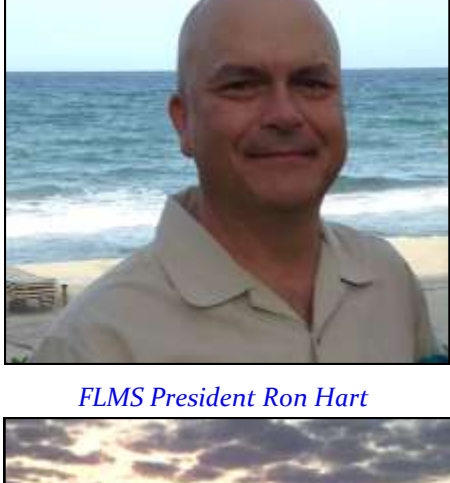




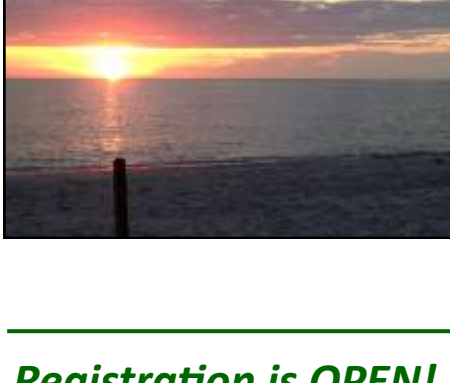
www.FLMS.net Spring 2017

Florida Lake Management Society
Managing Florida's Water Resources

President's Message



FLMS President Ron Hart



Hello fellow water resource managers,

As I write my last President's message, I am happy to report that our Society is growing and reaching new audiences. Water resource professionals from all over central Florida, including several new to FLMS, recently attended a workshop at Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland and following several presentations, enjoyed an informational tour around the reserve. Information on the workshop and the presentations is on our website at www.flms.net.

Our 28th annual technical symposium is just a little over two months away. Your Board of Directors has been busy working to make it another great event for you. Program Chair Sergio Duarte has put together a very interesting and informative program and we haven't forgotten to leave enough time for you to network with your colleagues. We know that this time is very important for sharing ideas and solving issues you may be having. South Seas Island Resort in Captiva is a fantastic location to enjoy the beauty of Florida in June. Over the next several weeks, you will be seeing various updates coming to your inbox. These are intended to keep you informed of everything the symposium has to offer including evening social activities. Also, don't forget to take advantage of the pre-symposium workshops. We offer half day or full day options. There are four technical workshops as well as one for community association managers and residents. All of the symposium information can be found on our website under the Annual Symposium tab at www.flms.net. Feel free to call or email Maryann with any question you may have—on anything—she will always have an answer!

I look forward to seeing all of you again as I sail off into the sunset of Past Presidency,

Ron

Registration is OPEN! FLMS 28th Annual Technical Symposium



Join fellow water resource professionals June 6th through the 9th at beautiful South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island. We have a full program which can be viewed on our website at www.flms.net.

Tuesday Pre-symposium workshops

- ◆ Advanced Erosion Control with Innovative Technologies.
- ◆ Aquatic Plant Identification for Florida Lakes and Flowing Waters, The Basics
- ◆ Compilation, Analysis and Interpretation of Environmental Data
- ◆ Aquatic Plant Identification for Florida Lakes and Flowing Waters, Advanced
- ◆ Citizen Science: A Stormwater Pond Management Workshop

The Citizen Science workshop is perfect for community association managers and residents, so pass the word to the communities you work with and have them register. This workshop is free.

Exhibitors and Sponsors

It's time to get your forms in so we can be sure to include you in our printed program, website and symposium materials. In addition to our break and session sponsor options, we still have a T-shirt sponsor space available plus a spot on this year's dry bag! Both will be given to all attendees. Visit our [exhibit/sponsor page](#) for full details.

Individual Registration

How do I register? Visit the [annual symposium tab](#) and follow the instructions.

FLMS seeks nominations for Annual Awards of Excellence

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. The categories and full descriptions are available on our website at www.flms.net. Send the person's name, organization if any, and a short description of why they should be considered. Please submit your suggestions to the Board via email at flmshome@aol.com by April 30, 2017. Award recipients will be invited to attend the annual awards luncheon on Thursday, June 8 as our honored guests.

