



President's Letter to Members

Volunteering

In my past letters to members I have looked at who we are and what we do. I have provided my ideas about why we are members. Volunteering for NAEP is essential for the future of the Association. I also believe volunteering is essential for continued professional development. I believe volunteering your time can be a fun and rewarding experience and can lead to more than you might expect. In many ways, if someone volunteers for the wrong reasons, the experience can be less than satisfying.

Recently I was on a telephone call with two other members

about providing additional benefits to the membership. It was mid afternoon and the call was the third of the week for me dealing with NAEP issues. We were all very excited with the possibilities presented by the proposal. We also recognized that the idea would not have developed as far it had without the shared desire we had to donate our time and expertise and look at options and solutions to challenges yet to be faced. We also acknowledged that at times a leadership commitment to NAEP can feel more like a second job than a volunteer effort.

The word volunteer is used as a noun, a verb, and an adjective in the English language. As a noun, the word refers to a person who gives of their time without expecting anything in return. As a verb it describes the action of someone who offers oneself for some service or undertaking willing and without anticipation of pay. The adjective use of the word refers to a person being a volunteer.

While I normally do not use Wikipedia as a reference in my professional work, I really liked what was written for Volunteering in the on-line encyclopedia:

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. It is considered as serving the society through one's own interests, personal skills or learning, which in return produces a feeling of self-worth and respect, instead of money. Volunteering is also famous for skill development, socialization and fun.

While a person may indeed have the idea that their volunteer actions could bring a level of recognition and potentially could result in benefit, the initial impulse for volunteering is rooted firmly in trying to help another without any expectation of a return for the action. The idea of improving someone else's place in life is a primary reason for volunteering for anything. But, is an altruistic volunteerism helpful? Is volunteering a simple action or one more complex, needing calculation and weighing the costs and benefits. Again, I can only look at my experiences and decide that it is a simple response to do good with little cost: benefit analysis.

What I see in everyday life are the incredible actions of volunteering as very simple actions. We all know the neighbor who will help out when the need is determined. My father was one of those men. Neighbors in each place that we ever lived will regale me with stories of the time dad fixed a sink or a broken car for a wife with 5 children while her husband was deployed for six months on board a naval ship.

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Editors Note: This article was requested by me of the EECT group because I see it as one of the many important educational outreach programs that environmental professionals contribute to the community and to the professions. These dedicated professionals have been extremely successful with little funding but a great deal of innovative thinking and imagination.

Since their start here is a list of the awards they have received for their work. I am impressed with this type of educational outreach and applaud the professionals who contribute their time to the group.

2004:

- *The Resource Ranger program was selected as the Environmental Project of the Year by The Northwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals*
- *Telly Award, Videographer, Distinguished Award*
- *The Gold Award from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals*

2005:

- *Relations Association, Image Award*
- *Gulf Guardian Award*
- *MarCom Creative Awards*
- *Davey Award*

2007:

- *Coastal Living Award*



The members are as follow (from left to right in the photo): Chris Verlinde - Santa Rosa County Marine Extension Agent, Melinda Gates - Okaloosa county health department, Rick O'Conner - Escambia Marine Extension Agent, Shauna Jones - Escambia County, Jimmie Jarratt - Escambia County, Carrie Stevenson - Escambia County Extension (secretary), Dee Dee Green - Escambia County (co-chair), and Debbie Barlow - chair, Cole and Lucy are 2 of our Resource Rangers!!

EECT — Northwest Florida's One-Stop Educational Resource

EECT Board of Directors

The Environmental Education Coordination Team (EECT) is a partnership of professionals and volunteers that have come together with one common goal...to encourage responsible environmental attitudes and actions in today's youth who will become tomorrow's decision makers. EECT is an organization which was created in the year 2001. In 2004 EECT partnered with Northwest Florida Planning Council as an educational subcommittee of the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) a body of elected officials from cities and counties in the Pensacola Bay Watershed. The purpose of the EECT is to provide useful information to individuals about the

natural resources of Northwest Florida and its relationship with the economy, public health and quality of life. The EECT offers free educational tools to local educators through media outlets and special events as well as classroom curriculum and activities. We believe by combining hands-on activities with environmental curriculum, students gain a greater understanding of their environment and the importance of protecting our valuable natural resources.

The EECT hosts annual events including Bay Day and Seagrass Awareness Celebration. Bay Day hosts approximately 1,200 fifth grade students who participate in hands-on environmental activities as well as programs from several of the local

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EECT

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utilities. The Seagrass Awareness Celebration is a family-oriented public event with educational activities for all ages. Activities at the annual Seagrass Awareness Celebration include: viewing of aquatic life in touch tanks, visiting with snakes, seining, fishing, making sharks tooth necklaces, learning casting skills, kayaking, paddle boarding and arts and crafts using recycled materials. The EECT also participates in classroom presentations and activities. The activities include Eco Day's or projects with one professional in their area of expertise, for example, setting up a composting project or a recycling program. Eco Days usually include the whole team, each bringing hands on environmental activities for the students to participate in at the school or as a field trip to a local park. These special events focus on our youth and give them the knowledge needed to start healthy habits that will continue to be a part of them as they grow. Other events, such as workshops, civic clubs and public speaking forums, are geared toward a more mature crowd. These events allow the EECT to express to the community how important it is to protect our environment now for a better tomorrow and give them tools in order to do so.

EECT's flagship program is the Resource Rangers. Partners developed the Resource Rangers Club that includes classroom visits, ecology field trips and a series of videos that include subjects such as, watershed protection, water quality, agriculture,

horticulture, recycling, and household hazardous waste. Resource Rangers was produced and is made available to local teachers through grant funding and Escambia County.

Through grants and other funding the EECT has implemented a "Grasses in Classes" (GIC) program. The GIC program is a hands-on, interactive education project that enables classrooms to grow and propagate shoreline grasses that will then be used for shoreline stabilization and restoration projects. With guidance from members of EECT and the school's science teachers, the students will maintain and monitor the nursery throughout the school year.

Community involvement is the key to EECT's success. Working together with community members from agencies including: the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Escambia County, City of Pensacola, Santa Rosa County, Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, University of West Florida, West Florida Regional Planning Council, Northwest Florida Water Management District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Private Citizens, Florida Marine Research Institute, Earth 911 and the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center our hope is that the information that we provide will lead to an era of partnership building in which local citizens, industry, business representatives and public officials work side by side to resolve our areas environmental issues. New partners are always welcome! To be included on the list of activities, send an email to barc@wfrpc.org.





