

## President's Message



FLMS President Rob Burnes

Hello fellow water resource managers,

I hope the start of the New Year finds you rested, well, and ready to take on the adventures to come. However, before we start looking ahead, I wanted to take one last look back at 2018 and recognize some of the accomplishments from this past year. In 2018, the Board tried to focus on our core mission of promoting a greater understanding of the comprehensive management of lake and watershed ecosystems. The highlight of 2018 for FLMS was the annual symposium which was a tremendous success. A few of the things we emphasized at the symposium were:

- To focus on important topical issues such as algal blooms and hurricane management.
- Increase turnout and membership. The Symposium in Ft Lauderdale Beach had a large turnout, with many first time attendees.
- Workshops provided a vast array of trainings from algal and exotic fish identifications to drone demonstrations and a tour of the UF/USDA Biocontrol and invasive plant facilities.

I would also like to take this time to thank the FLMS Board and Maryann, our Executive Director, for all their hard work and dedication to the Society over the past year and beyond. Without their year-round efforts, we would not be able to provide you with the enriching experiences you have come to associate with FLMS. I would also like to thank you, the FLMS membership, and especially those who attended the symposium. None of what we do would come to fruition without your support and attendance.

Now, looking ahead at 2019, we hope to build on last year's success. We are working to provide you with even more opportunities to exchange information and increase your knowledge base in lake and watershed management. Where we can, we are aiming to provide you with greater resources and further support. A few things to be on the lookout for are:

- Conducting several half-day chapter workshops covering topics of regional importance.
- Taking the lead from NALMS, we are hoping to create Subject Matter Experts Group lists to aid members in planning and solving issues.
- Exciting new additions and changes to the 30th annual symposium, which will take place at Hawks Cay Resort from August 27th to August 30th, 2019.

2019 promises to bring new accomplishments, opportunities, and challenges to water resources in our state. We hope that FLMS is the place where you look to celebrate and share your accomplishments and look to the Society as a place to bring your questions when encountering challenges. As always, we encourage our membership to tell us what they would like to see related to speakers, workshops, and vendors. So don't be shy, tell us what you think.

Be on lookout for information on future regional society workshops. In the meantime, it is never too early to start planning for the symposium in August. Symposium registration and hotel block booking will open in the coming weeks and the call for abstracts to present at the symposium closes on March 31st. We hope to see many familiar faces this year, as well as some new ones!

Best of luck in this New Year and continue to do the amazing important work you do.

Rob

## Another Milestone! FLMS 30th Annual Technical Symposium this August



Hawks Cay Resort, Duck Key, Florida

Tuesday, August 27, 2019  
Full and half day Technical Workshops

Wednesday - Friday, August 28-30, 2019  
General Sessions

(DACs Aquatics CEUS and Engineering PDHs available!)

Online registration will be open in early March at [www.flms.net](http://www.flms.net)

The Symposium is offering hotel reservations at exceptional prices before, during, and after the Symposium at Hawks Cay Resort on Duck Key in the Florida Keys. The guestroom rate is \$159 plus any applicable state and local taxes and a \$17 resort fee. The resort fee includes free self or valet parking, WiFi throughout the resort and more. These rates are available from August 23 to September 1, 2019. Reservations must be made no later than July 29, 2019 to get these favorable rates. Our room block sells out early so it is advisable to make reservations as soon as you are able. A special website link for hotel reservations will be available shortly. Hotel website: [www.hawkscay.com](http://www.hawkscay.com). To make reservations, call the Hotel at 800-432-2242 and identify yourself as a part of the FLMS Symposium.

## Call for Abstracts! Hold your place in the program now!

**Program Theme: Toxic Waters & Environmental Stewardship**

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

Abstract Title, Bio & 2 Sentence Summary: March 31, 2019

Final Abstract: May 1, 2019

Priority will be given to early submissions that meet requirements

Send Abstracts to:  
Maryann@flms.net

[View the full Call for Abstracts here!](#)

## FLMS Position on FWC IPM Pause

On February 15, 2019, the FLMS Board sent the below resolution attached to a cover letter to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Eric Sutton and all FWC Commissioners. The letter and this position paper are also on [FLMS website under Latest News](#).

**Resolution Position Statement: Re: "Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) State Funded Program for Management of Aquatic Plants"**

**Passed by the FLMS Board of Directors on February 15, 2019**

RESOLVED, The Board of Directors of the Florida Lake Management Society adopts the following statement as the official Florida Lake Management Society position on "FWC State Funded Program for the Management of Aquatic Plants in public waters:"

The Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) is a professional society established in 1987 and represents over 300 lake managers and researchers statewide. The mission of FLMS is to provide environmental professionals, students, and citizens support in their efforts to protect and preserve Florida's fragile aquatic ecosystems. This is accomplished by promoting and providing a forum for exchanging information and experiences on scientific, administrative, and financial aspects of lake and watershed management. FLMS supports protecting and improving Florida's water quality and ecosystems. Additionally, FLMS supports protecting our native aquatic communities from invasive plant species through the use of best management practices and utilization of sound scientific research to achieve both of these goals.

