

Conference Highlights

Monday, July 23, 8:30 a.m.

Florida's Grazing Lands, Poised on the Edge of Sustainability; Tales from Buck Island Ranch

H. Wayne Pritchard Lecture – Hilary Swain, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, FL



Dr. Hilary Swain has been the Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station since 1995, an independent facility which conducts extensive ecological research on its 8,800-acre scrub preserve on the Lake Wales Ridge and at its 10,300-acre working ranch, the MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center. Her interests are in the application of conservation biology to reserve design and management of endangered species. Prior to coming to Archbold, Dr. Swain was an Associate Professor of Biology, at Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL. Dr. Swain's work at Archbold brings her into extensive liaison with local, state, and federal agencies over a wide variety of issues concerning research and conservation of Florida ecosystems.

Tuesday, July 24, 10:30 a.m.

What is the Role of Conservation in a Bio-fuels Economy?

The format for this 90-minute plenary will be a "McLaughlin Group" style session. Each of the five participants will answer an opening question from the moderator and then the remainder of the time will be filled by the moderator working with the panelists and the audience to host an evolving discussion of the issues. We anticipate balanced representation from industry, academia/research, the environmental community, policy making, and a government agency to offer their perspectives. Dan Looker from Successful Farming magazine will moderate the session.

Sunday, July 22, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Fellows Forum: Water - So Much/So Little, Meeting Florida's Needs for Today & Tomorrow

With Florida's rapid rate of change due to the continued influx of new residents, increasing number of businesses and support services, the desire to maintain an adequate agricultural economy, and the need to sustain our natural systems for both economic and environmental reasons, the Norman A. Berg and SWCS Fellows' Forum presents a panel of speakers that can address the overall conference theme of "Conservation Challenges in a Changing Landscape" from the perspective of our most precious (and to some visitors seemingly abundant) natural resource - Water.



The format for this year's Fellows Forum will be a panel discussion where panelists will be given 15 minutes to present their perspectives on this critical issue, followed by a question and answer panel discussion among each of the presenters and interaction with the audience. Invited speakers include each of the Executive Directors of the 5 regional water management districts and Dr. Wendy Graham, Director of the newly formed Water Institute at the University of Florida. The panel will be moderated by Niles Glasgow, State Conservationist, Florida NRCS.

The Berg and Society Follows annually host this Forum which is open to all conference attendees. There is no additional charge to attend. Attendance should be indicated on the conference registration form so facilities can be prepared for the event.