

, Florida Declaring Surveyors and Mappers Week in Martin s and mappers have played a pivotal role in s leaders who were instrumental in establishin Whereas. zens of Florida recognize the valuable con g profession to the history, development, ted States of America and provide the kn Whereas, istory, development, and quality of life in F and provide the knowledge and over Whereas, mappers hold unique qualificatio ine and describe land and water b Whereas, Whereas.

d by the Martin County Board own as Surveyors and Mappe profession for their diligence

nted this Eleventh Day of March 2025

TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE COURT AND COMPTROLLER bie.

WHEREAS

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Camelac

Proclamation

have played n vital role in the history and development of the providing essential services for the mapping, planning, and of our communities and $\int D$ when our communities, and c of land surveying dates back to h as George Washington, Thomas tributed, to the profession, det r cities and infrastructure; and

is been an essential clement in the developm since the beginning of recorded history and is a execution of nearly every form of constan-with fs most familiar modern trees in a building and construction, forminumications, flegal boundaries for land ownership; and WHEREAS rveyors utilize sophisticated land surveying including satellite borne remote sensing device measuring, recording, and plotting equipment t development of communities; and WHEREAS WHEREAS WHEREAS: controlutions of these skilled professionals and awareness of the estical role they play in ef-ensuring its continued growth and prospective ORE, I, Stepen D. Lester, by utility of the author mestead, do hereby proclaim March 16 through Ma NOW, THE National Land Surveyors Week

to set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the City of





By the City of Sweetwater Mayor

BIHEREA, AP, the profession of hard surveying is one of the most foundational and externed fields, providing essential services in the accurate determination of property boundaries and land features; and BIHEREA, Providential That surveyors have been integrated to the catabilitance of property rights, infrastructure development, and the orderly growth of communities throughout history; and INTEREAS, land surveyors are uniquely qualified to translate legal descriptions into precise, ground measurements, ensuring clarity, fairness, and legal integrity in property transactions; and BHEREAS, the expertise of professional land surveyors contributes to the he protection of private property, and the planning of sustainable urban and n INTEREAD, professional land surveyors collaborate with engineers, architects, envisements, and other professionals to address complex challenges and contribute to the success mublic and mixate projects and

UTHEREAS, it is imperative to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of professional land surveyors to the prowth and well-being of our communities, as well as to the protection of the rights of

NO冊, GHE能在第句稿在, I, MAYOR JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE MARCH 16th to MARCH 22nd, 2025 AS:

"PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS WEEK"

3N のも今日記UANCE 初刊任代モの子、I urge our residents to join me in honoring this e

3N 知道以在多多 和别在就在创新, I have hereunto set my h Sweetwater to be affixed this 1st day of March 2025.

Rodney Harris, Mayor



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ST. LUCIE COUNT)

April 2025



1 an **PROCLAMATION** WHERE AS esidents, the City of Miami Gardens is honored to ce Week. Surveyor's Week, observed nationally from Mai WHEREAS: WHEREAS: WHEREAS. WHEREAS rveying and Mapping Society Beach, Broward, and Mian case the dedication and skill of surveyors in our community and to orgoing efforts in advancing the common good, enhancing public 19 the quality of life for all citizens; and WHEREAS. VOW, THEREFORE, I. Rodney Harris, Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens along with my colleagues of the ily Council: Vice Mayor Robert Stephens III, Katrina L. Baskin, Reginald Leon, Michelle C. Powell, Linda ullen, and Katrina Wilson, do hereby proclaim in the City of Manni Gardens March 16^{-3,27} 2025: SURVEYOR'S WEEK City of Miami Gardens, Florida, affixed her

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 - 27, 2025 AS "NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK" IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida, has made t ns: are among our country's founding leaders and were instrumental in roperty boundaries in the United States, providing our citizens with the e American dream of property ownership. Previdents (Generge Washington, Thomas Informa Information) Property ownership. Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Johr htributing to the historical mapping of

		
<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>		CITY OF ORLANDO - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
 area due faite document au aurequera. area due faite document au aurequera. area due faite document aurequera due faite due faite, inclusive, autoque due faite due faite	WHEREAS,	surveyors and mappers were among the founding leaders of our country and were instrumental in the formation of the layout of property boundaries in the United States; and
<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	WHEREAS,	George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other former Presidents of the United States served their fellow colonists as surveyors; and
<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	WHEREAS,	the surveying and mapping profession requires special education, training, knowledge of mathematics and physical and applied sciences and requirements of law for evidence; and
<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	WHEREAS,	surveyors and mappers are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights; and
<text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	WHEREAS,	the continual advancements in instrumentation have required the surveyor and mapper not only to be able to understand and implement the methods of the past, but also to learn and employ modern technology in finding solutions to meet the challenges of the future; and
<text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	WHEREAS,	the City of Orlando celebrates the valuable contributions of surveyors and mappers to our community and appreciates their professionalism and commitment, recognizing that important decisions are made based on the knowledge and expertise of licensed surveyors and mappers.
"Automation array on a rad Mappiner Work and Flandin Surveyour and Mappiner Work" in the City of Orlands Control of the City o		NOW, THEREFORE, I. Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando: do hereby proclaim March 16-22, 2025, as
In the day to construct the second seco	"Nation	al Surveyors and Mappers Week and Florida Surveyors and Mappers Week"
		THITLE UP THE TABLE AND A STATE AND A STAT



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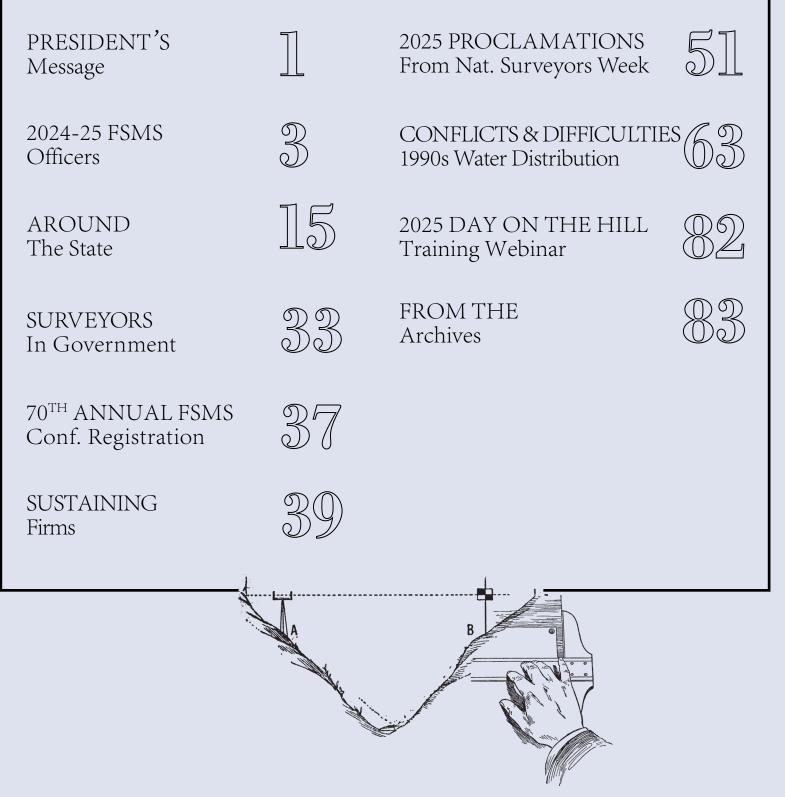
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THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR is the official publication of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, also known as FSMS. It is published monthly for the purpose of communicating with the professional surveying community and related professions who are members of FSMS. Our award winning publication informs members eleven months out of the year about national, state, and district events and accomplishments, as well as articles relevant to the surveying profession. In addition, continuing educational courses are also available.

PRESIDENT'S Message

April 2025



Members,

I had a wonderful time at the Quad-County (Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Indian River) meeting last month. I think there were 115+ people there to celebrate National Surveyors Week, but more

importantly, we celebrated our Profession with our friends, colleagues, and peers!

The celebration was held at the Student Union Hall on the Boca Raton Campus of FAU and the Chapters did a wonderful job of setting up and catering, so it turned out to be a huge success.

These events, and there have been multiple around the State this year, take so much planning, organization, and some really tough decisions down to the last minutes before, so the Chapter members really need to take a minute to recognize all of the people involved that made it happen and say thank you to them. We also can't forget all of the companies that sponsor these events, because



President Richard Pryce (954) 651-5942 rdpryce@gmail.com

without their generous contributions they could not possibly happen.

Our FSMS Legislative committee headed by Mr. Jack Breed has been deeply involved with keeping us informed of the different Senate bills out there that are threatening our profession. Our committee's success rate is tremendous and has definitely been helped by our friend and Lobbyist David Daniel and his firm Smith, Bryan & Myers. They are quietly fighting behind the scenes, guiding us to which Legislators are our friends so we can support them through our FSMPAC fund and ensure a successful end game. The end of the legislative session is May 1, and it looks very promising that our Legislative Team (Committee & Lobbyist) will be successful again, but we have to wait till then, so stay tuned in and continue to help fight with your donation to FSMPAC.

PRESIDENT'S Message

On another note, the Annual Conference is July 30th through August 2nd at the Naples Grande Resort, you can plan early and get your hotel reservation now so don't delay.

Survey History: Some of you know that one of my passions is Surveying history and bringing it forward to now whenever possible. I gave a brief presentation at the Quad-County Meeting on a part of the Coastal Survey done in 1855 by superintendent A.D. Bache, grandson of Benjamin Franklin. I focused on two accurate 4-mile baselines that A.D. Bache established in Florida that year. One at Key Biscayne and one at Cape Sable.

The Key Biscayne baseline, A.D. Bache's field crews set two stamped and elaborate 16" x 16" x 31" granite monuments on top of a 35" x 40" x 28" deep granite base, North Base and South Base. He also set 12" x 12" x 36" granite monuments at each mile post between. In 1970, a granite monument was accidentally uncovered by a bulldozer in Key Biscayne Golf course. This started an elaborate chain of events. James Frasier, PLS, a Miami Dade county surveyor, spent 2 years researching and created a report of his findings in which he determined it was the North base and part of the A.D. Bache Coastal survey. Using his research and calculations, he searched for the South Base and determined it would be south of the Lighthouse and about 300 feet out in the ocean due to erosion.

In 1978, the Miami Dade chapter of the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors (FSPLS) got together and calculated the position of the South Base, triangulated it with two transits on shore and divers went down and found it laid over in 12 feet of water.

It took 10 more years, but a collaboration of FSPLS, FDOT, the Cape Florida State Park and the Airforce Recovery & Rescue personnel and their helicopter, recovered the monument and brought it ashore where it stands today. Both North and South bases have a plaque and are a shining example of our Survey History.

In the early 1990's two more Dade County surveyors (Ted Riggs & John Liptak) searched for and found all three of the granite mile post monuments.

The Cape Sable baseline, A.D. Bache's crews set 9 inch stamped disks on top

April 2025

PRESIDENT'S Message

of Screw Pile monuments for the East and West Bases for this baseline. My research found that screw piles were used for lighthouses and beacons back in 1855, and were 9 inches in diameter by 9 feet long cast iron pipes that had a pointed screw type end and were screwed into the ground by a cog placed on top with metal spokes that rotated into the ground or reef by 4-5 men. Based on A.D. Bache's 1855 report which I found in the Coastal Survey archives, the only granite monument on this baseline was Mile Post 2 in the middle.

In the past 4 years two surveyors have taken it upon themselves to search for the Cape Sable baseline monuments. Mike Bartholomew of Biscayne Engineering (now part of Atwell), hiked and kayaked with his son upon the Cape Sable trail route and found and documented the East Base screw pile monument. He also searched for the mile post 2 monument but did not find it.

