

**Tuesday – September 1, 2026 – WORKSHOPS**

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| 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Check-In and Registration (Calusa Ballroom Pre-Function) |
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| 8:15 am – 12:00 pm | <b>Workshop 1 (Great Egret AB): Aquatic Plant Identification</b><br>Presented by: Dr. Lyn Gettys, University of Florida<br>General Standards (Core) 3 CEUs                                                                                                    |
| 8:15 am – 4:45 pm  | <b>Workshop 2 (Pine): Selection of Stormwater BMPS to Maximize Removal of Target Pollutants</b><br>Dr. Harvey Harper, PE<br>General Standards (Core) 3 CEUs                                                                                                   |
| 8:15 am – 12:00 pm | <b>Workshop 3 (Blue Heron BC): R for Beginners</b><br>Presented by: Dan Schmutz, M.S., GPI Inc. & Alex Manos, Pinellas County                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:45 pm – 4:45 pm | <b>Workshop 4 (Blue Heron BC): Vibe Coding in R</b><br>Presented by: Dan Schmutz, M.S., GPI Inc. & Alex Manos, Pinellas County                                                                                                                                |
| 12:45 pm – 4:45 pm | <b>Workshop 5 (Great Egret AB): DEP Lake Vegetation Index and Identification of Aquatic Plants</b><br>Presented by: Nia Wellendorf, M.S., and Leif Boman, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration |
| 12:45 pm – 4:45 pm | <b>Workshop 6 (Blue Heron A): Community Program Evaluation and Translating Impact to ROI</b><br>Presented by: Dr. Dana Stephens, UF/IFAS Extension, Okaloosa County                                                                                           |

6:30 pm – 7:30pm      **Student/Board Meet & Greet** (Tarpon Bay Fire Pit)

*All workshop food breaks are located in Calusa Ballroom Pre-Function*

10:00 am – 10:15 am      **Morning Break**

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm      **Lunch** (provided with full-day Workshop registration)

2:20 pm – 2:45 pm      **Afternoon Break**

### **WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 MORNING – SYMPOSIUM**

(\* - Denotes student paper)

7:30 am – 5:00 pm      **Check-In and Registration** (Calusa Ballroom Pre-Function)

7:00 am – 8:30 am      **Breakfast** (Calusa Ballroom/Exhibit Hall)

#### **Opening Program** (LOCATION)

8:45 am – 9:00 am      **Welcome & Opening Remarks:** Gloria Eby, FLMS President

9:00 am – 10:00 am      **Morning Keynote Address**

*Dr. Harvey Harper*

We've Come a Long Way, Baby!

10:00 am – 10:30 am      **MORNING BREAK** (Calusa Ballroom ABCD)

#### **Session A1: Restoring Florida's Waters: Science, Strategy, and Success**

(Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Mitchell

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1.5

10:30 am – 10:35 am      *Session Introduction and Raffle Draw*

10:35 am – 10:50 am      Clearing the Murkiness: A Restoration Milestone at Lake Apopka Reveals Insight for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Re-Establishment – *Lori McCloud*

10:50 am – 11:05 am      Benefits of the Lake Apopka North Shore (LANS) in Lake Apopka Water Quality – *Jennifer Mitchell, Ph.D*

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| 11:05 am – 11:20 am | Water Management Priorities and Planning for the Ocklawaha River Basin – <i>Jim Peterson</i>                                                          |
| 11:20 am – 11:35 am | Development and Implementation of a Holistic Restoration Strategy to Improve Water Quality in Starke Lake and Lake Prima Vista – <i>Lance Lumbard</i> |
| 11:35 am – 11:50 am | Refining SAV Monitoring in Lake Monroe: Integrating Targeted Field Surveys with Spatial Analysis – <i>Carolyn Vanzo</i>                               |
| 11:50 am – 12:00 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                                                                                |

