



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FLORIDA LAKE  
MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Winter 2000

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It seems that my year as President of FLMS is flying by. This has been a rather active year for our Society. Many of our members are actively working with our parent organization, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), in preparing for their annual conference which will be held this fall in Miami. Speaking of conferences, our own annual meeting in the Florida Keys is quickly approaching! We have negotiated very reasonable room rates, but the number of rooms is somewhat limited, so please register as early as possible. This meeting should be excellent, with a great Technical Program planned in a paradise atmosphere. Don't miss it!

Behind the scene, the FLMS Board and other volunteer members have been working hard to keep our Society moving forward. Operations, finance, and outreach committees have continued to improve through their hard work, and our Society remains one of the strongest State Chapters in the Country. Our web site continues to improve, our operating budget continues to increase, and the Central Florida Regional Chapter is forming. Another great benefit to us is the recent election of our one of our long-time active members and Past-President, Gene Medley, to the position of NALMS Southeast Regional Director. Gene is already working on increasing communications and networking capabilities for FLMS with other Southeast State Chapters and NALMS.

See You in the Keys!!

Kevin

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## KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

The Kissimmee River was once a long, meandering system beginning at Lake Kissimmee and flowing south to Lake Okeechobee. The river used to meander 103 miles through forested floodplain and was only 10 ft deep or less, carving out oxbows, sandbars, and a variety of other habitats along its path. As a response to flooding, the river was channelized in the 1960s into a 56 mile long channel that was 33 ft deep and 300 ft wide through the floodplain, thereby drastically altering the riverine habitats. In an effort to restore the river, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District have agreed to a plan which will refill 22 miles of channel over 15 years and help the river reclaim its floodplain ecosystem and 43 miles of its natural meandering pathway.

The Kissimmee River restoration is the first attempt at restoring a river ecosystem. The goal of the project is to restore the natural hydrologic processes of the river which will, in turn, alter the chemical, physical, and biological processes of the ecosystem. As part of the hydrologic restoration efforts, the water level regulation schedule for Lake Kissimmee, Lake Hatchineha, and Lake Cypress will be revised to allow for a more natural fluctuation of lake levels and to alter the timing and quantity of water releases to the Kissimmee River to mimic the historical hydrologic attributes of the system.

A comprehensive evaluation of the restoration efforts is included as part of the restoration plan. Water quality, primary and secondary productivity, vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, fish, wading birds, waterfowl, amphibians, and reptiles will all be monitored in floodplain and river channel habitats in order to assess the effects of the hydrologic restoration.

Although most of the monitoring is yet to be done, a pilot project was conducted along a small section of the river. Some of the results of the pilot project have been published (see references at end of article), but other data is still being analyzed. Restoration expectations for the physical, chemical, and biological components are based on pre-channelization data or reference data from ecologically similar river systems that have not been disturbed. Key accomplishments of the restoration efforts include: (a) restoration of over 40 square miles of river-floodplain ecosystem; (b) dechannelization of 22 miles of canal; (c) hydroperiod restoration of 26,500 acres of floodplain wetlands; and (d) increased water storage in the Kissimmee Chain-of-Lakes. For more details about the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, you can visit: [www.sfwmd.gov/org/erd/krr/index.html](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/erd/krr/index.html).

### References

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

### **Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

*"Impacts of Harmful Organisms on Florida Fisheries:*

*Your Choice of Colors: Blue-Green Algae, Red Tides, Black Grubs..."*

March 28-30, 2000

Withlacoochee Training Center - Brooksville, FL

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be hosting a state and national symposium to discuss harmful algal blooms (HABs) and diseases which threaten Florida fisheries. Speakers will cover the topic from stream to reefs. In addition to invited speakers, there will be a contributed paper session dealing with traditional fisheries topics. Organizers are looking for papers and posters. See the Chapter Web Site at <http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu> for more information on the meeting and tips on making oral and poster presentations. The deadline for submitting Abstracts is February 1, 2000. For more information on abstract/poster submittal, contact Doug Haymans, President Elect Florida Chapter AFS at [haymand@gfc.state.fl.us](mailto:haymand@gfc.state.fl.us) or by mail at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; 2590 Executive Center Circle, East, Suite 204D; Tallahassee, FL 32301; Phone: (850) 488-6058; Fax: (850) 488-7152.

