



CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center (75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda)

The CHNEP thanks the speakers who are donating their time and expertise and our sponsors, including Mosaic, Charlotte County, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Janet and Bruce Bunch, GE Foundation, Jelks Family Foundation and the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Inc.

Agenda

8:00 Registration

9:00 Welcome: Dr. Lisa Beever, CHNEP

9:10 Using Wetlands to Prevent Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution in Downstream Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Waters: The MOM River Basin/Gulf of Mexico/Laurentian Great Lakes/Florida Everglades Challenge

Dr. William J. Mitsch, Eminent Scholar and Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park at Florida Gulf Coast University

Presentation on large-scale opportunities and actual practices of using wetlands as nutrient sinks to remove phosphorus and/or nitrogen to protect downstream ecosystems in the United States.

10:10 Break

10:30 Preserve Ambassadors: Promoting Knowledge and Confidence Through Volunteer Training

Melissa Nell, Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department

Overview of Preserve Ambassadors volunteer program.

10:50 A Unified Conservation Easement Mapping and Database for the State of Florida

James (Jim) W. Beever, III, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Overview of GIS-based database for restoration/protection sites with recorded permanent conservation easements.

11:10 Using Colleges as Research Resources: A Case Study on Mangrove Ecology and Restoring Tidal Flow at Robinson Preserve

Aedan Stockdale, Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department

Presentation on the impacts of mangrove ditching on the waterways around Sarasota Bay and the effects of tidal restoration at Robinson Preserve.

11:30 Helping the Adjacent Neighbors Better Manage the Interfaces Between Their Properties and Conservation Lands

Ginny Stibolt, Botanist and Environmental Writer

Presentation will provide ideas and tools to help adjacent property owners soften and more sustainably manage the edges of their properties. "Freedom lawns" and landscaping for wildlife from butterfly gardens to bird-friendly landscapes will also be discussed.

11:50 Tradeoff in Ecosystem Services from Florida Cattle Ranches

Hilary Swain, Archbold Biological Station

Overview of how ranches can support extensive biodiversity and habitat for many threatened and endangered species and maintain essential natural cycles, including fire. Presentation will also address how ranches can play a role in reducing threats from invasive species, improving land management, addressing land-use change and anticipating climate change.

12:10 Lunch

1:10 Restoring the Balance: The Future of Restoration in the CHNEP Area

Dr. Lisa B. Beever, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Overview of the CHNEP's analysis of habitat loss, protection and restoration by land and water cover toward identifying restoration targets to "Restore the Balance."

1:30 Land Conservation Opportunity: The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Roney Gutierrez, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Overview of RCPP funding of conservation projects, designed by local partners, that improve soil health, water quality and water use efficiency, wildlife habitat, and other related natural resources on private lands.

1:50 The Decline and Loss of Butterflies in Southern Florida

Marc C. Minno, Ph.D.; Eco-Cognizant, Inc.

Presentation on the decline of many butterfly species in southern Florida.

2:10 Ecological and Economical Damage of Feral Swine in Florida — What We Need to Know to Make a Difference

Raoul Boughton, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF|IFAS

Overview of several aspects of feral swine demographics and implementation of effective management actions.

2:30 Break

2:50 The Future for Land Conservation Funding: Amendment 1 and County Funding Opportunities

Christine Johnson, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

Overview of land conservation funding including what is being done now and how everyone can help to ensure funding for land acquisition and water quality protection is included in future state and local budgets.

3:10 Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in Florida

Lindsay Gattman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Overview of the biology, range expansion and recent research of coyotes in Florida, as well as their role in the ecosystem and ways to coexist.

3:30 Thank you for participating in the third CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop.

Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHNEPConservationLands2015>.

Your responses will, in part, determine if the CHNEP is able to offer a fifth CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop in 2016.

An email message will be sent to all who have registered to let you know when the presentations from today are posted on YouTube as videos. ***The fifth CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop is tentatively planned for September 15, 2016, at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center.***