FLMS stands in support of the longstanding and successful invasive plant management program administered statewide by FWC and federally by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Management of invasive/exotic species is an integral part of aquatic resource management in Florida and is imperative for protecting and restoring freshwater habitats. Chemical treatment is a necessary and effective tool for managing aquatic systems. Without a management tool like herbicide applications, the impacts will be seen quickly, could be quite detrimental, and cost prohibitive.

While FWC implements sound science with their applications for invasive plant management, its operations upholds the safeguards administered by the Clean Water Act via their NPDES permit and continued compliance. Underneath Federal scrutiny, FWC activities are already regulated to protect Florida's waterways under the guidance of the Clean Water Act.

In the short term, a pause will lead to expansion of exotic species which will counteract previous control strategies and promote loss of habitat. In the long term, a pause will have negative impacts related to flood protection, public health, plant diversity, fishery recruitment, navigation, and recreational opportunities. All of these factors will lead to an increase in expenditures while simultaneously reducing the tools available for treatment by private, local, and state groups to manage aquatic ecosystems across the state. Therefore, we support the continuation of FWC's invasive plant management program in public waterbodies statewide.

## Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve Completes Buffer Restoration



Educational signage plays an important part in community restoration projects. Signage costs can be included as part of your FLMS grant request.

Last year, Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve was awarded funding from the FLMS Love Your Lake grant program. The Department of Environmental Protection's Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve staff collaborated with Leon County Parks & Recreation staff to plant and restore a buffer zone at Jackson View Boat Landing. This restoration project was needed to reduce soil erosion into the lake and provide increased structure and habitat for native wildlife.

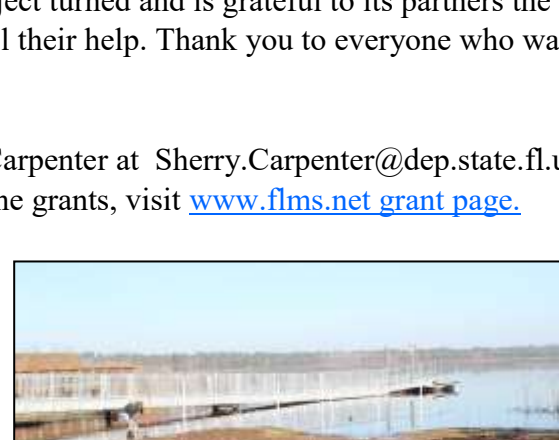
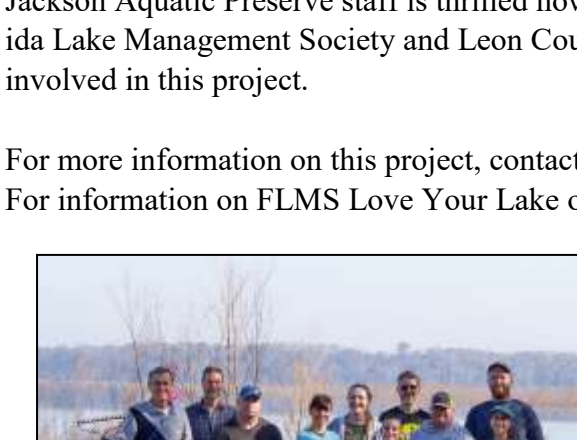
On January 16th the Jackson View Landing Buffer Restoration Project was completed with the help of 9 volunteers. This project replanted 2 small areas totaling approximately 7,700 square feet on the Lake Jackson shoreline. These areas were planted with over 200 trees of 8 different species, including: overcup oak, red maple, sweetgum, common persimmon, bald cypress, buttonbush, hackberry and muhly grass. Other native species will also propagate from the existing seed bank of the area over time. T-posts were installed so cars would no longer have access to the area and educational signs were posted at both locations. The signs explain the project and teach people how they can protect their water resources in their own yards.

This project will have many benefits for years to come; the new habitat will provide food and shelter for habitat and the root systems of these trees will help stabilize the bank and decrease erosion. Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve staff is thrilled how this project turned and is grateful to its partners the Florida Lake Management Society and Leon County for all their help. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this project.

For more information on this project, contact Sherry Carpenter at [Sherry.Carpenter@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Sherry.Carpenter@dep.state.fl.us). For information on FLMS Love Your Lake or Shoreline grants, visit [www.flms.net](http://www.flms.net) grant page.



Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve Volunteers



Planting area nearing completion

## Pinellas County Receives FLMS Grant for A.L. Anderson Raingarden Project



On a slightly overcast morning in the middle of May, Pinellas County Environmental Management staff, Parks and Resource Conservation staff, and a team of volunteers met to install the first, of hopefully many, County-sponsored raingardens. Though the weather was dreary, the crowd was enthusiastic and made quick work of planting, mulching, and watering the new raingarden. After nearly four hours of work the group was finished and just in time as heavy storms started rolling in through the area. The timing of the plantings was perfect as the rain lasted for several days and really helped our raingarden plants take hold in the area.