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### **6<sup>th</sup> National Volunteer Monitoring Conference**

*"Moving into the Mainstream"*

April 26-29, 2000

Clarion Suite Hotel - Austin, TX

The role of volunteer monitoring programs is changing. This Conference, designed for new and experienced volunteer program coordinators, will emphasize information sharing and exploring better ways to move our programs into the mainstream. Interactive skill-building workshops, presentations, topical breakout sessions, field trips, posters, and exhibits are planned. The Agenda will include such topics as building state/watershed/regional partnerships, developing and using quality assurance/quality control plans, the role of volunteers in water pollution control, managing, interpreting, and presenting data, restoring degraded habitats, working with schools and youth groups, and strengthening our programs and organizations. For more registration information, contact: Volunteer Monitoring Conference; c/o Mary Crowe; Tetra Tech; 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340; Fairfax, VA 22030; Phone: (703) 385-6000; Fax: (703) 385-6007; E-Mail: [crowema@tetrattech-ffx.com](mailto:crowema@tetrattech-ffx.com)

**The Florida Lake Management Society**  
**“LOVE YOUR LAKE”**  
**Cost-Share Program**

The Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) would like to work with you to help create areas along Florida's lakes that illustrate proper shoreline management techniques for lakefront owners. Each year FLMS will solicit applications which describe successful shoreline management projects that benefit lakes as well as serve as an educational tool for other lakefront owners in the state. The applications will be reviewed by a selection committee according to the criteria outlined below. FLMS will provide a match of up to \$2000 for expenses incurred by the successful applicant.

Expenditures by the applicant can be in the form of labor or monetary contributions. A selection committee organized by FLMS will review and select the project that meets the majority of criteria rating points. The rating system is as follows:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Rating points</u>
1. Monetary or labor match- Community involvement strongly recommended	0 - 20
2. Location- Project must be readily accessible to the public	0 - 20
3. Removal of invasive plants- establishment of beneficial native plants	0 - 20
4. Educational signage to explain project	0 - 20
5. Water quality enhancements	5 points each
- Xeriscaping	
- Irrigation pumping from the lake	
- Use of Environmental swale system	
- Erosion control methods used	

The application should include the following: the person or entity performing the project, a one-page description of the proposed project (must include a maintenance plan), address of project, budget for the project, drawing of proposed enhancements (including plants used), and pre- and post- (if completed) photo(s) of the area. Please include a contact name and telephone number. **Deadline for submittal of projects for the upcoming fiscal year is April 1, 2000. Project must be completed no later than September 2000.** Shoreline management projects may require permits from the Department of Environmental Protection and/or the Water Management District, as well as one from your local municipality. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all permits required before starting the project. If you have any questions, please call Lucee Price, at 407-324-8695. Please send Application Packet to:

Shoreline Cost-Share Application Review Committee  
P. O. Box 92448  
Lakeland, FL 33804-2448

This type of project will benefit many members of your community by showing them how they can keep their shorelines environmentally friendly. By enlisting the help of volunteers, your shoreline demonstration project will solidify ongoing efforts to preserve native Florida habitats!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The FLMS Board of Directors has established the following schedule of meetings for 2000. The meetings are open to all FLMS members. Any FLMS member is invited to attend to view the Society in action or provide input on current issues.