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| 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm <b>Lunch On Your OWN</b> |
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**Session A2: An Afternoon with LAKEWATCH PT 1** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm | <b>Raffle Draw and Session Intro</b>                                                                                                          |
| 2:15 pm – 2:30 pm | LAKEWATCH Volunteer Concerns; 40 Years of Insights – <i>Gretchen Lescord</i>                                                                  |
| 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm | Drivers of Mercury in Florida Bass: Insights from Multi-Decadal Monitoring in a Coastal Blackwater River – <i>Celine Lajoie</i>               |
| 2:45 pm – 2:50 pm | A Comparison of Water Chemistry and Biotic Mercury in Two Managed Urban Lakes; The Impacts of Aluminum Sulfate Injections – <i>Dan Willis</i> |
| 2:50 pm – 3:05 pm | *Evaluating Freshwater Wildlife as PFAS Biomonitoring: A Review of Current Literature* – <i>Anthony Johnson</i>                               |
| 3:05 pm – 3:15 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                                                                        |

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| 3:15 pm – 3:55 pm <b>Afternoon Break</b> |
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**Session A3: An Afternoon with LAKEWATCH PT 2** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 3:55 pm – 4:00 pm | <b>Raffle Draw and Session Intro</b> |
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| 4:00 pm – 4:05 pm | Analytical Method Verification for Simultaneous Analysis of Total Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Environmental Water Samples – <i>Thomas McManus</i> |
| 4:05 pm – 4:20 pm | *Subtropical Lake Food Webs: Tracing Ecological Pathways in Florida* – <i>Baylor Lynch</i>                                                       |
| 4:20 pm – 4:25 pm | *An Ecological Assessment of Asian Swamp Eel Impacts on Lacustrine Food Webs in Florida* – <i>Noah Peterson</i>                                  |
| 4:25 pm – 4:40 pm | Exploring Volunteer Motivations and Values in a Long-term Citizen Science Program: Insights from Florida LAKEWATCH – <i>Liz Moreau</i>           |
| 4:40 pm – 4:50 pm | Q&A Session                                                                                                                                      |

**Wednesday SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 EVENING**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm **EXHIBITOR'S SOCIAL (Calusa Ballroom ABCD)**

7:30 pm – 11:00pm **HOSPITALITY SUITE (Great Egret)**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm **Poster Session** (Location)

\*Denotes Student Poster

1. Environmental Drivers of Cyanobacterial Bloom Dynamics in the Caloosahatchee River at the Franklin Lock and Dam –\*Hannah Min
2. \*Water Quality Analysis of Nutrient Enhancement Impacts in Marco Island, Florida – Leandro Cabrera
3. Integration of Bias-Corrected CMIP6 Projections and SWAT + Modeling to Assess Hydrological Responses to Climate and Land-Use Change in the Hickahala-Sentobia Creek Watersheds – \*Rabi Elabor
4. Integrating Sound Harmful Algae Bloom Control into Florida Drinking Water Protection Plans – Ernest Neafsey

5. Early Colonization and Larval Settlement Patterns at Kimberly's Reef – \*Mackenzy Binion
6. Microbial Biodiversity Across Florida's Stormwater Treatment Ponds - \*Maria Carolina Ferreira
7. Nutrient Filtration from *Limnobium Spongia* in Stormwater Ponds - \*Regan Meinzer

**THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 MORNING – SYMPOSIUM**

(\* - Denotes student paper)

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|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30 am – 5:00 pm | <b>Check-In and Registration (Calusa Ballroom Pre-Function)</b> |
| 7:00 am – 8:30 am | <b>Breakfast (Calusa Ballroom ABCD/Exhibitors Hall)</b>         |

**Opening Program** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

8:45 am – 9:00 am      **Welcome & Opening Remarks:** Jennifer Mitchell, Incoming FLMS President

9:00 am – 10:00 am      **Morning Keynote Address**

*Dr. Mike Allen, University of Florida IFAS, Nature Coast Biological Station*  
Lessons Learned through Collaborations in Florida's Freshwater and Marine Systems

10:00 am – 10:30 am      **MORNING BREAK** (Calusa Ballroom ABCD)

**Session A4: Processes Shaping Water Quality in the St. Johns River**  
(Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Eesa Ali

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1.5

10:30 am – 10:35 am      *Session Introduction and Raffle Draw*

10:35 am – 10:50 am      Internal P-recycling in St. Johns River Lakes: Mechanisms, Magnitude, and Management – *Dr. Andy Canion*