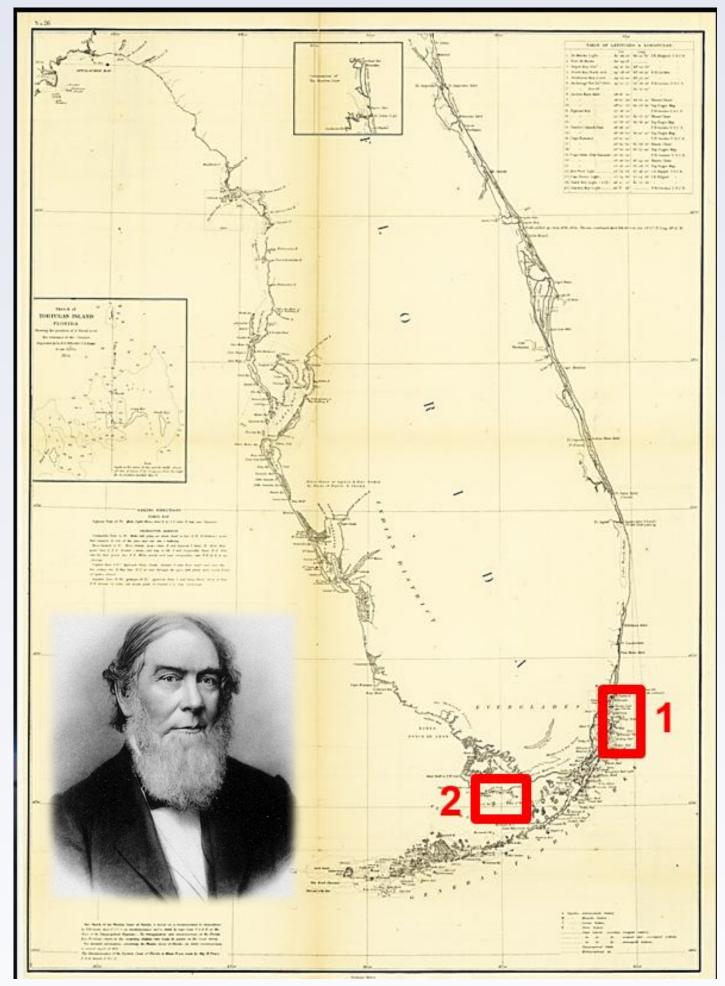
Another Surveyor, Brion Yancy of Indian River Chapter, took up the challenge and this year found the Mile Post 2 (aka MidPost) monument which is a 12 inch x 12 inch granite monument with a brass nail in the center of the top roughly within 2 feet of where Mike had searched.

This is an example of two adventurer surveyors of today, testing their muster and research abilities against the salt marshes and the mosquitoes that come with it to find part of our history that still exists out there.

The Coastline Surveys were established in 1807 under the instructions from Thomas Jefferson himself knowing and understanding the need to identify and accurately map the coast of the new United States of America. This mandate was carried forward through to 1848-1855 when the official accurate surveys were commenced under Superintendent A.D. Bache, and the rest is history, but these examples are in Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Pryce, RLS/PSM



Recovery of South Base – Key Biscayne



Recovery of Mile Posts on Key Biscayne

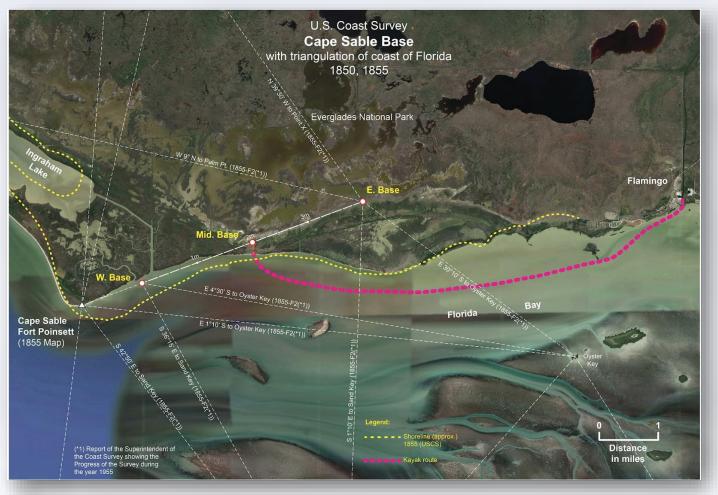




The Cape Sable Baseline Adventure

Basemap by Mike Bartholomew





Recovery of East Base – Cape Sable Mike Bartholomew, PSM







Recovery of Mid Base (Mile Post 2) – Cape Sable Brion Yancy - PSM







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Al Quickel (352) 552-3756 alq.fsms@gmail.com Brion Yancy (772) 475-7475 byancy@bowman.com

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NSPS Director

Russell Hyatt (941) 812-6460 <u>russell@hyattsurvey.com</u>

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Gulf Coast Jonathan Gibson jgibson0102@gmail.com

Chipola Jesse Snelgrove jsnelgrove@ snelgrovesurveying.com

Northwest FL Jeremiah Slaymaker jslay@wginc.com

District 3

Central FL Raymond F. Phillips <u>rphillips@</u> <u>seminolecountyfl.gov</u>

Indian River Brion Yancy byancy@bowman.com

Volusia

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Collier-Lee Steve Shawles II

steve Snawles II sshawles@haleyward.com

Manasota

Collin Naaman cnaaman@brittsurveying.com

District 6

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Palm Beach

Earl Soeder earl.soeder@duncanparnell.com

FAU Geomatics Rene Garza

rgarza2023@fau.edu

District 7

Miami-Dade Eddie Suarez marketing@longitudefl.com

District 2

FL Crown Brandon Robbins <u>brndrbbns@netscape.net</u>

North Central FL Jeremy D. Hallick jdhallick@hotmail.com

UF Geomatics Augustus Benoit ahwbenoit@gmail.com

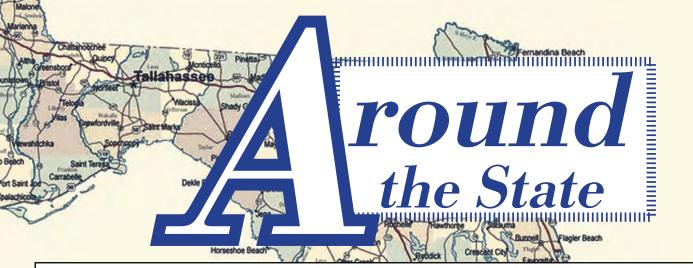
District 4

Ridge Kenneth Glass kglass@civilsurv.com

Tampa Bay John Beland jbeland@mckimcreed.com

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FES	Lou Campanile, Jr.		
Practice Sections			
Geospatial Users Group	Richard Allen		



From Justin T. Thomas, PSM

I could not be prouder of these students for the work they put in to prepare for this event in which they placed second! Some students traveled from South Florida to Gainesville to practice and generate the camaraderie that organically develops in opportunities like the Student Competition. At the National level, these students represented Florida as a whole, and they did an amazing job!

I wanted to thank all of you who spent time with our students, answering questions and providing support in the preparation for this trip. The opportunity to attend this NSPS meeting can be a once in a lifetime for most student. The biggest takeaway from these types of events is that our industry is not limited to the City, County or State that we exist in. There are others around the country who are just as passionate about and dedicated to the furtherance of our profession. Needless to say, the value of this experience is priceless.

Justin T. Thomas, P.S.M., UF Lecturer

jthomas88@ufl.edu (352) 392-4996



The Florida Surveyor

O Key West

Day – 1: Calibrating the Gunters Chain the evening before the competition begins. (Pictured from L to R) Jared Foley and Augustus Benoit.

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Day – 2: Team photo before the competition starts near the Washington National Monument. (Pictured from L to R) Doug Stoner, Emily Hawkins, Marla Horn, Augustus Benoit, Jared Foley, Austin Rupert and Justin Thomas. Bartow (Lake Wales)

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Day – 2: Jared Foley sighting the Washington National Monument as a backsight to measure angles to the Jefferson Pier.

Day – 2: (From L to R) Doug Stoner, Austin Rupert, Emily Hawkins, Augustus Benoit and Marla Horn working on mestered computations after collecting angles with the T2.



Day – 2: UF team photo taken with the Surveyor's Compass used in Competition. (Pictured from L to R) Justin Thomas, Kenneth Dell (FLYSN Rep.), Marla Horn, Jared Foley, Austin Rupert, Augustus Benoit, Emily Hawkins and Doug Stoner).



Day – 2: The UF team performs COGO computations to stake out an easement boundary using a Robotic Total Station. (Picture from L to R) Jared Foley, Marla Horn, Augustus Benoit, Doug Stoner and SAM/Trimble Rep.

Feilsmere.

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Day – 3: The UF Team at one of the remaining boundary DC stones set by Andrew Ellicott in the 1790s.(Pictured L to R) Emily Hawkins, Austin Rupert, Jared Foley, Augustus Benoit, Marla Horn and Doug Stoner.



O Key Alest



Day – 3: The UF Team at the NGS monument located outside the NGS Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. (Pictured from L to R) Doug Stoner, Austin Rupert, Jared Foley, Augustus Benoit, Emily Hawkins, Kenneth Dell(FLYSN Rep.) and Marla Horn)



Day – 4: Students taking time after the competition to see the Lincoln Memorial and do the Gator Chomp. GO GATORS!. (Students pictured from Left to Right) Augustus Benoit, Marla Horn, Kenneth Dell (FLYSN Rep), Austin Rupert and Jared Foley.



 Day – 3: The UF Team at their last located DC boundary stone set by Andrew Ellicott in the 1790s. (Pictured from L to R)
 Austin Rupert, Jared Foley, Kenneth Dell (FLYSN Rep.) Doug Stoner, Augustus Benoit, Marla Horn and Emily Hawkins.

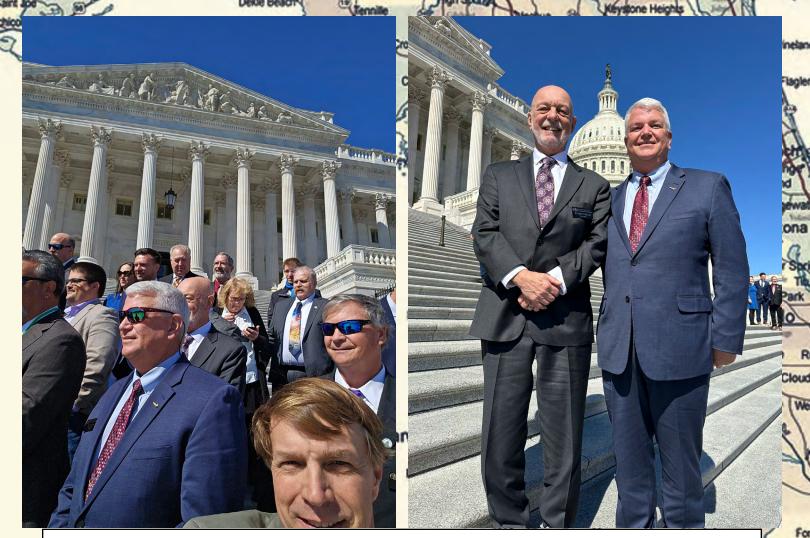
Overvia West Melbourne

Day – 4: Full team award photo (Pictured from L to R) Marla Horn, Augustus Benoit, Austin Rupert, Jared Foley, Doug Stoner, Emily Hawkins and Justin Thomas (center)



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April 2025



NSPS Day on the Hill

Russell Hyatt, NSPS Florida representative and Bob Miller, past Treasurer of NSPS spent the day at the Capitol discussing surveying issues with staff in the offices of Senator Rick Scott, Senator Ashley Moody, and Representative Vern Buchanan.





From Raymond F. Phillips, PSM and Central Florida Chapter President Attendance at the Tri Chapter meeting of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society was well attended.

Held in Lakeland at Abuelo's, we had good company and good discussions about where the surveying community is headed and the need for Technicians and technician training.

From your President of the Central Florida Chapter and Host Chapter for this year.