March 3 - Orlando

April 7 - West Palm Beach

May 19 - Orlando

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22-25, 2000	Southeast Lakes Management Society (SE2000)	Columbus, GA
March 28-30, 2000	Fla. Chap. of American Fisheries Society Symposium	Brooksville, FL
April 26-30, 2000	Volunteer Monitoring Conference	Austin, TX
<b>May 22-25, 2000</b>	<b>Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS)</b>	<b>Florida Keys</b>

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## CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads can be placed free-of-charge in the FLMS Newsletter for employment opportunities in the fields of lake management and aquatic resources. Contact Sharon Darling at (407) 855-9465 or by e-mail at: [sdarling@erd.org](mailto:sdarling@erd.org).

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### **WANTED - Experienced Non-Profit Manager**

The Environmental Fund for Florida is seeking an experienced non-profit manager with a track record of achievement in fund-raising (workplace giving preferred), excellent organizational and interpersonal skills, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and a sense of commitment to conservation. Responsibilities include accessing employers for workplace giving campaigns, public presentations, board management, staffing, fiscal management, public relations, and fund raising. BA or BS required. Send resume, references and salary history to **Kellie Westervelt, President; Environmental Fund for Florida; 1540 SE 12<sup>th</sup> Street, #1; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.**

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## RECEIPT OF NEWSLETTERS

If you are receiving multiple copies of the Newsletter, or wish to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list, please contact Sharon Darling at ERD (e-mail: [sdarling@erd.org](mailto:sdarling@erd.org) or by phone at: 407/855-9465).

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## FLMS HAS A WEB PAGE!!

Check us out at: <http://www.nalms.org/flms/home.html>



**DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE UPCOMING  
11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
FLORIDA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY  
(FLMS 2000)**

***May 22-25, 2000***

***Hawk's Cay Resort  
on the Atlantic Ocean in the Beautiful  
Florida Keys***

A truly special Conference has been planned for the year 2000 Florida Lake Management Society Annual Meeting. The Conference will kick-off on Monday, May 22 with two optional Pre-Conference Workshops. The general Conference will begin Tuesday morning, May 23 and will continue through noon on Thursday, May 25. An excellent technical program is being planned, including papers on lake management, watershed management, freshwater/saltwater interaction, and water quality issues in the Florida Keys.

**Those interested in presenting a paper at the Conference should submit the title, author's name and address and a 250-word abstract to Harvey Harper**, Technical Program Coordinator, at Environmental Research & Design, Inc.; 3419 Trentwood Blvd., Suite 102; Orlando, FL 32812; phone: 407/855-9465; fax: 407/826-0419; e-mail: hharper@erd.org. **It's not too late to submit an Abstract!**

**Please make your Conference reservations and hotel reservations early.** Conference registration is limited to 150. **Conference Registration includes Proceedings; all sessions on May 23, 24 and 25; breaks on May 23, 24 and 25; lunch on May 23 and 24; and Exhibitor's Social (food and drinks) on May 23. The cost is \$ 100 per person, if paid prior to April 1, 2000.** If you have any questions, contact Jeff Herr @ Environmental Research & Design, Inc at (407) 855-9465.

**Optional morning and afternoon Workshops** will be held on May 22. The first Workshop, Environmental Statistics, will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The second Workshop, BMP Optimization for Urban Retrofit Projects, will be held from 2-5 p.m.. Registration for the Optional Workshops includes class materials and break. Both Workshops will be coordinated by Harvey Harper. The cost is \$ 35 each.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Hawk's Cay Resort at (800) 432-2242 or (305) 743-7000. **Call early - a limited number of rooms are available at \$95/night until March 31, 2000.** Mention FLMS. The regular room rate is approximately \$200/night for families or groups. Ask Hawk's Cay about Villa rentals.

