



# FLORIDA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Volume 16 No. 2

Summer 2003

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## **President's Address: Just one new member, that's all I ask!**

Dear Members:

It is truly an honor and privilege for me to serve as your Florida Lake Management Society President. I greatly appreciate your vote of confidence, the encouragement, and support I have received. I am blessed to have a great supporting cast of Officers and Board of Directors. To lead this fine organization, is a challenge I look forward to with great enthusiasm and optimism.

Our strategic meeting outlined several items that need to be accomplished, but there is one that I wish to achieve this year and that is to double our membership from around 300 to 600 hundred. We have been hovering around the 300 number for several years. One way to



*Shailesh Patel, FLMS new president, outgoing President, Rick Baird, and FLMS new Vice-President, Chuck Hanlon.*

achieve our mission is to increase membership in local, state, and federal government, high schools, colleges, universities, environmental organizations, consulting and construction firms, and homeowner associations to name a few.

## **In This Issue**

- **2003 FLMS/NALMS SE Regional Conference**
- **FLMS Annual Awards**

If each member encourages just one

person to become a member, we can meet the goal. It's that easy! I hope that I will have your support in achieving this goal. I would also like to have more involvement and input from our members. What else can we do during the year other than the Annual Conference? How can we improve what we are doing? This is our organization; get involved even if it is only one hour in the entire year. We need your help. We can use volunteers to help with identifying and perhaps even contacting potential Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors. Are there any funding sources we can benefit from? Can we add any new workshops to our conference? How can we reach a greater Florida audience?

Please send any comments, ideas, and thoughts to Mrs. Julie McCrystal, our new Administrative Assistant, via email ([jmccrystal@rcid.dst.fl.us](mailto:jmccrystal@rcid.dst.fl.us)) or fax (407-824-7309). On that note, I hope you will take a minute or two, to call or write, to thank our past Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Lucee Price, for doing a wonderful job over the past few years. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

Again, I look forward to serving you in the best possible way and look for your continued support and involvement. Just one

new member, that's all I ask! Please feel free to call me at 386-304-6505 or email me at [spatel@dmces.com](mailto:spatel@dmces.com), any time!

Cheers!  
Shailesh K. Patel  
President

**Joint Southeast  
NALMS/FLMS 2003  
Annual Conference  
a Successful  
Partnership!**

The Florida Lake  
Management Society



partnered with  
the North  
American Lake  
Management

Society to host the SE Lakes Conference in June 2003. The result was an exciting, quality and profitable conference. The joint conference was held at the Hyatt Convention Center and Resort near Orlando, Florida near Walt Disney World.

The conference began with four workshops covering aquatic plant and algae identification and pond and lake management. Thanks to a grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and members of the SWFLMS Chapter the material to all the workshops was provided to all attending the workshops on Monday. The workshop material included full color photos of aquatic plants that can be used for field

identification of plants. There were extra workbooks prepared so that next years conference can benefit from the same material. Also, a CD-ROM was produced with all the workshop material. The Plenary session saw the return of Dr. Dan Canfield, one of the founding members of FLMS and a past President of NALMS. Dr. Canfield spoke about the challenges facing lake managers in the real world. We hope to see him at FLMS meetings on a regular basis in the future. We also hope someone will bring him into the 21st century and show him how to work with PowerPoint.

The conference had two concurrent sessions with over 60 papers. FLMS made the decision to only accept electronic presentations. We want to thank all of our presenters who submitted their work on CD ROM, especially the one who submitted his presentation and then it was lost to the technogremlins. With the exception of one or two other minor glitches, the total use of electronic presentations was a success and will be used from now on at FLMS conferences.

There were 188 officially registered attendees for the full three-day conference, and a record setting 33 exhibitors. There were 145 Florida residents who are now registered FLMS members, mostly

renewals, I'm sure. The Hyatt Hotel's unique convention hall arrangement made it possible to accommodate all the exhibitors as well as all the breaks and meals. We received positive comments from almost all the exhibitors.

The hotel was very accommodating even to the end when we learned that both, our tax-exempt certificate and NALMS documentation was not sufficient to allow for a sales tax exemption. There were some exciting moments when Jeff Schloss and I thought we would have to fork over sales tax. However, in the end everything worked out and FLMS is now legal for all our future meetings.