April 2025

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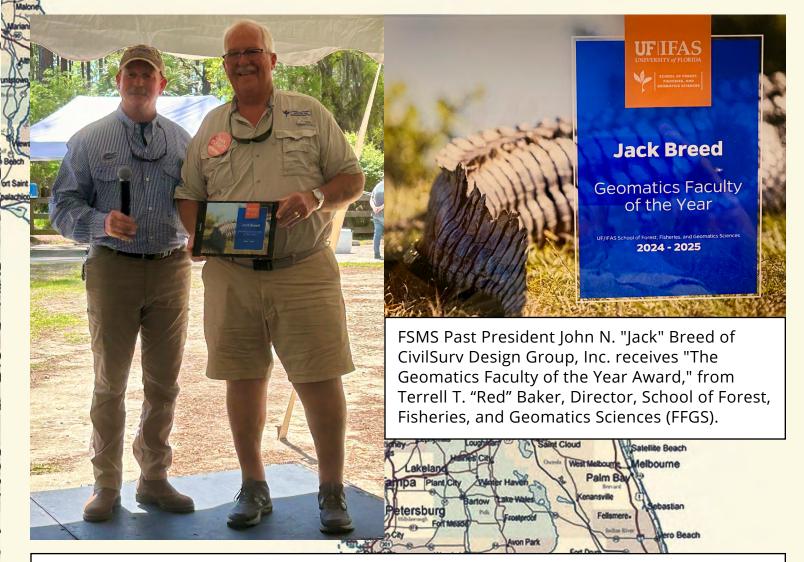
University of Florida School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences The Florida Surveying and Mapping Society's 2025 Tri-County Meeting held at FAU on March 25, brought together about 100 members.

SFFGS was well represented by Katie Britt, assistant director for geomatics extension, Dr. Hartwig Hochmair, professor and leader of the SFFGS Geomatics program at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FLREC), and Todd Bates, PSM geomatics specialist. The annual event serves to support the FSMS mission and vision statements: "To promote, enhance and preserve the surveying and mapping profession through public awareness, education efforts, advocacy for the profession and legislative actions," and "To be the national leader in development of education programs, public/professional outreach and development of governmental policies for the Geospatial Community."

It was great learning not only about the company but about the projects currently being worked on. Thank you all so much for taking the time to come out!



tona



Celebrating with FSMS Past Presidents (From L to R): Jeremiah Slaymaker 2011-2012, John M. Clyatt 2002-2003, Ray Niles 1996-1997, John N. "Jack" Breed 1999-2000, and Russell Hyatt 2013-2014.



April 2025

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O Key West



Manasota, Charlotte Harbor, and Collier-Lee Tri-Chapter Meeting From Greg Rieth, P.S.M., C.F.M.:

Pictures are from April 3rd, Tri-Chapter Meeting. The Charlotte Harbor and Manasota Chapters collected, on two separate occasions, 133 pounds and 159 pounds of tin tabs. The tabs were donated to Shriners Hospital. Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters!



For



University of Florida Geomatics Student Association

We'd like to give a big thank you to Stephen Dees, PSM and Eric M. Orndorff, MS, PLS, PSM from WGI for coming out this past Tuesday to talk about the company and many of the great services offered and projects they've been working on.

We'd also like to announce the new GSA Officer Board for the 2025-26 school year:

President - Austin Rupert Vice President - Jared Foley Treasurer - Jocelyn Wood Secretary - Matt Edmunds ROAR Officers - Reese Veerkamp, Emily Hawkins, SIT ASPRS Representative - Briar Pierce Congratulations to everyone elected!



The Florida Surveyor

Cudge Key Star Day Pine Key

CFC-FSMS - Great St. Johns River Cleanup (2025)

By Heather Marie Krick | CFC-FSMS Benchmark Editor/Associate Director

Celebrating Earth Day - Volusia County

April 5, 2025 - Date and Time: (8 - 11 a.m.)

This annual cleanup draws attention to the river's environmental importance and helps to keep the waterway safe and clean for animals and people who enjoy swimming and water sports.

Bright Futures and other volunteer hours are available.

SITES: We meet annually at Lake Monroe Park; however, the other sites listed will be scheduled same day for clean-up.

Lake Monroe Park, 975 S. U.S. 17-92, DeBary (boats and land)

Nine Mile Point Park, at the West End of Nine Mile Point Road, Pierson (land)

Shell Harbor, 1800 Shell Harbor Road, Pierson (boats and land)

Ed Stone Park, 2990 W. State Road 44, Deland (boats and land)

Lake Beresford Park, 2100 Fatio Road, Deland (boats and land)

Blue Springs State Park, 2100 French Avenue, Orange City (boats and land)

Lemon Bluff boat ramp, 907 Lemon Bluff Rd., Osteen (mainly boats, some land)

DeLeon Springs, 601 Ponce DeLeon Springs Blvd (boats and land)

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS: Choose to volunteer by walking and cleaning up litter along the shoreline, by bringing your own canoe/kayak, or by bring your own trailered boat. Select the desired volunteer option when registering.

ATTIRE: Pedestrian participants must wear closed-toe shoes. All volunteers should wear clothes that can get muddy/wet and should bring their own work gloves. Sun protection and bug protection may be desired.

CONTACT: Heather Krick, hkrick@ssmc.us.

COST: Free

Great St. Johns River Cleanup (2024 - Results)

St. Johns Riverkeeper partnered with counties, businesses, and nonprofits throughout the watershed to clean up the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Over 60 cleanups in Duval, St. Johns, Brevard, Clay, Orange, Volusia, Putnam, and Seminole were planned during a month-long Great St. Johns River Cleanup! Beginning on March 16 that continued through April 25.

Sites Cleaned: 41

Volunteers: 562

Bags of Trash: 896

Hours Worked: 1159

Pounds of Trash: 18395



CFC-FSMS - Great St. Johns River Cleanup (2025)

By Heather Marie Krick | CFC-FSMS Benchmark Editor/Associate Director

Celebrating Earth Day - Seminole County

April 26, 2025 - Date and Time: (9 - 11 a.m.)

Make a difference by volunteering to clean up litter from this valuable waterway on foot, in your kayak/canoe, or your motorized boat.

Bright Futures and other volunteer hours are available.

SITES: We will have multiple sites to choose from details TBA.

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS: Choose to volunteer by walking and cleaning up litter along the shoreline, by bringing your own canoe/kayak, or by bring your own trailered boat. Select the desired volunteer option when registering.

ATTIRE: Pedestrian participants must wear closed-toe shoes. All volunteers should wear clothes that can get muddy/wet and should bring their own work gloves. Sun protection and bug protection may be desired.

LIABILITY FORM: Each volunteer must have a printed, signed liability form to turn in upon arrival: youth version (under 18) or adult version (18 and older).

CONTACT: Heather Krick, hkrick@ssmc.us.

COST: Free

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT GRAHAM of ETM (England-Thims & Miller)

Congratulations to our 2025 Recruitment Champion, Mr. Scott Graham of ETM.

He Recruited Two NEW Full Members as part of Our 2025 Membership Recruitment Contest.

Scott is the winner of a Conference Packet 1 Registration along with a Two Night Stay at the Naples Grande Beach Resort.

FSMS would like to thank all of the participants in this year's membership recruitment contest. Through all of your combined efforts, FSMS gained 27 New Members: 8 Full, 16 Associate, 1 Affiliate, and 2 Sustaining Firms.



TAMPA BAY SURVEY & MAPPING SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

Save the date! Scholarship Golf Tournament

April 26th, 2025 at 8am

Eagles Golf Club

Forest Course 16101 Nine Eagles Drive, Odessa, FL 33556 36th ANNUA

For more information on sponsorships and entries contact:

tbsmscholarshipfund@gmail.com Bill Payne (Chairman) 813-363-3772

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April 2025

Greetings All,

As I find everyone this April, we are beginning to see more and more of the warmer, dryer weather coming about. The Floridian summer that runs from May to October is fast approaching, and I know I say this as mainly and office worker, I do feel for our field staff that we could not do this without their effort. So I would definitely like to give them all a kudos for the hard work they do day in and day out. This month I hoped to write about challenges of transitioning from conventional methods into the 3-Dimensional collection environment, but recent legislative efforts have changed the direction of this article. This is because I see the responsibility of the Surveyors in Government Liasion as the person to work to keep everyone abreast in government of changes or issues that affect us all.

I have to say in the past week and a half I have been involving calls, emails, and discussions with others in local and county government. A big thank you to Matt Kalus, who with out him I would be oblivious. Even this morning I received a call from Danny Whittaker, both of whom work for Orange County Government. Matt Kalus made me aware of **HB381** and **SB784**, both of which involve the platting process and propose changes to Florida Statutes 177 Part I, and a host of other statutes outside of surveying. They work with different time ranges of plat review timelines and differ on reviews for preliminary plats, plats, and replats. They very in review timelines from 10 business days to 15 business days. **H.B. 381:**

(2) Within 10 business days after receipt of a plat or
replat submittal, the administrative authority shall provide
written notice to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the
plat or replat submittal and identifying any missing documents
or information necessary to process the plat or replat submittal
for compliance with s. 177.091. The written notice must also
provide information regarding the plat or replat approval
process, including requirements regarding the completeness of
the process and applicable timeframes for reviewing, approving,
and otherwise processing the plat or replat submittal.

The Florida Surveyor



S.B. 784:

58

(2) Within 7 business days after receipt of a plat or

Page 2 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

59	replat submittal, the administrative authority shall provide
60	written notice to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the
61	plat or replat submittal and identifying any missing documents
62	or information necessary to process the plat or replat submittal
63	for compliance with s. 177.091. The written notice must also
64	provide information regarding the plat or replat approval
65	process, including requirements regarding the completeness of
66	the process and applicable timeframes for reviewing, approving,
67	and otherwise processing the plat or replat submittal.

There is more covered in the proposed bills, but these are big issues for local and county governments and there current staffing levels. As proposed, I see the need to add to staff to adequately review the information required to approve and sign plats, whether preliminary or not. We have talked among surveyor as maybe just having this as a sufficiency review and reject plats without the required items right off the get go so it closes out the initial process.

This is what we have been discussing the past 10 business days, wondering what the legislators are going to require from us. We have been working with FSMS volunteers who deal with legislative issues, but remember FSMS represents all surveyors, not just government surveyors. There is infringement from many fronts, not just on governmental issues. Which leads me to my call this morning pertaining to movement of two separate bills. Those bills have to do with the deregulation of professions in Florida. I have not had a chance to look at those bills, but it does tell you of how things seemingly move quickly with legislation, but in looking back these have been moving for several months. The just have evolved as they have come through various committees. Why do I bring all of this up? It is because it tells us all that we have to get more involved in the process. It also tells me the value of political action committees, like FSMPAC and other organizations who have legislative chairs and committees.



It takes us all being involved to keep track of what happens in Tallahassee and to have a say in what is proposed and then adopted. Be diligent in keeping up with what is being proposed.

Until next time my friends, I bid you adieux.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article!

