

# FWEA Manasota Chapter

Vol 5 - February 2011

## Message from the Steering Committee

*By Kristiana Dragash, Chair of FWEA Manasota Chapter*

The Manasota Chapter is committed to providing more events and activities to better serve its members this year. In addition to quarterly luncheons, a joint treatment plant tour with the Florida Engineering Society Myakka Chapter is being planned at the City of Sarasota. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Another exciting event to look out for will be the Manasota Chapter's 1-year anniversary celebration party. This celebration will be a happy-hour event rather than the usual luncheon setting and will be lots of fun!

Last year, many of us helped out with the Florida Section American Waterworks Association Model Water Tower Competition. We would like to contribute some money towards this great event, so please renew your newsletter advertisements in April/May when we send the announcements.

FWEA is an organization focused on uniting professionals who share a passion for water quality and the environment. We want to share that passion with the community. In the next year, our goal is to start an annual community outreach project, which could be anything from cleaning up a local water body to starting a new student design competition to encourage the future generation of wastewater and environmental professionals.

The Manasota Chapter is just getting started. Now is the time to get involved! You have the input and influence to help make this chapter the most beneficial to you and your colleagues! I am very excited to share the second year with all of you!



*The presentation topic at the March 10, 2011 Manasota Chapter Luncheon will be the Manatee County Southwest Water Reclamation Facility.*

## FWEA Manasota Chapter Steering Committee Officers

### Chair

Kristiana Dragash: 941.378.3579

### Vice-Chair

Vacant

### Treasurer

Mike Sheehan: 941.925.3088

### Secretary

Linda Maudlin: 941.378.3579

### Content/Newsletter

Laura Baumberger: 941.371.9832

### Webmaster

Vacant

### Membership

Rachel Cantor: 813.286.2075

### At Large

Seton Katz: 941-861-0879

TBD

TBD

*If you are interested in participating as an officer on the steering committee, please contact us. We are currently seeking a Vice-Chair, Webmaster, and additional members at large.*

## THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank our newsletter sponsors who have made this chapter formation possible. You will see their advertisements throughout the newsletter. If you would like to advertise in future editions,

*Please contact  
Laura Baumberger at  
941.371.9832*



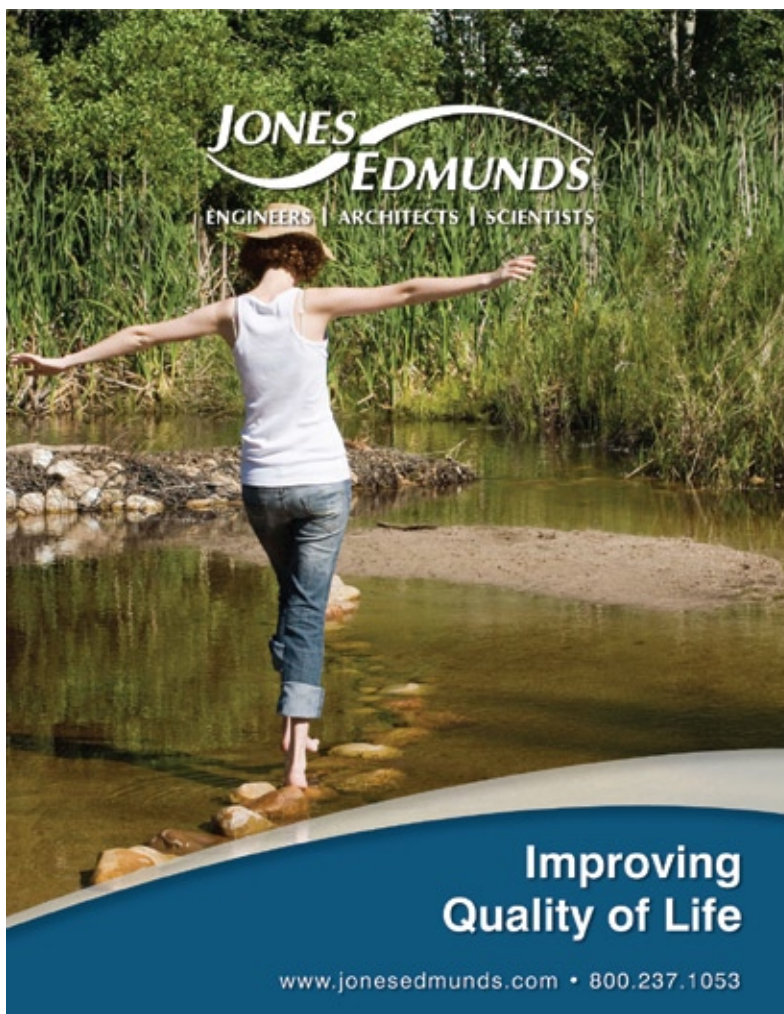
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# HONK AT AN ENGINEER!!