Again I want to thank everyone, especially Harvey Harper and ERD, Inc., for the success and fun we all had at this conference. ERD, Inc. provided all the session identification posters, the hospitality suite, the Program Chair, and a significant sponsorship. There are others who I was not able to personally thank during the conference, but deserve special recognition. Julie McCrystal, for being there with the checkbook and her cash handling skills and Patricia Hardy. Patricia always inspires me to make that extra effort. After all her fund raising efforts, she still asked if there was more

she could do. I am proud to have worked with such a professional and dedicated group as the 2002-2003 FLMS Board of Directors.

I'm looking forward to enjoying the 2004 conference at Saddlebrook, see you all there! - Rick Baird

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## **FLMS 2004 Conference Contacts**

### **Contact the Conference Coordinator:**

Jim Griffin  
Southwest Florida Water  
Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34609  
Wk: 352 796-7211/ 1  
800-423-1476 X 4286  
Fax: 352 797-5806  
E-Mail:  
[jim.griffin@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:jim.griffin@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

### **Contact the Program Chairman:**

Dr. Harvey H. Harper, P.E.  
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](mailto:hharper@erd.org)

### **Contact the Exhibitor Chair:**

Dharmen Setaram  
Hydrolab Corporation  
588 Canby Circle  
Ocoee, FL 34761  
Phone: (407) 296-6399  
Fax: (530) 831-5309  
E-Mail:  
[dsetaram@earthlink.net](mailto:dsetaram@earthlink.net)

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## **FLMS Election Results**

FLMS members elected a new suite of officers and directors. The new President is Shailesh K. Patel, Vice-President is Chuck Hanlon, Treasurer is Mike Perry and the Secretary is Monica Stevens-Diaz. Janet Phipps was elected Secretary, however a change in jobs required her to resign her position with FLMS. New directors include John Burns, Joe King and Erich Marzolf. Joe King has also recently changed jobs and has resigned from the Board.

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## **Board of Directors' Meetings**

The FLMS Board of Directors has established the following schedule of meetings for 2001-2002. 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.

Meetings are held at the Reedy Creek Improvement District office at Disney and begin at 11 am. For specific directions, contact any Board member.

- October 3, 2003
- November 21, 2003
- January 9, 2004
- February 20, 2004
- April 2, 2004
- May 14, 2004

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## **Individuals Award Recipients at 2003 Conference**

### ***The Marjorie Carr Award***

The Society's highest award, presented for a lifetime of work on behalf of Florida's aquatic resources.

#### ***Joe E. Hill***

Joe has spent the past 30 years working with lake management issues in central Florida. He has served on the Governing Boards of both the Southwest Florida and St Johns River Water Management Districts. While serving on the Lake County Pollution Control Board he was instrumental in removing all of the municipal point source discharges from the Harris Chain of Lakes. Joe was a strong supporter of every effort to restore lake Apopka and other lake systems within the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Joe has served on the Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees as a gubernatorial appointee and was elected to the Board in 2000 to serve an additional 4 year term. Joe has spent over 30 years in unselfish support for lake systems protection and restoration and his efforts have resulted in significant improvements to many of the lakes he

has championed.

His volunteer work and public service to the lakes of Central Florida make Joe Hill deserving of the highest award the society can offer.

### ***The Scott Driver Award***

Presented to a citizen activist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to promoting the restoration, protection and/or appreciation of Florida's aquatic resources.

#### ***Thomas E. Forston***

Thomas E. Fortson was a lifelong resident of north Florida and grew up along the shores of the St. Johns River. He is a retired naval officer whose educational background is

appreciation for the need to understand the hydrology, biology and chemistry of water bodies and their natural systems in order to properly manage, maintain and restore them.

For over a decade, Tom has devoted himself to the proper management and restoration of the St. Johns River. Tom began lobbying the various agencies, local and state officials whose jurisdictional areas encompassed some portion of the St. Johns River watershed to develop and institute a comprehensive plan for its restoration. His efforts included an extensive letter writing campaign and personal visits to elected



*Rick Baird presents the Scott Driver Award to Patricia Fortson Harris, daughter of the late Thomas Fortson.*

engineering. As a career naval officer, he spent his working-life in, on and around the water. As an engineer, he gained an

officials at the city, county, state and federal levels, informing them of the plight of the St. Johns and the need for tighter

regulatory control of polluters, a comprehensive restoration plan and financial support for research and restoration efforts. Armed with informational packets he assembled complete with excerpts from state and federal law, technical publications, and photocopies of correspondence from elected and agency officials, he effectively gained support for river restoration programs. These efforts resulted in additional agency staffing, increased attention and support of restoration efforts by elected officials and increased local and state funding for restoration and research projects.