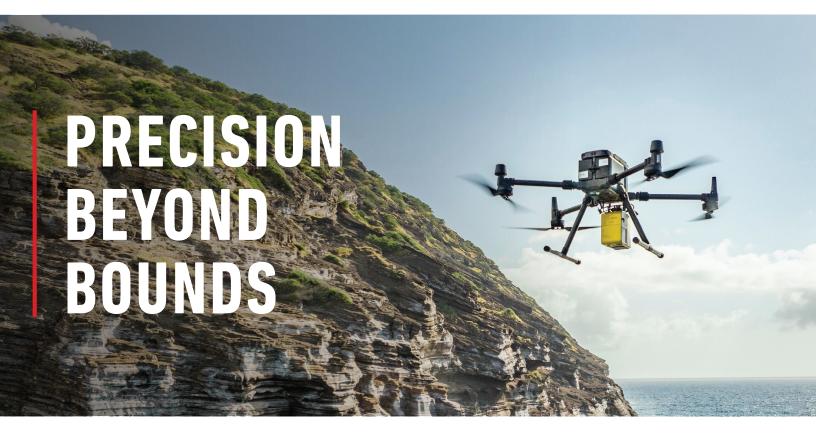
Sincerely,

Richard Allen, City Surveyor for Orlando

FSMS Surveyors in Government Liaison President of the Geospatial Users Group ASPRS Florida Region Director

407.246.2788 (O) Richard.Allen@orlando.gov





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70th Annual FSMS Conference



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

July 30th – August 2nd at Naples Grande Beach Resort

Registrants Name: _

Packet 1 – Full Registration/Best Value

Member Licensed Non-Member Non-licensed Includes: (1) Wednesday Welcome BBQ tick (1) Friday Exhibit Hall Breakfast ticket, (1) F Exhibit Hall Lunch ticket, (1) Friday Recogn	riday nition
Exhibit Hall Lunch ticket, (1) Friday Recogr Banquet ticket, and (6) Saturday Seminar C	

Packet 2 – Partial Registration

Member\$385Licensed Non-Member\$485Non-Licensed\$335Includes: (1) Friday Exhibit Hall Breakfast ticket, (1)Friday Exhibit Hall Lunch ticket,(1) Friday Recognition Banquet ticket, and(6) Saturday Seminar CECs.

<u> Packet 3 – Saturdav Onlv</u>	
Member	\$240
Licensed Non-Member	\$340
Non-licensed	\$190
Includes: (6) Saturday Seminar CE	Cs.

SATURDAY SEMINARS

August 2nd

Course options are listed below, please mark the circle next to the course. Choose only ONE course per time segment.

	2 Hour Course Options		
	Course name:	Course name:	Course name:
8:00 am–9:40 am (choose one from this row)	FDEP - Sovereignty Lands/Water Boundaries, Murphy Act Lands and Board of	Using GIS to Produce a Survey Drawing	Introduction to Construction Surveying Basics
	Trustees Database (BTLDS)	(2 CEC's - Course 11017)	(2 CEC's - Course #11020)
	(2 CEC's – Course #11014) Instructors: Scott Woolam, PSM & Eric Sellers, PSM	Instructor: Frank Conkling, PSM, GISP	Instructors: Clifford Culhane, PLS, PSM & Dionicio Montero, FAA Pilot
	Course name:	Course name:	Course name:
10:10 am – 11:50 am (choose one from this row)	The FDOT RW Map – Purposes and Benefits to the Agency and	Surveying & GIS – Infrastructure Geospatial Partnership	Navigating Florida Statutes Chapter 177.073 – Embarking on a Journey to Allow
	the Surveying Profession	(2 CEC's - Course #11018)	Expedited Residential Permits with a Preliminary Plat
	(2 CEC's - Course #11008) Instructors: Brett Wood,	Instructor:	(2 CEC's – Course #11022)
	PSM & Scott Fowler, PSM	Richard Pryce, RLS, PSM	Instructor: Matthew Kalus, GISP-R, PSM, PE
	Course name:	Course name:	Course name:
1:30 pm – 3:10 pm (choose one from this row)	To Be Determined	It Takes Time to Get Oriented	Preparing to Lead
		(2 CEC's – Course #11028)	(2 CEC's - Course #11024)
	(2 CEC's – Course #TBD)	Instructor: Brion Yancy, PSM	Instructor: Paul Cortissoz, SPHR
	Instructor: To Be Determined		



70th Annual FSMS Conference



SIT (\$300) / Wed. Seminars (\$240) / Thurs. Seminars (\$120)

Wednesday Seminars (Separate Registration Required) July 30 8:00 am – 3:00 pm ONLY CHOOSE ONE	
Seminar I:	
How to Prepare an Original Boundary Survey	\bigcirc
(6 CECs - Course #11009) Instructor: Dr. Davey Edwards, PhD, PLS, CFedS	0
Seminar II:	
Expert Testimony: Neutral, Defensive, or Persuasive	\bigcirc
(6 CECs - Course #11011) Instructor: Kevin Norris, PLS, JD	0
SIT Prep Course (Un-Licensed Attendees, No CEC Credit) July 30 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	
Geoscholar's Florida Surveying and Mapping Society Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) Exam/Surv Certificate Prep Course	reyor in Training (SIT)
You must complete the online course before attending the Seminar. Dr. Lyle will be covering sele required sections to help you with examination preparation. After the Seminar you will have access course.	
Instructor: Dr. Stacey Lyle, PhD, RPLS, PLS	
Thursday Seminars (Separate Registration Required) July 31 8:00 am – 10:30 am ONLY CHOOSE ONE	
Seminar I:	
Undocumented Boundaries & the Surveyors Duty	
(3 CECs - Course #11010)	\bigcirc
Instructor: Dr. Knud Hermansen, PSM, PE, PhD, Esq.	
Seminar II:	
Surveying and Mapping with UAS	\bigcirc
(3 CECs - Course #11013)	\cup
Instructors: Jib Ahmad, RPLS, PLS, CFM & Vas Kalogirou, RPLS, PLS, PS, PSM	1, LS
Complete payment information on the following page Cancellation Policy: 30 days prior to conference: 50% refund	

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• Ve t: 30 Minute Private Room Speaking Opportunity (Limit Laces Available, No CECs)

GOLD EXHIBITOR \$3,800

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- 1 month free half-page ad in The Florida Surveyor W: 8.5 in. x H: 5.5 in. (Sustaining Firms will receive an additional free month)
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Ŕoom Keys (Company Name en to Attendees staying at the resort.)

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./UU *Only 1 Sponsor onference Tote Bags (Co nce Tote Bags given to Attendees.)

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\$2,000

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_\$1,700

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700 *Only 1 Sponsor

Front Cover of Conferences Name & Logo on the Front Cover of Conference Program Book given to Attendees.)



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Banquet Door Prizes (Sponsorship of Prizes given at Recognition Banquet along with Company Name & Logo on Signage During Banquet.)

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\$1,500

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□\$1,200

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□\$1,200

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Conference Program Book.)

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\$500

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Proclamations from 2025 National Surveyors Week March 16th - 22nd, 2025 Thank You to all the Surveyors who sent in their Proclamations.

FSMS Administrative Office — Tallahassee, FL.

(left to right): FSMS Executive Director, Rebecca Porter receiving Proclamation from Christopher Green, Executive Director of the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers. Proclamation was signed by Commissioner of Agriculture, Wilton Simpson.

proclamation ORIDA WHEREAS, surveyors and mappers are counted among the founding leaders of our country and were instrumental in the formation of the layout of property boundaries in the United States which have provided our citizens the opportunity for property ownership; and WHEREAS, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other former Presidents of the United States, served their fellow colonists as surveyors; and WHEREAS, the citizens of Florida recognize the valuable contributions of the surveying and mapping profession to history, development, and quality of life in Florida and the United States of America and make important decisions based on the knowledge and expertise of licensed surveyors and mappers; and WHEREAS, the surveying and mapping profession requires specific education prerequisites, training, the knowledge of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and requirements of law for evidence: and WHEREAS, surveyors and mappers are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights; and WHEREAS, the continual advancements in instrumentation have required the surveyor and mapper not only to be able to understand and implement the methods of the past, but also to learn and employ modern technology in finding solutions to meet the challenges of the future. NOW, THEREFORE, in conjunction with National Surveyors Week, I, Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Florida, recognize the week of March 16-22, 2025, as FLORIDA SURVEYORS & MAPPERS WEEK and recognize the many contributions and the ongoing dedication of surveyors and mappers to the citizens of Florida and the United States. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this $16^{\rm th}$ day of March, in the



City of Homestead



Lake County (Tavares, FL)



From Chris McLaughlin, PSM — On 3/11/25, 8 surveyors took part in the Lake County National Surveyors Week proclamation in Tavares, FL. The folks in the photos are as follows:

TOP (left to right): Steve Brant (Halff), John McGlohorn (CFB Surveying), Steve Fensterer (Halff), Richard Allen (City of Orlando), David Melvin (Land Pro Seminars), Chris McLaughlin (CFB Surveying), Cary Melvin (Lake County Surveyor), Lake County BOCC Chair Leslie Campione, Gabriel Colon-Rivera (DRMP).

BOTTOM (left to right): Steve Fensterer (Halff), Steve Brant (Halff), David Melvin (Land Pro Seminars), Richard Allen (City of Orlando), Cary Melvin (Lake County Surveyor), John McGlohorn (CFB Surveying), Chris McLaughlin (CFB Surveying), Gabriel Colon-Rivera (DRMP).



Lee County



Martin County



Before the Board of County Commissioners Martin County, Florida

A Proclamation

Declaring Surveyors and Mappers Week in Martin County, Florida

Whereas,	surveyors and mappers have played a pivotal role in shaping our nation, serving as founding leaders who were instrumental in establishing the layout of property boundaries in the United States - boundaries that allow citizens to enjoy the benefits of property ownership; and
Whereas,	the citizens of Florida recognize the valuable contributions of the surveying and mapping profession to the history, development, and quality of life in Florida and the United States of America and provide the knowledge and expertise needed to make informed decisions that impact communities and the nation; and
Whereas,	this profession demands a specialized education, rigorous training, a deep understanding of mathematics, physical and applied sciences, and a comprehensive grasp of legal principles related to evidence; and
Whereas,	surveyors and mappers hold unique qualifications and licenses that enable them to accurately define and describe land and water boundaries, ensuring the responsible management of natural resources and the protection of public and private property rights; and
Whereas,	as science and technology continue to advance, surveyors and mappers are required not only to preserve the knowledge and practices of the past but also to embrace and apply cutting-edge technology to tackle the challenges of the future.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that the week of March 16-22, 2025 shall be known as Surveyors and Mappers Week in Martin County, acknowledging the men and women of this profession for their diligence in meeting the continuing needs of our communities.

Presented this Eleventh Day of March 2025

ATTEST: CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

Sarah Heard SARAH HEARD, CHAIR EDWARD & CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Florida Surveyor

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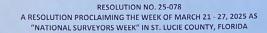
City of Miami Gardens



City of Orlando

	CITY OF ORLANDO - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WHEREAS,	surveyors and mappers were among the founding leaders of our country and were instrumental in the formation of the layout of property boundaries in the United States; and
WHEREAS,	George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other former Presidents of the United States served their fellow colonists as surveyors; and
WHEREAS,	the surveying and mapping profession requires special education, training, knowledge of mathematics and physical and applied sciences and requirements of law for evidence; and
WHEREAS,	surveyors and mappers are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights; and
WHEREAS,	the continual advancements in instrumentation have required the surveyor and mapper not only to be able to understand and implement the methods of the past, but also to learn and employ modern technology in finding solutions to meet the challenges of the future; and
WHEREAS,	the surveying and mapping profession requires special education, training, knowledge of mathematics and physical and applied sciences and requirements of law for evidence; and surveyors and mappers are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights; and the continual advancements in instrumentation have required the surveyor and mapper not only to be able to understand and implement the methods of the past, but also to learn and employ modern technology in finding solutions to meet the challenges of the future; and the City of Orlando celebrates the valuable contributions of surveyors and mappers to our community and appreciates their professionalism and commitment, recognizing that important decisions are made based on the knowledge and expertise of licensed surveyors and mappers;
4 100 100 100	NOW, THEREFORE, I, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando; do hereby proclaim March 16-22, 2025, as
"Natio	nal Surveyors and Mappers Week and Florida Surveyors and Mappers Week" in the City of Orlando.
	IN WITNESS WHEREOF , I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 16th day of March, 2025.
	Bully Dyn Avor

St. Lucie County



WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida, has made the following determinations:

 Land Surveyors are among our country's founding leaders and were instrumental in forming the layout of property boundaries in the United States, providing our citizens with the opportunity to enjoy the American dream of property ownership.

2. United States Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Abraham Lincoln all served as surveyors, contributing to the historical mapping of America in its early years.

 The surveying profession requires special education, training, knowledge of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and requirements of law for evidence.

4. Surveyors are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for managing natural resources and protecting private and public property rights.

5. The continual advancements in instrumentation have required the surveyor to not only understand and implement the methods of the past, but also learn and employ modern technology to find solutions to meet the challenges of time.

6. The citizens of St. Lucie County, Florida recognize the valuable contributions of the surveying profession to history, development, and quality of life throughout our country, and make important decisions based on the knowledge and expertise of licensed surveyors and mappers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida:

1. This Board does hereby proclaim the week of March 21 - 27, 2025 as "NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK" in St. Lucie County, Florida.

 This Board encourages all citizens to recognize the many contributions and the ongoing dedication of surveyors to our community and throughout the United States.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2025.

ATTEST: **DEPUTY CLER**

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA fomu CHAIR

CORRECTNESS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND

COUNTY ATTORNEY

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

OR

D

Seminole County

PROCLAMATION OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMING MARCH 16-22, 2025 AS NATIONAL SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS WEEK IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL

WHEREAS, surveyors and mappers are counted among the founding fathers of our county and were instrumental in the formation of property boundaries, which support the enjoyment of property ownership; and

WHEREAS, we recognized the valuable contributions of the Surveying and Mapping Profession to history, development, and quality of life. In Florida and Nationwide and make important decisions based on the knowledge and expertise of Licensed Professional Surveyors and Mappers; and

WHEREAS, the Surveying and Mapping profession requires special education, training, the knowledge of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and requirements of law for evidence; and

WHEREAS, Surveyors and Mappers are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for the management of natural resources and protection of private and public property rights; and

WHEREAS, the continued advancements in instrumentation have required the Surveyor and Mapper not only to be able to understand and implement the methods of the past, but also to learn and employ modern technology in finding solution to meet the challenges of the future; and

WHEREAS, on the 13th of February, 1984, President Ronald Regan set his hand to the proclamation of the first National Surveyors week beginning on March 11, 1984

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, that March 16 through March 22, 2025, shall be known, designated and set aside as National Surveyors and Mappers Week.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March 2025

Jay Zembower, Chairman Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners

City of Sweetwater



NOW, OHEREFORE, I, MAYOR JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SWEETWATER, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE MARCH 16th to MARCH 22nd, 2025 AS:

"PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS WEEK"

JN 仍显参在张出入NOE 知识在张正的牙, I urge our residents to join me in honoring this event in the City of Sweetwater.

JN HIJONESS HHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sweetwater to be affixed this 1st day of March 2025.

iyor Jose "Pepe" Dia M ty of Sweetwater



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

My Public Lands

Middle School Teaching Guide

Cadastral Surveying: Finding the Boundaries of U.S. Public Lands

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As Kissimmee River restoration proceeded in the mid-1990s, no one doubted that a drastic overhaul of South Florida's water distribution system was necessary. The tricky part was to craft a plan that all sides – whether environmental, agricultural, or urban – could accept. The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida were attempting to build consensus for restoration, but water management in South Florida had a long history of contention that could not be put aside. Three plans that involved water distribution issues in the 1990s highlighted the difficulty in attaining consensus. The first dealt with Lake Okeechobee's regulation schedule, which influenced how much water interests downstream from the lake received, as well as the ecological quality of the surrounding area. The second consisted of an experimental Corps program (implemented as part of the Corps' Modified Water Deliveries Project) that analyzed how best to deliver water to Everglades National Park. This project became caught up in controversy over the flooding of agricultural areas and possible disruptions of the habitat of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, which was first listed as an endangered species in 1967. The third, which involved the Modified Water Deliveries Project itself, emphasized land acquisition difficulties and their ultimate effects on interests such as the Miccosukee Indians. All of these examples saw hard-line stances exhibited by competing interests, indicating that the path to restoration would be rocky and difficult.

Lake Okeechobee Regulation

For many years, the major problem with Lake Okeechobee had been its phosphorous levels. Since the 1970s, federal, state, and local agencies had labored to diminish the mineral's concentration. The SWIM plan developed for the lake in the late 1980s, for example, required an average annual phosphorous reduction of 40 percent. To achieve that goal, the SFWMD stipulated that no water could flow into the lake without a phosphorous standard of 0.18 milligrams per liter. The implementation of BMPs, as stipulated by the Everglades Forever Act, lowered levels as well, as did a dairy cow relocation effort. In 1996, the SFWMD reported that average annual amounts of phosphorous were half of what they were before the implementation of the SWIM plan, but further reductions were still necessary.¹

Another issue with Lake Okeechobee was its regulation schedule. In the 1978, the Corps had modified its operational plan to allow lake levels between 15.5 and 17.5 feet (upwards from the existing 13 to 15 feet schedule). This provided more water for agricultural, urban, and environmental needs in times of drought, but it also meant that the Corps had to send larger slugs of water to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries during the rainy season in order to prevent flooding, even though residents of Martin County and other interested parties had protested such releases as far back as the 1950s. The releases to the areas, critics charged, disrupted salinity and deposited large amounts of sediment, killing fish and other life. Likewise, the higher stages



The Caloosahatchee estuary. (Source: South Florida Water Management District.)



The St. Lucie estuary. (Source: South Florida Water Management District.)

caused problems in the lake's littoral zone because they pushed phosphorous concentrations to the shore and flooded areas used as habitat and feeding grounds for surrounding flora and fauna.²

In 1988, the Lake Okeechobee Littoral Zone Technical Group, composed of representatives from the SFWMD, the FWS, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Everglades National Park, the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, and several universities issued a report on the lake's regulation schedule, claiming that it had "induced changes in the littoral zone" (meaning the water body's shore). These alterations included "loss of wading bird feeding habitat, decline in willow, and loss of moist-soil annual plant production." Because it considered the diminishment of the wading bird habitat critical, the group requested that an immediate lowering of the schedule occur "to improve fish and wildlife habitat." It recommended that the Corps implement a new plan fluctuating "between a high of 16 feet and a low of 14 feet," levels that would still allow the Corps to meet "the other demands placed on the lake."³ In making this suggestion, the group was repeating only what other fish and wildlife experts had already proclaimed to be necessary. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, for example, had informed the SFWMD in April 1988 that "the existing schedule has reduced the probability of maintaining a productive littoral zone into the future."⁴ Meanwhile, the SFWMD, in the midst of a three-year modeling study of lake levels, requested that the Corps use a schedule, known as "Run 25," which would hold levels between 15.65 and 16.75 feet. According to the SFWMD, those levels would provide the most "benefit to the estuarine environment" while "having no negative impacts on the lake's water supply or littoral zone."⁵ The Corps, however, made no changes to the schedule, in part because agricultural and urban interests demanded that higher levels in Lake Okeechobee were necessary.⁶

After environmental groups such as the Florida Lake Management Society protested the Corps' inaction, the SFWMD renewed its request in 1991, reiterating that Run 25 would "reduce damaging flows to the nearby St. Lucie Canal and Caloosahatchee River estuaries without sacrificing the flood control or water supply benefits derived from the lake."⁷ The FWS, however, clamored for even lower levels, claiming that Run 25 would actually have little effect on the littoral zone. A group of 30 "environmental professionals" who examined the "overall ecological conditions of Lake Okeechobee" agreed with the FWS, insisting that lower levels would provide for "the sustained ecological health of Lake Okeechobee."⁸ Accordingly, the SFMWD revisited Run 25 and developed a new schedule, known as Run 22, which would allow levels between 13.5 and 15.5 feet. The FWS applauded this proposal, as well as what it termed "the four step pulse release concept," whereby water would be discharged from the lake in a way that would mitigate damage to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.⁹ Other groups, such as the Okeechobee Waterway Association, the Glades County Board of County Commissioners, and the City of Belle Glade, disagreed with the Run 22 plan, stating that it would disrupt fishing, cause even more pollution in Lake Okeechobee, and jeopardize water supplies.¹⁰

In response to these Run 22 criticisms, scientists and environmentalists pointed to numerous studies indicating that high water levels in Lake Okeechobee caused increased phosphorous concentrations by "facilitat[ing] the movement of phosphorous laden water from the turbid center of the lake to the edge of the littoral zone."¹¹ Likewise, the studies showed that wading birds needed levels below 15 feet in the spring to feed and nest successfully, while marshlands



Lake Okeechobee. (Source: South Florida Water Management District.)

also required lower levels for optimum health. Despite this evidence, and despite the SFWMD's suggestion that Run 22 be adopted, the Corps, hoping to achieve more of a middle ground between water supply and ecological protection, made a preliminary recommendation in 1994 to continue with Run 25 and to adopt it as its regular regulation schedule until the completion of the C&SF Restudy (which would analyze more thoroughly what levels were appropriate). Run 25, Corps officials claimed, would secure a sufficient water supply for downstream interests, including Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, while also causing some improvement in the littoral zone.¹² The Corps did not rule out the possibility of implementing Run 22 at some point, but explained that it would have to conduct an economic and environmental impact study before it could take such action.¹³

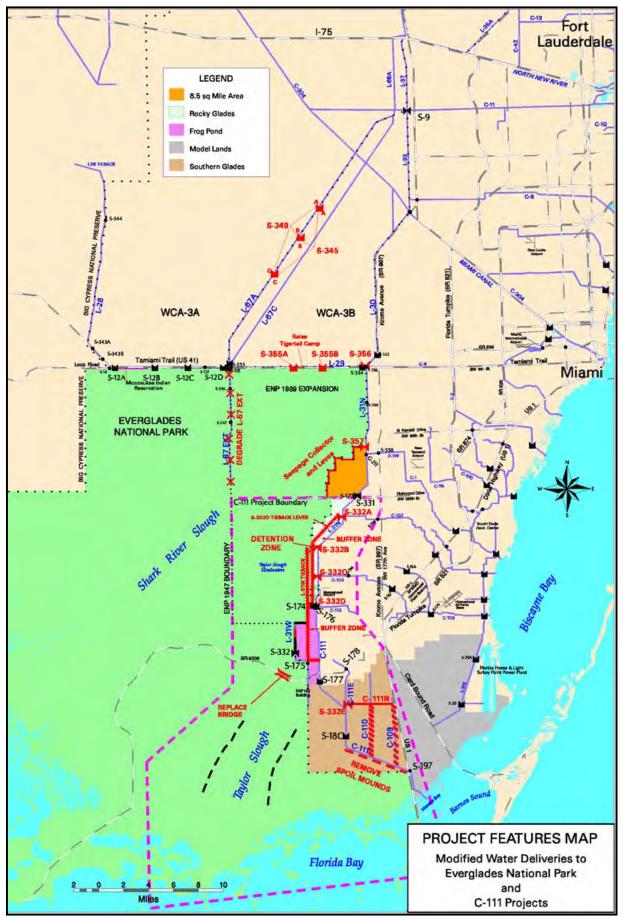
Predictably, environmentalists and fish and wildlife interests denounced the maintenance of Run 25. "Lake management decisions have placed other objectives above the lake's ecological health," the Florida Department of Environmental Protection declared, petitioning the Corps to stop "the sacrifice of the environment for other goals."¹⁴ When the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida supported the Corps' recommendation, saying that the Corps should not operate Lake Okeechobee "solely for in-lake environmental objectives," it seemed to prove that environmental surrenders were occurring.¹⁵ Regardless of the criticism, the Corps did not budge on the issue, leading environmental interests to cry that urban and agricultural concerns had won the battle. Given the "environmental concerns" that the Corps' Restudy "was attempting to address," environmentalists were "surprised" that the Corps had seemingly paid no heed to their concerns, leaving them wary of what kind of a plan the Restudy would actually produce.¹⁶

Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 Projects

Along with the divisions evident in the debate over Lake Okeechobee regulation schedules. the Corps' Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 projects provoked controversy in the 1990s. In 1989, the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act had authorized the Modified Water Deliveries Project. The law stated that in coordination with the Interior Department, which would purchase 107,600 acres of land, the Corps would modify structures of the C&SF Project in order to restore more natural water flows to Shark River Slough, as well as to provide flood mitigation for residents in the 8.5 square mile area. The act required the Corps to complete a General Design Memorandum for the project, and in May 1993, the Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) approved the design memorandum, allowing for engineering design to begin. At the same time, the Corps worked on a General Reevaluation Report of the C-111 project, authorized by both the Flood Control Act of 1968 and by the Everglades National Park Expansion and Protection Act of 1989 to provide more water to Taylor Slough. Finalized in May 1994, the General Reevaluation Report proposed the construction of a water retention area on the eastern edge of Everglades National Park, as well as the development of a transition area to divide the park from agricultural lands. To accomplish these purposes, the reevaluation report recommended the purchase of the Frog Pond area.¹⁷

The Interior Department and the NPS agreed that acquisition of Frog Pond was essential, claiming that it would restore freshwater flows to Florida Bay. As discussed earlier, the Frog Pond area had long been the subject of controversy, mainly because its agricultural production complicated an experimental delivery program that the Corps had undertaken in the 1980s to restore more natural water flows to Shark River and Taylor sloughs.¹⁸ When the Corps had begun the experimental program in 1985, the Dade County Farm Bureau had sued because the plan "rerout[ed] . . . excess waters from federally-owned lands to privately-owned agricultural lands," causing flooding problems for farmers in the Frog Pond area (Kendall, et al. v. Marsh, et al.).¹⁹ In order to halt the litigation and to continue the experimental program, the Corps reached a settlement with the bureau and other agriculturists, whereby the farmers would drop their suit if the Corps reduced water levels in the L-31W canal (running north to south on the border of East Everglades), allowing for more drainage during wet periods. This arrangement lasted until the 1990s, when, as part of another iteration of the experimental program, Frog Pond lands were flooded again. In response, the South Dade Land Corporation sued the Corps in 1993, hoping to obtain an injunction against further flooding (South Dade Land Corporation v. Sullivan). The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, denied this injunction, stating that the Corps had adequately sought to mitigate any flooding, but the threat of litigation remained.²⁰

Meanwhile, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the drainage of Frog Pond lands had resulted in detrimental effects on both the Cabe Sable seaside sparrow and on wetlands bordering the eastern portion of Everglades National Park. The council claimed that the experimental plan had drained the Rocky Glades (a wetlands area southeast of Shark River Slough), Taylor Slough, and the C-111 basin to such an extent that wet-season water levels were as much as two feet lower than before the experiment's beginning. This caused an invasion of exotic and woody plants that destroyed the sparrow's habitat and caused declines in fish populations. The experimental program was designed to reestablish more natural water



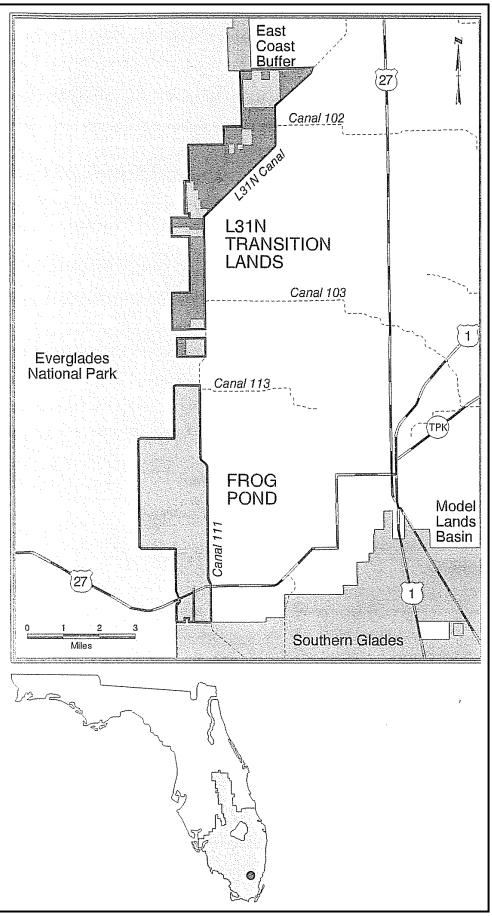
Map of the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 projects. (Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.)

conditions to Shark River and Taylor Slough, but instead, the NRDC claimed, it was causing unnatural circumstances that violated the Endangered Species Act.²¹

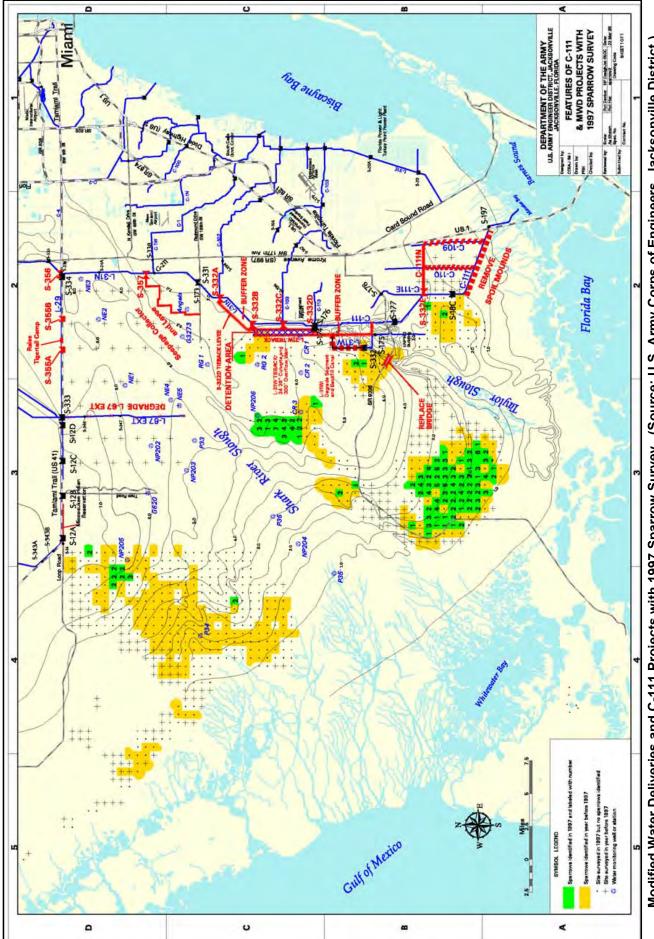
The NRDC was not alone in this belief; FWS and Everglades National Park officials also claimed that the experimental program adversely affected the Cape Sable seaside sparrow. As mentioned above, the experimental program had gone through several different iterations before 1996, the first five of which consisted of delivering water from Conservation Area No. 3 to the western and northeastern portions of Shark River Slough. When the Corps conducted a sixth iteration, which provided water to both Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough, FWS and Everglades National Park officials objected, citing the effects of the program on the sparrow and requiring that certain restrictions be implemented. In its preparation for the seventh iteration in 1996, the Corps asked that the restraints be removed, claiming that this phase, which proposed to establish a more natural hydroperiod in Northeast Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough, would not harm the sparrow. The FWS responded with a biological opinion stating that, although the program would improve long-term environmental conditions for the sparrow, it would have adverse effects in the short term because the sparrow needed a shorter hydroperiod to nest. To mitigate these effects, the FWS requested frequent consultations with the Corps, the SFWMD, and the park, and it also asked for the establishment of "a comprehensive monitoring and research program." Moreover, the FWS suggested that the Corps use the Modified Water Deliveries Project and the C&SF Restudy "to identify ways to redistribute regulatory releases from Water Conservation Area 3A more naturally over as large a geographic area as possible."²²

Meanwhile, the NRDC and others wanted levels in the L-31W canal (as well as the L-31N and C-111) returned to "a minimum of initial design optimum settings," but the Corps refused, citing the need to look out for the interests of Frog Pond farmers. The NRDC argued that "concerns about flooding in the Frog Pond are increasingly irrelevant and unjustified," a view that seemed vindicated when the SFWMD purchased the Frog Pond area in 1995 for \$12.5 million.²³ But the SFWMD allowed the corporation to lease the Frog Pond area for agricultural purposes, meaning that the Corps still faced the problem of coordinating the experimental program with the needs of both agriculture and the sparrow.

In February 1999, the FWS reiterated that the experimental program adversely affected the sparrow, and the Corps, with the approval of the Council on Environmental Quality, revised its experimental plan to retain more water in the conservation areas. It also pledged to reroute the water so that the point of discharge would occur south of where the sparrow lived. These proposals, however, led to two lawsuits filed by the NRDC and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. The NRDC action alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act and requested that the Corps follow a different water delivery plan, one that would carry water through the Northeast Shark River Slough and the 8.5 Square Mile Area to the potential detriment of agricultural and residential interests in western Dade County. The Miccosukee's lawsuit, meanwhile, attempted, in the words of one Jacksonville District legal advisor, "to preserve the status quo" and to prevent the impoundment of more water in the conservation areas.²⁴ The court eventually ruled in favor of the Corps in both actions, stating that the Jacksonville District was performing sufficient mitigation, but the dismissal did little to assuage the fears of the Miccosukee and some environmentalists that restoring water flows to Everglades National Park would harm other interests.²⁵



The Frog Pond area. [Source: South Florida Water Management District, Save Our Rivers: 1998 Land Acquisition and Management Plan (1998).]





The Frog Pond negotiations and the Cape Sable seaside sparrow situation created discontent exacerbated by battles in the 1990s over the 8.5 Square Mile Area. Under the Modified Water Deliveries Project, as authorized by the 1989 Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act, the Corps was supposed to construct flood mitigating works around the 8.5 area to protect it from any flooding caused by water releases to Everglades National Park. Yet some, including NPS authorities, claimed that the easiest way to restore natural flows to Shark River Slough would be to purchase the entire 8.5 Square Mile Area and allow water to run across the area unhindered by any mitigation.²⁶ In recognition of these views, Congress amended the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act in March 1994, specifically authorizing the secretary of the interior to use funds appropriated for the Modified Water Deliveries Project to acquire the 8.5 section, as long as the secretary did not contribute more than 25 percent of the total cost.²⁷

But, as explained in an earlier chapter, property owners in the area had vehemently objected to any kind of relocation in the 1980s, and they did not retreat from that position in the 1990s. Instead, a 1992 Corps study declaring that acquisition was not necessary as long as flood mitigation structures were built fortified their stance. The Interior Department, however, disagreed with the Corps' conclusion and refused to release funding to construct the flood works (as the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act had mandated), delaying the implementation of the Modified Waters Project. Not only did this mean that necessary water was not restored to the Everglades, it also caused more water to collect in Conservation Area No. 3A, leading to the drowning of tree islands and wildlife, much to the chagrin of the Miccosukee Indians. Miccosukee attorney Dexter Lehtinen thus blasted the Interior Department for its uncooperative attitude, accusing it of "scandalous" behavior, such as "selfish National Park Service obstructionism and outright misrepresentation" and the destruction of property rights.²⁸ The Interior Department denied that it had deliberately withheld funds, claiming instead that Hurricane Andrew (which hit Florida in August 1992) and its aftermath had "brought . . . things to a halt." Besides, Interior officials insisted, the Corps' plan would not give full flood protection to 8.5 Square Mile Area residents, especially if residential expansion in the area continued.²⁹ Regardless of who was right, the situation created a standstill, pitting the Interior Department against the Miccosukee, the Corps, and landowners.