Editor's Note: Sometimes you can discover something amazing in your own backyard. While travelling from Pensacola to Panama City I came across a sign for the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in the middle of a long drive through the pine oak sand hills of the Florida Panhandle. This is just another example of the educational aspect of the environmental professions that surround us. Some despair that our children are not getting a good education in the sciences. Examples like this place make me hopeful that the lack of exposure to nature is changing. These are dedicated individuals and an example for us all to emulate through volunteer activities in our areas. Go to their web site and see some fantastic photos of children of all ages learning by doing.

E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center



Nokuse (pronounced no-go-see, after the Creek Indian word for black bear) is one of the largest private lands conservation efforts in the nation, protecting watersheds, restoring native longleaf pine forests, and providing refuge for endangered species like the gopher tortoise. On the western edge of the property, just beyond the tiny community of Bruce, Florida, Davis has established the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, a 31,000 square foot campus of classrooms, exhibition halls and boardwalks dedicated to introducing schoolchildren and their teachers to what Davis sees as the true wealth of the Florida Panhandle: it's immense and increasingly imperiled biodiversity, from unique species of plants, salamanders and crayfish to Nokuse's namesake, the Florida black bear.

The Biophilia Center is named after Davis' friend and mentor, the iconic biologist and Pulitzer-prize winning writer E.O. Wilson, who coined the term "biophilia" to describe the

Hal Herring

You can drive north from Panama City Beach, Florida with the sugar sand beaches and towering condos in your rear view mirror, the blue green Gulf disappearing behind you, and pass through the curtains of pine trees into another, older, reality, one unknown to the legions of tourists, and ignored even by most of the sun-loving coastal residents.

The thumping bass soundtrack of college students on spring break fades, replaced by a chorus of pig frogs, the grunt of an alligator, the repeated *Who-who-who cooks for you?* of a barred owl hunting in the shadows of the forest. The great swamp bottoms of the Choctawhatchee River and its arteries yawn below the elevated highway, moss hung Old Florida, writ mysterious and whining with bug noise, fierce and vibrant with life.

North Florida-born businessman and conservationist M.C. Davis aims to keep it that way. Davis' 50,000-acre Nokuse Plantation begins in the Choctawhatchee bottoms and sprawls west and north, a matrix of blackwater creeks, swamps and dry pine and oak forests.



love that so many people feel for the biosphere, or the natural world. Wilson was on hand for the dedication of the Center in January of 2009.

The main hall of the exhibition center features a huge metallic harvester ant in the entranceway, a nod to Wilson's life work as one of the foremost experts on ants in the world. "We call that ant Harry," MC Davis said, on a recent tour of the

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campus, in the very quiet early morning hours, just before the first wave of students arrive for the day.

An enormous model of an indigo bunting hangs from the high ceiling, a dramatic diorama of gopher tortoises, hawks, snakes, all the myriad inhabitants of the Florida scrublands, occupies the center of the airy hall. Everywhere, there is something to look at, from a thriving beehive in the wall (covered by glass, the bees come and go through a hole to the outside), to live pine snakes and interactive exhibits that bring the visitor deeply into the mystery of what lies just beyond the great windows, where there are trails to the forest, boardwalks over dark swamps and creeks.

“We are trying to overwhelm them with what is all around them,” Davis explains, watching as the first busloads of students—4th graders today—unload in the parking lot outside. “The natu-

ralists in this world, the E.O. Wilsons, the Rachel Carsons, they don’t need our help. We are hoping to reach ordinary people, get them to come see, and think about what is really here.”

“Later, when they become CEOs, or governors, or whatever they become, they will have this in their minds, this knowledge.” A black dog named Roscoe, a former stray of no clear breed, greets the children as they emerge from the buses. “Roscoe is our official greeter,” said Davis. “He showed up half-starved and stayed on.”

MC Davis says he always loved dogs, but he was not always a conservationist. Born in south Georgia in 1944, Davis and his family came to Santa Rosa County, Florida when he was ten years old. “There was five of us, living in a single-wide trailer, eight by thirty-two feet, just out on the sand roads.” For money, the family sometimes picked up “lighter knots,” resin-rich pine kindling, and sold them door-to-door in town. “We didn’t think about nature. I killed snakes, because that was what I was taught to do. Shot songbirds with a damn BB gun. Mostly, I wanted to get out of those woods and go to town and make some money.”

Which he did. Davis says he’s had “more careers in his life than most people have had dates,” practicing law (“which I hated,” he notes), traveling the south as a professional gambler, investing in real estate and oil and gas ventures, and many other vocations. “I had some luck, and I guess I’m obsessive, or not far from it. I was chasing that dollar, and I got it, and I found out that it wasn’t really what I wanted.” Somewhere in what Davis calls a “late life crisis,” he found at least part of what he was looking for.

The short version: More than a decade ago, halted by traffic during a business trip to Tampa, Davis veered off to attend a workshop about Florida black bears. He sought out Florida conservation biologist Dr. Reed Noss and others and, on their advice, assembled a collection of 100 of the most influential books on wildlife conservation and the environment. And read them all, just to get started. “I feel like I spent the first half of my life trying to get out of these woods,” he says, gesturing at the forest around the Center, “and I’m spending the second half trying to get back into them.” His purchase of the 50,000 acres that comprise Nokuse Plantation was part of that effort.

Not far from the Center, which at mid-morning is raucous with bands of youngsters playing outside, columns of gray smoke rise into the sky, marking a new series of controlled burns. Nokuse’s chief biologist, Dr. Matt Aresco, wanders up a cleared fire-line, dressed in fire-retardant clothing and a hardhat, a drip

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torch in his left hand. Fire is eating its way slowly through a tangle of cat brier, and farther down the line, flames leap and climb the trunk of an old sand pine, flaring briefly in the lower parts of its crown.

Fires like this one— an initial burn of about 400 acres— are crucial to restoring the long leaf pine that once dominated this landscape, and blanketed the Deep South from Florida to East Texas. Logging and turpentine reduced the longleaf forest to remnants by the early 1900's, and fire suppression by settlers and the timber industry allowed invasive plant species to overwhelm much of what was left.

Lost with the vast longleaf forest was a cascade of wildlife and plants that had evolved with it over millennia – species like the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, the flatwoods salamander, the gopher tortoise. Aresco and his small crew of workers are at the heart of the largest longleaf restoration project ever undertaken on private lands, 19,000 acres total. “It’s a major restoration plan,” he explains, “and as we go, we are hoping to reintroduce some of the rare wildlife species, to restore the whole ecosystem as much as possible.”

Although it may seem odd to find a career field biologist setting fires in soot-stained clothes and a smoke-blackened hard hat, in Aresco’s case, it is not. Among other achievements, he has a Master’s degree from Auburn University in gopher tortoise biology, and gopher tortoises, recently placed on the list of threatened species in Florida, are most content living in longleaf pine forests. (Later, Aresco earned his doctorate at Florida State University.)

