This year’s Annual AWRA Meeting – the 46th - will be back in the beautiful Florida Keys.

The highlights of the agenda for the 46th AWRA Florida Section Annual Meeting include informative updates on water management district key initiatives from Ann Shortelle, SJRWMD; Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD; Terrie Bates, SFWMD; and Hugh Thomas, SRWMD.

Additionally, we have presentations from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Monroe County, microplastics in Oceans, and much more.

The annual EcoTour is set and an afternoon of snorkeling awaits. The Awards Luau will be a tropical feast and pig roast along with our annual awards ceremony. The Florida Section’s Education Committee will once again hold a drawing for a “cooler of cheer” to raise funds for our educational grant and scholarship programs!

One of the best benefits of the AWRA Annual Meeting is the networking and technical conversation opportunities. As AWRA National always says, ‘AWRA is about Community, Conversation and Connections’ and your registration and attendance at the Annual Meeting will get you up-to-speed on the complex issues facing the water community in Florida and who is leading the way.

So, register now for the Annual Meeting at: http://www.awraflorida.org/

AWRA, Florida Section sincerely thanks our sponsors. Without them, this and the other bi-monthly meetings would not be possible.

We look forward to seeing you for this power packed technical meeting! If you have questions about the conference or would like to serve as a sponsor, please contact Garrett Wallace at 561-504-6877 or garrettwalls2@gmail.com
AWRA Florida Section Meeting
Administrative and Technical Agenda
Thursday, August 10th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Florida Section Board of Directors Meeting</strong> – All are welcome to attend as the Board of Directors handles the business of the section</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Call to Order and Welcome</strong> – Mark Diblin, President, Florida Section AWRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:05 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong> – Kate DeLoach, Senior District Aide, Representative Holly Raschein, Florida House of Representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Update on Florida Keys Initiatives</strong> - Rhonda Haag, Monroe County</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sampling ocean/bay water to test for microscopic plastics</strong> - Sarah Enger, MarineLab</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>USACE Update</strong> – Eric Summa, USACE, Jacksonville District</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Silver Springs Initiative – Projects to Improve the World’s Largest Artesian Spring</strong> – Lee Wiseman, CDM Smith, (SJRWM employee TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>The Nature Conservancy Cities Program</strong> - Sonia Succar, The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Geotechnical Engineering Considerations for the C43 Reservoir</strong> – Kevin Aubry, Terracon</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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Friday, August 11th

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:55 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Call to Order</strong> – Mark Diblin, President, Florida Section AWRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Water Management District Update</strong> – Terrie Bates, SFWMD, Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD, Ann Shortelle, SJRWMD</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch Break (on your own)</td>
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Special Events

Thursday, August 10th

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>President’s Reception</strong> (Sundowners. 103900 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, Bayside) Network with conference presenters and attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Student Networking Dinner (location TBD)</strong>: All registered students are invited to join us to watch the famous Key’s sunset and learn more about AWRA and how it can benefit their careers</td>
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Friday, August 11th

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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Ecotour Quicksilver Snorkel</strong>, MM 100, Oceanside, next to the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel: Experience the coral reefs and other sea life in the crystal blue waters of the beautiful Florida Keys! This sailing and snorkeling adventure includes professional instruction, sanitized snorkel gear, freshwater shower, free beer, wine, and soft drinks. $35.00 per person - transportation on your own to Ecotour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Reception and Awards Dinner and Ceremony</strong> (Lobby at the Government Center) This is the annual meeting for AWRA, Florida Section members. Join us for a great pig roast as we celebrate the achievements of the previous year, pick the winners from the silent auction, and have lots of fun!</td>
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</table>
President’s Message
As we head towards our annual meeting in Key Largo August 10 & 11, I wanted to briefly look back at our May meeting in Tampa. Thanks to Randy Smith, Allison Lewis and the entire meeting team for an excellent meeting and celebration & remembrance of Buddy Blain’s life & accomplishments. The technical meeting was focused on the Tampa Bay estuary recovery with numerous presentations providing examples of successful restoration projects. In attendance were many of Buddy’s family and friends that helped us remember Buddy with inspiring words and funny stories of times spent with Buddy. Thanks again to all who helped put the meeting together and make it special in so many ways.