Tom also conducted research on treatment technology in an effort to identify effective and economical treatment measures to improve the quality of point source discharges to the river. This effort resulted in the adoption and implementation of Biological Nutrient Reduction technology in numerous municipal wastewater treatment plants in the Lower St. Johns River Basin effectively reducing the amount of nitrogen discharged to the river by permitted wastewater facilities.

Throughout this time, Tom has attended nearly all of the numerous agency, technical, political and

stakeholder meetings held in the Lower St. Johns River basin. By so doing, he has stayed abreast of technological and scientific advancements, assisted in technology transfer and encouraged resource managers to be efficient in their restoration and management efforts; drawing from lessons learned from other restoration programs and embracing proven technology. Finally, Tom has prepared and delivered countless presentations for city councils, water management district governing boards, county commissions, and other governing bodies in order to encourage them to support river restoration and management efforts.

Throughout his decade of dedicated service to the St. Johns River, Tom has introduced himself as "Tom Fortson, Clay County Citizen." With no ties to any group or association, Tom has waged a one-man campaign for the restoration of the St. Johns River. The value and effectiveness of this campaign is impossible to assess. Just as the number of hours he has devoted to the restoration of the river, without the desire for compensation or recognition has nowhere been recorded, we will never know how many of the millions of restoration dollars that have been allocated to the St. Johns River came as a result of

his letter-writing efforts, educational brochures, and personal visits to elected officials and the media. We will never know the quantity of pollutants that have not been discharged to the river as a result of his efforts to improve the level of treatment and regulatory control nor how many fewer pollutants will never reach the river because of his efforts. But we do know that the river has benefited from his involvement and that we are encouraged and motivated to do more because of the example he has set.

Tom Fortson, passed away in March, 2003, following a battle with cancer. Despite the toll this illness and chemotherapy has taken on his constitution, Tom has not allowed this battle to turn him from his efforts to see the river restored "Now". Sporting his hat to cover his hair loss, he continued to be a dedicated and outspoken advocate for the health of the river; attending every meeting, big or small. This level of dedication deserves recognition and Tom should be held up as an example to other citizens as proof that "one man can make a difference."

***The Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award***

Presented to individuals in the media in recognition of their efforts to inform the

public on aquatic resource issues.

### ***Dave McDaniel***

Dave is a graduate of Iowa State University with a B.A. in Journalism. He has been a TV news reporter for 24 years covering environmental stories for much of that time. The last 15 years have been at WESH Channel 2 covering Central Florida. Dave was named the Environmental Specialist in 1997.

Dave has been recognized by the Friends of the Wekiva and the Sierra Club for his environmental reporting. He has received numerous awards from the Central Florida Press Club for spot news, special news reports and in-depth reports on a variety of topics.

Dave is married with no children. He has two dogs, Hogan and Burkhalter, an Arabian mare – Asfer. He competes in horse and carriage cross country races and is an avid outdoorsman, fisherman and boater.

### ***The Aquatic Resources Award***

Presented to a professional serving in government or the private sector in recognition of their efforts to restore, protect and advance our understanding of Florida's aquatic resources.

### ***Lothian Ager***

Lothian began employment with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission on 11 July 1967. His diverse and dedicated career can be divided up into three areas of expertise. Throughout his life's work he has always had the welfare of the resource as his main objective. He was a fearless straight talker and was known for being a "man of vision" and "living his job." Lothian has worked as the Lake Okeechobee Project Leader, the Apalachicola River Study Project Leader, and as the Aquatic Resources Enhancement (ARES) Section Leader,

Lothian's belief in environmental stewardship, and his dedication to maintaining quality fisheries has continued unabated throughout his career. In his current position, Lothian has shown insight and abilities for enhancing degraded fisheries habitat in lakes across the state, and he continues to put forth an exceptional effort to ensure the program functions effectively. He retired from the State in July 2003, after 35 years of service.

### ***Edward Devey, Jr. Award***

Presented to a scientist for outstanding contributions toward scientific understanding of Florida's surface water resources.

### ***Betty Rushton***

Dr. Rushton has been an aquatic resource professional for over 18 years. Prior to this she was a citizen activist working to improve the wetland habitat in and around Sarasota Bay. She also served as a member of the Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District where she worked diligently for improvements for the Sarasota Bay Watershed.