Nokuse Plantation has become the center of an effort to relocate gopher tortoises from other areas in Florida where development will destroy them (until recently, Florida developers could simply pay a fee for “incidental take” of gopher tortoises and then flatten or pave over the animals’ burrows with them still inside, an act known as “entombment”). “So far,” Aresco says, “we’ve relocated 2400 tortoises to Nokuse, 80 percent of which would have been entombed. As we proceed with our restoration plans, we’ll have the habitat for hundreds more.”

Which is good news for just about all the wildlife of Nokuse. “The gopher tortoise is the keystone species around here,” Aresco explains. “Over three hundred other species

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depend on the burrows that they make, so if you have a healthy gopher tortoise population, you have the potential for everything else.” He adds, “The day to day process of restoring this place is absolutely the best job I’ve ever had.”

Back at the Wilson Center, Director Christy Scally is talking to a small group of enthusiastic fourth grade teachers just in from a hike with the kids. Most days, the kids get dip nets to explore the pond that surrounds part of the exhibition hall. “We just turn them loose,” Scally says, “and let them see what they can find in there. For a lot of them, that is a transformative experience.” Scally keeps a fast-expanding scrapbook of letters and drawings sent to her by students who’ve visited the Center, crayon drawings of snakes, bugs, owls, of stick children running free in the woods.

Stella Davis, who has been married to MC for 47 years, is on the telephone in her office, setting up the next wave of visits from a high school in neighboring Bay County. Davis himself is explaining how Nokuse fits into a much grander idea— connecting protected lands from nearby Eglin Air Force Base, where years of fire from munitions testing has preserved longleaf pine forests and most of the wildlife that depends on it, all the way to

the Apalachicola National Forest and beyond, a wide swath of wild country and a kind of self-sustaining Noah’s Ark for wildlife and native plants, in a state where the human population has increased from ten million to eighteen million since 1980.

Davis is adamant on one point: none of those land protection plans, even if they come to fruition in the short run, will last unless the children of today understand what is at stake, and what is really there. On a trail system near the Center, a long boardwalk has been built to cross a cypress swamp. The water, tannin-stained to the color of strong tea, moves surprisingly fast through a series of channels, and brilliant green weeds shiver and undulate snake-like with the current. Minnows break the surface occasionally, mysterious flashes in the gloom suggest larger fish, or strange amphibians or bugs. Life teems away unseen. Every thirty feet along the boardwalk, a thin nylon cord leads down to a minnow trap, hidden below the dark water. “The kids pull those up and take whatever’s in there to the lab over there, and sort though it all, identify it, and then bring it all back here and let it go again,” Davis explained. “They really love that. It’s like what Baba Dioum wrote, you know, ‘In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.’ That pretty much sums it up.”

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About the Center

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center (a 501c3 registered as Nokuse Education, Inc.) located in Freeport, Florida, is an educational nature center developed by conservationist M.C. Davis. The Center is named in honor of Dr. Edward O. Wilson, a two-time Pulitzer Prize award winner, Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus and honor-

ary curator at Harvard University. Dr. Wilson coined the term “Biophilia,” which means the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life.

The core mission for the E.O. Wilson Center is to engage and educate students about the flora and fauna of the Florida Panhandle while fostering a lifelong love and appreciation of nature. While we are open to the public, our primary focus is working with 4th and 7th grade students.

In the first three years of operation, the Biophilia Center has taught more than 16,000 students in six surrounding school systems. The Center’s hands-on curriculum targets fourth and seventh grade students and is written with a strong focus on the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematic) subjects. After attending one of our outdoor classes, a teacher wrote:

“Without this Center our students would not have had these chances to open their minds and spirits to nature in the most up close and spectacular ways. Just listening to their conversations sparked by these opportunities I can tell you that lives are changed. Our students are passionate about the world in which they live and for which they will, one day, be responsible.”

Inside the 31,000 square-foot environmentally friendly facility, students may explore the exhibit hall, listen to informative presentations and movies in the 160-seat theater, watch turtles swim, learn about the important role snakes play in the ecosystem, discover photosynthesis, watch a working beehive and see birds of prey, among several other activities!

Participating schools also conduct hands-on lessons along the network of nature trails and conduct experiments in the science laboratories.

Our curriculum is written in line with the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and is adopted by the participating schools.

The staff at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center trains the teachers, provides the schools the curriculum, and either a 2-day or a 4-day visit schedule at no charge to the school districts. The only cost the schools incur is providing a substitute in the classroom during teacher training and transportation to the Center.

In addition, the Center is open to the public the following hours.

June 1 through August 31

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

September 1 through May 31

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

To view the scheduled public events, please visit http://www.ewilsoncenter.org/public_hours.html

For more information, please visit www.ewilsoncenter.org or visit our Facebook page.

NAEP needs “You” to serve as an elected at-large Board Member

NAEP is a voluntary association headed by a Board of Directors. The Board is composed of 12 at-large elected members from the environmental field, four ex-officio members, and one chapter representative for each 150 NAEP members in the Chapter. All serve without compensation. Each year prior to the annual conference, 4 at-large Board Members are elected to serve a three-year term of office. For more information the requirements and expectations of an elected at-large Board Member please review the Self Nomination Form that is attached to the link below. **The deadline for submission is November 16, 2012.**

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/2013naepselfnominationform-final.doc>



President's Letter

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Even when he retired from the Navy and lived in civilian housing, he was always ready to help his neighbors. I am thankful that his example actually has been passed on to me. Living in Florida, I know firsthand the devastation that a hurricane can do to a family. One of my most pleasant memories (if there are pleasant memories in time of disaster) of Hurricane Erin (1995) was having our neighbors over for dinner the following day. We had no generator and needed to cook our frozen meats before they went bad. We had steak and potatoes from the grill and vegetables cooked over a Coleman camp stove. The weather was nice and we had a pleasant talk well into the night because neither of us could get out of the neighborhood to go to work. The next day our family was visited by a band of volunteers who had chain saws and their teenaged sons to help us move eight 100-year-old pine trees from around our house.

They spent the entire afternoon cutting up sections of the trees and moving them to the roadside. The pile of branches was over 7 feet tall and covered our entire road access. I have never forgotten the sense of gratitude I felt for those men and their sons. I joined them the next day to help other neighbors.

What I like about the wiki-definition I just quoted is that the concept of fun is included in volunteering. If all volunteer work was a negative experience, there would be no volunteers. In 2002 and 2003 I went on mission trips to Costa Rica. The primary purpose we were told was to help build a church and parsonage for the local pastor. The work was in the hot, dry season. The lack of shade sometimes got to us, but the work ended up to be pleasant for us "pampered Americans".