Working in the Public Eye by Stephen Montgomery



Stephen "Monty" Montgomery during FLMS Spring Workshop.

It's never easy to do a job with someone watching over your shoulder. Someone interrupting your train of thought, asking questions, and criticizing what you're doing. For an aquatic applicator, this is more a question of: How do I handle this when it happens? Rather than: What do I do if it happens? Part of this is because the waterways that are our workplace are such an integral part of everyday life in Florida. The focus on aquatic recreation, abundance of waterfront homes and the importance placed on our stormwater management needs, puts an applicator in the public eye on a daily basis.

One would think our industry would benefit from the increase in public concern for the environment. We are, after all, maintaining our aquatic resources to promote their function, sustainability, and aesthetics. Unfortunately, the "green movement" combined with a lack of public knowledge about aquatic weed management can mistakenly create an adversarial attitude toward applicators and the work we do. The issue is compounded by a steady flow of misrepresented information through the media and internet. Generalizations about the evils of chemicals in the environment has translated to mistrust of anyone using them, regardless of the situation.

It's not likely that a spontaneous, widespread change in people's understanding will happen any time soon. We need to be prepared to deal with individuals that may voice disapproval with our work, and take an active role in educating them. Over the years I've learned some basic guidelines and tactics to follow when speaking to the public while on the job.

Be polite – It should be common sense, but that's easier said than done half way through a long day in the middle of August. Before you get too involved in any conversation, take a second to compose yourself. Being argumentative will not help a situation and does not present you as an experienced professional. You should be confident in your answers but not condescending to the person you're speaking with.

Understand their point of view – Sometimes people are just curious what you're doing. Most people don't have the familiarity with your job that others in our field do. You see PPE as an uncomfortable but necessary part of your job. They see it and concerns about their safety arise. The average person's knowledge about aquatic herbicides is probably confined to something they read on Facebook last week. Remember you are working near where they and their families live and play. People tend to fear what they don't understand. Take that into consideration when approached by concerned residents.

Choose your words – Correct terminology can help to clear up public misconceptions about our job. Words like "chemical" and "killed" are ambiguous and create a sense of fear. Explaining that we only use herbicides approved for use in the water, and that the weeds have been specifically treated helps to convey a better image. It's important to show the public that aquatic vegetation management is very careful and deliberate, and not reckless use of random chemicals. Our choice of words when talking to people we come into contact with is a big part of that process.

Establish a connection – Most residents and homeowners don't realize how important aquatic vegetation management is here in Florida. Establishing a connection between what we do and the benefits to their lives demonstrates that applicators are working on their behalf. Explaining how successful live management programs maintain flood control systems and recreational waters, while improving aesthetics of communities shows them they have a vested interest in what we do.

Make the weeds the bad guy – The years and years of hard work and environmental success go unnoticed, but the rare mistake gets instant attention. Applicators often get swept up in the public's fervor to "save the environment" and assign blame to careless offenders. In the rush to put a face to environmental damage, it's often overlooked that: The weeds are the bad guys here. The amount of habitat and income lost due to exotic plant species rarely makes the headline news. Their invasive nature is not apparent to residents because our efforts keep the invasion at bay (usually without their knowledge). Educating residents on the plants we target and the damage they're capable of can improve public support for our work.

Know when to leave – Despite your best efforts, some people are just not interested in having their minds changed. Some folks are going to cling to their pre-conceived notions tighter than a drowning person clings to a life preserver. Being polite and professional doesn't mean you have to stand there being berated by a belligerent individual. If their mind is made up, then you trying to convince them otherwise will probably only aggravate them more. That's why it's important to realize when a situation won't be resolved in the moment and politely make your exit. Let them know that their concerns are understood and give them the contact information for a supervisor or customer service department. Business cards and printed informational materials can often help make a transition to leaving. When you return to your office be sure to follow up with the appropriate people so that they know to expect a call and what the situation is so they aren't blindsided.

Sometimes, as aquatic resource managers in Florida, we have to be our own public relations department. Avoiding confrontation at any cost only perpetuates the misconception that we're doing something wrong. A little explanation can go long way toward fostering a broader understanding of our job and its necessity. It's important that we don't take criticism of what we do personally, particularly since it is often misinformed. We make an effort to get licensed and stay trained. We work hard to ensure that the job gets done right and Florida's waterways are protected. Don't be afraid to let people know it.

