



[www.FLMS.net](http://www.FLMS.net) Spring 2020

**Florida Lake Management Society**  
*Managing Florida's Water Resources*

## ***President's Message***



*FLMS President, Robbin Huffines*

Greetings friends,

We all have made it through the winter without many negative headlines regarding Florida waters. Very little about red tide or cyanobacteria blooms. Now our day to day routines are changing due to coronavirus. While this doesn't directly affect our waters it most certainly will affect all of us and how we go about managing Florida waters. The situation is changing several times a day and all of us will have to adapt as best we can to these changes. We still all have jobs to do that almost certainly will be done differently than we envisioned even a week ago. All we can do is follow all the guidelines as they come out and make the most of the resources that we have available to continue to do an excellent job managing Florida waters. While we don't know how long the coronavirus will continue to affect all of us, we do know that when Florida lives get back to normal all our people will look to enjoy our waters again. We all want to do everything we can to make sure they can do just that. Everyone stay safe and follow all the guidelines and we will get through this and be back out enjoying Florida waterways in no time.

Sincerely,

*Robbin Huffines*

## ***DEP Extends Grant Proposal Deadline***

DEP solicits proposals for up to \$5 million in state water-quality assistance grants and up to \$3 million in federal 319(h) grants. **The proposal deadline has been extended and proposals are now due by the close of business on Thursday, April 30, 2020.** All proposal requests must be **submitted electronically** to Emily Forinash, the Grant Coordinator in the Nonpoint Source Management Program.

For more information about DEP's Nonpoint Source Funds go to <https://floridadep.gov/wra/319-tmdl-fund>.

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## ***FLMS 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium Call for Abstracts and Registration are Open!***

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*At this time, the 2020 FLMS conference remains scheduled as planned. However, we will be monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation and re-evaluate timing when and if necessary.*

Join fellow water resource professionals for FLMS 31<sup>st</sup> annual technical symposium and workshop to be held August 25-28, 2020 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs.

Our theme is Lake Management: Complex Problems, Scientific Solutions.

### **Tentative Pre-Symposium Workshops**

- ◆ Introduction to Statistical Analysis and Machine Learning in R
- ◆ Algal Identification in the Environment.
- ◆ Automated Aquatic Habitat Mapping Technologies: BioBase Applications
- ◆ DEP Lake Vegetation Index and Identification of Aquatic Plants
- ◆ Using Drones in Environmental Applications

A Citizen Science workshop is also being planned for Tuesday evening and is perfect for community association managers and residents. Pass the word to the communities you work with and have them register for this free workshop!

### **Presentations and Posters**

There are still presenter and poster spaces available in a variety of sessions related to urban lake management, algae, stream and river science, aquatic plant management, innovative BMP approaches, nutrient reduction, and stormwater pond management. Please submit your abstract title, a one or two-line summary, and your bio by April 15, 2020 to begin your placement on the program. Visit our [Call for Abstracts page](#) for full submission details.

### **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 have T-shirt and lanyard spaces available. Visit our [Exhibitors and Sponsors page](#) for full details.

### **Individual Registration and Hotel Information**

How do I register? It's easy, just visit the [Registration page](#) under the Annual Symposium tab. Here you'll find all the current symposium information.

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point will be hosting this year's symposium. Our room block fills fast and we mean fast!!! This year the room rate for FLMS attendees is \$159/night. Included in this rate is self-parking, Wi-Fi, and access to the hotel's numerous amenities. To reserve your room, call the hotel at 888-421-1442. Be sure to note you are with FLMS to get the special room rate. Visit our [Registration page](#) for full details.



## Pond Watch Annual Workshop Event

On March 9, the Pond Watch Program of the Lee County Hyacinth Control District had their annual workshop. This event has taken place for the last 27 years making it possible for the 57 active volunteers of the program to review the sampling protocols, discuss their annual results, and converse about the latest threats on their storm water ponds in their communities. Some of the highlights included how nutrient fertilization outside the “black-out” period have reduced throughout the years, showing an improvement on the use of fertilizers by landscaping companies and homeowners in general.

Another point of discussion was surrounding the importance of littoral plants in these ponds. These plants become the center factor controlling the erosion on the banks, the water quality, the presence of unwanted microscopic algae, wildlife enhancement, and the overall aesthetics of these ponds. An excellent example of littoral plant, presented by Mike Sweeney from Advanced Aquatic, is Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*). It is a native perennial with heart shaped leaves that has an excellent record of survival under the rough conditions of storm water ponds. This plant is fast-growing and advantageous as it is not preferred by the Triploid Grass Carp. Therefore, in sites where carp has been overstocked, the Arrow Arum will remain undisturbed. The plants unpalatability to the Grass Carp may be due to the presence of calcium oxalate found in the plants tissue.

The exchange of information was the most valuable benefit of the meeting, where homeowners were able to converse with representatives of companies and with other homeowners who may have similar problems in their communities. Many thanks to this year’s workshop sponsors: the Florida Lake Management Society, Advanced Aquatic, Clarke, Aquagenix, The Lake Doctors, and Solitude.



Pond watch volunteers and coordinator, Ernesto Lasso de la Vega (third from the right), at the Lee County Hyacinth Control District training center.

Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*) is a littoral plant recommended to control erosion and Triploid Grass Carp do not bother it. Photo by Mike Sweeney.





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## FLMS Wants Your Lake photos!

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FLMS needs your lake photos. Can you send us one or two of your favorite lake photos to use on our new website and maybe even on a FLMS symposium program cover? We are looking for lake managers in action, citizens enjoying our lakes, and shots of wildlife and aquatic plants.

Send your photos to [Maryann@FLMS.net](mailto:Maryann@FLMS.net)

Thank you!

Visit us on the web at [flms.net](http://flms.net)!



*The Florida Lake Management Society:  
"Managing Florida's Water Resources"*



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## FLMS upgrades website

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FLMS has just completed migration of the website to a new platform. Not only did we add all the important ADA compliance items, but we are now able to handle your symposium registration directly from our website. The biggest benefit of this is that it will eliminate fees attendees paid to a third party registration site. On a basic 3-day registration, this saves you nearly \$15! I know, crazy right? We are still working out a few bugs and finding old typos so if you spot anything, please let us know at [Maryann@FLMS.net](mailto:Maryann@FLMS.net). *Thanks! Maryann*

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## Symposium Dates & Deadlines

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April 15: Placeholder abstract submittal due

May 30: Full abstract due

August 1: Early bird registration rates end

August 4: Hotel room block rates expire

August 25: Pre-symposium workshops

August 26-28: 31<sup>st</sup> Annual technical symposium general sessions



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## Our Mission

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*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.*

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