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Our current Web Master, Kim Schildt, needs to step down from this position. If you have experience writing and maintaining a web site and are interested in becoming FLMS's new Web Master, please contact Erich Marzolf at: erich\_marzolf@district,sjrwmd.fl.us

**Congratulations on your upcoming marriage and move, Kim!  
Good luck and thank you for all your help!!!**

## FLMS SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

***DID YOU KNOW?*** FLMS sponsors an annual Shoreline Development Award. This program is open to all lakefront residents in Florida. We are looking for a shoreline enhancement project that combines a beneficial, native, aquatic plant habitat with some simple stormwater treatment techniques. Winners of the Shoreline Award receive \$200 and an engraved wooden sign signifying that they are the recipients of the FLMS Shoreline Development Award.

***NOT SURE WHERE TO START?*** The FLMS Shoreline Sub-committee is ready to answer any questions you may have. We can help you decide which aquatic plants are beneficial to the environment, what permits may be needed and who to contact, and how to construct simple stormwater treatment areas, such as a berm and swale system. Please send an e-mail to: [FLMSShoreline@aol.com](mailto:FLMSShoreline@aol.com), or call (407) 324-8695 for information on how to get started.

***HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!*** If you or anyone you know is planning to enhance their shoreline, let them know about the FLMS Shoreline Development Award Program. All you need to do is:

1. Send in a picture (or pictures) of the shoreline before any work is done (if available).
2. Explain on one sheet of paper the things you did to improve the shoreline area and why this will be beneficial to the surrounding environment. Include your name, address, and contact number or e-mail address.
3. Send in a picture (or pictures) of the completed project.
4. Mail application material to: FLMS Shoreline Development Award; 520 Webster Street; Lake Mary, FL 32746.

**Information must be received by April 1, 2000 to be considered for this year's award. The Award will be announced at the 2000 FLMS Annual Meeting.**

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## FISHEATING CREEK - BIG WIN FOR STATE SUBMERGED LANDS

On December 5, 1999, the banks of Fisheating Creek reverberated with sounds of a long-awaited celebration--the culmination of a 10-year fight led by Attorney General Bob Butterworth, the final signing of the Governor and Cabinet for the purchase of almost 9000 acres, fee simple, and over 40,000 acres of conservation easements from Lykes Brothers in settlement of the final lawsuit that brings to an end the years-long battle over the creek and its submerged lands. This precedent-setting case found the footprint of the creek (an additional 8000 acres) to be public lands. Members of Save Our Creeks (the group which maintained the creek and kept it accessible through the long years of court battles) and many others enjoyed a BBQ ribs picnic, and entertainers (Heidi and Jim Walsh) led a rousing rendition of their Fisheating Creek Ballad. YOU MISSED IT? Don't worry - an annual meeting is planned in July 2000. Stay tuned. For more information, contact Save Our Creeks at P.O. Box 1057; Moore Haven, FL 33471-1057 You may also call President Becky Hendry at (941) 946-3352 or Vice President Ellen Peterson at (941) 992-5455.

## SECOND CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year, our Society solicits nominations for a variety of awards. Now is the time to offer names for consideration for one of the following awards. Please submit nominations to Rob Mattson at 904/362-1001 or e-mail him at mattson\_r@srwmd.state.fl.us. Please include a statement supporting your nomination which provides information about the nominee, his/her qualifications for the award, and why you feel they should receive the award. Current officers and directors of FLMS are not eligible for any of the awards, with the exception of the President's Award. **Please forward all nominations by April 1, 2000.**

**Marjorie Carr Award:** The Society's highest award. Given for life-time work/achievement on behalf of Florida's aquatic resources.

**Edward Deevey, Jr. Award:** Given to a professional for outstanding contributions to advancing our scientific understanding of Florida's aquatic resources.

**Scott Driver Award:** Given to a citizen advocate for outstanding service/effort to promote the protection of Florida's aquatic resources.

**Aquatic Resources Award (formerly the Service in Government Award):** Given to a professional (government, private sector or academic) for recognition of their efforts to restore, protect, and advance understanding of Florida's aquatic resources.

**Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award:** Given to individuals in the media for exceptional efforts to report on aquatic resource issues in Florida.

**Bob Graham Award:** Given to an elected official who demonstrates exceptional commitment to stewardship of Florida's aquatic resources.