Follow up from the central FLMS Chapter local workshop at Circle B Bar Reserve



Thirty plus inches of snow was falling in the great Northeast as 40 workshop attendees enjoyed an afternoon tour of the Circle B Bar Reserve near Lakeland. The sun was shining and the chilly temperatures of the morning gave way to a comfortable 68° (considering the alternative). The 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.



Prior to the afternoon guided tram tour narrated by Polk's Nature Discovery Center's Tabitha Biehl, there were five presentations. If you missed the workshop but would like to contact the speakers for more information, click on their name for their email link below.

Environmental Changes on Polk County Managed Natural Areas
[Gaye Sharpe, Natural Areas Manager, Polk County](#)

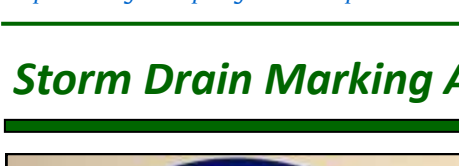
Ambient Monitoring, A Laboratory Perspective
[Diane Gibson, Laboratory Manager, Polk County](#)

Challenges with Newly Invading Invasive Aquatic Plants in Central Florida Lakes
[Bryan Finder, Natural Areas Coordinator, Polk County](#)

"Practicing What We Preach" Herbicide Safety and Awareness
[Stephen Montgomery, Senior Biologist, Allstate Resource Management](#)

Robust Interpolation of Water Levels and Regression-Kriging at Unmonitored Wetlands using R
[Dan Schmutz, Vice President & Chief Environmental Scientist, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.](#)

Everything you ever wanted to know about limnology in 15 minutes!
[Ron Hart, FLMS President & Water Resources Director, Lake County Water Authority](#)



FLMS central chapter would like to thank Crop Production Services for sponsoring the Spring Workshop!

Storm Drain Marking App Developed by Lake County Water Authority by Maryann Krisovitch



LCWA's storm drain markers

Many local governments have storm drain marking programs, some have a requirement in their NPDES permits. Although the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) does not have a permit, it is the goal of the water resources staff to eventually have every storm drain in Lake County marked. To that end, LCWA regularly purchases markers and provides them to volunteers around the County. The difficulty came in recording the areas that had been marked and directing volunteers to new areas. Enter LCWA GIS guru Ben Garcia. In explaining what our needs were, we thought maybe we could just make a map with points. Ben, however, offered to make an app. What? An app. His own????! How long would this take, I asked, thinking it has to be several months to do this. Ben said he was a little busy right now so it would probably take about two weeks. What? Just two weeks????!

Here's how the app works: Volunteers sign in to ArcGIS. The app detects their location and all they have to do is select an option. The volunteer selects the street he is on, clicks the drop down menu and records the date and number of markers on that street. The data will show up in real time in the color for a completed street. Another color denotes a street with no storm drains. This will allow us to go back to add data in case a stormwater system is installed at later date. Another color lets us know a roadway is not complete. For example, SR 19 is miles long and has northbound and southbound lanes. Sometimes we only have time to do short sections. Now we can tell what sections still need to be completed and know where to send volunteers. If you would like more information on the stormdrain marking app, please contact Ben Garcia at bcg@lcwa.org.



Platinum Sponsor Aquatic Systems Sets Challenge for FLMS



The Board of Directors for the Florida Lake Management Society strongly believes in sponsoring students in our field. Each year, FLMS has a golf tournament and a mini (non-golfer) tourney to benefit the Kevin McCann Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year, Aquatic Systems, Inc. has offered a challenge to FLMS members. They will match dollar for dollar what FLMS raises for the scholarship fund. Here's how you can help. Get in on the golf tournament Tuesday afternoon at South Seas. The cost is \$75 per player and you don't really have to be good. (Just ask Lance!) Option two is to buy raffle tickets during the Exhibitor Social or luncheons. The main prize is a two-night stay at Hawks Cay in the Keys. Or, join us for our special fundraiser event on Thursday evening. We can't tell you the details yet, but it does involve a special! Thank you Aquatic Systems, Inc.!