We were mixing concrete and building brick walls for the next group who would finish the insides of the two buildings. By no one's definition were we having fun. Except, the people we were working with were so gracious and friendly. We had the initial language barriers for many, but by the end of the week everyone had forged friendships and we all enjoyed ourselves. The gratitude of the people for the work we had done was our true recognition. We worked hard, we enjoyed ourselves and we helped a community of people enhance their quality of life.

(As an aside, when I volunteered to help the church in Costa Rico, I decided that I would work on the most important part of the church complex. As a result, there is an outhouse named after me. Now there is something that makes me proud.)

Yesterday, I completed the sixth annual field trip with the Pensacola High School International Baccalaureate Biology stu-

dents. The program started out with my wife wanting to help my son's teacher show the students the positive benefits of a biological resources career. Debbie does the planning and I am one of many volunteers helping to show the students the fun of plant and fish identification and field ecology.

We showed the students how to do vegetation sampling, identifying coastal plant species and identifying fish and invertebrate species in all forms of development. They learned how to use a seine net and how to perform a successful sampling event. The catch of fish species were compared as they make passes over bare sand and over sea grass beds. The fish exercise also helped them understand the ecological importance of seagrass beds as they compared their catch over bare sand and seagrass.

The preparation took most of the night before as we made last minute changes to our Volunteer manuals. We had taken photographs of the vegetation the week before and provided the information to our Volunteers so that they did not need to be botanic experts, just willing to help the students figure out the plants.

The actual field day started at 6:00 AM as Debbie and I loaded the cars with buckets, seine nets, water, microscopes (we looked at plankton as well), all of the manuals. The exercise was held at the local State Park and the day was gorgeous. We ended the day around 5:00 as we washed off the seine nets to store for next year.

The event has grown from an initial group of 25-30 students in 2006 to this year's 101 students. We had parents, grandparents, and several volunteers from the local environmental community. Each volunteer was given their reference manual to help the students to identify the plants they see and the fish they catch. We gave the students instructions on how to sample and let them loose on the environment. Absolutely fabulous, extremely tiring, tremendous fun!

Volunteerism is a lot of work. By the end of the day we were mentally and physically drained, but very happy and satisfied in what we accomplished with the students. Hearing a student state that she wants to become a botanist is where I derive my pleasure in this experience. The sheer gratitude of the Biology teacher is payment enough for us. Every year, at the end of the day, the volunteers, who had no idea what they were getting into, tell us how much fun they had and they want to do it again. There is no potential for me to receive future business for my company and there are no contacts being made except the strong and often times lasting relationships with our fellow volunteers.

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President's Letter

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I believe these stories illustrate that volunteerism is its own reward. What appears to be exhausting work can become a lot of fun and personally meaningful. The key to enjoying these moments of volunteering is to realize that someone else has benefited from your efforts. There is something in the effort that you can be very proud to have accomplished.

We see in life that without the spirit of volunteering, there is much that would never get completed. I am convinced that volunteerism starts as altruistic in nature. It is an important benefit to the recipients and the participants receive the recipients' gratitude, have fun, and know they have helped a family in need, or a community rise up again in hope..

As President of NAEP, I made opening remarks at the Portland annual conference that concluded with this call to action.

*If you are not a member — Join
If you are a member — Volunteer
The next great idea could come from you!!
Contribute to Something Significant.*

It is a simple concept, easy to implement personally, and it recognizes that we all have something to give to our National Association. As important as membership is, I really believe that we cannot grow properly without volunteers at all levels.

We have an active and engaged Board of Directors that is comprised of professionals that want to do positive things. It might be a bit simplistic to call them movers and shakers, but I believe they are all committed to the betterment of this association. They are eager to make the NAEP the premier association for all environmental professionals to join. The ideas that come from our leaders are amazing. The problem solving abilities are unmatched. And when it comes to implementing the amazing ideas that are generated, we need volunteers

That is where you can help our association. We do need more volunteers. In some instances, we have people in committees that produce great things, lasting products; individuals that move our association forward. But it would be so much easier if there were more people to help with the great work it takes to keep the association running smoothly and providing greater value to our membership. We have a great resource in you - our members. I also realize that we all work for a living. What I would ask from all of you is, could you spare two to five hours a week to help make the association greater, even more successful than it is? I believe the volunteer efforts of our Board and Committees have been phenomenal, and through this altruistic effort,

we attract passionate individuals who realize the professional and personal benefits to all.

Our association members span all levels of employment in the environmental fields. We have business owners, we have executives, we have managers, and we have practice experts. Our volunteers can expect to have a similar level of exposure when they work with other professionals on a committee or a conference planning group. The benefit you can receive is completely up to you, but I can tell you from experience, volunteering is rewarding and fulfilling. You can expend effort and help produce amazing things. Your rewards will be friendships for life, and the knowledge that you were part of something significant, respectful and long-lasting.

What is truly unique about NAEP is that our professionals come from all of the different areas of practice that make up the field of environmental sciences. We have amazingly talented people as members. We have brilliant thinkers in our membership. What we truly need is for you as the experts and thinkers to set aside time to provide our association with your uniqueness. Yes, NAEP has paid staff who are responsible for the successful day to day operations. They are the best at the work they do. I am thankful daily that they are with us. Our conferences are successful, our operations are smooth, and our Journal is the best in the field.

What we need are more professionals like you to help with the important work of our Association. We need people who understand the environmental professions and understand what is valuable to other professionals. We need people who have the time, the passion, and the know-how to help us meet the ever evolving needs of our membership and our profession.

Our national committees have a lot of great people on them – you may be one of them. If not we need you to volunteer so that the workload gets redistributed, so that more great ideas flow. We need you to help us achieve the goals of the Association and help us create greater value for our members. You, as a volunteer, are what we are seeking. I hope you can make some time to be a part of this amazing organization.

Contact Tim (naep@naep.org) at the main office or email me (plooney@volkert.com) to let me know what interests you. We will be glad to provide you contacts so that your desire and passion to help can best be put to work. I want you to have fun, I want you to feel you are being useful; I want you to feel that your contributions are important and necessary for the future of NAEP. I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, local or

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Meet the NAEP Board

NAEP appreciates the service of these four Elected Board Members. NAEP is a better organization due to their efforts on the Board and various Committees:

Marie Campbell NAEP Elected Board Member — Chair, Education Committee



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Marie Campbell is the sole owner and president of Sapphos Environmental, Inc., one of the most successful small, woman-, and minority-owned environmental consulting business enterprises in the western United States. Marie has nearly 30 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. She started her environmental career as a teaching assistant at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). From UCLA, she moved on to a position as an environmental protection specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), where she rose to the position as Acting Chief, Environmental Resources Branch. She left the public sector to take a position as an Associate with one of California's largest environmental consulting firms, ultimately opting to venture out to establish Sapphos Environmental, Inc. This is an incredible year for Marie and Sapphos Environmental, Inc. The firm will be

celebrating its 20th anniversary, was recognized by the Minority Business Development Agency as the 2012 Green Environmental Consulting Firm, and was recognized by the California Air Resources Board as the 2012 Climate Action Leader.