We now move to our annual meeting in Key Largo where we will again host the executive directors from around Florida in a panel discussion addressing each district’s priorities and hot button issues. We will again hold our banquet feast and have the always enjoyable “Eco Tour” (snorkeling trip) on Friday afternoon. We hope you will all join us in the keys for this meeting.

We again will hold our student scholarship fund raising event by raffling off our “cooler of cheer” in its very own Yeti cooler. This event was well received and was one of the highlights of our banquet. If you are interested in sponsoring the cooler or the event check our web page or get in contact with one of our 2017 officers.

During May & June we received and reviewed the applications for our various scholarships and reached conclusion on our various awards. Once again we had a great group of applicants and deliberations and discussions were as difficult as always. The winners will be announced soon. Again AWRA Florida is on track to give to needy students via scholarships, poster contest prizes, travel reimbursement for meetings and student chapter support awards totaling $20,000. Thanks to all our sponsors and members who make the development and nurturing of our future water resources professionals possible.

With each passing meeting we are also seeing our membership rise and we are on track to surpass our membership total from 2016 of 382 members. This would give us 5 straight years of increasing membership! I would say part of the appeal of AWRA Florida is the high quality technical meetings and diversity of attendees across the water resources community that draw many of our members to us. I encourage you all to ask a friend or peer to join AWRA Florida or attend a meeting with you. The value for the dollar cannot be beat with any other organization.

I hope to see you all in Key Largo wearing your best tropical attire!

“May neighbors respect you, Trouble neglect you, The angels protect you, And heaven accept you” . Irish Drinking Toast.

“Drink moderately, for drunkenness neither keeps a secret nor observes a promise”. Miguel De Cervantes.

Mark C Diblin, P.G.
mark.diblin@amecfw.com
AWRA Florida’s Board of Directors (BOD) met May 3 at AMEC’s office in Tampa. The detailed meeting minutes will be available on the AWRA Florida website following BOD approval at the August 2017 BOD meeting.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Treasurer Report: The income from the 2017 meetings continues to be good, so the BOD will pay $500 to the Herbert Memorial Fund. The treasurer, Walt Reigner, will make sure that taxes are filed on time. There is $31,451 in checking, $11,028 in CD, and the amount in Sandy Young Account is more than $68,000. Income for the May meeting was $6,580, and expenses were $5,400. Walt will transfer the $11,000 from the CD to the new high-yield account.

Education Program: Applications are in and have been evaluated. We will have recommendations prior to the next meeting.

Membership: We have 189 professionals, 79 students, 9 fellows, 6 life members, total: 283. We were 307 for all of 2016, so AWRA membership looks solid.

National News: Jeremy McBryan will be attending the National conference. We were asked by the National AWRA staff to review the applications for scholarships.

Future Meetings: Key Largo meeting topics are coming together, we will do the silent fund raiser again. Riviera Beach location for the September meeting – The planning committee checked on the tiki bar, food, location, and it did not look good enough for our group. Plus, the local contact is unresponsive. Sam Palermo is looking at other venues. The agenda for the Riviera Beach conference is in good shape. The November meeting will be at Stetson University, and details are still being worked out. Ray Scott is putting that meeting together with assistance from The Balmoral Group.

Meeting Next Year: Number of locations venues for future meetings were discussed.

Board meetings are open to all members of AWRA Florida and their guests. Members and guests are encouraged to get involved and increase the value of their AWRA membership.

