



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Your *RESOURCE* for Environmental Protection

www.flera.org

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

FLERA Officers and Board Members Elected

FLERA members elected Officers and Board members at the Annual Meeting on July 29, 2009. The new Officers are: President, Rob Brown, Manatee County; Vice President, Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, City of Jacksonville; Secretary-Treasurer, Rick Tschantz, Hillsborough County EPC and Immediate Past President, Lori Cunniff, Orange County. Regular Board members are: Mike Bowers, Lake County; Jeffery Halsey, Broward County; and Robert Robbins, Palm Beach County. Associate Board members are: Anthony Janicki, Janicki Environmental and Subrata Bandyopadhyay, HDR Engineering. Congratulations!

November Quarterly Educational Meeting – Save the Date!

The next Quarterly Educational Meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 5th in the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, 119 West Kaley Street in Orlando. Join us for an educational session on Low Impact Development. More information and the registration form will be available soon on the FLERA website.

FLERA Supports Efforts to Restore Funding for the State Petroleum Cleanup Program

Drastic reductions to the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) from the FY 2008-09 budget of \$151M to \$90M in FY 2009-10 has significantly reduced the number of sites undergoing restoration in Florida. Remember that the legislature actually appropriated only \$10 million this year but through bonding \$90 million was raised. The reduction in the contamination cleanup efforts has had and will continue to have detrimental effects to the groundwater and environmental resources as well as significant economic impacts. FLERA is encouraging members to help educate the elected officials on the consequences of interrupting clean-ups and the risk of impacting water supply wells when the contaminated sites are within the extraction zones for the public water supply and in the proximity of private drinking water wells. Look for more information on FLERA's legislative page as the 2010 Session approaches.

Orange County Helps Residents go from Orange to Green

- Water conservation programs including: Low-flow toilet retrofits program, shower head replacements, commercial spray valve replacements, a mobile irrigation lab for educational purposes.
- Expanded curbside recycling collection to include more materials for recycling.
- A \$200 incentive for business owners and residents who install a solar hot water system.
- Carbon offset fund to allow conventioners and meeting organizers to offset the emissions from their event while promoting local clean-energy initiatives.
- Regular workshops on environmental and resource conservation topics such as smart growth, transportation, recycling, solar energy, rain barrels, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, and others.

View Orange County's the incentives at <http://www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/AWARE/environment/orangetogreen/orangetogreenhome.htm>. Many other cities and counties in Florida have incentive programs. Check with your utility department to find out how you can save money and energy.

VOLUNTEER: International Coastal Cleanup September 19th!

Be a part of the world's largest, one-day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. Volunteers are needed for multiple locations throughout the county, including the Lake Worth Lagoon. This year, boaters may drop off trash at barges located within the Lagoon near Munyon Island and John's Island. Supplies will be available at several boat ramps. View site and boat ramp locations at: <http://www.keepbcbeautiful.org/fcc2009.htm>.

2009 Annual Conference a Great Success!

This year's Conference attracted over 100 environmental professionals, engineers and consultants to the Sarasota Hyatt Regency for 2 ½ days of education, information sharing and fun! Conference partners, the Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals and the Florida Green Builders Coalition, provided the pre-conference tour, the welcome reception and the dinner reception. Our Sponsors subsidized registrations and filled the exhibit hall with new and innovative products and services. If you missed the event visit the website to see what you missed!

<http://www.flera.org/conference.html>

