-488-1942
Email: Russ@BeautifulPonds.com

BIOSPHERE CONSULTING, INC.

14908 Tilden Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787
TEL: 407-656-8277
TEL: 407-656-2889
E-MAIL: BIOSPHERE@BioSphereNursery.com

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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.