Education Committee

The Rosanne Clementi Education Committee met earlier this summer to evaluate the 2017 grant and scholarship applications. We had a number of strong applicants, and the awardees will be announced soon.
5/25/17

Rosanne G. Clementi - AWRA
5205 South Lois Avenue
Tampa, Fl 33611

Dear Ms. Clementi,

Thank you very much for supporting us again this past year with the $500.00 AWRA J.B.Butler Science Grant.

Part of our grant project this year was to replace the old aquarium in our environmental education center which was leaking, the filter did not work properly and the stand had a broken leg that had to be propped up. This all needed to be replaced. The aquarium is located in our EE Center where the students first meet the rangers before they head out to the field for the Swamp Water and Me program, S.W.A.M.P., our curriculum based, science field trip. Over 2500 6th grade students and their teachers participate in this program each year. The center provides a meeting place for the groups and a restroom before the field experience. While there the students experience a variety of hands on objects and activities to become familiar with what they might experience in the field. One of these is the aquarium which contains native freshwater fish and crustacean specimens from the swamp. The fish are rotated out regularly with others that have often been caught by students during their trip in the dip-netting activity. The aquarium is also used on those occasional stormy days when we have to take the students quickly back to the center and provide an alternative indoor program to both learn about the aquatic creatures and perform our water quality tests. We have also purchased the pH test strips for our water quality module in the program.

Unfortunately we had a very difficult season this year. Due to some medical issues, loss of two staff members and scheduling challenges, most of our projects like this one had to be put on hold this winter to cover more pressing duties and functions of the overall program. We now have everything purchased and in place and are looking forward to getting it set up and filled with a variety of fish, crustaceans and invertebrates that will fascinate all of the thousands of students who will go through our programs for many years.

With your help we are able to continue our efforts to teach students about the health and importance of our precious water resources in South Florida and the amazing wildlife that depend on it. We hope that these kinds of projects will get them hooked!

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to Environmental Education,

Sincerely,

Lisa Andrews
Outreach/Education Specialist
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail E.
Ochopee, FL 34141
Florida Section Selected for the Second Year in a Row as AWRA Outstanding State Section

(2016-2017)

For the second year in a row, AWRA Florida has been awarded AWRA Outstanding State Section for 2017.

AWRA recognized AWRA Florida for its innovative programs, membership growth and establishing AWRA Florida as a significant professional water resources organization throughout the entire state of Florida.

This award is a reflection of you - our members, sponsors, board of directors, technical meeting organizers and meeting speakers. Thank you for your participation with AWRA Florida.

AWRA Florida representatives will accept the award at the 2017 Annual Water Resources Conference being held November 5-9, 2017 in Portland, Oregon. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date

Please note that the meeting dates are subject to change to accommodate speakers’ schedules and/or meeting locations. AWRA FLORIDA DOES NOT PROVIDE REFUNDS. If you are interested in sponsoring any, or all, of the technical meetings, click here for more information.

September 2017 Technical Meeting

September 29, 2017
West Palm Beach, Florida

2017 AWRA Annual Conference

Start - November 5, 2017
End - November 9, 2017
Portland, Oregon

Meeting Location: Red Lion on the River-Jantzen Beach Hotel | 909 North Hyden Island Drive | Portland, Oregon, 97219

Website
www.awra.org/meetings/Portland2017

November 2017 Technical Meeting

November 17, 2017
DeLand, Florida

Meeting Location: Stetson Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience | DeLand, Florida

Suggested Hotels

The Hampton Inn Key Largo. Located at 102400 Overseas Highway, the hotel is next door to our meeting location. Reservations can be made by calling 305-451-1400

Other nearby hotels:

Marriott Courtyard
99751 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL 33037
305-451-3939

Key Largo Bay Marriott Beach Resort
103800 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL, 33037
305-453-0000

Hilton Key Largo Resort
97000 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL 33037
305-852-5553
We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors for supporting the upcoming Technical Meeting.
The Watershed

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VISIT THE FLORIDA SECTION WEBSITE AT:
www.awraflorida.org