Upcoming Dates to Note



- April 20, 2017—9am—4pm: **BMPTRAINS Model Training Workshop**
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place; Orlando
Contact Sharon Darling at sdarling@erd.org for details
- April 21, 2017—2pm: **Public Hearing on Total Maximum Daily Loads** for the Aucilla River Basin, Lower St. Johns River Basin, and Ocklawaha River Basin
FL Dept of Environmental Protection, Bob Martinez Center Rm 609
2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee
Contact Erin Rasnake at Erin.Rasnake@dep.state.fl.us
- April 30, 2017—5:00pm: **Full abstracts due from accepted presenters.**
Email to Sergio Duarte at sduarte@lcwa.org
- May 25, 2015—11:45pm: **Early Bird Symposium Registration Ends**
[Click here for the registration and information page.](#)

Notes from the FLMS Office



Don't forget to use Amazon Smile when you shop & select the Florida Lake Mgmt Society as your donation choice!

Here in the FLMS office, we are busy getting ready for this year's annual symposium in Captiva as well as negotiating the contract for 2018 in Lakeland and in Hawks Cay. Please be noted that the dates for 2018 will be August 20-24. And just FYI: the FLMS office will be closed from April 14—28th.

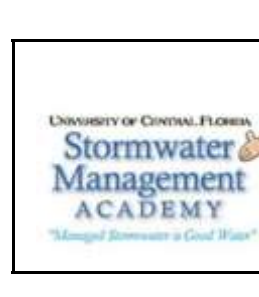
Wishing all of you a Happy Spring!

Maryann

P.S. As I'm finishing up this edition of the newsletter, I am in the hospital with your illustrious president who decided to have emergency surgery with some complications. Apparently he thought I had nothing else to do at this time of the year! He is on the mend now though.

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.



BMPTRAINS Model Training Workshop (6 CEU/PDH Hours)



Date: April 20, 2017

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Location: Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel (on SR 436 at last intersection before airport)
5445 Forbes Place; Orlando, FL 32812 - Complimentary self-parking

Workshop Objectives:

1. Understand the theory essential for estimating annual runoff volumes, mass loadings, and nutrient mass removal
2. Understand the basis of removal for 15 Best Management Practices
3. Define input data required for the BMPTRAINS Program
4. Use BMPTRAINS for the selection of stormwater best management practices

Agenda:

TIME	INSTRUCTOR	TOPICS
8:00-9:00 am	--	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00-9:20 am	Wanielista	*Introduction to Version 8.1 BMPTRAINS
9:20-10:15 am	Livingston	*Overview of stormwater management in Florida
10:15-10:30	--	Morning Break
10:30-12 noon	Harper	*Runoff generation *Runoff emc values *Calculation of mass loadings *BMP removals and BMP trains
12:00-1:00 pm	--	Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm	Hardin and Wanielista	*Using the BMPTRAINS model
2:15-2:30 pm	--	Afternoon Break
2:30-3:30 pm	Hardin, Wanielista and Livingston	*BMPTRAINS case studies (continued)
3:30-4:00 pm	Wanielista, Hardin, Harper, and Livingston	*Discussion *Comments

Course Materials: For maximum benefit, each participant should have a computer with the latest Release 8.4 BMPTRAINS model loaded. The model download is free and is available at www.stormwater.ucf.edu

Instructors: Marty Wanielista, Harvey Harper, Eric Livingston, and Mike Hardin

CEU Hours: All attendees present for the entire workshop will receive a Certificate of Attendance. **If you wish to receive credit for 6 CEU/PDH hours, please add an additional \$35 to your registration fee.**

Cost: **Workshop Fee is \$199** and includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch with beverage service, and 2 breaks

Hotel: If you would like to stay the night before, please contact the Renaissance Hotel directly at 407-240-1000. Tell them you are attending the April 20th Workshop for a discounted rate. There are other overnight accommodations close-by also.

REGISTRATION:

To pre-register and reserve your seat at the Workshop, please e-mail your information to:

Sharon Darling at: sdarling@erd.org.

To confirm your reservation, please complete the information below and mail with your check to:

Sharon Darling
Environmental Research & Design, Inc.
3419 Trentwood Blvd., Suite 102
Belle Isle, FL 32812-4864

Please make checks payable to: **Environmental Research & Design, Inc.**

(Cut here and mail along with your registration check)

REGISTRATION FORM -- BMPTRAINS WORKSHOP

April 20, 2017

Attendee's Name: _____

Florida PE License #: _____ Requesting PDH/CEU Credits: yes no

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Special Dietary Request: _____