



FLORIDA EARTH NEWS

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Governor & Cabinet Recognize Florida Earth



Palm Beach County-based Florida Earth Foundation, a not for profit, public-private partnership that promotes natural resource initiatives in South Florida, was acknowledged by the Florida Cabinet on Tuesday, August 23. Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Cabinet read and celebrated a Resolution of Support for the work being done by Florida Earth. Florida Earth, chartered in 2002, is comprised of over 70 university, industry, agency and non-profit organizations. It primarily plays a key role in developing and administering education, outreach and research programs and projects supporting South Florida ecosystem restoration. Florida Earth's flagship program is a combination of public educational courses taught throughout the year and summer graduate courses in cooperation with the University of Florida. The newest program Florida Earth has initiated is UNESCO-IHE/FEF Partnership. It is the first permanent link between Everglades Restoration efforts and the United Nations. The program has students from throughout the world visiting South Florida on a rotational basis studying water related technology being developed here. The Florida Cabinet Resolution reads in part: *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby acknowledge and support the efforts of the Florida Earth Foundation and encourage all state and local governmental agencies, businesses and citizens of Florida to join in the efforts to help restore the Florida Everglades - America's Everglades.*

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Florida Earth Moves to Miller Legg Building at the Vista Center



Florida Earth has moved to its new home in the Miller Legg Design Center, 2005 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach, 33411. A regional engineering firm with offices throughout South Florida, Miller Legg became the only Diamond Level Corporate member by supplying FEF with office space in their building in the Vista Center just west of the Turnpike

entrance on Okeechobee Boulevard. A ribbon cutting and celebration is planned for the Spring to welcome guests to the new office. In the photograph to the left, Dylan Larson, Palm Beach Regional Manager, far left, and Dennis Thomas, principal partner, far right, greet Lenelle, Stan and Alissa upon their arrival to the Miller Legg building.



Senator Jeff Atwater Joins FEF Board of Directors



Jeffrey H. "Jeff" Atwater, a South Floridian since the age of four, is currently serving his second term in The Florida Senate after being re-elected in November 2004. Before he began serving in the Senate in 2002, he was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, elected in 2000 and also previously served as Vice Mayor of the Village of North Palm Beach, where he and his wife

Carole reside with their four children. Senator Atwater holds a B.S. in Finance and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Florida. Although the Senator is currently working for the residents of South Florida as an elected official, he also serves as the Executive Vice President and Marketing President of Riverside National Bank for Palm Beach and Broward Counties. He has over

twenty years of banking experience, previously serving as Chairman, President and CEO of Barnett Bank of Broward County and of the Treasure Coast. Senator Atwater's district, District 25, consists of the coastal areas of Palm Beach and Broward Counties. On July 21, Senator Atwater joined the Florida Earth Board of Directors.

Florida Earth Welcomes Its New Corporate Members



Murphy Construction Co., Inc.



Holland+Knight



Upcoming Events: FEP Modules, Earth Day 5K Run-Walk

2006 Florida Earth Project Courses

The Florida Earth Project course series continues with this year's selection of informative courses/seminars about South Florida's natural resources.

Introductory Survey of South Florida—February 16 & 17, Fort Lauderdale

Natural Systems in South Florida—April 6 & 7, ARM Lox NWR & ENP

Water Quality & Quantity—August 3 & 4, West Palm Beach

Role of Agriculture—October 26 & 27, Belle Glade & Clewiston

Restoration Update Forum—December 7 & 8, West Palm Beach

Each course is \$195 each or you can register for all 5 for \$750. More information and registration is at <http://floridaearth.org>.

Florida Earth-Earth Day 5K Run-Walk

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, Florida Earth will sponsor a 5K Run-Walk in commemoration of Earth Day. The event will be held at Dwyer Park in West Palm Beach. Registration and more information are on the FEF website, <http://floridaearth.org>.



We wish to thank all who have helped make the 2006 Everglades Forever Gala and Auction a success. A report of results will be in the next Florida Earth News.

UNESCO-IHE/FEF Partnership



Stan Bronson and Dr. Richard Meganck congratulate each other after the signing of the Partnership Agreement

On September 27, 2005 Stan Bronson, Executive Director of FEF, and Dr. Richard Meganck, Rector of UNESCO-IHE, signed a Memorandum of Agreement that establishes the first permanent program between ecosystem restoration initiatives in South Florida and the United Nations. UNESCO-IHE, also called Institute for Water Education, is located in Delft, Holland and awards Masters and PhD degrees in water related disciplines to students from developing countries all over the world. Students from IHE will be coming to

South Florida on a rotational basis to learn first-hand of the science and policy being used and developed as a result of ecosystem restoration efforts. The knowledge transferred by this program will help developing countries with their water resources. The first course formed under the IHE/FEF Partnership as a pilot program was delivered in June 2005, to 22 students from 11 countries. Information about the program is highlighted on the FEF website at <http://floridaearth.org>.

Introducing FEF's Adopt-a-Student Program

In an effort to give the opportunity to directly have a part in education programs in which Florida Earth Foundation develops, the organization has developed an Adopt-A-Student Program where individuals, companies or other organizations can sponsor students that are involved in FEF educational programs. At present, two programs have students available for "adoption." The UNESCO-IHE/FEF Partnership brings students from all over the world to study water related science and policy in South

Florida. The faces to the right are six of the 22 students from UNESCO-IHE that will be with us this summer. The other program is the Interns at Arthur R. Marshall Foundation. The \$2000 "adoption fee" goes to paying the expenses of transportation, room and board and class materials. On the FEF website, <http://floridaearth.org>, is a detailed description of each program and biographies of each student. Just click on a student and you will be taken to "Adoption Papers."



About FEF

Florida Earth Foundation (FEF) is a public-private partnership composed of over 70 agency, university, industry and nonprofit partners (see attached). Chartered in January 2002, FEF's purpose is to initiate, develop and fund programs and projects in education, outreach and research connected to ecosystem restoration initiatives in South Florida. Paramount to the Foundation's goals is to provide, through FEF's facilitation, an educated and engaged constituency of stakeholders, which in turn will produce an enhanced level of stability to forward and promote ecosystem restoration efforts in the region. FEF's vision is not only to be a vehicle through which unbiased knowledge and experiences are passed to its target audiences, but through its IRS 501(c)-3 status, provide an opportunity to develop unique funding opportunities for its programs and projects.

...Florida Earth...will serve as an outstanding learning mechanism that will give decision-makers the necessary tools to ensure the protection of our natural resources...Jeb Bush, 2001

Board of Directors

Senator Jeff Atwater, Riverside National Bank
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Linda Friar, Department of Interior
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Dr. Jaap Vos, Florida Atlantic University

FEF Mission

"Florida Earth Foundation is committed to engaging core constituencies in order to enhance Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, through the support of outreach, education and research."

Operational Partners

Michelle Diffenderfer, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., Legal Partner
Teresa Borcheck, SunTrust Bank, N.A., Banking Partner
Melissa Booth, US Army Corps of Engineers, Board Advisor
Otis Wragg, Wragg & Casas, Public Relations Partner

Staff

Stan Bronson, Executive Director
Lenelle Crowell, Executive Assistant
Alissa Bronson, Events Coordinator

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Please Note Our New Address

Supporting education, outreach & research for South Florida's ecosystem

Become an FEF Member and Supporter Today! Visit our website at <http://floridaearth.org>.