As with her professional career, Marie's membership with the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) dates back to membership in the student Chapter at UCLA. She became a professional member when she took her position with the USACOE. Marie has been a member of both the California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and NAEP throughout her professional career. She has served as board member on the Los Angeles Chapter of AEP and on the State Board, representing Los Angeles as a Chapter Director. She was elected as a member-at-large to the NAEP Board of Directors in 2010. Her goal in joining the NAEP Board was to ensure members were being provided with cutting-edge information and opportunities to continually advance their professional skills. In her role as Chair of the Education Committee, she has had the honor of working with co-board members Ron Lamb, U.S. Marine Corps; Ron Deverman, HNTB; Wendy Haydon, CH2M Hill; Roger Turner, Independent Consultant; and NAEP member Erica Mignone, TEC Cardno, to develop the webinar series to bring accessible and affordable information to the general membership. Marie is currently serving as the Co-Chair for the 2013 Joint NAEP-AEP Annual Conference and is looking forward to seeing members of both organizations at the conference.

Ms. Campbell holds a Master of Arts in Geography and a Bachelor of Arts in Ecosystems: Conservation of Natural Resources from UCLA. She is the mother of two accomplished daughters, Sarah Marie and Katherine Nicole, and grandmother to Kenneth, known affectionately as Turtle. When she is not busy conserving the environment, she enjoys gourmet cooking and cycling to counterbalance the effects of the cooking.

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President's Letter

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national. I want to hear from you on any matters of the Association. Even constructive comments can help us develop into a better organization. We need your capabilities to envision and overcome challenges. We need the skills you daily bring to your

work place to provide a future for those young professionals who are coming into the community of environmental professionals. While I really do enjoy my time as President, volunteering for NAEP, I feel the value I am providing is realized in the fun and enjoyment of you, our committed and dedicated members.



Board Members

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Harold Draper, D.Sc. NAEP Vice President



Harold Draper
Burns & McDonnell
Engineering Company, Inc.
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816-822-3219
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www.burnsmcd.com

A Certified Environmental Professional, Harold has 22 years of experience in environmental impact assessment, stream and wetlands permitting, and cultural resources. He is currently with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company in Kansas City, where he also serves as quality review manager for the Environmental Studies and Permitting Global Practice. Recent projects involved transmission lines, power plants, highways, broadband internet, water supply, and sewer facilities. He specializes in programmatic approaches and cumulative effects analysis. Harold was previously with the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he was a NEPA practitioner specializing in reservoir land planning and permitting in addition to utility projects. He was also previously a biomass energy coordinator with the Mississippi Forestry Association and a renewable energy analyst with the Florida Governor's Energy Office. He has a Doctor of Science and a MS degree in technology and human affairs from Washington University in St. Louis and BS degrees in botany and conservation from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He grew up in Greensboro and Pleasant Garden, North Carolina.

Harold serves on the Certification Review Board of the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals. He is a member of the Committee on Environmental Analysis (ADC10) of the Transportation Research Board and serves on the Linking Transportation and Environmental Planning Advisory Group of the Mid-America Regional Council. He is past president of the Tennessee Trails Association, the Technical Society of Knoxville, the Apalachee Chapter of the Florida Trails Association, and the East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. He was environmental coordination committee chair of the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program from 1996 to 2007. In his spare time, Harold is

an enthusiastic supporter of parks and public lands, and has participated in volunteer trail maintenance and public lands work days since 1984. He posts information about world ecoregions, science, and public lands at www.enviromble.net.

Harold began his NAEP membership in 1994 and was elected to the Board in 2007. Currently Vice President, he also served as Secretary of the Board of Directors from 2009-2011, Chair of the Transportation Working Group from 2005-2007, organized a conference session on programmatic reviews at San Antonio, has presented papers at NAEP conferences, and has written papers for the Environmental Practice journal. When Harold moved to Kansas City in 2007, he was instrumental in re-starting the Mid-America AEP and is the chapter's representative to the NAEP Board.

Harold believes in supporting the profession through service to its professional organization. "At every NAEP conference, I learn something new about NEPA that I can take back and use. There is always energy in the hallways, at conference events and at after-hours events which often leads to new ideas and solutions. By serving on the Board, I feel more confident about organizational and people management, which has transferred to my own project management. NAEP service has led to lifetime professional relationships and a broad perspective on common problems that allows me to feel comfortable working and traveling just about anywhere."

Gary Kelman, MS, CEP NAEP Elected Board Member and Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals President



Gary Kelman
CAFO Program Manager
Maryland Department of the Environment
Baltimore, MD
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Gary F. Kelman has been an environmental professional for over 35 years. His practice has specialized in water and wastewater issues, project management, technical presentations and regulation of industries and public works.

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Board Members

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After graduating with a degree in Life Sciences from Philadelphia University, Gary was admitted to the University of Maryland Civil Engineering Graduate Program, earning his MS in Environmental Engineering. Working for a small consulting firm in Bethesda, Maryland, he developed environmental assessments, impact statements, operated water quality laboratory analytical equipment and performed environmental sampling. Next, Gary joined the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), where his career started with water quality modeling for municipal NPDES discharge permits, design of water quality field studies, development of industrial NPDES discharge permits and the management of Maryland's pretreatment program. Recognized as a leader by upper management at MDE, Gary was elevated to Director of Permitting and Customer Service by Maryland's Environmental Secretary. This position put him in charge of MDE's Environmental Permits Service Center, Pollution Prevention Program and Small Business Assistance Center. It also included Department-wide oversight of MDE's enforcement, compliance and permitting programs. A need existed at MDE for development of a program to regulate nutrient discharges from animal feeding operations. As he does with all of his projects, Gary brought his enthusiasm to this new assignment and now manages MDE's Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) program, elevating it to the premier program of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic/Chesapeake Bay region and earning respect from the regulated community, USDA, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, farm lending institutions and other agencies. During his career, Gary received many honors and awards including MDE's Employee of the Year in 2010 (out of over 1000 employees) and being named an NAEP Fellow in 2010, one of only 7 in the organization's 37 year history.

Gary first heard of NAEP while a consultant in 1978 and initially joined the Maryland Chapter. He quickly moved up the ranks of the Chapter to become its President. As President he expanded the Chapter to include Virginia, Maryland and Delaware as NAEP's Chesapeake Chapter. During this time Gary started attending NAEP National Board meetings in Washington, DC as the Maryland/Chesapeake Chapter representative, and was asked to run for the National Board. While on the NAEP Board, he participated in several committees including the permanent conference committee. Gary was involved with several NAEP conferences and volunteered his wife, Wendy, to coordinate conference logistics for a couple of them. He rose up the NAEP ladder to be Secretary, Vice-President and

President, serving one term in the 1990's and two terms from 2004 through 2006. Gary felt that there should be a formal agreement between NAEP and its chapters that outlined the responsibilities of each. This idea was developed into the chapter affiliation agreement. Gary drafted and managed the first round of these documents. Over the years he got to know Jim Roberts very well and, after Jim passed away in 2007, he participated on a committee to initiate the Jim Roberts Memorial Scholarship Fund. Now he is its Chair. Currently, Gary is in his third term as President of the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP).

Gary has long said that the best way to get the most from an organization is by participating in its activities. Paying dues and expecting benefits and services does not maximize the organization's value to an individual. He has developed long-lasting friendships and professional relationships through his involvement with NAEP. Information is just a phone call or e-mail away since he can tap into the resources of the environmental professionals he has met over the years. If you want to discuss NAEP, or ABCEP for that matter, Gary can be contacted at 410-537-4423 or gkelman@mde.state.md.us. He currently works for the Maryland Department of the Environment in Baltimore, Maryland and volunteers on weekends at the Newseum in Washington, DC.

Ronald E. Lamb, CEP NAEP Elected Board Member — Co-Chair, NEPA Working Group and Chair, Member Benefits Committee



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Ron Lamb is a NEPA Specialist for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) in Washington, D.C. Ron reviews the adequacy of Marine Corps Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), advises Interdisciplinary Project Teams



Board Members

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(IPTs) on NEPA issues, serves on HQMC Environmental Impact Review Boards (EIRBs), implements NEPA business process improvements, delivers NEPA training, and represents the Marine Corps to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), other Department of Defense services, and other Federal agencies. He was also a primary author on the recent revision to the USMC NEPA Manual ([www.marines.mil/unit/mcasmiramar/ems/Documents/NEPA/USMC NEPA Manual.pdf](http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcasmiramar/ems/Documents/NEPA/USMC%20NEPA%20Manual.pdf)). Prior to coming to HQMC in January 2010, he was a Vice President and NEPA Program Manager for HDR|e2M.

His education includes an M.S. in Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University, an M.A. in Political Science/International Economics and B.A. in Political Science from the University of Nebraska. Ron received his CEP in Environmental

Planning in 2005. He recently submitted his Capstone Paper to Duke University, Environmental Leadership Program, for his Certificate in NEPA. Ron is completing his second term on the Board of Directors. Ron has frequently presented papers at the NAEP Annual Conference, and also coordinates the NAEP National Desk newsletter.

Ron was the Project Manager for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) “NEPA Call-In” technical inquiry and information “clearinghouse” that received the NAEP Presidential award for NEPA Excellence in 1998. Ron also received an NAEP Presidential Leadership Award in 2009.

“I encourage everyone to get involved with a professional society, such as NAEP or your local NAEP chapter. There is no better way to network and stay at the forefront of your profession. For me, NAEP has been invaluable in my career growth, and a great way to learn from the leading NEPA professionals.”

Get your CEP — Save Thousands of Dollars

The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) has just partnered with American Public University (APU) to allow up to 6 transfer credits to those who hold the Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) credential. The value of these credits can substantially reduce the cost of a Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Policy and Management or can serve to offset elective credits in other Masters programs at APU.

To find out the details, go to <http://www.apu.edu/TransferCredit/accepted/graduate/internal-policies/abc-env-prof.htm> or visit the ABCEP website: www.abcep.org.

Some information on APU:

- It is the first, fully online university to receive the Sloan Consortium’s (Sloan-C) Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education (2009) and two-time recipient of the Sloan-C Effective Practice Award (2009-2010).
- APU has more than 150 degree and certificate programs as well as online courses to help with certifications and professional development in subjects ranging from Environmental Hazard Mitigation and Restoration (Grad Cert); Environmental Planning and Design (Grad Cert); Environmental Policy and Management (Capstone, MS); Environmental Risk Assessment (Grad Cert); Environmental Science with four concentrations (BS), Environmental Sustainability (Grad Cert); Environmental Technology (Undergrad Cert), Fish and Wildlife Management (Grad Cert, Undergrad Cert), Transportation & Logistics, Business Administration, Information Technology, and many others.
- APU’s combined undergraduate tuition, fees and books are roughly 20% less than the average 4-year public university’s in-state rates, helping to maximize your tuition assistance program. (The College Board, *Trends in College Pricing 2011*, October 2011.)
- APU will carefully evaluate prior learning, including eligible on-the-job learning, for the award of academic credit.

This gives you another excuse to apply for your CEP today.



Certifying Environmental Professionals since 1979



The Board in a Hot Place

While it was over 100 degrees outside, your NAEP Board met in Kansas City on July 21 (the week after the All Star Game) to sample barbeque, explore the Country Club Plaza restaurant selection, and conduct the business of the association (not necessarily in that order). Some of the more adventuresome members found time to visit the Truman Library and take in a baseball game. The board reviewed the results of the successful conference in Portland in April, and looked forward to the 2013 annual meeting in Los Angeles. The Board meeting was followed on July 21 and 22 by the Chapters Retreat, which developed a strategic plan for chapter maintenance and new chapter promotion for the next five years.

In opening the meeting, President Paul Looney noted that three years ago NAEP had a membership low of 635. We slowly are regaining our footing, and the active member count now exceeds 900. We have increased the value of our newsletter and increased benefits. Between June 2011 and July 2012, we added member value through webinars and publication of the National Desk. Chapter affiliation agreements have been reviewed and executed, and NAEP now has 14 affiliated chapters. This coming year we will focus on increasing value and increasing membership.

Financially, we have been increasing our reserve funds. This year's conference profits were good, improving the financial position of the organization. Webinars are also profitable and improving the financial picture. The website is being updated and redesigned. The Board discussed ways to increase retention of members, working on corporate member pricing, selling newsletter ads, and membership recruitment. For the conference, the Board discussed ways to increase exhibitors and sponsors, as well as sponsor benefits.

The upcoming 2013 conference has a 'Walk the Talk' theme and will utilize the L.A. Live venue to enhance the conference experience and demonstrate environmental compliance strategies at the venue and in greater Los Angeles. The conference co-chairs are Michael Smith and Marie Campbell. The pre-conference symposium is planned to be on climate adaptation planning. There are four conceptual mobile workshops (tours). The venue is all about walking and lifestyle change and sustainability. NAEP volunteers are needed to help out with marketing and other conference tasks. Conference planning is also underway for 2014 in Tampa, and NAEP is soliciting volunteer sites for 2015.

The Board meeting was followed by the Chapter Retreat. About half of the chapters made the effort to visit Kansas City

and participate in the retreat. Although each chapter is an independent organization with its own state incorporation and IRS non-profit status, NAEP and the chapters have voluntarily affiliated to act in the interests of the environmental profession. Because of the interrelatedness of state, federal, and local environmental laws, we all need each other.

At the chapter retreat, chapters shared common problems such as communication, sustaining chapter leadership, increasing participation, and dealing with a large geographic area. Webinars offered by NAEP have been filling in scheduling gaps for chapter meetings. Chapters also discussed potential improvements in the affiliation agreement and outreach to potential new chapters, as well as student chapters.

Before leaving, the chapter retreat attendees developed the outlines of a strategic plan, which will focus on new full affiliate chapters, existing chapter services and relations, and adding new NAEP member benefits to chapters. Details of the strategic plan will be developed over the next few months by the Chapters Committee, chaired by Bill Plumpton.

— submitted by *Harold Draper*

Advertising Opportunities in the NAEP Newsletter

The NAEP Newsletter is offering a limited amount of advertising space in the publication. Advertisements will be limited to two pages per issue for 2012 and once that space is filled per issue there will be no other advertisements accepted. Advertisers will have the opportunity to purchase space in all remaining issues of 2012 so that they can be assured of space in each issue. This is a great opportunity to both support NAEP and gain access to a potential readership of over 6,500.

Ads can be purchased in either quarter or half page sizes and is priced at a very affordable price that starts at \$375 per ad for a quarter page ad when 6 ads are purchased. The purchasing of ads in advance allows the advertiser to reduce their costs and allow you to make sure your ad space is reserved.

For more information on advertising opportunities or to reserve your space please contact Tim Bower at 856-283-7816 or by email at naep@naep.org.



Chapter's Committee Report

The July meeting of the Chapter's Committee was a special one; in lieu of a meeting by conference call, we held our 5-year committee retreat. The retreat was held on July 21st and 22nd in Kansas City in conjunction with the quarterly Board of Directors meeting. We thank the Mid-America chapter for hosting the Chapter Retreat and all their hard work and efforts in making arrangements for it. Thanks also to NAEP Administrator Tim Bower for his efforts to make the retreat a successful and productive event and to help guide our committee forward.

The retreat was attended by Chapter Representatives and Presidents from across the Country and members of the Board of Directors. Seven of NAEP's Chapters 14 attended the weekend event. The purpose of the retreat was two-fold: 1) to provide a great networking opportunity for Chapter Representatives and Presidents, and 2) to create the foundation for our strategic action plan to set the agenda for the Chapters Committee for the

next five years. We spent July 21st getting to know each other a bit better and developing a firm understanding our current situation, including our strengths and areas where improvement is needed to succeed. We spent July 22nd planning our future and moving forward together by identifying our Committee's priorities and creating the basis for action plans for the next few years. Attendees of the retreat did great work together and both purposes of the retreat were met.

While many items were discussed, our committee identified three top priorities: 1) to maintain and strengthen existing NAEP – Chapter relations, 2) to work to create new affiliate chapters in states or regions presently without one, and 3) to add new benefits to Chapters. Each of our top priorities have many tasks and sub-tasks. Other notable priorities for the Committee are the establishment and support of existing and new student chapters and revising and renewing the Chapter Affiliation Agreement; these other notable priorities will also be worked on in the coming years.

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EIA Campus

EIA Campus is now online! EIA Campus provides online courses for Environmental Impact Assessment professionals in the US and worldwide. These courses are taught by Dr. Larry Canter, a leading expert and seasoned educator with over 40 years in the EIA field. Each course offers video instruction by Dr. Canter, bullet points, reference documents and review that Dr. Canter uses in the onsite courses he teaches to US agencies, consulting companies, and international governments each year.

- ✓ Each 1 1/2 hour course includes video instruction and a downloadable student manual.
- ✓ Each course costs \$75 and students can access it as many times as needed for 60 days after purchase.
- ✓ Each course can qualify for 1.5 hours of PDH/CE.



Current Online EIA Courses

Cumulative Effects Series

- Principles, Processes and Documentation
- Addressing Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions
- Special Considerations Related to Describing the Affected Environment
- Connecting Actions with Consequences on VECs
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Collaborative Management
- Emerging Best Practices Principles **NEW!**

EIA Process Series:

- NEPA, CEQ Regulations and Agency Regulations
- Impact Study Planning and Scheduling
- Integrating a Public Scoping Program with an Agency Scoping Process
- Methodologies for EIA
- Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives
- Climate Change within the EIA/NEPA Process **NEW!**

Adaptive Management Series:

- Fundamental Aspects of Planning
- Case Studies

Technical Writing for EIA (NEPA) Series:

- Principles of Technical Writing Applied to the EIA Process
- Special Topical Issues Related to Writing and Reviewing EIA Documents

www.EIACampus.com



Jim Roberts Scholarship Competition Kickoff

NAEP announces the kickoff of the competition for the First Annual Scholarship Award at the NAEP 2013 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA. The link to the Scholarship Application is below:

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/assets/naeprobertsscholarshipapplication-2013.doc>

Jim Roberts travelled far and wide to espouse the value of living an ethical life, both inside and outside of the office. He lived NAEP's Code of Ethics. One of his last accomplishments was to travel, on his own dime, to most of NAEP's state and regional chapters reading the story of Winnie the Pooh and relating how this philosophy of life will assist you in living your life in an ethical manner.

Jim was a wonderful man, always positive in his outlook with soft mannerisms. Jim thought the world of NAEP and was willing to commit a large portion of his time and energy in support of the organization and the ethical growth of the environmental profession. Aside from serving as president of NAEP, he was chair of NAEP's International Committee for 13 years and the Ethics Committee chair for 7 years, among other duties.

Jim always stated that you have to participate in the profession in order to benefit the most from it. In Jim's eye, participation did not only consist of looking inwardly in pursuing one's career, but also exploring your effect on others. He felt this was best done through organizations such as NAEP, not only by paying dues, but by attending conferences, joining committees and really getting involved with fellow professionals.

He wrote countless articles and encouraged members to engage in discussions on environmental topics including environmental ethics. In 1999, AEP, NAEP's California Chapter, presented Jim with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the environmental profession. Four years later, in 2003, Jim was named a Fellow of NAEP for his lifetime of contributions to the organization.

Jim passed away in November, 2007. Brain cancer removed

Jim's ability to speak and made communication very difficult, a very sad ending to a life filled with communication. Nonetheless, he kept up his enthusiasm till the very end.

NAEP developed the James Roberts Scholarship Fund in 2008 to promote the importance of living an ethical life, professionally and otherwise. The fund will assist nascent environmental professionals pay for their education. Over the past few years, the James Roberts Scholarship Committee has told the Jim Roberts story to countless environmental professionals and has collected seed money in order to bring this scholarship to fruition. Eventually, a foundation will be created to manage the funds.

As chair of the Scholarship Committee, at next year's NAEP conference in 2013, I will be proud to announce the first recipient of this annual scholarship. Application forms for this scholarship will appear on the NAEP and ABCEP websites shortly. The applicants, current undergraduate and graduate students, will be asked to write an essay that reflects on how their education and experience to this point supports ethical work on environmental problems. The winning candidate will be selected by an awards committee based on how this essay reflects how Jim Roberts would have carried out his life.

I encourage you to tell nascent environmental professionals that you know about this scholarship. Also, please contribute to the scholarship through NAEP's website to increase the endowment. Let's continue to support ethical practices in the environmental professions and continue Jim's influence."

—*Gary Kelman*
Chair of the Jim Roberts Scholarship Fund



Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Chapter Report

The FAEP (www.FAEP-FL.org) is comprised of the FAEP and eight local chapters. The local chapters enable the FAEP to remain active throughout the state of Florida, addressing issues that are of State, regional and local interests. The FAEP provides numerous monthly networking and educational sessions throughout the state via the Central (www.CFAEP.org), Northeast (www.NEFAEP.org), Northwest (www.FAEPNWFL.org), South (www.SFAEP.org), Southwest (www.SWFAEP.org), Tallahassee (<http://www.faep-tally.com/>), Tampa Bay (www.TBAEP.org), and Treasure Coast (<https://sites.google.com/site/tccfaep/>) Chapters.

To see a list of upcoming events, please visit the local chapter website or visit the “Happenings” section on the FAEP website for a full list of events throughout the state.

2012 Annual Meeting

The Northwest Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (FAEP) is hosting the 2012 Annual Conference for the FAEP on Friday, September 21, 2012. The symposium will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Pensacola; registration starts at 7:15 AM, sessions from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Register at www.faep-fl.org.

Chapter's Committee

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The Chapter Committee met in August and spent our meeting further developing our action plan for our top priority — to maintain and strengthen existing NAEP - Chapter relations. We will spend our committee time and meetings in September and October developing the remaining two priorities.

A reminder that all Chapter Representatives and Presidents are members of the Chapter Committee and all are welcome to

Membership Drive

The FAEP is holding a “Back to School Membership Drive.” Through September 30, the FAEP is waiving the state membership fee. Local Chapter fees may still apply. Many local chapters are hosting membership drive activities to promote the state offering.

Professional Teaming Opportunities

The FAEP and the local chapters frequently team with other organizations for networking, trainings and technical sessions including the American Water Resources Association, Florida Section, Society of Professional Wetland Scientists, the American Planning Association, the Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section and the National Mitigation and Ecosystems Restoration Banking Conference. The Southwest chapter partners annually with multiple organizations to host the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference. We believe these teaming opportunities provide a source not only for new members, but also to expand FAEP's networking and training opportunities.

The FAEP considers whether the prospective teaming organization's mission statement is compatible with the FAEP mission statement, whether the organization would complement or compete for membership and there must be a benefit to the members of the FAEP. Benefits include cross-promotional opportunities, ability to display FAEP/NAEP literature at no additional cost and the ability to register at the same cost as the other organization's members.

participate in committee meetings, even if you haven't participated previously. As we develop and implement our action plans, we could always use more volunteers and now is great time to get involved and move NAEP and its Chapter forward for mutual benefit.

If you have an idea or activity for the Chapter's Committee to tackle, interested in starting a chapter in a state or area presently without one, or have questions about the committee, contact Bill Plumpton, committee chair at (717) 763-7212 ext 2142 or wplumpton@gfnet.com.



Texas Association of Environmental Professionals Chapter Report

TAEP (www.taep.org) sponsors monthly guest speaker luncheons, a yearly conference, monthly young professional networking events, sponsor seminars, and joint meetings with other related organizations. One of the guiding principles of TAEP when it was founded was the promotion and fostering of environmental education. Consequently, a large portion of TAEP's revenue is given back to the community in the form of scholarships and grants. TAEP provides scholarships to full-time students seeking both graduate and undergraduate degrees in environmentally related disciplines from Texas colleges and universities. TAEP also supports the Texas Envirothon (for high school students) and the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (for middle and high school students).

Upcoming Events for TAEP Include:

September 06, 2012: Desi Corner Lounge, 6626 Southwest Freeway, Houston Texas 77047. Young Environmental Professionals (YEP) is a subgroup group of TAEP. The goal of YEP is to provide opportunities for young environmental professionals to meet and network with other young professionals in a relaxed atmosphere. The group typically meets on the first Thursday evening of each month at various locations in Houston. There are no membership costs or dues; each person is responsible for his/her own expenses at the events. YEP members are not required to be members of TAEP, but are included on all TAEP meeting announcement emails and are encouraged to join and attend TAEP functions.

September 20, 2012: TAEP Luncheon Meeting at Brady's Landing Restaurant, 8505 Cypress Street, Houston, Texas 77012. TAEP usually meets during the lunch hour on the third Thursday of each month. Each meeting features a guest speaker addressing one of the most pertinent environmental issues of the day. The meetings include excellent networking opportunities for members and guests. **Our guest speaker is Mr. Jedediah Greenfield, MPA – City of Houston's Brownfield Redevelopment Program.** Registration and networking will be from 11:20 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. A buffet luncheon will be available and announcements will be made between 11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. The speaker presentation will begin at 12:15 p.m. and end at approximately 1:00 p.m.

October 11, 2012: Registration is now available for the Sixth Annual Environmental Challenges and Innovations Conference: Gulf Coast 2012 at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Houston near the Reliant Park located at 8686 Kirby Drive in Houston, Texas. This one day event provides a forum for environmental professionals in industry, government agencies, consulting and service companies, as well as university students in the greater Houston area to share technical presentations with their peers. More than 300 persons attended ECIC11 last year, showing that the environmental community will seek out quality educational and networking opportunities even during challenging economic times. Topics have included Water, Waste, Wastewater, Air, Soil, Sediment, Education and Outreach, Environmental Response to Natural Disasters, Groundwater, Risk Assessment, Sustainability, NEPA, Environmental Management Systems, Auditing, Process Safety, Remediation, