

# Palm Beach Branch Update

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach Branch, Florida Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

## Monthly Meetings

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 11, 2005  
from 12:00-1:00 P.M.

### LUNCH MENU:

Please call **Calvin Giordano & Associates.** at **(561) 684-6161** and ask for **Michaela Silliman-Nash.** Please make your reservation prior to 9:30 A.M. on the day of the meeting so that we can be sure to have the appropriate number of subs.

### WHERE:

Florida Dept. Env. Protection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
400 North Congress Avenue  
West Palm Beach, Florida



(From I-95, go east on Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., then south on Congress Avenue, past Fire Station. Building is on the east side)

**SPEAKER:** Shawn Waldeck,  
P.E. with Jacobs Engineering

**TOPIC:** “SFWMD Acceler  
8 Programs”

## October 2005



### Dates to Remember:

**ASCE Zone II Conference  
January 27-29**

**Be on the look out for  
Registration for our  
Annual Bowl a thon this  
January more info will  
follow in the coming  
months**

**Young Engineers  
At Gatsbys WPB  
November 2**

**5th Annual Put the Brakes  
on Fatalities Day®  
Monday October 10, 2005.**

**October's Lunch  
Meeting is back on  
Tuesday October 11**

## President's Message

I am honored for the opportunity to serve as this year's Branch President. I would first like to thank Melanie Straub for encouraging me to volunteer my time and become an active member of ASCE Palm Beach Branch. I am proud to be a Civil Engineer and volunteering with ASCE allows me to give back to the Engineering Community. I did not start out a Civil Engineer. I have years of construction experience working in the trades. When the opportunity arose for me to work with engineers in the engineering profession, I jumped at the chance and have enjoyed every minute of my engineering work experience. Being a Civil Engineer allows me to be creative and work in a safe, secure and clean environment.

During my year as President of the ASCE Palm Beach Branch, I would like to continue the emphasis placed upon active membership participation. We hope to increase attendance at the lunch meetings with interesting presentations and easy access to our new and improved Branch homepage <<http://branches.asce.org/palmbeach/home.htm>>.

We would also like to increase member participation with outreach to middle and high school engineering programs. Please join me in welcoming and supporting our new Science and Engineering Fair Chair, Bonnie Serina. Coordinating with the school system is always a challenge and she will need all our help and support.

Pres message Continued.....

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As part of the \$8 billion state-federal partnership to restore the River of Grass, Florida is stepping up the pace to complete critical environmental projects more than a decade ahead of schedule. **Accelerated projects include:**

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands will restore the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of freshwater to Biscayne Bay, expand coastal wetlands, revive marine habitat and improve the health of Biscayne National Park.

C-111 Spreader Canal will provide a more natural sheet-flow to Florida Bay eliminating harmful freshwater discharges and revitalizing wetlands and wildlife habitat in the Southern Glades and Model Lands.

C-43 West Storage Reservoir will capture and store stormwater runoff and freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee to protect coastal estuaries. The 160,000 acre-feet reservoir will also provide a reliable supply of water for the Caloosahatchee Estuary along with nearby farms and residential areas.

C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area will capture and treat excess stormwater runoff before it enters the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. The project includes construction of 4,000 acres of treatment marsh along with a 4,000 acre, 10 foot deep above-ground reservoir.

Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Phase 1/Bolles and Cross Canals will protect coastal estuaries and reduce the flow of nutrients into the Everglades by capturing and storing freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, along with agricultural stormwater runoff, in a 190,000 acre-feet above ground reservoir.

Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Area Expansion will enhance the performance of 40,000 acres of wetlands already built by the state and construct an additional 4,500 acres of treatment marsh.

Southern Golden Gate Estates will restore a natural flow of water to Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, restore wildlife habitat, improve the quality and quantity of water delivered to coastal estuaries and maintain flood protection.

Five Water Preserve Areas will provide a buffer between natural and developed areas and divert urban runoff into constructed and natural storage areas.

