



CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop

Thursday, September 11, 2014

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

The CHNEP thanks the speakers who are donating their time and expertise and our sponsors: Mosaic, Charlotte County, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, Jelks Family Foundation, Estero Bay Buddies and the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Inc.

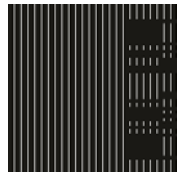
Agenda

8:00 Registration

9:00 Welcome: Lisa Beever, CHNEP

9:10 Remembering Sacred Reason: Finding Our Way in the 21st Century: Jim Wohlpart, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Environmental Literature at Florida Gulf Coast University
Our way of thinking in the West has created a disjunction between humans and creation and has brought us to the greatest challenge we have ever faced: the global disruption of natural, geophysical systems. To overcome that challenge, I suggest, we need to think in a new way that allows us to reaffirm our interdependence with the world around, in a way that I call "sacred reason." Dr. Wohlpart's research focuses on how we are "placed" on Earth, and how we might be "replaced" in more nourishing ways—physically, emotionally, spiritually. His latest book, *Walking in the Land of Many Gods: Remembering Sacred Reason in Contemporary Environmental Literature*, focuses on how we think about the world around us, and how we might think in new and different ways.

9:40 The Power of GIS: The CHNEP Special Places Map: Amy Hoyt with Lee County GIS
The CHNEP started with a spreadsheet of more than 400 publically accessible environmental special places. Using the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), these locations are now mapped and accessible to all through an easy to use website (<http://leegis.leegov.com/MapsAndApps/>). This process as well as the QA phase of the project will be discussed and demonstrated.



10:00 Prescribed Fire Outreach Toolkit
Melissa Cain Nell, Manatee County Parks & Natural Resources Department
The Toolkit, created for the Southwest Florida Scrub Working Group, includes a variety of materials designed to help land managers develop a clear and unified educational message about their prescribed fire events. Melissa will share the history and goals of the project as well as the toolkit's contents. She will also discuss practical application of these materials via a description detailing the setup of a targeted outreach plan for prescribed fire events. After the presentation the entire toolkit will be available in digital format for program attendees to utilize as a resource in their own land management practices.

10:20 Break

10:40 Visit us Virtually: Toni Westland, J.N. "Ding" National Wildlife Refuge
Have you heard about the new phone app at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge that will debut Sunday, October 19 during "Ding" Darling Days? This interactive game and photo sharing app turns phones into a learning tool for visitors and about the ecosystem and wildlife of Sanibel Island.

- 11:00** **ECOnomics – Understanding the Relationship Between our Environment, Economy and Quality of Life:** Nicole Johnson, Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Our environment and our economy are not mutually exclusive. We cannot choose one of the other, since a healthy environment, robust economy and thriving quality of life are inextricably linked. In Southwest Florida, our environment IS our economy. How well are we protecting our investment?
- 11:20** **Land Conservation Now – Strategies, Tools and Partnerships:** Debi Osborne, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast
We know that land conservation is important for the environment and the economy. But with reduced levels of land conservation funding available, a rising real estate market and changing political support, we need to find new ways to save land and collaboratively focus our efforts. Debi will look at land conservation funding programs and prospects, strategies and tools for land conservation, and opportunities for partnerships to save more land. Debi Osborne has over 25 years of land conservation experience including working in the Mid-Atlantic states for 17 years with the Trust for Public Land and around the country for 8 years as Director of Real Estate for National Audubon Society.
- 11:40** **Mosaic’s Compensatory Mitigation:** Shelley Thornton and William Brammell
Learn about the geographic extent of lands conserved and protected by Mosaic. These lands provide for wildlife corridors, connection to other public conservation lands, and provide a framework to help guide both public and private acquisition going forward. In addition, Mosaic’s current approach towards compensatory mitigation to satisfy the Federal and State rules for new applications will increase the amount of Mosaic lands under conservation easements.
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00** **Southwest Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SWFL CISMA): Partnering across the landscape tackling invasive plants and animals throughout our four County region:** Christal Segura
How CISMA is accomplishing this daunting task through outreach, pet amnesty days, workdays and early detection and rapid response. We will also discuss how multiple agencies work together and reach across boundaries.
- 1:20** **Feral Hogs on Conservation Lands:** Keith Mann, Owner of Three Suns Ranch in Punta Gorda and RealMeats
There are a million wild pigs Florida, most of them in the southern half of the State. Changing our mindset on the huge untapped potential resource of feral hogs will show us the way to a long-term solution. Three Suns Ranch is permitted by the State to harvest feral hogs on conservation lands with the meat sold to nearby restaurants.
- 1:40** **Environmental Psychology: Learn About the Interplay Between Humans and their Surroundings**
Russ Hoffman with Beautiful Ponds
Environmental psychology helps you formulate your ecological messages to people with different (and often opposing) values and thought processes. You can also schedule environmental projects to reduce resistance and avoid frequent regressions. Russ Hoffman owned and managed a psychology practice near Chicago for 20 years. He returned to his environmental roots 15 years ago. He owns Beautiful Ponds, a lake management company dedicated to sustainable environmental practices. He is currently conducting research with Cornell University regarding Nitrogen Reduction by Microbial Processes.

2:00 Ecotourism, Promoting and Sustaining Coastal Stewardship within the Florida Coastal Office Network:

Alberto Chavez

The Florida Coastal Office new ecotourism programs will be featured. The FDEP Florida Coastal Office manages more than 4 million acres of the most valuable submerged lands and select coastal uplands. The Office manages 41 aquatic preserves and, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, three National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Coral Reef Conservation Program.

2:20 Break

2:40 Restoration in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed: Jennette Seachrist, Southwest Florida Water Management District SWIM Program

The Southwest Florida Water Management District partners with public and private agencies to implement habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects throughout 16 counties. Recently completed, ongoing, and upcoming restoration efforts in the Charlotte Harbor watershed include Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Wetlands, Coral Creek Ecosystem Restoration and Alligator Creek Habitat Restoration.

3:00 Florida's Bonneted Bat: Jennifer Myers, FWC Southwest Regional Conservation Biologist

Learn about the conservation status of the endangered Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). This rare species is known to occur only in a few locations in south Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, along with partners in other agencies and private entities, is working to conserve this unique bat.

3:20 Jay Watch: Stewardship of Florida Scrub-Jays on Florida Scrublands: Marianne Korosy, Audubon Florida

Jay Watch is a volunteer-based partnership program for monitoring breeding success of Florida Scrub-Jays on public lands. Annual breeding success is a scrub habitat condition indicator that informs subsequent land management actions such as prescribed fire intervals that maintain scrub in optimal condition not only for the Jays but for other wildlife and native plants.

3:40 Introduction to a Framework for Managing Visitor Use: Pam Kylstra, NOAA Coastal Services Center

As more people choose to live, work, and play along our nation's coasts and waterways, coastal area managers and staff of local municipalities are challenged with balancing the changing demands of visitors with the management of resources under their care. In this presentation, participants will be introduced to a decision-making process that was developed to help manage a wide range of visitor-use related issues in both urban and wildland settings. This decision-making process is the framework for the full two-day training that provides participants the tools to understand, monitor, and manage visitor use to maintain quality resource conditions.

4:00 Thank you for participating in the third CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop.

Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHNEPConservationLands2014>. Whether or not the CHNEP is able to offer a fourth CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop in 2015 will depend, in part, on your responses.

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. We anticipate they will be available by Sept. 30.

The fourth CHNEP Conservation Lands Workshop is tentatively planned for September 10, 2015.