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| 10:50 am – 11:05 am | The Implications of Biosolids Management in the St. Johns River Watershed – <i>Dr. Erich Marzolf</i>                             |
| 11:05 am – 11:20 am | Predicting Sediment Oxygen Demand and its Spatial Variability in the St. Johns River, FL – <i>Shannon Salvatori</i>              |
| 11:20 am – 11:35 am | Benthic Biogeochemistry in Upper St. Johns River Basin Lakes: Implications for Algal Bloom Proliferation – <i>Tracey Schafer</i> |
| 11:35 am – 11:50 am | The Nature of Light in the St. Johns River: Are We Just Too Dim? – <i>Dr. Dean Dobberfuhl</i>                                    |
| 11:50 am – 12:00 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                                                           |

#### **THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 AFTERNOON**

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| 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm | <b>LUNCH/AWARDS BANQUET (Calusa Ballroom ABCD)</b> |
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#### **Session A5: Watershed Nutrient Dynamics and Source Identification**

(Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Rob Burnes

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 1:30 pm – 1:35 pm | <b>Raffle Draw and Session Intro</b>                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1:35 pm – 2:05 pm | An Evaluation of the Relationships Between the Duration of Red Tide ( <i>Karenia brevis</i> ) and Watershed Nitrogen Loads in Southwest Florida (USA) – <i>Dave Tomasko/Jennifer Hecker</i> |
| 2:05 – 2:20 pm    | Engaging Homeowners Associations in Stormwater Pond Monitoring and Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality in the Indian River Lagoon – <i>Melanie Howater</i>                   |
| 2:20 – 2:35 pm    | Fecal Bacteria Source Assessment: Confounding Factors in Florida Tidal Freshwater Streams – <i>Don Duke</i>                                                                                 |
| 2:35 – 2:45 pm    | <i>Q&amp;A Session</i>                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <b>FRESHWATER CONCURRENT SESSION</b> |
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**Session A6: Hydrogen Peroxide for Algal Control** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Dr. Serge Thomas

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 2:45 pm – 2:50 pm | <b>Session Intro</b>                                                                                                           |
| 2:50 pm – 3:05 pm | Effectiveness and Ecological Implications of Hydrogen Peroxide for Cyanobacterial Bloom Control – <i>Hidetoshi Urakawa</i>     |
| 3:05 pm – 3:20 pm | *Hydrogen Peroxide Treatment and Flow Regulation for Early Bloom Mitigation in the Caloosahatchee River – <i>Bethany Ryder</i> |
| 3:20 pm – 3:35 pm | *Mesocosm Evaluation of a Combined Hydrogen Peroxide and L-lysine Treatment for Toxic Cyanobacteria Removal – <i>David Rue</i> |
| 3:35 pm – 3:45 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                                                         |

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| 3:45 pm – 4:20 pm <b>Afternoon Break</b> (Calusa Ballroom ABCD) |
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**Session A7: Advances in Aquatic Monitoring and Assessment** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Laine Howard

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 4:20 pm – 4:25 pm | <b>Session Intro</b>                                                                                                                              |
| 4:25 pm – 4:40 pm | *Classification of Aquatic Macrophytes in Florida Lakes Using Machine Learning and Multi-Resolution Satellite Imagery – <i>Ayesha Malligai M.</i> |
| 4:40 pm – 4:55 pm | DEP Quality Assurance Requirements and Updates – <i>Nia Wellendorf</i>                                                                            |

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| 4:55 pm – 5:10 pm | *Exploring Sentinel – 2 Performance for Stormwater Pond<br>Water Quality Monitoring – <i>Hannah Knotts</i> |
| 5:10 pm – 5:20 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                                     |

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| <b>ESTUARINE CONCURRENT SESSION – Blue Heron Room</b> |
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**Session B1: Integrated Approaches to Coastal Water and Resource Management**  
(Blue Heron)

