

BLACKLINES

A Monthly Newsletter for Members of the Florida Engineering Society

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September 2003

President's Message

Melissa G. Corbett, P.E.
Treasure Coast Chapter President
Engineering & Water Resources, Inc.

As many of you know, I am the Treasure Coast Chapter representative on the Rivers Coalition. In recent weeks, there has been numerous stories in the newspaper and television regarding the fresh water releases to the St. Lucie River. To quote Mark Perry, Executive Director of the Florida Oceanographic Society, "The St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon are as black as espresso, with that same oily sheen and foam on top. The ocean is brown as coffee from the St. Lucie Inlet as far north as Ft. Pierce and south to Jupiter."

This should be a major concern to all of us as engineers, but also to anyone who enjoys watersports. There were numerous commercial fishermen that attended our last Coalition meeting to express that the releases are destroying their livelihood. Has anyone else noticed that the fish just aren't there?!

Martin County Commission Chair Michael DiTerlizzi was present at our meeting, and stated that he has already began dialogue with County Attorney Stephen Fry to file suit to stop the fresh water releases.

Representative Joe Negrón was also in attendance. Rep. Negrón stated that he believes we need to work through our legislature to address the releases. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee, which approves the South Florida Water Management District's funding. He suggesting cutting funding that goes toward releases.

The Rivers Coalition Board voted to establish a Legal Task Force to work with Martin County toward filing a law suit to stop the releases. This task force has met twice in the last two weeks.

The issue at hand is the South Florida Water Management District believes there is not choice but to discharge water. Lake Okeechobee is too high, and according to the District, the canals to the south do not have the capacity to accept more water.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FICE/FDOT FINANCIAL MANAGER'S WORKSHOP
HILTON WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT – SEPTEMBER 19

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
M&M'S RESTAURANT – WED., SEPT. 24TH AT 7:30 AM

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER MEETING
CLUB MED – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

2003 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: A DESIGNER'S COURSE
RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL, ORLANDO – SEPTEMBER 25TH & 26TH

SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMITTING IN PALM BEACH CO.
EMBASSY SUITES PGA – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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So what can WE DO??

We need to write to our elected officials and demand that they pay attention to the fact that we are looking at a loss of habitat and species due to their actions. For Lake Okeechobee to be kept artificially high during the wet season to accommodate Big Sugar uses during the dry season is unacceptable anymore! If you can about the future of our rivers, let our legislators know.

NSPE gives members the EDGE in four areas:

- (1) Products & Services
- (2) Practice Divisions
- (3) Professional Development, and
- (4) Government Relations

The Government Relations "Engineer Ambassador" program is highlighted below:

NSPE needs you to play a key role in making professional engineers a more visible, active, and effective lobbying force on Capitol Hill. Become Engineer Ambassadors TODAY!

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of the Engineer Ambassador program is to help increase NSPE's political and legislative effectiveness at the grassroots level by involving engineers in the process.

MEMBERSHIP:

All NSPE members are eligible and encouraged to get involved in the Engineer Ambassador program. Members of Congress pay attention and respond to what they hear from their constituents. Engineer Ambassadors can take advantage of their unique position as technically trained constituents to influence public policy by offering Members hands-on engineering expertise.

HOW IT WORKS:

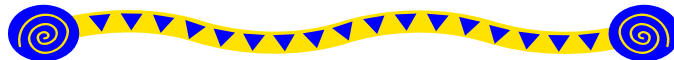
NSPE uses the Legislative Action Center located on the NSPE Web site to notify Engineer Ambassadors of legislative issues. The LAC contains legislative action alerts, which are linked to letters that can be sent to individual members of Congress at the click of a button. There is also information on the key bills of importance to NSPE and engineers across the country. When critical legislative issues arise, Engineer Ambassadors are notified by an e-mail alert. In a coordinated effort, Ambassadors contact their Representatives and/or Senators by e-mail, telephone, fax, or a personal visit to urge them to take particular positions on issues. This grassroots coordinated effort can have a big impact on getting Congress to support issues vital to the livelihood of the engineering profession.

GET INVOLVED:

You can enroll in the program by using the online enrollment form at <http://www.nspe.org/govrel/gr1-amb.asp>, or contact the Government Relations Department at 703-684-2800 or governmentrelations@nspe.org

E-Week Project

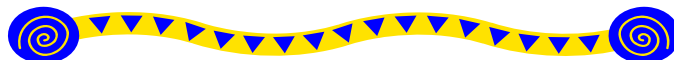
Our E-Week Committee Chair, Marcos Monte De Oca, is looking for some committee members, and some ideas for fun and interesting projects. To volunteer, or just provide some ideas for E-Week, please contact Marcos at Marcos-M@lbh.com. ♦



Quote of the Month

We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming.

