



# FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Volume 1, Issue 1

[www.flera.org](http://www.flera.org)

## Inaugural Edition of FOCUS!

Welcome to the first edition of the FLERA *FOCUS!*, the electronic newsletter of the Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies, the association of local governments interested in environmental protection programs. FOCUS will be issued 10 times a year and is intended to provide members with quick, useful information. We hope that you find FOCUS to be useful and welcome any suggestions that you may have for its improvement, such as articles on your local program, links to websites, innovations in practices, etc. The intent is not to be a magazine but rather a brief document that's easily distributed and will quickly direct you to other locations for more details. Let us know what you think!

## Annual Conference: "Leading By Example" August 2-4, 2006

The 2006 Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Hotel on Sarasota Bay, beginning Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's conference is "Local Government – Leading by Example." Over 48 Abstracts of workshop proposals have been received by the Conference Committee. In addition to great workshop sessions and outstanding keynote speakers, there will be pre-conference tours of local environmental programs and projects, and FLERA's Exhibits program. And the famous FLERA BBQ will be held at the MOTE Marine Laboratory! Watch your e-mails for more information on the Conference Program. Go to <http://www.sarasota.hyatt.com> to visit the Hyatt Hotel. *Mark your calendars now!*

## Water Classification System under Review

The Clean Water Act requires that the surface waters of each state be classified according to designated uses. Currently, most surface waters in Florida are Class III (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/classes.htm>), which support the designated uses of recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife, or the often misused term "swimable, fishable." With the advent of the TMDL program, new attention has been given to the classification system, with the possibility of evaluating whether refinements to Florida's designated uses and associated water body classification system are necessary. FDEP has formed a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) to assist with this task and hopes to have recommendations completed by March 1, 2007. FLERA member Rob Brown (Manatee County) and Executive Director Kurt Spitzer serve on the PAC. Go to [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/d\\_use.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/d_use.htm) for more information.

## KSA Now Serving as Executive Director

The FOCUS! and other changes at FLERA are part of an initiative by the Board to improve and expand the services FLERA members receive. Among other things, management services and staff support for the association are now provided by Kurt Spitzer and Associates, a governmental consulting and association management firm based in Tallahassee. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for ways in which FLERA might improve its services, please contact Danielle Hopkins ([danielleh@ksanet.net](mailto:danielleh@ksanet.net)) or Kurt Spitzer ([kurtspitzer@ksanet.net](mailto:kurtspitzer@ksanet.net)) at 850/561-0904.

## Local Wetlands Programs

A recent survey of FLERA members indicates that the following jurisdictions have local wetland regulatory programs. Please let us know if your jurisdiction should be added to the list.

- St. Lucie County - Amy Mott ([ammym@stlucieco.gov](mailto:ammym@stlucieco.gov))
- Volusia County - Tara Boujoulian ([TBoujoulian@co.volusia.fl.us](mailto:TBoujoulian@co.volusia.fl.us))
- Miami-Dade County - Lee Hefty ([HeftyL@miamidade.gov](mailto:HeftyL@miamidade.gov))
- Pinellas County - Cliff Still ([cstill@pinellascounty.org](mailto:cstill@pinellascounty.org))
- Lee County - Rick Joyce ([joycerk@leegov.com](mailto:joycerk@leegov.com))
- Escambia County – Keith Wilkins ([Keith\\_Wilkins@co.escambia.fl.us](mailto:Keith_Wilkins@co.escambia.fl.us))
- Broward County - Eric Myers ([emyers@broward.org](mailto:emyers@broward.org))
- Orange County - Liz Johnson ([Liz.Johnson@ocfl.net](mailto:Liz.Johnson@ocfl.net))