Moderator: Dana Stephens

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| 2:45 pm – 2:50 pm | <b>Session Intro</b>                                                                                                                            |
| 2:50 pm – 3:05 pm | Nutrient Source Tracking in a Coastal Urban Watershed in<br>Pinellas County, Florida – <i>Michael Wessel</i>                                    |
| 3:05 – 3:20 pm    | *Growth Response of Dune Vegetation to Varied Sand<br>Substrates and Fertilization: Implications for Coastal<br>Restoration – <i>John LaBar</i> |
| 3:20 – 3:35 pm    | Festival Favorites: Measuring the Economic Impact of<br>Community Fishing Events – <i>Dana Stephens</i>                                         |
| 3:35 – 3:45 pm    | <i>Q&amp;A Session</i>                                                                                                                          |

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| 3:45 pm – 4:20 pm <b>Afternoon Break</b> |
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**Session B2: Coastal Systems in Transition: Management Evolution and Nature-Based  
Solutions** (Blue Heron)

Moderator: Leesa Souto

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| 4:20 pm – 4:25 pm | <b>Session Intro</b>                                                                                                   |
| 4:25 pm – 4:40 pm | Interrogating Long-Standing Management Paradigms for<br>Tampa Bay: Is the Status Quo Good Enough? – <i>Marcus Beck</i> |

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| 4:40 pm – 4:55 pm | Living Shorelines – Constructin Coasts That Work! – <i>Emma Dontis</i>                      |
| 4:55 pm – 5:10 pm | Testing a New Tool to Inform Adaptive Management in the Everglades – <i>Dr. Leesa Souto</i> |
| 5:10 pm – 5:20 pm | <i>Session Q&amp;A</i>                                                                      |

**FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 MORNING – SYMPOSIUM**

(\* - Denotes student paper)

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30 am – 12:00 pm | <b>Check-In and Registration (Calusa Ballroom Pre-Function)</b> |
| 7:00 am – 8:30 am  | <b>Breakfast (Calusa Ballroom ABCD)</b>                         |

**Opening Program** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

8:45 am – 8:55 am           **Announcements – Jennifer Mitchell, FLMS President**

8:55 am – 9:00 am           **Raffle Draw and Session Intro**

**Session A8: Managing Nutrients, Natural Systems, and Urban Sustainability**

Moderator: Tiffany Trent

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

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| 9:00 am – 9:15 am  | From Vision to Implementation: Advancing Urban through the City of Winter Park's Natural Resources & Sustainability Program – <i>Kaili Stephens and Alex Darr</i>                                            |
| 9:15 am – 9:30 am  | Phosphorus Septic Loads to Surface Water, ITS MORE THAN WE THINK! Adapting a septic nitrogen load model (ArcNLET) for Phosphorus and How it Resulted in More Septic-to-Sewer Credit – <i>Andrew Hood PhD</i> |
| 9:30 am – 9:45 am  | A Closer Look At Native Apple Snail Hydrology in Water Conservation Area 3A – <i>Tiffany Trent</i>                                                                                                           |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am | Shoreline Hardening – a Regulatory Assessment and Recommendations for Orange County's Inland Lakes – <i>Emily Hartdegen</i>                                                                                  |

10:00 am – 10:15 am      \*Quantifying the Ecological Succession of Epibiota on  
Differently Facing Surfaces of an Artificial Reef on the  
Southwest Florida Shelf – *Brianna Valdes*

10:15 am – 10:25 am      *Session Q&A*

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| 10:25 – 10:50 <b>Morning Break</b> |
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10:5 am – 10:55 am **Raffle Draw and Session Intro**

**Session A9: Science-Driven Solutions for Resilient Watersheds** (Calusa Ballroom FGH)

Moderator: Dan Schmutz

General Standards (Core) CEUs: 1

10:55 am – 11:10 am      Standard Methods Update for Cyanobacteria and Their  
Metabolites – *Polly Barrowman*

11:10 am – 11:25 am      Steering the Outcome: Proactive FDEP Data Review and 4e  
Collaboration for Smarter Water Quality Management –  
*Nicole Hughes and Heather Lindell*

11:25 am – 11:40 am      The Statistical Road Less Traveled in Water Resources:  
Improving Your Nonparametric Linear Trend Lines – *Dan  
Schmutz*

11:40 am – 11:50 am      *Session Q&A*

11:50 am – 12:00 pm      Student Awards and Closing Remarks

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**FLMS 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Symposium**

**Hawks Cay Resort, Duck Key**

**August 31 – September 3, 2027**