

S&YP News



FWEA Students and Young Professionals Newsletter

Message from the Chair



Nicole Cohen, Carollo Engineers

Welcome to the seventh issue of the semiannual FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) Newsletter! I first want to thank George Dick for successfully completing his term as Chair of the S&YP committee. George will continue to serve as a past-Chair of the committee and will also be the Chair for the FWEA West Coast Chapter. As incoming Chair, I am honored to introduce this summer's S&YPC newsletter where we will celebrate the events held and organized by the committee at the past Florida Water Resources Conference, announce the winner of the YP of the Year award, recap the YP Summit held in February, and much more. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank our annual sponsors for their support and generosity and the students and volunteers who work so hard throughout the year.

The mission of the SYPC is to develop and implement programs to increase the activity and membership of students and young professionals in FWEA. We accomplish this by providing scholarships, hosting technical competitions, and offering networking and mentoring opportunities.

Looking to get involved?

Are you new to the industry or new to Florida? The SYPC is a great way to get involved and get connected with others in your field. If you're looking to get involved or become a sponsor, please reach out to:

Nicole Cohen, Chair SYPC
Carollo Engineers
Ncohen@carollo.com

Kamal Taha, Vice Chair SYPC
Arcadis
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2022-2023 Goals

- Connect with FWEA Chapters, Committees, and YP Coordinators
- Ensure all applicable FL Universities are represented at FWRC
- Increase social media presence
- Involvement with K-12 students

Meet the S&YP Committee

Nicole Cohen	(Carollo Engineers)
Kamal Taha	(Arcadis)
George Dick	(Carollo Engineers)
Pranoti Kikale	(Globaltech)
Alex Garlaschi	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Anna Ness	(CDM Smith)
Laura Rodriguez	(Carollo Engineers)
Alex Maas	(Heyward)
Hayden Tse	(CDM Smith)
Jessica Green	(Orange County Utilities)
Emory Gawlik	(CDM Smith)
Amanda Guillory	(Garney Construction)
David Hernandez	(Hazen and Sawyer)
Mike Semago	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Zachary Loeb	(Clay County Utilities)
Allison Rainey	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Eric Knoppel	(CHA Consulting)
Jissell Muir	(Arcadis)
John Bennett	(FJ Nugent)
Angel Villarruel-Moore	(Carollo Engineers)
Kaylei Kambak	(Tetra Tech)
Alexis Scheele	(Wade Trim)
Felicity Appel	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)

West Coast Chapter News



Carlee Chaffin, HDR

On Thursday, April 21st, about 30 USF students, USF staff, and engineering professionals met at World of Beer on Fowler Avenue for a networking happy hour. USF's FWEA Student Chapter had requested a chance to interact with Tampa area engineers to learn more about the profession and opportunities within it. Our professionals certainly rose to the occasion! Representatives from the public and private sectors were in attendance, including Pasco County Utilities, Pinellas County Utilities, Arcadis, Wade Trim, Ardurra, HDR, Kiewit, Jacobs, Freese & Nichols, Black & Veatch, and Jones Edmunds. Dr. Sarina Ergas (USF) and Tom Cross (Freese & Nichols) accompanied around 10-15 students from their Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Capstone class to the event. Carlee Chaffin (HDR) welcomed the group and explained the purpose of FWEA and the networking event, Tim Ware (Wade Trim) addressed the students and encouraged them to make the most of their connections in the industry, and Claes Westring (Jacobs) gave an announcement explaining the mission of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and endorsing society membership. The event was well-attended and great connections were made. A big thank you to everyone who came out and to FWEA for providing opportunities like this for USF students!

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2022 Florida Water Resources Conference (FWRC) Quick Bits

- Held April 24–27 at the Ocean Center Daytona Beach, FL.
- Student design competition winners were FGCU in the wastewater category and USF in the environmental category.
- The committee held its first ever YP Symposium.

Join us at the 2023 FWRC in Orlando, May 13-17

FWRC Resume Workshop



Kamal Taha, Arcadis

The S&YP committee held a resume workshop for all the students participating in the Student Design Competition on Sunday, April 24th. This helped to give the judges time to tally up the scores and decide the winners for the Environmental and Wastewater categories. This also gave the students some time to rest and recuperate from the stresses of the competition and the long drive a lot of them had made to FWRC.

It was great to see people together listening and sharing their thoughts in person for the first time in a while. Even though I was the only one presenting we had A LOT of involvement from everyone in the room. It was great! I enjoyed so much every time someone chimed in whether it was a student, young professional, or seasoned professional giving advice on how to craft a resume or how to market yourself. We even had a few of the professionals and some of the students give some great advice on topics such as cover letters, CVs, how to deal with social media, and what to do if you're looking to move for your work. We also let all the students know that if they ever needed their resumes reviewed to PLEASE reach out to me or the others on the S&YP committee. This offer still stands to any student who needs their resume reviewed, whether you were at FWRC or not!

Afterwards, we had some extra time, so we encouraged the professionals in the room and students to socialize and network with one another. All in all, it was nice being back in front of a crowd and being able to help

students in person! Since the workshop, I've had three students reach out to me and request a resume review. I'm hoping more will reach out with time as I truly enjoy helping students. I'm also looking forward to next year's workshop, which I am planning to volunteer for again!



Kamal presenting on resume know-hows for the students and professionals in the audience.



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FWRC Student Design Competition



George Dick, *Carollo Engineers*

The FWEA SYPC hosted the 26th Annual Student Design Competition (SDC) on April 24th, 2022 at the FWRC. This was the first time since 2019 that the competition was hosted in person and it was great to interact with the students, judges, and volunteers.

The competition is intended to promote real-world design experience for students interested in pursuing a career in water/wastewater engineering and sciences. This year, six teams from four different universities and colleges across Florida participated and competed in one of two categories: wastewater or environmental. The two winning teams received a \$4,270 travel allowance to go on to represent Florida at the national Water Environment Federation Technical and Exhibition Conference (WEFTEC) SDC competition to be held on October 9th in New Orleans. Additionally, each first-place team received a \$1000 Norm Casey Scholarship. All other teams received a \$500 participation bonus. Members of the FWEA Air Quality Committee, as long-time supporters of the S&YPC Committee and the SDC Competition announced the winners of this year's competition. We're proud to announce and congratulate this year's winner for each category.

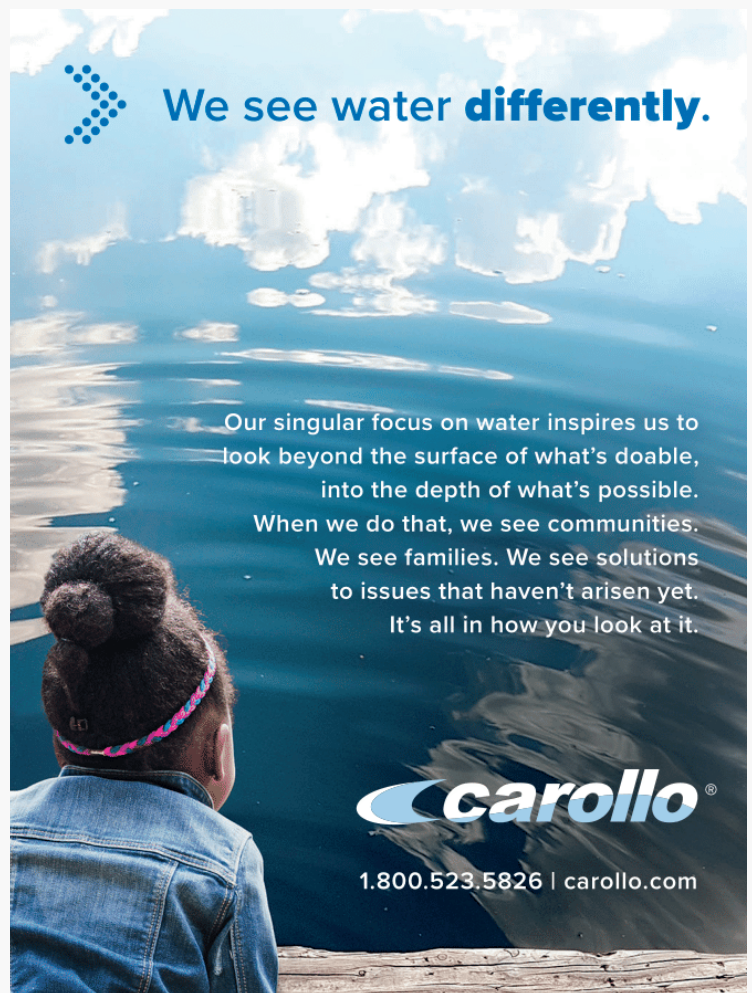
I would like to thank all the S&YP sponsors, the SDC judges, Mike Condran, Matt Munz, Alex Solanilla, Bryan Thaggard, Sean Seabrook, Holly Kremers, Raj Vaidya, Matthew Love, and Zachary Loeb for volunteering. I would also like to thank all the members of the FWEA SYPC that volunteered to host this competition including Nicole Cohen, Kamal Taha, Hayden Tse, Emory Gawlik, and Anna Ness.



First Place Wastewater Team: Florida Gulf Coast University, for their design, "High-Level Disinfection Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade," with team members Kaylei Kambak, Alexis Scheele, and Brendan Zwiefel.



First Place Environmental Team: University of South Florida, for their design, "Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant Wetlands Design," with team members Jada Williams, Shelby Rocha, Anwar Alsharaf, Barbara Martinez, and Vanessa Adame.



FWRC Social Media Challenge Winners

The SYPC reviewed many entries using the #FWRC2022 hashtag and decided on three winners for the social media challenge. Congratulations to the three winners: Amy Campbell (Stantec), Shea Dunifon (Pinellas County Utilities), and Jo Ann Jackson (Black & Veatch). Each winner received a \$100 amazon gift card. Stay tuned for 2023 FWRC's social media challenge!

Thank you to the participants, FWRC, Alex Maas, Hayden Tse, and Melody Gonzalez.



FWRC YP Symposium

The SYPC held its first ever YP Symposium on April 25th at FWRC. We had a great, diverse panel with individuals representing the consulting, construction, and utility sides of the industry. The panel answered many questions that an emerging professional would likely ask, including topics on work-life balance, the importance of participating in organizations, and the future of the industry. The panel then proceeded to answer questions from the audience. With only an hour of time to hold this symposium, the time quickly flew by. Thank you to all those who joined and participated in the audience with a special thanks to our fantastic panelists: Amanda Guillory, Holly Kremers, Zachary Loeb, and Emilie Moore.



Emilie Moore (Black & Veatch), Holly Kremers (Hazen and Sawyer), Zachary Loeb (Clay County Utilities), and Amanda Guillory (Garney).



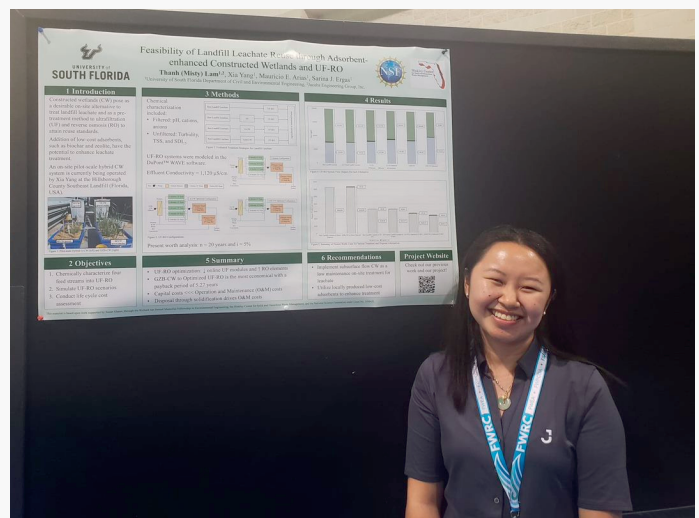
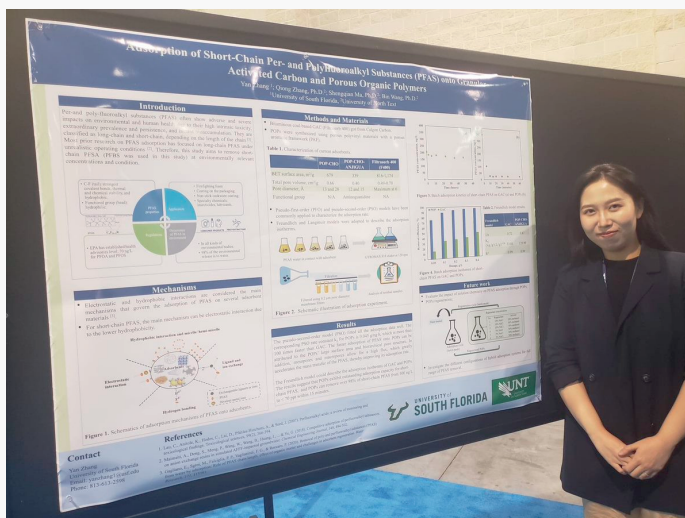
Amanda responds to a question from the audience.


FWRC S&YP Poster Competition




Pranoti Kikale, Globaltech

In addition to the SDC, the 6th Annual Poster Competition was also held. The S&YP Committee would like to congratulate Yan Zhang (USF) for winning the Student Category with her poster on the “Adsorption of Short and Long Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) onto Granular Activated Carbon and Porous Organic Polymers” (Pictured left). The second prize in the same category was awarded to Thanh Lam (USF) on the “Feasibility of Landfill Leachate Reuse through Adsorbent-Enhanced Constructed Wetlands and UF-RO.” (Pictured right)








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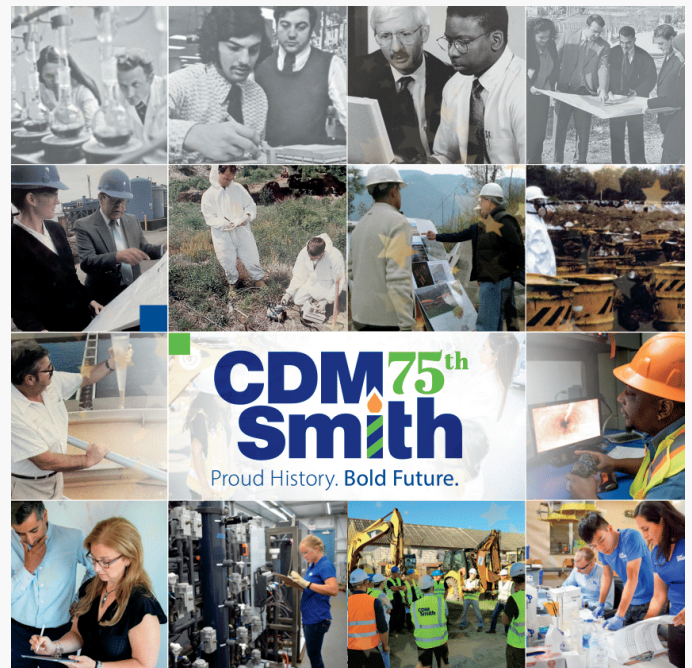
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FWRC YP Social



Jessica Green, *Orange County Utilities*

On Monday, April 25th 2022, members from Region III of FSAWWA and the Central Florida Chapter of FWEA joined forces to host the YP Social at the annual FWRC conference. The FWRC conference theme for this year was “Connect Again”, thus activities at the social focused on promoting interaction between attendees beyond traditional networking. The event kicked off with a round of “Get to know you” Bingo, an icebreaker that enabled attendees to learn fun facts about their peers as well as people outside of their organization and field. A background activity that took place during the social was the “Legooooo: Guess How Many” game, where attendees made guesses on how many Legos were inside of a glass jar. It attracted people to interact by discussing what they thought was the best strategy in determining how many Legos were actually inside of the jar, but those discussions served as catalyst to other conversations. As a final way to promote engagement, event lead Jessica Green facilitated “Minute To Win It” challenges. Those who participated in the challenges, as well as the onlookers viewing the activities, had a blast! Attendees received party favors that will serve as a reminder to them that they are essential. The social was a wonderful occasion of connecting again!



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Central Florida News



Angel Villarruel-Moore
Carollo Engineers

The goal of FWEA's Central Florida Chapter (CFC) Student Liaison is not only to coordinate with the official FWEA student chapters in the CFC area (the University of Central Florida, UCF) but also bridge the gap between the water industry and other local universities in the CFC area (e.g., Florida Polytechnic University and Florida Institute of Technology).

Upon their election in March, the new Student Liaison for 2022-2023 reached out to faculty advisor of UCF's Chapter of FWEA to establish a relationship and explore the possibility of hosting collaboration events for the upcoming year. While the faculty advisor stated that the FWEA chapter was not active, they were also the faculty advisor for the Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE). As it turns out, the timing could not have been better as UCF's SEE had a very strong desire to bolster relationships between their students and members of our industry. After some brainstorming with the SEE president, it was decided that an informal resume and interview workshop between CFC professionals and members of UCF's SEE would greatly benefit both groups.

On April 18th, CFC prepared a brief presentation to introduce WEF and FWEA and provided a handful of Tips-and-Tricks and other best practices when it comes to resume formatting and internship/job interviews. Following this presentation, SEE members were encouraged to meet with CFC volunteers on a one-on-one basis for a personalized resume review and to ask any industry-related questions they may have. After the workshop, light food and drinks were provided by CFC and volunteers hung around after to field any remaining questions the students had and shared some personal stories.

This collaboration event was a success and CFC hopes that future events will continue to promote involvement from UCF students to participate in FWEA activities. The newly elected SEE president and secretary have since reached out to the CFC Student Liaison to begin planning events for the upcoming school year. Additionally, CFC hopes to host a similar event for Florida Polytechnic University and Florida Tech this upcoming school year.



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2022 YP of the Year Award Goes to...

Tonya Sonier of Mead and Hunt!

Tonya was nominated by her mentor and peers for the 2021-2022 FWEA “YP of the Year” Award and was selected by the S&YP Committee, along with members of FWEA’s Board of Directors, due to her continued and long standing involvement and high level of service to FWEA. Tonya has been extremely active in FWEA since 2013, serving on multiple FWEA committees and holding multiple roles both present and past within the organization. She became a member of FWEA nine years ago, right out of college, and has continued to grow in leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels. She has been involved and continues to be involved with the Central Florida Chapter, the Seminars Committee, the Wastewater Process Committee, and the Young Professionals (YP) Summit.

Notably, Tonya has been instrumental as FWEA has had to adapt and overcome challenges as they transitioned many of their events into a virtual delivery method including FWEA Connect in lieu of the 2021 Florida Water Resources Conference (FWRC). Tonya also continues to donate numerous hours volunteering at local events such as the Wastewater Process Seminar, oyster reef building, lake cleanups, beach cleanups, technical luncheons and more.

As the YP of the Year, Tonya will get the opportunity to take an all expenses paid trip to the 2023 Young Professional Summit, held in Sacramento, California at the Utility Management Conference in March 2023. Additionally, she was recognized at the Florida Water Resources Conference Award Luncheon this past April.



2022 WEF/AWWA Young Professional Summit



Arpita Meher, Arcadis

The WEF/AWWA Young Professional (YP) Summit was held on the first day of Utility Management Conference (UMC) on February 21, 2022, in Orlando, FL. The Summit featured professional development sessions, interactions with industry experts and networking opportunities for the young and emerging professionals in our industry. After two years of remote working, which provided limited interactions with colleagues, this year's YP Summit at the UMC was a great opportunity to meet and engage with water/wastewater industry professionals from across the country. The Summit provided opportunities for young professionals to network with fellow professionals and to ask questions and build relationships with industry experts. As someone who is a believer in the power of mentorship, I found this year's Summit to be very rewarding, as I was able to meet with experts and young professionals from across the industry, share my experiences and learn about the exciting innovations and projects they are working on.

The theme for this year's YP summit was 'Creative Resilience'. Resiliency is defined as "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties." I think the Summit epitomized the meaning of resiliency by encouraging young professionals to utilize the interactive event to learn from industry leaders how to respond to the current challenges faced by our industry.

I found the YP summit to be extremely engaging. Participants got to take part in several activities that took place throughout the different sessions. We started the morning with a session titled as "Create from chaos and being stronger together" where Alvin Pilobello (Founder & Leadership Development Coach, from Mindspace

Impact) demonstrated how to maximize our capacity for rational, and creative problem-solving through creating psychological safety for ourselves in any environment. Pilobello engaged the young professionals in various activities throughout this session, translating personal resiliency into team resiliency. Through the various team activities, I was able to learn how to ask powerful questions that can unlock the creativity of the team members, enabling me and my cohorts to be stronger and more resilient together.

Another interesting session at the YP Summit included building upon lessons learned from UNLEASH, the global innovation program focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and use their design thinking methodology and materials. Dr. Berry Liner, Chief Technical Officer at WEF explained us "How to get to the 'Root of the Problem' before jumping to find solutions."



2022 WEF/AWWA Young Professional Summit (Cont.)

The UNLEASH method features five primary steps: problem framing, ideation, prototyping, testing, and implementing. Dr. Liner challenged all the young professionals to focus on problem framing and not problem solving to explore the root cause of challenges in the water sector today. Being an Engineer, when faced with a problem, my brain quickly jumps to a problem-solving mode and sometimes without carefully evaluating the problem itself. This could lead to incomplete assessment and therefore not an ideal solution to the problem at hand. Dr. Liner's ideas provided me with a fresh perspective, as it allowed me to slow things down just a bit, so I can properly evaluate the problem thoroughly before I start looking for a solution.

In the afternoon, there was a very engaging panel discussion on "Emerging leaders can help lead innovative solutions" with Water Industry Leaders. Amy Corriveau (Trinnex, a CDM Smith Company), Matt Magruder (Environmental Research Manager at Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District), Steven Drangsholt (Project and Program Manager at Brown & Caldwell) and Ifetayo Venner (President-elect of the 2021-2022 Board of Trustees for WEF and Wastewater Service Line Leader at Arcadis) shared insights on multiple project aspects including but not limited to asset management, collection systems planning, digital transformation and innovation, sustainable infrastructure etc. Ms. Corriveau shared the challenges of being women in engineering while Ms. Venner talked about the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our industry. I think the panel did a great job in discussing some of these tricky social issues being faced by our industry. Hearing their experiences and point of views on these issues was insightful and helped me feel connected to our industry leaders on some of these issues.

I take immense pleasure in working in the water/wastewater industry, which is working towards developing sustainable communities with an ultimate goal of "improving the quality of life." As a young professional in this industry, I strive to take every opportunity to expose myself to new ways of working and to learn as much as I can from leaders in our industry. That is why I cherished this opportunity to attend the 2022 WEF/AWWA YP Summit. I would highly encourage all the young professionals to attend the next YP Summit in Sacramento, California, in March 2023.

Thank you to our SYPC 2022-2023 Sponsors!

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Upcoming Events

Big Bend Chapter

June 9

Big Bend Chapter and AWWA
Region 1 Joint Happy Hour
5:30 - 7:30

Central Chapter

June 10

Inaugural Inshore Fishing Tournament
7:00 - 3:00

June 23

FWEA CFC & FSAWWA Region III Networking Social
6:00 - 7:30

Manasota Chapter

June 11

Joint FSAWWA Region X/FWEA
Manasota Chapter "Family Fun Night" at
the Bradenton Marauders Baseball Game
6:00 - 7:30

October 14

Manasota Chapter 8th Annual Sporting Clays
11:00 - 4:00

Treasure Coast Chapter

June 16

FWEA Treasure Coast Chapter and FSAWWA
Region VIII Putting Contest and Social
5:00 - 9:00

Southeast Chapter

July 15

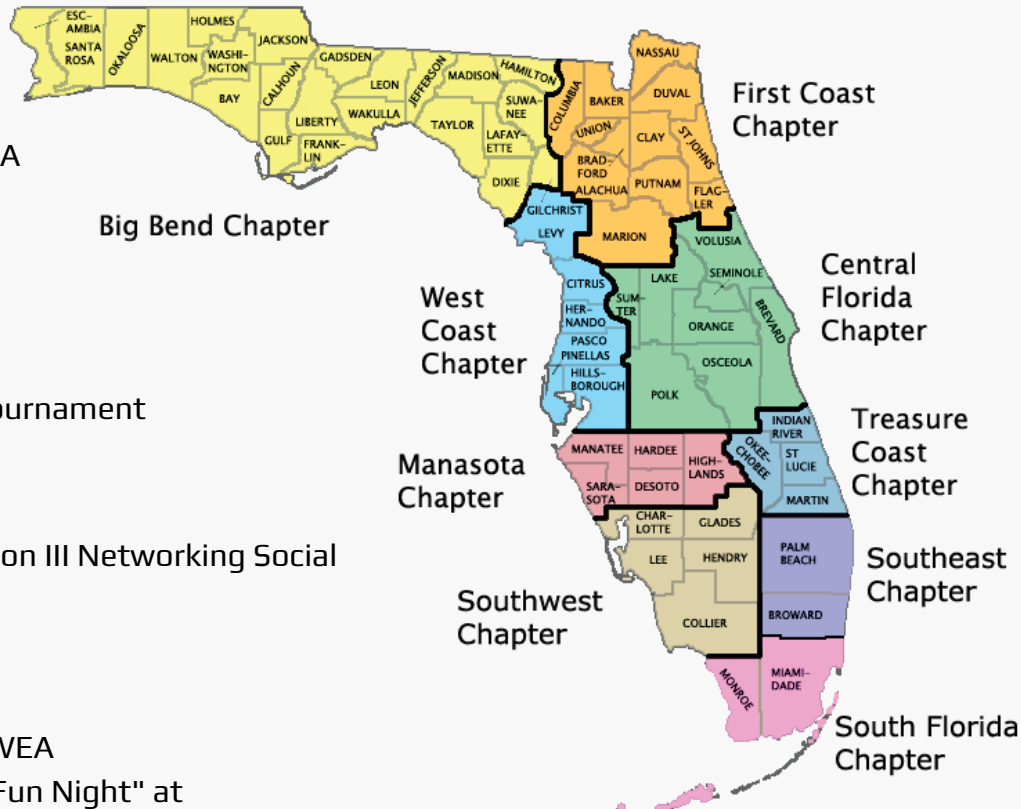
Southeast Chapter 22nd Annual Golf
Tournament
7:00 - 2:30

Southwest Chapter

August 25

15th Annual FSAWWA/FWEA/FWPCOA
Southwest FL Water and Wastewater
Exposition
9:00 - 4:00

Additional Events listed at: [FWEA Calendar of Events](#)



Contact Us

Visit our website or contact the S&YP
Committee Chair for more information
on FWRC, volunteering, or sponsorship
opportunities.

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[S&YPC Website](#)