## The First of an Annual E-Week Event!

What better way to meet our public and get **RECOGNITION** for our work as engineers than to take it to the streets?! (which we designed of course)

**When** Friday, February 25, 2011 from 3:30 p.m. until the ASCE Lebrage sets sail!

**Where** The SW Corner of US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue/John Ringling Causeway  
(By the "Unconditional Surrender," A.K.A. Kissing Statue)

**What** We will be holding signs encouraging the public to honk in support of engineers. Special signs will be provided, e.g., "Honk If You Like Potable Water!"

So come out, show your **ENTHUSIASM** and **DEDICATION** for your profession and spread the word! It will be a hoot! Or honk rather!

Have ideas for cool signs? Want to hold a sign for your company?

Become a sponsor!!

Contact Kristiana Dragash: [kdragash@greeley-hansen.com](mailto:kdragash@greeley-hansen.com)

For more information on E week, please see the link on the FWEA Manasota Chapter website: <http://www.fwea.org/dynamics.asp?id=141>

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## Please **Join FES Myakka Chapter**

At Our Annual Banquet

February 11, 2011

Holiday Inn Lido Beach

233 Ben Franklin Drive • Sarasota, FL 34236

Sunset Registration 5:30 p.m.

Includes Complimentary Beverage & Hors D'oeuvres

Dinner Service & Program 7:00 p.m.

\$50 to Attend

Cocktail formal dress

RSVP by February 7, 2011

<http://myakkachapterfes.weebly.com/>

Sponsorship opportunities available

Contact: Neirda Lafontant [socraplato@hotmail.com](mailto:socraplato@hotmail.com)

### *Engineer's Week Proclamations*

*The City of Bradenton will proclaim  
February 20-26, 2011 as Engineer's Week at their  
February 9th City Council meeting at 8:00 a.m.*

*City of Bradenton City Hall  
101 Old Main Street  
Bradenton, FL 34205*

*Sarasota County will proclaim  
February 20-26, 2011 as Engineer's Week at their  
February 22nd County Commission meeting  
at 9:00 a.m.*

*Sarasota County Administration Building  
1660 Ringling Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34236*

*All members of the local engineering community  
are encouraged to attend to show their support  
of the proclamations and our profession.*

### ***ADVERTISE HERE!***

**Consider advertising your company in the  
FWEA Manasota Chapter Newsletter and show  
your sponsorship of our organization.**

***Contact Laura Baumberger  
for advertising sizes and rates: 941-371-9832***



# Regulatory Update: Numeric Nutrient Criteria

By Erica Stone and Rod Reardon, Carollo Engineers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) adopted numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) in inland lakes and flowing waters for the State of Florida on November 14, 2010. This includes all Class I and III lakes, rivers, streams, and springs outside of South Florida. The adopted NNC limits fall between 0.67 and 1.87 mg/L TN and 0.06 to 0.49 mg/L TP for rivers and streams, depending on the Nutrient Watershed Region (NWR) of the state; between 0.51 and 1.27 mg/L TN and 0.01 to 0.05 mg/L TP for lakes, depending on color and alkalinity; and 0.35 mg/L nitrate-nitrite for springs.

Fifteen months were given for cities, businesses, utilities, and other stakeholders to develop strategies for implementing and meeting these criteria with the rule going into effect on March 6, 2012. On February 4, 2011, 60 days from publication of the rule, EPA will begin accepting applications for site-specific alternative criteria (SSAC). In addition, EPA is working to develop similar criteria for coastal and estuarine waters and canals by August 12, 2012, with the proposed rule anticipated on November 11, 2011.

All utilities with NPDES permits will be affected by this new rule, even if only using intermittent discharges. After March 6, 2012, when NPDES permits are up for renewal, the new criteria will be applied to the permit. If the limits cannot be met, a compliance schedule along with interim limits may be included in the permit. The NNC will be applied as in-stream water quality standards rather than end-of-pipe limits. However, many attorneys have expressed the opinion that the NNC will eventually be applied as discharge limits.

EPA suggests TMDLs will also remain in place until the water body impairment is further evaluated. If the water body is no longer impaired, the TMDL can be dismissed. If the water body is impaired and also not meeting the NNC, then the TMDL will need to be revised. The TMDLs can be applied as SSAC if there is scientific evidence the SSAC are better suited for that water body than the NNC.

Many lawsuits have been filed since publication of the final rule in November. One of the first lawsuits was filed by the Office of the Attorney General of Florida on behalf of the State and Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture. This lawsuit claims that EPA is violating the Clean Water Act by in not allowing the individual states to have control over

water quality, which has traditionally been under the states' jurisdiction. Destin Water Users and four other northwest Florida utilities have also filed lawsuits, claiming the new criteria are impossible to meet and forcing expensive upgrades to their facilities that still may not be enough. The Florida League of Cities, Inc. and Florida Stormwater Association have also filed a federal lawsuit against EPA alleging the rule is not based on valid science, not possible to meet with current technologies, and not implemented with consideration of the financial impacts to small governments and businesses.

In addition to the lawsuits being filed by the regulated community, the Florida Wildlife Federation has filed another lawsuit to invalidate these NNC because they feel the rule has too many loopholes and too much flexibility. They had filed the initial lawsuit prompting EPA to create the NNC in 2008.



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# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## FEBRUARY

- 7** Odor and Corrosion Workshop, Bonita Springs, FL
- 9** City of Bradenton Engineer's Week Proclamation, Bradenton, FL
- 11** FES Myakka Chapter Annual Banquet, Sarasota, FL
- 17** FWEA West Coast Chapter Luncheon, Tampa, FL
- 17** ASCE Suncoast Luncheon, Sarasota, FL
- 20-26** Engineers Week
- 22** Sarasota County Engineer's Week Proclamation, Sarasota, FL
- 23-24** FWEA Leadership Conference, Altamonte Springs, FL
- 25** Honk at an Engineer Public Recognition Event, Sarasota, FL

## MARCH

- 10** FWEA Manasota Chapter Luncheon, Lakewood Ranch, FL

### SAVE THE DATES!

Future Manasota Chapter Luncheon Meetings:

**June 2, September 8, December 1**

## February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



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# FWEA Safety Corner

By Mike Sheehan, Regional Safety Advisor, Severn Trent Services

With approximately 8 million persons employed in the construction industry nationwide, it is imperative that training and education be provided to these workers to ensure their safety.

OSHA advises and encourages employers and contractors to institute and maintain a program that provides adequate systematic policies, procedures, and practices to protect their employees from, and allow them to recognize, job-related safety and health hazards. An effective program includes provisions for the systematic identification, evaluation, and prevention or control of general workplace hazards, specific job hazards, and potential hazards.

Contractors and employers in the construction industry also must comply with OSHA standards. Specific sections of these standards include responsibilities for each contractor/employer to initiate and maintain safety and health programs, provide for a competent person to conduct frequent and regular inspections, and train each employee to recognize, and avoid unsafe conditions.

## The Top Four Construction Hazards and Associated Preventative Measures

The top four causes of construction fatalities include falling, being struck by something, being caught in or between something, and electrocutions. Preventative measures to minimize or eliminate such occurrences are provided below.

### To Prevent Falling Incidents:

- ▶ Wear and use personal fall arrest equipment.
- ▶ Install and maintain perimeter protection.
- ▶ Secure floor openings and label opening covers.
- ▶ Use ladders and scaffolds safely.

### To Prevent Struck-By Incidents:

- ▶ Never position yourself between moving and fixed objects.
- ▶ Wear high-visibility clothes near equipment/vehicles.

### To Prevent Caught-In/Between Incidents:

- ▶ Never enter an unprotected excavation 5 feet or deeper without an adequate protective structure in place. Some trenches less than 5 feet deep may also need such a system.

- ▶ Make sure the trench or excavation is protected by sloping, shoring, benching, or an adequately designed protective structure.

### To Prevent Electrocution Incidents:

- ▶ Persons who work on electrical equipment must always have adequate training.
- ▶ Locate and protect yourself against utility lines and equipment before starting work.
- ▶ Look for overhead power lines before and during equipment operations.
- ▶ Maintain a safe distance away from power lines and learn safe distance requirements.
- ▶ Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double insulated.
- ▶ Use ground-fault circuit interrupters for protection, especially in wet areas.
- ▶ Be alert to electrical hazards when working with ladders, scaffolds, or other platforms.



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# March Luncheon Meeting - March 10, 2011

## *Getting Your Bugs Back - How to Recover After a Wastewater Treatment Plant Upset* by Peter Bonk III (Manatee County Wastewater Division Manager)

### *Abstract*

Properly maintaining a wastewater treatment facility is critical for continued reliable operation. Insufficient inspection or preventative maintenance programs, or those performed with too little frequency, can lead to breakdowns of major processes, causing operational problems with potentially severe consequences.

Mechanical failures that might have been identified through preventative maintenance caused the loss of more than half of the clarification capacity at Manatee County's Southwest Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in November 2009. Loss of this capacity caused hydraulic overloading and disruptions to the biological process, which led to a major plant upset.

This presentation will provide an overview of the history of Manatee County's Southwest WRF, a summary of the events leading to the plant upset, a review of the County's efforts to revive the plant and reestablish the

biological process, and lessons learned throughout the experience.

### *Peter Bonk III*

Peter Bonk III was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan. He completed an Associate's Degree in Science at Delta College and then worked for 10 years in a family-owned construction and realty company before moving to Golden, Colorado, to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. He moved back to Saginaw and worked as a Civil Engineer for the City of Saginaw for almost 12 years. After his tenure with the City of Saginaw, he worked as a Forensic Engineer for a little over one year doing building failure investigations for insurance companies. He moved to Manatee County in the spring of 2005 to manage construction projects for the County's Project Management Department and accepted the position of Wastewater Division Manager in December of 2007.

## **FWEA MANASOTA CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING**

### **FÊTE/POLO GRILL**

10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Registration - 11:30 • Lunch and Program - 12:00

**Choice #1 - Rosas Farms Burger** - Served on a Pretzel Bun with Swiss Cheese with Housemade Kettle Chips.

**Choice #2 - Lynn's Salad with Grilled Chicken** - Field Greens, Corn, Dried Cranberries, Sunflower Seeds, Grape Tomatoes, Cucumber, Shredded Mozzarella and Balsamic Vinaigrette

**Choice #3 - Lynn's Salad (Vegetarian)**

**Dessert** - Freshly Baked Smores Cookies

Cost: \$22 for pre-registration online or by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail • \$25 at the door

*Pre-registration deadline: Friday, March 4*

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Registration can be made by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail, with payment mailed in advance or collected at the door.

Name	Company/Affiliation	Phone	Choice of Meal

You can register online at [www.fwea.org](http://www.fwea.org) or register by phone, fax, or e-mail to Linda Maudlin  
2601 Cattlemen Road, Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34232

Ph: 941-378-3579 • Fax: 941-378-9489 • E-mail: [lmaudlin@greeley-hansen.com](mailto:lmaudlin@greeley-hansen.com)