**President's Award:** Given at the discretion of the Society's President for contributions by an individual to the Society and its Mission.

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## FIRST CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Florida Lake Management Society is YOU, the membership, and it is your energy and efforts that help make this organization go. Please consider helping your Society by agreeing to serve as an Officer or Director. Nominations are now being solicited for persons to serve as:

<u>Officers</u> (serve a 1-year term):	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<u>Directors</u> (serve a 2-year term):	<b>3 open seats for 2000-2001</b>	

Nominated persons should agree beforehand to accept the nomination and serve, if elected. Nominations should be forwarded to Rob Mattson either via a phone call (904/362-1001) or as an e-mail (mattson\_r@srwmd.state.fl.us). **Nominations are due by April 1, 2000.**



## SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL SESSION ON MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS FOR THE CALOOSAHATCHEE ESTUARY

On October 29, 1999, staff from the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Coastal Ecosystem Program conducted a Technical Session on Recommended Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The purpose of the session was to develop a common understanding and acceptance of the MFLs process and the science being used to establish recommended flows and estuarine indicator species for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Under the Florida Water Resources Act (373.042 and 373.0421(2), Florida Statutes), the State's five water management districts are required to develop MFLs for a prioritized list of waterbodies. Once established, the MFLs are intended to provide a framework for planning and water resource management. A minimum flow is defined by the rule as the limit at which further withdrawals of either surface or groundwater resources would significantly harm the water resources or ecology of an area. A minimum water level is defined as the level of groundwater in an aquifer and the level of surface water at which further withdrawals would significantly harm water resources of an area. A significant level of harm will be established for each of the prioritized waterbodies. MFLs for the Caloosahatchee Estuary are due to adoption by December 2000.

During the Technical Session, presentations were made on the general MFLs process and on SFWMD investigations in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. SFWMD scientists explained how the Caloosahatchee River receives fresh water from two major sources, its watershed and an artificial connection to Lake Okeechobee. In an analysis of water quality monitoring data, SFWMD scientists were able to determine that water quality in the downstream estuary changes as a function of both total discharge and source of the discharge. In general, fresh water releases from Lake Okeechobee did not detectably increase concentrations of nutrients, color, or total dissolved solids in the estuary, which suggest that discharges from the lake are less severe on estuarine water quality than discharges from within the basin. However, very high flows have had a significant effect on the estuary. Average monthly fresh water releases at the Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79) ranged from 0 to over 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) between 1985 and 1997. A salinity model that was used to study inflow levels indicated that most of the estuary upstream of Shell Point becomes fresh and salinity is depressed in San Carlos Bay at discharges greater than 4,000 cfs. Recent SFWMD studies on the effects of salinity on the growth and survival of wild celery, *Vallisneria americana*, from the Caloosahatchee Estuary indicated that wild celery can survive salinities up to 15 parts per thousand (ppt), a value much higher than had been reported previously in the literature. In the 1999 Draft Support Document for the Lower West Coast Supply Plan, ideal monthly flow values between 300-2801 cfs were recommended for a healthy Caloosahatchee estuarine system. Another technical session was scheduled for January 19, 2000 at the SFWMD Ft. Myers Service Center. For additional information, contact Marion Hedgepeth at (561) 682-6348.

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## CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Gene Medley on your recent appointment as  
**Southeast Regional Director** of the North  
American Lake Management Society  
(NALMS)!!



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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**FLORIDA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY**  
(A Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society)  
P.O. Box 92448  
Lakeland, FL 33804-2448

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### **ANNUAL DUES** (Includes Newsletter):

- Individual \$ 15
- Non-Profit Organization \$ 35
- Business/Corporate \$ 65
- Contributor \$100
- Sponsor \$250

**Please make checks payable to:**  
The Florida Lake Management Society  
and return to above address

FLMS is a 501c (3) Tax Exempt Organization - Donations Are Tax Deductible