Site before planting.



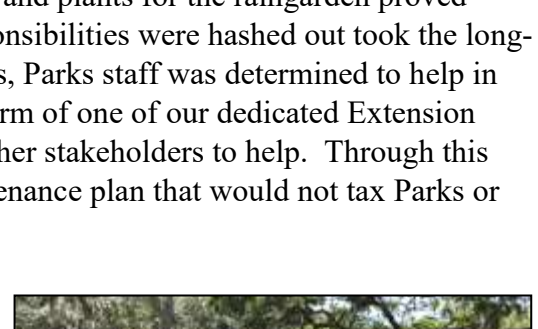
Completed raingarden

The raingarden was installed at A.L. Anderson Park, which is adjacent to Lake Tarpon, with the goal to reduce untreated stormwater runoff to Lake Tarpon. There are currently no curbs or curb inlets in the parking lot area uphill from the site location, allowing stormwater and debris to flow quickly down slope into Lake Tarpon. In addition to the aforementioned benefits of nutrient reductions, the raingarden would help to slow the flow of water, reducing the negative effects of long-term erosion in the park and lake. The raingarden will also help enhance the aesthetics of the area by incorporating flowering plants and native vegetation to a site which lost a large oak tree due to Hurricane Irma.

While raingardens are generally small in scale, they are very effective at removing nutrients. It is estimated that this project will help reduce TN by 2.72 lb/yr and TP by 0.32 lb/yr. While these are modest reductions, Pinellas County has expressed interest in implementing raingardens throughout A. L. Anderson Park. Based on the success of this initial project, there is a potential of reducing up to 490 lb/yr TN and 58 lb/yr TP into Lake Tarpon once we have completed the suite of raingardens in the park.

It only took a few hours to get the raingarden planted and installed but it took about five months of advance hard work to get all the details ironed out and plants ordered. During the design phase of the project, Environmental Management and Parks and Resource Conservation staff worked to determine the exact size and location of the raingarden, which native plants would work best, and the long-term maintenance responsibilities. Determining the location, size, and plants for the raingarden proved easy. However, making sure the long-term maintenance responsibilities were hashed out took the longest and proved to be the most difficult logistic. Luckily for us, Parks staff was determined to help in any way they could and we had an ace up our sleeve in the form of one of our dedicated Extension agents, Lara Milligan, who aided us in getting citizens and other stakeholders to help. Through this cooperative spirit we were able to develop a long-term maintenance plan that would not tax Parks or Environmental Management resources.

We made the decision during the design phase to make sure we included an educational component to the project and not just in the form of educational signage. With our Extension agent's guidance we incorporated the help of participants from the Florida Waters Stewardship and First Annual Watershed Bus Tour (which was sponsored by UF/IFAS Extension, SWFWMD, and Pinellas County). Approximately 15 participants in the Watershed Bus Tour helped on the day of raingarden installation by installing plants and watering them in. They were also given a 30-minute presentation on the importance of watersheds, watershed protection, and the benefits of raingardens. Looking forward into the future, participants from the Florida Waters Stewardship will conduct periodic maintenance of the raingarden. This will help them gain practical knowledge on the topic of stormwater runoff and raingardens, and will also provide them an opportunity to contribute to a local water quality improvement project.



Watershed Bus Tour Volunteers

Our final phase of this project is the installation of educational signage which will expose the 755,000+ park visitors to the benefits of this specific project, raingardens in general, and importance of native plants. We found a great vendor for the signage and we are currently working with them and our Parks Department to develop a sign that will be educational and hopefully encourage others to embark on creating their own raingarden.

For more information on this project, contact Rob Burnes at [rburnes@pinellascounty.org](mailto:rburnes@pinellascounty.org). For information on FLMS Love Your Lake or Shoreline grants, visit [www.flms.net](http://www.flms.net) grant page.



Pinellas County raingarden mid-installation.

## Save the date for FLMS upcoming workshops

Two of FLMS local chapters will be hosting workshops this Spring. In addition to several speakers on various topics, there will be plenty of time for networking. FLMS chapter workshops are free to current members students and \$20 for non-members. Mark the dates on your calendars now. Additional notices and the agendas will be sent out as they become available.

Speakers & sponsors are needed for both!

**Monday, April 15, 2019:** Brooker Creek Preserve, contact [Rob Burnes](#) to present or sponsor.

**Friday, May 3, 2019:** University of North Florida, contact [Patrick Goodwin](#) to present or sponsor.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Florida Lake Management Society is to promote protection, enhancement, conservation, restoration and management of Florida's aquatic resources; provide a forum for education and information exchange; and advocate environmentally sound and economically feasible lake and aquatic resource management for the citizens of Florida.