Betty earned her Doctorate late in life and at the age of fifty she began her second career as an Environmental Scientist with the Southwest Florida Water Management as an Environmental Scientist. Betty founded the Stormwater Research group at the District and is recognized nationally for her work in evaluating stormwater best management practices. She is the organizer and primary force behind the Biennial Stormwater Research Conference, which was first held in 1988 and has been held every two years since then.

Betty has devoted her professional life to improving the understanding of aquatic systems and developing quantitatively accurate methods of evaluating measures that protect these systems. She is a sought after speaker and

educator that has made a lasting contribution to the overall health of aquatic systems in Florida. Betty is married and has four boys and many grandchildren. She enjoys walking, gardening and flying across the country with her husband, professor, pilot Ralph.

***The Bob Graham Award***  
Presented to an individual in elected office in recognition of their commitment to conserve, protect and restore Florida's surface water resources.

***Cliff Barnes***

Mr. Barnes has been a County Commissioner for ten + years and currently Chairman of the St. Lucie County Commission

He has been active in the preparation and implementation of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP); involved in the purchase of conservation lands and wetlands; involved in the purchase of land for the environmental benefits such as the Blueway Program, mosquito impoundments, and restoration; active in restoring Taylor Creek to protect water resources; and active in implementing Stormwater projects to protect water resources;

He has worked to foster cooperation between St.

Lucie County, Water Management Districts and Environmental groups and does all of this in his spare time when he is not practicing law.

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***Science Fair & Engineering Awards***

*Senior Winner*

***Patrick L. Geer***

Wellington High School,  
Wellington - Palm Beach

Phosphorus Removal from  
Everglades Agricultural  
Area Farm Drainage  
Water

Patrick's project compared the phosphorus removal capacity of two species of aquatic vegetation. In addition, Patrick tested nitrogen limitation and the effects of flow regimes on P removal by aquatic plants. Patrick used tanks to test and compare P removal efficiency of water hyacinths and chara using water from the Everglades AAA. Patrick's experimental design was sound and the presentation of his project was excellent.

*Junior Winner*

***Sean Happel***

St. Mary Catholic School,  
Rockledge - Brevard

A Baffle Box Can Be  
Improved

Sean tested the efficiency of different baffle box

designs using a Plexiglas model and three different sediment types. He set up a series of experiments to test how well the different baffle box designs removed leaves, sand and clay. His experimental design was good, and he used appropriate statistics to evaluate his data. Sean's project display was excellent, and his oral presentation demonstrated that he had researched and was familiar with the impacts of stormwater runoff on water resources.

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***FLMS Shoreline Improvement Grants***

FLMS awards \$20,000 in "Love Your Lake" cost share grants.

This year the FLMS board selected four lake, shoreline and stormwater restoration projects to fund under the Love Your Lake cost share grant program. Each restoration project is designed to enhance shoreline habitat and function and serves as a demonstration project for public awareness and education.

The awards will support the following projects;

1. Project Wise Guys – Lakeland Christian School. In 2002 sixth grade students at Lakeland Christian School initiated a watershed education project. Their hard work resulted in the creation of Faith's Forest, an enhanced stormwater

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retention wetland located on their school's campus. The Love Your Lake grant funds will be used to establish an educational nature trail through the project area, install story boards and develop a brochure providing information on Florida's water resources, stormwater run-off, flood control, exotic vegetation management and the use of native aquatic plants to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

## 2. The Florida Aquarium – Tampa

The Florida Aquarium is the largest not-for-profit aquarium in the state of Florida. The Aquarium houses a living collection of over 9,500 animals and plants in its Wetlands, Bays and Beaches, Coral Reef, and Offshore galleries. The Aquarium is developing a new stormwater education program utilizing three on-site stormwater ponds. A number of improvements have already been made to several ponds in order to reduce pollutant loads being discharged into Tampa Bay. Additional improvements are needed and support for the project will be provided with a grant from the Love Your Lake cost share program. Funding will help provide an aeration / bubbler system for the wet-detention pond as well as additional educational signs describing the benefits of the project.

## 3. Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens – Lake Osceola, Winter Park

The museum is located on Lake Osceola which is part of the Winter Park Chain of Lakes. Approximately 10,000 people visit the museum each year thus providing an excellent opportunity for public education. The Love Your Lake grant will support efforts to restore nearly 300 feet of Lake Osceola's shoreline. Restoration work will include the removal of exotic vegetation, revegetating the shoreline with more than 2,500 native plants, and creating a berm and swale system to reduce nutrient run off into the lake. Educational signs describing the project and the function of the shoreline vegetation in lake ecology will also be installed.