In 1994, the state of Florida became involved in the controversy. That year, Governor Lawton Chiles issued an executive order requesting that the Corps hold any flood mitigation efforts for the 8.5 section "in abeyance" until more studies could be made.³⁰ To make those examinations, Chiles established a committee of Corps, SFWMD, Everglades National Park, and landowner representatives. When it issued its report in 1995, the committee took a middle-ground approach, stating that the best solution was to create a flow way buffer between the 8.5 Square Mile Area and the park. However, Jacksonville District Engineer Colonel Terry Rice dismissed the recommendation because the committee provided no information as to how to deal with the "increased budgets, more environmental problems, and congressional approvals" that would result.³¹

Because of the Corps' rejection, the SFWMD decided in 1996 to review the situation on its own, hoping to find a locally preferred option that it could implement. More studies just made the Miccosukee anxious, especially since flooding continued to be a problem on their lands, and

the tribe appealed for speed in the SFWMD's review. Regardless, the district studied the issue for two years before finally deciding in November 1998 to support full acquisition of the 8.5 Square Mile Area. In the eyes of the Miccosukee, this was the worst possible solution because it would lead only to protracted negotiations with landowners that would further delay implementation of the Modified Waters Project, meaning that they would obtain no relief. Some environmentalists, including Joette Lorion, president of Friends of the Everglades, supported the Miccosukee's stance, requesting that full acquisition be eliminated as an option. Likewise, landowners, such as Ibel Aguilera of the United Property Owners & Friends of the 8.5 Square Mile Area, Inc., contended that the SFWMD was employing coercive tactics to try to force property owners to sell their land, including sending letters that discussed acquisition as a foregone conclusion. Aguilera, spurred on by Representative John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-Tennessee), implied that such methods were more characteristic of the Cuban communist regime that she and many others in the 8.5 section had fled, rather than the United States.³²

Interior Department officials, however, supported the SFWMD's decision, claiming that acquisition was necessary to restore "short hydroperiod wetlands" that could support "habitat for populations of wading birds" on the eastern edge of the Everglades.³³ Moreover, environmentalists such as Mary Barley of the "penny-a-pound" campaign called for acquisition, believing that it would allow the establishment of a recharge area between Everglades National



Flooding in the 8.5 SMA. (Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.)

Park and the urban development of Dade County, thereby allowing more fresh water to flow to Florida Bay and the Florida Keys.³⁴ The different perspectives produced a stalemate, and by 1999, no progress had been made on any front, although the Corps had successfully completed two new control structures (S-355A and S-355B) to divert more water to Northeast Shark River Slough.³⁵

In a similar way, differences between the Corps, the NPS, and other groups resulted in delays on the C-111 project, developed to restore "more natural quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water deliveries to Taylor Slough and wetlands in the panhandle of Everglades National Park."³⁶ To accomplish this, the Corps and the SFWMD constructed S-332D, a new pump station along C-111 (which ran east to west from the park's eastern border), which would allow the Corps to increase water levels in the canal, thereby providing more water to the slough. But farmers located north of the pump objected to the higher canal levels, claiming that more water would damage their crops. When the NPS tried to purchase their lands, the agriculturists refused to sell, creating yet another standoff. By 1999, each side had hardened their stance, meaning that nothing more could be done on the C-111 work.³⁷

According to many observers, one of the major reasons for the lack of progress in the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 projects was the unwillingness of Everglades National Park officials to budge once they had declared their position. Critics claimed that NPS authorities saw the park's interests as supreme, and did not believe that any concessions could or should be made. This intransigence stemmed both from an overall insular mentality within the NPS, as well as from the attitude of specific leaders at Everglades National Park. For example, because officials believed that NPS personnel were the best authorities on park management, the NPS regarded each park, according to environmental scholar Richard West Sellars, as "a superintendent's realm," to be governed with as little outside interference as possible. The culture of the NPS, Sellars continued, produced "a strongly utilitarian and pragmatic managerial bent" that created "a management style" emphasizing "expediency and quick solutions" and disregarding "information gathering through long-term research."³⁸ Colonel Terry Rice put it more strongly. "The NPS culture is a selfish, self-centered culture," he declared. "They trust nobody."³⁹

Many believed that Richard Ring, who was superintendent of Everglades National Park for most of the 1990s (and who also served for a period as chairman of the Task Force), epitomized these stubborn, self-centered characteristics. As superintendent of the park, critics charged, he clung to his beliefs about what was right or wrong and would not move from his position regardless of the situation. Although Ring held what he perceived to be the best interests of the park at heart, his uncompromising attitude irritated those who had to work with him. "I didn't know anybody that didn't like Dick Ring," Colonel Terrence "Rock" Salt, District Engineer of the Jacksonville District, explained, but "he was also the most frustrating guy to work with that you could find." The problem, in Salt's mind, was that Ring "had a tactical view of things and he would fight so hard for it that he would expend all the strategic capital he had built up."⁴⁰ Michael Collins, a member of the SFWMD's governing board, agreed. "Basically [Ring] believed that if you obstructed everything that came down the road you protected the park."⁴¹

But Ring was not alone in his actions. Michael Finley, superintendent of Everglades National Park in the mid-1980s, had resorted to litigation and polarized stances as well because

he believed that it was the only way to get water management agencies to take the park seriously.⁴² Environmentalist Joseph Browder of the Audubon Society applauded Ring and Finley, claiming that the superintendents were only doing what was necessary to force the Corps to operate the C&SF Project to the benefit of fish and wildlife interests. In Browder's mind, the original project plan had required the Corps to provide flood control and water supply "in a way that does not damage the national interest lands protected by the NPS." Since the Corps disregarded this responsibility, Browder continued, Ring, Finley, and the entire environmental community had to expend efforts "to enforce the terms of the original agreement." "It's really that simple," he concluded.⁴³



Flooding around Miccosukee residences. (Source: South Florida Water Management District.)

The Corps, however, claimed that the park's uncooperative attitude did nothing to help the cause of ecosystem protection; instead, it merely created an atmosphere of paranoia and polarization that frustrated any true restoration efforts. As proof, Corps personnel pointed to notes taken at park meetings entitled SWOT workshops, where the park's "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" (SWOT) were analyzed. These notes showed that park officials had listed "powerful organizations/interests with goals at odds with ours" – specifically the Corps, the SFWMD, the Miccosukee, developers, and agricultural interests – as threats.⁴⁴ As Rice, who by now was working as a consultant to the Miccosukee Indians, noted, SFWMD and Corps employees – "dedicated to Everglades restoration" – were "frustrated and beat down" by such statements and by the NPS's "culture of paranoia."⁴⁵

Internal Corps emails corroborated Rice's statements. Richard Punnett, a modeler in the Jacksonville District's Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, discussed the "real feeling of depression" that he experienced when considering the "delays, confusion, demands, red herrings,

bad science, changing of positions" that the NPS used to "undercut" the restoration effort. Punnett claimed that Everglades National Park officials misrepresented scientific data and made "false claims" about restoration plans. Punnett and others were "doing [their] best to work through the gauntlet" of delays and obstructionist tactics employed by the NPS, but believed that the Service's " 'red herrings' will never be an endangered species."⁴⁶

Michael L. Choate, a hydrologist with the Jacksonville District, made even stronger statements, accusing Everglades National Park officials of conducting a "jihad" against "the infidels" (meaning the Corps, the SFWMD, and any other interest that disagreed with park stances). "We have wasted 8 years on [Modified Water Deliveries] and 6 years on C-111 arguing over L-28 (flood the Indians), 8.5 sma (flood the homesteaders) and L-31N canal stages (flood the farmers)," Choate charged. Park officials had no problem with such delays, Choate declared, because "they have not lost until something is built." This attitude, Choate continued, meant that the NPS would obstruct any projects resulting from a comprehensive restoration plan, "resulting in time and cost escalations."⁴⁷ In the words of Hanley "Bo" Smith, chief of the Environment and Resources Branch, "it's hard to imagine worse interagency relationships than those" between the Corps, the FWS, and the NPS.⁴⁸

Others within the Corps tried to be more philosophical about relationships with the NPS. James Vearil, a project manager for the Corps' Restoration Coordination and Verification team (RECOVER), for example, believed that the major reasons for the problems were "differences in our agencies missions, organizational structures, legal authorities, philosophy, customers, styles, rules and regulations, and organizational culture." Citing several publications on conflicts within water management (such as publications by William Lord and Peter Loucks), Vearil related that the conflicts between the Corps and the NPS lay in three arenas – cognitive (or technical issues), value, and interest – although, in Vearil's mind, the values and interests of both parties caused the majority of contention. "In order to adequately improve Corps/DOI communications," Vearil asserted, "our organizational leaders will also need to address the broader institutional/political/legal issues."⁴⁹ John Ogden, a former scientist with Everglades National Park who was now an ecologist for the SFWMD, agreed. "I still have hopes that we can forge a new, more productive relationship with the staff of Everglades National Park," he told Robert "Bob" Johnson, director of research at the park, but as long as Johnson and other park officials took "cheap shots" at restoration plans, the process would be difficult.⁵⁰

To those dealing with the problems created by Lake Okeechobee regulation schedules, experimental water deliveries, the 8.5 Square Mile Area, and the C-111 project, Vearil's comments rang true. In all of these cases, the issues were not so much technical (although all sides used scientific information to support their positions) as they were questions of values and interests. What was important to one side was not necessarily important to the other, and if one refused to compromise, solutions were difficult to reach. Unfortunately, these problems portended difficulties for ecosystem restoration plans and projects. The whole basis for restoration, and the whole goal of the Task Force and the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable Florida, was to create consensus so that a restoration plan could move forward. But with sides clinging to their own values and interests, consensus was difficult to achieve. No one doubted that Lake Okeechobee had to be regulated in a different way in order to protect estuaries and to preserve water supply, just as no one questioned that restoring more natural flows to both

Everglades National Park and Florida Bay were necessary. The problem was developing plans to which all sides could agree. If the Corps, the Interior Department, the SFWMD, agricultural interests, the Miccosukee Indians, environmentalists, and others could not agree on a Lake Okeechobee restoration schedule, or on how flows could best be restored to the park, how would they ever agree on an acceptable restoration plan in general?⁵¹ That question plagued officials in the midst of developing a workable proposal and placed a pall of pessimism over the entire restoration effort. As Bradford Sewell, an attorney with the NRDC, observed, no "worse advertisements for Everglades restoration" could have appeared.⁵²

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JACKSONVILLE: C. DREW'S BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE 1859.

CHAPTER XVIII

SILE'S STORY CONTINUED.

IT was a cold, stormy night. The wind blew "great guns" from the north east, and the rain dashed in fitful torrents against my windows with such force as to produce a deafening noise. I sat over a warm fire, resting my feet upon the low mantelpiece, watching the smoke from an old-fashioned Dutch pipe, as it gracefully curled and wreathed into innumerable fanastical figures and slowly disappeared above my head, and was just thinking about retiring to make myself comfortable for the night, when a loud knock at the door startled me.

"Who's there?" I asked.

"A friend," answered a voice outside.

"Well, if you are a friend, come in; for I presume you don't find it very comfortable standing there in the rain!"

The door opened, and in walked Math, shivering with cold, and as wet as a drowned rat.

"Thunder and turf!" exclaimed I, "what in the name of common sense started you out at this late hour, and such a night, too! Didn't the wind almost blow you away?"

"Hold on, Major, hold on awhile; I've come over to see you on a little particular business, but you must give me time to thaw fust! I swow, I never seed sich wether as this in the Flurridy's afore, these ten years!" He took a seat near the fire, and sat for some time in a brown study—neither spoke nor moved. I saw, in a very few minutes he had met with some reverse of fortune that was operating powerfully upon his mind. For the space of fifteen minutes, perhaps, I suffered him to remain uninterrupted in the enjoyment of his cogitations; but, beginning at last to feel some anxiety with regard to the oddity of his appearance, I asked him to explain the nature of his business at this unseasonable hour of the night.

"Well, Major," said he, after coughing and clearing up his throat some half dozen times or more, "I'm in a thunderin scrape, and as you are the only man in all these yere parts that's ever seemed like they wanted to befriend me in enny way, I've come to see if you woldn't help me out?"

"Very well, Math," said I, "tell me the nature of your difficulty, and if I can do any thing, you know, without asking, I am ready to go any reasonable length to serve you."