Wernher von Braun (1912 - 1977)



September Chapter Meeting

Our September chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25th at Club Med in Port St. Lucie. The doors open at 6:45 pm, and the cost for the dinner buffet and beer/wine is \$25/person. Incoming FES President Mark Mongeau, P.E. will give his presentation on leadership entitled "Lights, Camera, Leadership...". Mark gave this presentation at this year's FES Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, and it was widely regarded as light hearted, entertaining and very insightful. Please join us for this very entertaining meeting.

RSVP to David Andre by September 22nd at (772) 878-0072 or DAndre@Ardaman.com. (Sorry, but no shows will be billed).

A Look Ahead...

October's Chapter Meeting brings the return of *Engineering Win, Loose or Draw*. The date, time and venue for this popular chapter meeting will be announced in the near future.

December marks the return of our *Third Annual FES Shrimp Boil* which will held at the **Indian Riverside Park** in Jensen Beach. The date and time will be announced in the near future.

Site Development Permitting in Palm Beach County

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

**Embassy Suites PGA
4380 PGA Blvd.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
561-691-3162**

Earn 6 PDHs of

Technical Continuing Education Credit

Would you like to be in the same room with the people who review and approve the different applications you submit while permitting a site for development? This seminar allows you one-stop access to local permitting requirements. You will hear from the **officials who actually approve your permits** - both county and water management district.

You will learn...

- How to expedite your permit applications.
- What requirements have changed recently.



Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital

The Treasure Coast Chapter of FES and the Indian River Chapter of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society has decided to team up to help facilitate the site plan approval. We are looking for volunteers to help with surveying, site planning, preparing drainage plans and calculations, SFWMD permitting, and Martin County approval. To volunteer, please contact Melissa Corbett at 781-6408 or melissac@ewr1.com. ♦

Hey Bosses!

Here's a great incentive for you to get your new graduates to join FES!

All graduates from an ABET accredited engineering program who join FES within 5 years of their graduation date receive 50% off their dues.

September is Sponsor A New Member Month!

The beginning of a new year, sponsor a new member. Begin your year off right; encourage a colleague to join FES. **New members receive 13 months of service for the price of 12.**

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Kate Robinson, Director of Membership Recruitment, at 800-277-0086.

Reminder: FES renewals are due by October 1st.

FES/FICE Leadership Institute

*"Building Engineering
Principals and Community Professionals"*

Be a member of the inaugural year! **The application deadline is September 30.**

Questions or Comments?

Board Meetings – All committee chairs are encouraged to attend. Members wishing to observe or participate are always welcome. If you have anything that you would like added to our agenda, please email me at melissac@ewr1.com

Newsletter – If you have any questions or comments regarding the content of the Newsletter - or if you would like something included in the monthly publication - please feel free to contact Melissa Corbett, P.E. at melissac@ewr1.com , or by telephone at (772) 781-6408. ♦

South Florida Stormwater Best Management Practices User's Group Meeting:

Location: B-1 Main Building, Storch Room, 3rd Floor, SFWMD District Headquarters
West Palm Beach, FL

When: September 16, 2003 from 2:00PM - 3:30PM

Title of Presentation: *Stormwater Filtration and Nutrient Removal Systems*

Presenter Tom Happel - Suntree Technologies, Inc.

The presentation will cover stormwater filtration, particulate settling, and nutrient removal technologies. The following specific technologies to be presented in extensive detail:

A Grate Inlet Skimmer Box and the Curb inlet Basket are durable inlet filters that are designed to be a part of the permanent infrastructure of the storm drain system. They can be easily retrofitted to existing inlets. They incorporate flow bypass systems to allow for adequate drainage functions.

The Nutrient Separating Baffle Box, often referred to as the Second Generation Baffle Box, is a large underground filtration system that installs in line with a storm drain pipe. This Nutrient Separating Baffle Box has been able to capture sediment, foliage, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants. The Nutrient Separating Baffle Box can be retrofitted to existing storm drain pipes & systems with minimal head loss, and it is designed to treat the entire flow.

The presentation will have immediate impact for municipal stormwater officials and consulting engineers facing the difficult problems associated with stormwater pollution issues, and we encourage all interested people to attend.

Please mark your calendars
with these 2004 member events:

03/25/04-03/26/04
05/07/04-05/08/04
08/04/04-08/07/04

MATHCOUNTS State Competition
FES Leadership Conference
88th Annual Summer Conf./Expo

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Orlando
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Ritz Carlton, Palm Beach

2002 - 2003 Treasure Coast Chapter Board Members

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Affiliated with



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