## 4. Palma Sola Botanical Park (Bradenton)

The park is frequently visited by the public and is located adjacent to a large wet detention stormwater pond facility. Love Your Lake funds will be used to enhance a stormwater pond. Enhancements will include removing nuisance exotic vegetation and planting native aquatic plants and upland shade trees. Walking trails with educational signs that identify beneficial native plants and describe best

management practices regarding shoreline landscapes will also be constructed adjacent to the stormwater pond.

The Florida Lake Management Society would like to thank the Free Family Foundation for helping us support successful community based shoreline management projects. The Love Your Lake projects selected each year serve not only to improve environmental conditions (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, water quality) along shorelines but they also serve as an educational tool providing hundreds of project volunteers and thousands of others the opportunity to learn more about responsible lake and water resource management.

To learn more about the Love Your Lake matching grant program visit our web site at [www.nalms.org/films](http://www.nalms.org/films) then click on Shoreline-awards.

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## Chapter News

### Central Florida Chapter

Are you interested in the state of Central Florida's lakes? The Central Florida Lake Management Society was designed to be a forum in which citizens and professionals can meet to identify, educate, and correct the problems concerning our lakes. If you would like to



know more about the CFLMS meetings, please contact Sergio Duarte at 407-539-6252 or by e-mail at [sduarte@itsmymaitland.com](mailto:sduarte@itsmymaitland.com).

### **Southwest Florida Chapter**

The southwest chapter's activities are highlighted in their recent newsletter, see it on the [FLMS publications page](#).

### **Northwest Florida Chapter**

If the Northwest Florida Lake Management Society can assist you with your lake please feel free to contact your Chapter President, Sean E. McGlynn at (850) 222-4895 or email [mcglynnlabs@cs.com](mailto:mcglynnlabs@cs.com).

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## **2004 FLMS Conference**

Mark your calendar now for the 2004 Florida Lake Management Conference. The conference will be held at the Saddlebrook Resort Tampa between June 7 and 10, 2004. Saddlebrook is located north of Tampa in Pasco County on a 480-acre natural Florida wetland and uplands site. Accommodations are built around the 82,000 square foot meeting facility in convenient "Walking Villages". Reservations can be made under the special FLMS rate of \$95 for deluxe guestrooms by

calling the Saddlebrook Guest Reservations number (800-729-8383) or by Fax (8130973-1312). Other special rates for one and two bedroom suites are also available. Reservations can be made for early arrivals and late departures (2 days prior to June 6 and two days after June 10, 2004) at the same rate. Additional information on the Saddlebrook Resort is available at

[www.saddlebrookresort.com](http://www.saddlebrookresort.com).

The 2004 conference will include a full day of workshops on June 7 and an exciting and informative conference agenda beginning June 8 and running through the morning of June 10.

### *Volunteers and Ideas Wanted*

The Florida Lake Management Society through its area Chapters is planning to hold a Lake and Pond Property Owner Training Weekend prior to the FLMS Annual Conference. John Brennehan will lead the weekend training at the new Starkey Education Center in Pasco County. The event is scheduled for Friday, June 4 and Saturday June 5. The event will begin at 5:00 PM on Friday and will last until 9:00 PM then on Saturday. We will begin at 9:00 AM and go through 4:00 PM Saturday. Starkey has adjoining campsites and cabins (not air-conditioned) for those who want to stay the night. We

will be limited to 40 attendees at the training. The cost is estimated at \$50 per person, which will include a BBQ Friday night and breakfast and lunch Saturday. FLMS is working on getting grants/donations for much of the cost and hopes to provide scholarships of \$25 for all who sign-up. If interested please contact Jim Griffin ([griffinjc1@aol.com](mailto:griffinjc1@aol.com)).

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FLMS is a proud member of Earth Share of Florida (ESF) and hopes you will consider making a payroll deduction to support Earth Share and Florida's environmental groups. Check with your employer and ESF to see how easy it is to support Earth Share. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY DENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. FLMS RECEIVES 100% OF EACH CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION. SC-03578



Florida Chapter of the North American  
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**FLMS Membership Form**  
**Florida Lake Management Society**

**FLMS is a 501c (3) Tax Exempt Organization – Donations are Tax Deductible**

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**Areas of Shareable Knowledge** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues (Includes Newsletter)**

- Individual \$25
- Non-Profit Organization \$35
- Business/Corporate \$65
- Contributor \$100
- Sponsor \$250

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