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President's Message



**ASCE SunCoast
Branch President
Amjid Hussain**

Dear Members and Friends of ASCE

ASCE wishes you a happy and a prosperous 2012. Last year was a success for SunCoast Branch! We are trying our best to meet your expectations this year.

I would like to report the community outreach activities SunCoast Branch participated during this holiday season. In December, the SunCoast Branch adopted six residents of Manasota Association of Retarded Citizens (MARC) group homes for Christmas gifts. Some of the residents of MARC do not have any close relative to go to during Christmas time. The SunCoast Branch officers visited the facility to show their support for MARC. ASCE's effort was much appreciated by MARC.

ASCE SunCoast Branch Gives Back to a local elementary school in our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our donation helped to feed 5 families struggling with hunger for the Thanksgiving holiday. At the school, 89 percent of the students are on free and reduced breakfast/lunch and 91 families at the school fight extreme

hunger and qualify for a program where the food bank puts together shopping bags of food for the students to take home on Fridays for the weekend to make sure the students have something to eat.

The summary of feedback we collected during annual survey will be posted on our website. More than 90 percent of our membership is willing to participate in ASCE Gives back events. The need for a field trip is also identified. We will schedule a field trip in coming months.

The National Engineers Week (E-Week) will be celebrated from February 19-25. We are planning several events for E-Week. The SunCoast Branch reserved LeBarge sunset cruise for Friday February 24th for annual winter social event.

ASCE SunCoast Branch is scheduling great speakers for technical and leadership presentations at monthly luncheons. Christine Robinson, the incoming chair of Sarasota County Commission will be the guest speaker at our joint meeting with FES on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. If you have not RSVP yet, Please go to www.ascesuncoast.weebly.com and register for the meeting. Thank you for your continued support.

Amjid Hussain, P.E., M.ASCE

January Luncheon Meeting Details

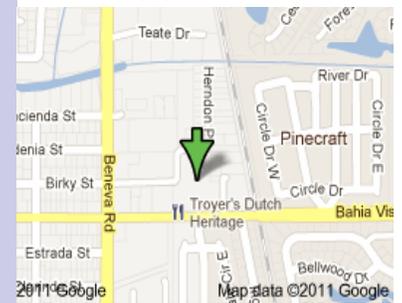
Joint ASCE SunCoast Branch and FES Myakka Branch

The ASCE SunCoast Branch joint meeting with FES Myakka Chapter is scheduled on **WEDNESDAY** January 18, 2012 from 12—1 pm with registration starting at 11:30 am .

When: January 18, 2012 CHECK-IN 11:30 AM,
MEETING STARTS 12 PM

Where: DUTCH HERITAGE,
3713 BAHIA VISTA STREET, SARASOTA, FL

Speaker: Christine Robinson, Sarasota County Commissioner



**3713 Bahia Vista Street,
Sarasota, FL, 34232**

Upcoming Meeting Information

February 16, 2012

Join Us for the Inaugural EWRI Meeting

Speaker: Mike Britt

City of Winter Haven, Sustainable Water Resource Management

March 15, 2012

Speaker: Joe Krauss

Sarasota County Water Resources

2011 Annual Survey Results

Thank you to those that took part in our annual survey. Some of the interesting statistics from the survey are:

- Over 90% of the you are interested in participating in field trips.
- Over 90% of you are willing to participate in ASCE Gives Back events
- Golfers were split 50/50 on a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning tee time for the Annual Golf Tournament

As your executive committee we are listening and will start to implement some of your suggestions this spring. Congratulations to Sonya Fronckowiak, she was the winner of the \$50 gift card for completing the survey!



Building Our Community

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Habitat Restoration Projects

By Jay Leverone

Senior Environmental Scientist, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) finished 2011 with a flurry of habitat restoration activities within several of our coastal parks and preserves. Five major projects served to create or improve upland and wetland features to benefit not only fish and wildlife, but to enhance the experience for nature lovers and tourists. These projects were made possible through funding support by SWFWMD and USFWS with the cooperation of our local governmental partners. What follows is a brief summary of specific project elements. Each project was conducted by local, pre-approved vendors who specialize in habitat restoration work.

Sarasota Baywalk Creek (ECo Consultants)

The vision for this setting is an environmentally friendly recreational trail along the Sarasota bayfront between the Crosley Estate and Ringling Museum along the Sarasota:Manatee Counties border. This project focused on restoring a small, tidal creek and clearing exotic and ornamental foliage that was clogging the creek and adjacent uplands. Ultimately, the BayWalk trail will include a walking bridge over the stream.



BayWalk Creek entering Sarasota Bay near the Sarasota - Manatee County line



Jay Leverone (SBEP), Dianne Rosensweig (Scheda Ecological), Stephanie Powers and Jennette Seachrist (SWFWMD) at North Lido Beach

North Lido Beach: Phase 2 (Rick Richards)

The SBEP has done extensive habitat restoration within this County Park over the past two years, and I highly encourage you to visit this renovated bird and nature lovers paradise. It is located behind the dune line on north Lido Beach; there is no parking available within the Park. After creating a meandering half-mile tidal creek and coastal dunes during the first phase (2009), we recently removed a cove of Australian pines and numerous dead trees from an existing tidal wetland. Stands of cabbage palm have been planted to provide shade. The new dune features offer a panoramic view of the Gulf and Bay.