*Continued.....*

There will also be opportunities to actively participate through our FAU Student Advisor, Olive Bailey and through our Young Members Chair, Richard Villasenor.

We all look forward to working together to make this a great year with many excellent opportunities for rewarding and fun active membership participation.

As Engineers, Safety is always a concern when it comes to design and construction and even when we are driving on the roads.

**Because every LIFE is precious!  
 Drive as if Your LIFE Depends On It!!**

**The 5th Annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day® is Monday October 10, 2005.**

**Upcoming FAU Student Chapter Events:**

Tampa Section Meeting	October 7
FAU ASCE tailgate(football gm)	October 15
Beach Social	October 23
LA National Conference	October 27-31
Career Fair	November 3
ASCE Professional Speaker	November 8

These are a few of the meetings and trips that we are planning to attend for the upcoming month

**Message from the Student Chapter Presidents**

We would like to thank everybody for their support and continuing dedication for getting this program in the right direction. We are currently looking for speakers, to come in and speak to the students about the professional aspect of engineering. Our meetings are held on Tuesday afternoons. We are extremely grateful in your involvement in the student chapter; in essence we would like to say a big THANK YOU from all of us.

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**2005 South Florida GIS Expo  
October 6th - 7th, 2005  
Palm Beach Convention Center**

This year's Expo theme "Aren't We Spatial!." In the aftermath of last year's record spate of hurricanes, GIS has moved prominently into the mainstream of local government. As more agencies come "on board" with GIS, the demand for training, networking and data sharing is reaching all-time highs. More and more agencies are implementing GIS solutions to automate business processes and practices. Demands for web-based GIS solutions are increasing and automation of field-based updates by non-GIS staff is on the rise. And with all this comes an impetus for GIS professionals to broaden their skills, both in GIS and Information Technology. The South Florida GIS Expo provides this opportunity. The event is scheduled for two days, October 6 - 7, 2005. Workshops are held on Thursday, October 6th, as is our traditional Thursday evening social, giving you the opportunity to network with other movers and shakers in South Florida's GIS community. On Friday, October 7th, our keynote speaker, the renowned and respected Zul Jiwani, President of Orion Technology Inc., and a leader in Information Technology and GIS implementations, will focus on employing GIS to assist with disaster relief for disadvantaged communities and individuals worldwide. Following his talk will be a full day of multiple track presentations and workshops.

***Come One, Come All - It's Happy Hour Time!***

The next Young Engineers Social will be November 2, 2005 at Gatsby's in West Palm Beach. FREE appetizers will be provided by ASCE and FES. Also note there will be an open bar for a limited time. For more information / to RSVP, please contact the Younger Members Coordinator Richard Villasenor, E.I. rvillasenor@millerlegg.com or call at (561) 689-1138

**2005 Economic Summit  
November 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Palm Beach Convention Center  
Online Registration Available at  
New Web Site**

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and its Office of Economic Development will convene the 2005 Economic Summit at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on November 9 and 10.

Recommendations from this two-day visioning process will serve as a springboard for a phased, multi-year update of the Palm Beach County's Strategic Economic Development Plan which will help guide the county for the next 10 to 15 years.

Citizens will work alongside elected officials and business to develop a shared community vision that will help ensure a strong, stable and diversified local economy.

Plan to attend the 21st Century Palm Beach County 2005 Economic Summit on November 9th and 10th. Advanced registration is \$45; \$60 at the door. Online registration is easy by logging onto [www.pbcgov.com/economicssummit2005](http://www.pbcgov.com/economicssummit2005). Or call the Office of Economic Development at 561-355-3624.

We hope to see you at the Summit!

**Membership Update:**

In order to be sure that everyone receives the newsletter and other benefits of ASCE, please take the time to go to <http://www.asce.org/membership/> or call **1800-548-2723** to be sure all your information is up to date. For those of you, who are getting the newsletter and know of someone in your office who is a member, but is not getting the newsletter please have them check their membership data, email address etc. Thanks



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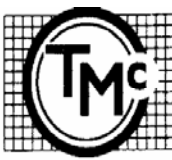
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