"Thank you, Major, thank you a thousand times for that. If you ever stand in need of a friend, old fellow," continued he, "jest call on Mathy Dawson, and dang my everlastin' buttons if he don't swim a river of moccasin snakes for yer any time!"

"Very well," I answered; "we'll see about that part of the matter some other time, but tell me, first, what it is you want me to do for you?"

"Well, you know that night we went over Alligator Creek a firehuntin', I was tellin' you about mine and Sallie Dykes' little scrape? Well, some of them matters has taken a considerable turn for the worst. I went over t'other day, like a gentleman, and axed the old man for his darter, and, instead of givin' me a perlite answer, the old willain got right up, tuck his big walkin cane, and druv me off the place. Sallie sends me word today, by her cousin Charlie, that they are fixin' to send her away down inter Warkuller county, out of my reach, and, if I want her, I'd better fix some plan to steal her afore day arter to-morrow night, for then's when they're gwine to start with her. Charlie tells me the whole family is treatin' of her the very worst kind, and doin' everything they kin to aggrywate and bedevil her. Now, Major, I can't stand the like of that, and I'm comin' to what I want you to do for me. "There's to be a big quiltin' to-morrow down to ole man Shuffield's, and all Dykes' folks is to be there, and, as I can get no chance to see Sallie myself, I want you, if you please, to go down there and try yer best to make some kinder 'rangement with her to meet you somewhere, and somehow, to-morrow night. Will you do it, Major?"

After some little useless remonstrance with him as to the propriety of going into measures so rashly, I consented to assist him.

"Then you'll go, and no mistake?" inquired he.

"Yes, I'll go, Math, but you must promise to keep dark about the matter, for, upon the whole, it's rather an ugly affair, and I shouldn't much like any one to know I have a hand in it."

"I'll keep dark as thunder," was the reply.

Agreeably to promise, I went next day to the quilting and endeavored to make some arrangements with Sallie, but owing to the strict watch kept over all her movements, I could get no opportunity of doing so until very late in the afternoon; and even then it was quite brief, as I only had time to whisper in her ear these words—"Sallie, meet me at midnight behind the horse-lot," and she to answer by a nod of the head, when she was discovered in rather dangerous proximity to me and called away by her mother.

Having accomplished the object of my uninvited presence at the quilting, I immediately returned home, where I found Math waiting for me in the most lamentable state of suspense.

When I informed him of my success in having made a satisfactory arrangement with Sallie for the elopement, I almost feared the fellow would go beside himself with pure delight. He talked, he sang, he danced, he wondered if midnight would ever come, and occasionally swore that, "Ef it jest warn't for the respect his daddy teached him to hev for old age, he could lick forty ole Dykes, and as many of his sons as could be crammed into a ten acre field."

At last the old clock over the mantelpiece told the hour of eleven, and we began to make preparations to depart; for it was full two miles to the anticipated scene of action, and, of course, we had no time to lose. Stealthily we crept out to the lot and bridled up old Dan. Now, Dan was of the long-eared tribe, and, independent of his natural mulishness, he also had the credit of other peculiarities, one of which, and perhaps the most important, was his extreme laziness. He had one gait, one only—that was a short, shuffling pace; nor could he, by any manner of means, even under the most urgent circumstances, be induced to exchange it for a faster. Thunder, brickbats, cowhides, dragoon-spurs, and sharp sticks, all lost their efficacy upon Dan; but he was the only chance, and we obliged to take him.

In the darkness and hurry, we were unable to find a saddle, and had to substitute a long double cushion from an old buggy. This reached nearly to the ground on either side of the imperturbable Dan. Thus rigged, we mounted—I first, Math behind me—and toddled off in the road leading to old Dykes'.

In the course of half an hour or so, we drew about opposite old Dykes' house, which was situated some two hundred yards from the road, and, after spending a few minutes in council, took Dan into a pine thicket, made him fast to one of the young saplings and there left him, and proceeded to the place of meeting agreed upon at the quilting.

Esconcing ourselves each in a corner of the horse-lot fence, in such a position that we could observe any movement that might take place about the house without attracting notice, we quietly awaited the result of our expedition.

To our great gratification, we had not long to wait before we saw Sallie come to the door, bearing a small bundle under her arm, take a cautious survey around her, then hurriedly set off precisely in the direction where we were sitting. As soon as she had approached sufficiently near, I arose and met her.

"Well, Sallie," said I, "we are here, you see, all ready for you, and I am glad to say you kept us shivering in the cold here but a short time."

"I was mighty afraid I would not find you," said she, "but where is Math?"

"Here he is!" exclaimed a voice from an adjacent corner of the fence, and in the next moment Math's brawny arms were locked around Sallie's waist. I couldn't see, but verily, several loud concussions followed, which very much reminded me of the old fashioned buss. "Come, good folks, we have no time for kissing and hugging now," said I, "you must defer that to a more convenient season."

We then started with all possible speed for Dan, Math supporting Sallie on one side and I on the other; but scarcely had we proceeded fifty yards, ere we heard Sallie's name loudly and frequently vociferated by several members of the family.

"Your horses, boys, your horses! quick! quick! or she's gone!" shouted the old man. We heard no more till we were lifting Sallie upon Dan's back, when the sound of horses' hoofs greeted our ears. Louder and louder grew the sound as it approached us.

"O, we are done for!" cried Math, "they'll find us—they've found us already! but, Sallie," continued he, turning to her, "darn my skin, if they git you away from me this night, if they ain't got to drag you over my dead body, cert'in as lightnin'!"

"Hush! Math," said I, "keep quiet; we are not discovered yet, and we are not agoing to be; for when they come to the road, as a matter of course, they'll take that, and never think of crossing over to look for us here."

Now, another little peculiarity in the character of Dan, not mentioned with the first, was his inordinate fondness for the company of horses, and on this occasion he expressed it in such a manner as very nearly to betray us, and utterly overthrow all our designs.

On came the two horsemen—who afterwards proved to be Sallie's brothers—and when they dashed up to the road, suddenly checked their steeds, as if in doubt which end to take. Just at this critical moment, an honest desire, no doubt, seizing Dan to salute them, he opened his throat and sent forth a bray, that sounded to me, as it rang through the surrounding forest, six times louder than the whistle of a steamship. Quick as thought the young Dykes's turned their horses' heads for us, and came with all the speed the darkness of the night would admit of.

"Heavens and yearth!" exclaimed Math, as the last sound of Dan's stentorian voice was floating away in the distance. "They'll have us! they've got us! O Jerusalem! Sallie, they'll git you away from me arter all! Oh! Major—" "Hold your tongue fool! they may miss us yet," said I, and I seized the mule by the nose to prevent, if possible, a repetition of the bray. Succeeding at last, by combining force with persuasion, in restoring Dan to quietness, we remained perfectly still, awaiting any new turn matters might take.

On came the horsemen exactly in our direction, and, but for exceedingly good fortune on our side, they would have ridden slap up to us. When within a half dozen yards or so, they stopped to listen.

"Where was that bray?" asked Green Dykes of Homer.

"We must be about the spot," returned Homer.

"What's that?" said Green, "I hear a noise—listen!"

Just as we were about to give up in despair, they turned their horses' heads, attracted by the noise of some animal we had frightened from his lair, running through the bushes, put whip and left us very considerably relieved.

We then mounted as quickly as possible—I before, Sallie next, and Math behind—and set off in the direction opposite to that taken by the brothers, and soon reached a place of safety.

My story is now done; and I will not task your patience further than to say that, a very few days afterwards, Math Dawson and Sallie Dykes were made one flesh, and, for aught I know to the contrary, they are still realizing all the blissful enjoyments incident to the connubial state.•



1956 - 1957 H.O. Peters



1957 - 1958 Harry C. Schwebke



1958 - 1959 John P. Goggin



1959 - 1960 R.H. Jones



1960 - 1961 Hugh A. Binyon



1961 - 1962 Russell H. DeGrove



1962 - 1963 Perry C. McGriff



1963 - 1964 Carl E. Johnson



1964 - 1965 James A. Thigpenn, III



1965 - 1966 Harold A. Schuler, Jr.



1966 - 1967 Shields E. Clark



1967 - 1968 Maurice E. Berry



1968 - 1969 William C. Hart



1969 - 1970 Frank R. Shilling, Jr.



1970 - 1971 William V. Keith



1971 - 1972 James M. King



1972 - 1973 Broward P. Davis



1976 - 1977 Robert S. Harris



1973 - 1974 E.R. (Ed) Brownell



1977 - 1978 Paul T. O'Hargan



1974 - 1975 E.W. (Gene) Stoner



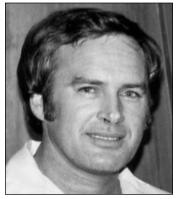
1978 - 1979 William G. Wallace, Jr.



1975 -1976 Lewis H. Kent



1979 -1980 Robert W. Wigglesworth



1980 - 1981 Ben P. Blackburn



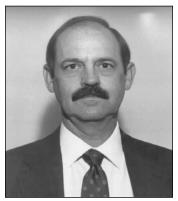
1981 - 1982 William B. Thompson, III



1982 - 1983 John R. Gargis



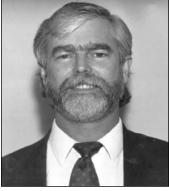
1983 - 1984 Robert A. Bannerman



1984 - 1985 Buell H. Harper



1985 - 1986 H. Bruce Durden



1986 - 1987 Jan L. Skipper



1987 - 1988 Stephen M. Woods



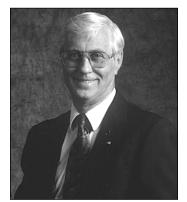
1988 - 1989 Stephen G. Vrabel



1989 - 1990 W. Lamar Evers



1990 - 1991 Joseph S. Boggs



1991 - 1992 Robert L. Graham



1992 - 1993 Nicholas D. Miller



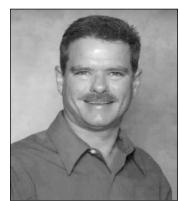
1993 - 1994 Loren E. Mercer



1994 - 1995 Kent Green



1994 - 1995 Robert D. Cross



1995 - 1996 Thomas L. Connor



1999 - 2000 Jack Breed



1996 - 1997 Gordon R. Niles, Jr.



2000 - 2001 Arthur A. Mastronicola



1997 - 1998 Dennis E. Blankenship



2001 - 2002 Michael H. Maxwell



1998 - 1999 W. Lanier Mathews, II



2002 - 2003 John M. Clyatt



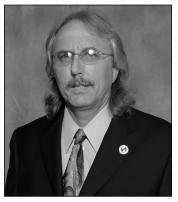
2003 - 2004 David W. Schryver



2004 - 2005 Stephen M. Gordon



2005 - 2006 Richard G. Powell



2006 - 2007 Michael J. Whitling



2007 - 2008 Robert W. Jackson, Jr.



2008 - 2009 Pablo Ferrari



2009 - 2010 Steve Stinson



2010 - 2011 Dan Ferrans



2011 - 2012 Jeremiah Slaymaker



2012 - 2013 Ken Glass



2013 - 2014 Russell Hyatt



2014 - 2015 William Rowe



2015 - 2016 Dale Bradshaw



2016 - 2017 Lou Campanile, Jr.



2017 - 2018 Robert Strayer, Jr.



2018 - 2019 Dianne Collins



2019 - 2020 Don Elder



2020 - 2021 Hal Peters



2021 - 2022 Lou Campanile, Jr.

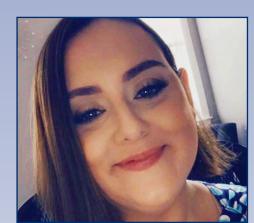


2022 - 2024 Howard Ehkme

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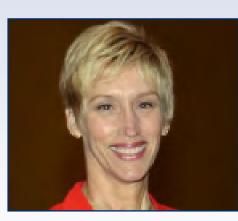
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