South Lido Beach (STANTEC)

South Lido Beach is a very popular destination for beach goers and nature lovers. The SBEP has worked with Sarasota County over the years to make incremental improvements to the natural coastal habitats within the Park, including the creation of mangrove wetlands and replacing invasive Australian pines with more suitable coastal vegetation. This phase involved the removal of numerous large, hard-to-reach Australian pines deep within the interior of the park. This will certainly enhance the experience of hikers who frequent the Park.

Grassy Point Preserve, City of Holmes Beach (EarthBalance)

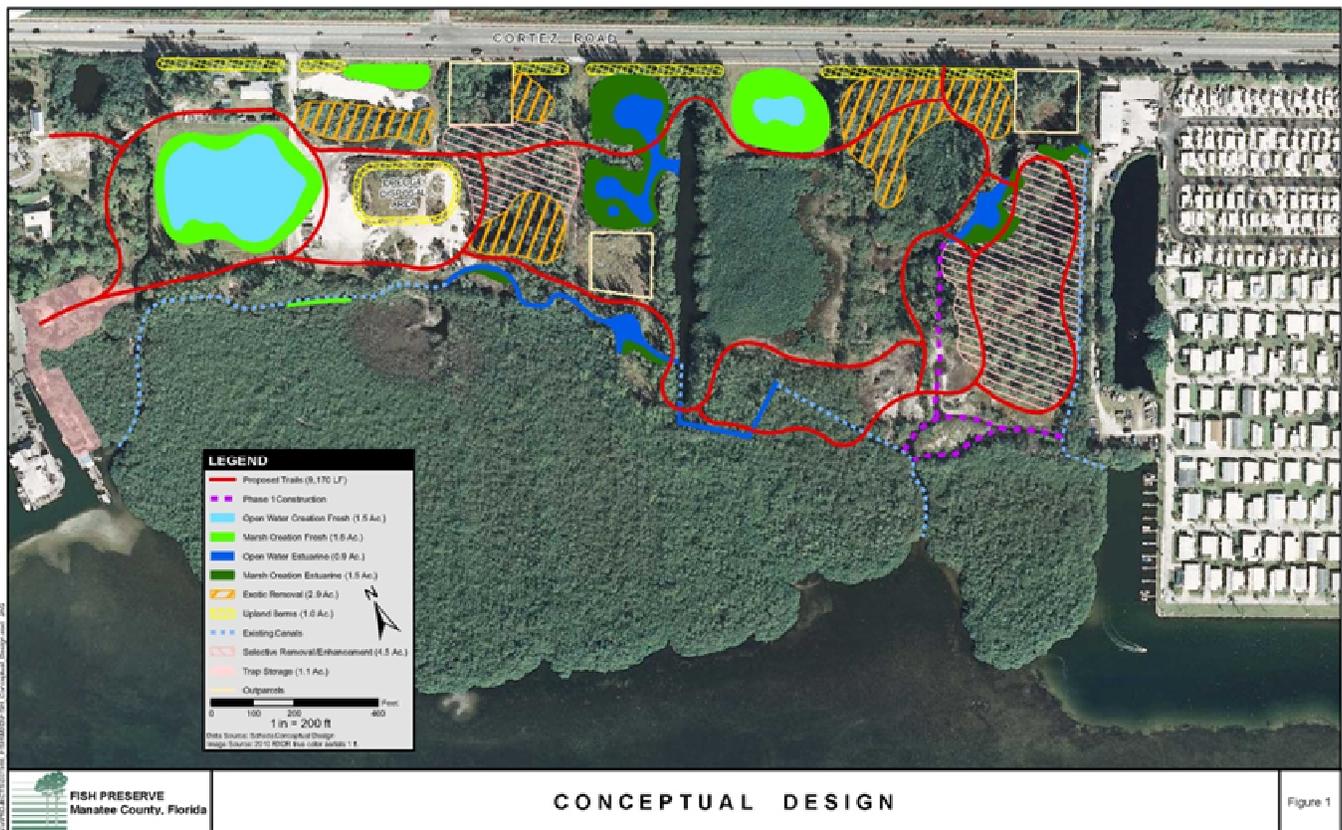
The Grassy Point Preserve is one of the last remaining undeveloped coastal properties along the barrier islands. In 2008, the SBEP helped restore nine acres of upland habitat within the Preserve. This year, we supplemented this work by removing the remaining Australian pines, cleared 2 acres of Brazilian pepper infested lowlands, and planted over 1,000 native plants, shrubs and trees. Plans are underway to improve access and construct boardwalks and other amenities.



Grassy Point Preserve, Holmes Beach, Anna Maria Island

FISH Preserve, Village of Cortez (Tampa Contracting Services)

Big plans are in the works for the FISH Preserve in Cortez. Several phases of habitat restoration have already been completed, but much work remains to restore this 100 acre coastal property. Construction plans and permit applications are being developed, but in the meantime, we had the opportunity to remove a dense, 3-acre stand of Australian pines in an area where a freshwater lagoon is planned.



