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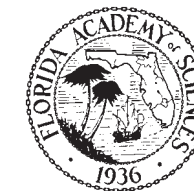
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FLORIDA SCIENTIST

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GUEST EDITORS

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PETER H. DOERING, South Florida Water Management District

ERNEST D. ESTEVEZ, Mote Marine Laboratory

DEDICATION—The 2005 Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit and this special issue are dedicated to three members of the Charlotte Harbor science community who are no longer with us and are sorely missed:

- James R.E. Smith, whom for years almost single-handedly kept Charlotte Harbor's science committees in coffee and donuts, the staff of the NEP office well read, the public well-informed—and who would certainly have preferred to remain anonymous
- Amy Remley, Environmental Scientist, who dedicated her career to the protection, restoration, and management of our marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems and whose goal it was to leave this world a little bit better than it was before she got here. She succeeded.
- Richard Novak, friend to resource managers, boaters and fisher-folk alike, and without whose energy and drive, the Boca Grande Pass Clean-up and Charlotte Harbor Boater's Guide, would not have come to fruition.

The region greatly appreciates these three individuals' dedication to protecting the resources of Charlotte Harbor and informing its residents. Their actions will have lasting impacts on the harbor and its residents for many years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and the guest editors of this special issue greatly appreciate the diligent efforts of the contributors to this publication. It is through their hard work and dedication that this special issue is possible.

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The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is a partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers and commercial and recreational resource users working to improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the greater Charlotte Harbor watershed. A cooperative decision-making process is used within the program to address diverse resource management concerns in the 4,400 square mile study area. Many of these partners also financially support the Program, which, in turn, affords the Program opportunities to fund projects such as this publication. The entities that have financially supported the program include the following: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Southwest and South Florida Water Management Districts; Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Florida Coastal Zone Management Program; Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority; Polk, Sarasota, Manatee, Lee, Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee Counties; Cities of Sanibel, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Punta Gorda, North Port, Venice and Fort Myers Beach; and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.