Conceptual design for the 100-acre FISH Preserve near Cortez, Florida

This work has truly been a collaborative effort among local governments and boards, funding agencies and local contractors. I want to thank everyone for their continued support. Please take time to visit any of these sites. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

ASCE SunCoast Gives Back

In November, ASCE Gives Back outreach was to a local elementary school for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our donation helped to feed 5 families struggling with hunger for the Thanksgiving holiday. At the school, 89% of the students are on free and reduced breakfast/lunch and 91 families at the school fight extreme hunger and qualify for a program where the food bank puts together shopping bags of food for the students to take home on Fridays for the weekend to make sure the students have something to eat.



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Science and Engineering Fair

Volunteers Needed!

The 57th Annual State Science Fair will be in Lakeland from April 3—5, 2012. The committee is currently seeking volunteers on April 4th to help judge projects for the ASCE category.

Please contact Adnan Javed at ajaved@scgov.net for volunteer opportunities at the local and state level or visit <http://www.floridassef.net/current-fair/> for additional information.



2012 Winter Social Aboard LeBarge



SAVE THE DATE! February 24, 2012

We are in the process of planning our annual LeBarge Winter Social for our ASCE members and friends. We will cast off for a 2 hour tour of the bay the evening of February 24, 2012. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it!! Details to follow.

Toothpick Bridge Competition

Toothpick Bridge Building Contest Events

For Teachers, Students & Parents
Presented by the engineers and education professionals
of the Toothpick Bridge Building Contest Committee

In Recognition of National Engineers' Week
February 19 – 25, 2012

Workshop and contest open to all students and teachers in Manatee and Sarasota Counties
with separate divisions for Elementary, Middle, High School & Teachers.

Bridge Building Workshop January 14, 2012 10:00 am	23rd Annual Toothpick Bridge Building Contest February 25, 2012 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Awards Ceremony March 20, 2012 6:00 pm
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All events located at G.WIZ - The Science Museum
The Blivas Science and Technology Center
1001 Boulevard of the Arts Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 309-4949 www.gwiz.org

Sponsored Locally By:
Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)
American Society of Civil Engineers
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American Public Works Association

**Top Prizes Include
Certificates,
Trophies,
and CASH!!!**



Click [here](#) for Building Rules.



Hot Topics for Engineers

CAVE Dwellers

A professional acquaintance shared the expression “CAVE Dwellers” with me. CAVE means “Colleagues Against Virtually Everything.” Of course, CAVE Dwellers do not include those who rationally and respectfully oppose a particular change.

If you, as we begin a new year, have a vivid visual model of a very different and better future for you, your family, or your organization and you practice goal setting you are probably a change agent. You can relate to CAVE Dwellers—you’ve met many. When you contemplate leading a change, expect the CAVE Dwellers to come out early on. They will claim to speak, and do so loudly and energetically, for the group that would be affected, or thinks they would be affected, by the change. CAVE Dwellers are usually not a minority, at least initially in a change process.

Niccolo Machiavelli, the Italian politician and writer, forcefully characterized the intensity of negative reactions to possible change and the challenge of effecting substantive change when he said: “There is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to manage than the creation of a new system. For the initiators

have the enmity of all who would profit by the preservation of the old institutions and merely lukewarm defenders in those who would gain by the new one.”

My experience suggests that the dynamics of a successful change effort follow a stretched out “S” curve. Picture time on the horizontal axis and cumulative progress toward change on the vertical axis. Change starts slow in the “can’t be done stage,” accelerates in the “now we see how to do it stage,” and slows in the “some of us are still against everything stage.” The last stage is dominated by the few remaining CAVE Dwellers. However, their soon fade as the change is implemented and appreciated.

When the change is successfully accomplished, almost everyone claims “I was for this from the beginning” and a few of these go on to say “and it was my idea.” Meanwhile, a small group of change agents are already working on the next major change fully aware that a new group of CAVE Dwellers are ready to come at them.

Stuart G. Walesh, PhD, PE, is an author, speaker, and an independent consultant offering continuing education, management, and leadership services. He can be reached at stuwalesh@comcast.net or visit his website: www.HelpingYouEngineerYourFuture.com

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Past President: Sonya Fronckowiak, P.E.

sonya.fronckowiak@stantec.com
941-907-6900



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Vice-President—District IV: Thomas Hayden, P.E. tom.hayden@egs-us.com

**Out Local District Vice-President*

OUR WEBSITE HAS CHANGED!

Please visit

<http://www.ascsuncoast.weebly.com>

And give us your feedback

WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US??

Let your ASCE Suncoast Branch Newsletter work for you!

If you or your company is interested in advertising in your local ASCE SunCoast Branch Monthly Newsletter, please contact any of the Executive Board member staff listed above.

Cost (per 6 months):

Whole Page—\$500

Half Page—\$350

Quarter Page—\$250

Business Card—\$150

Some of the benefits of advertising with us are your company logo will appear in the newsletter and on the website as an ASCE sponsor and you have the opportunity to contribute a featured article in the newsletter highlighting an innovative or interesting project from your company.

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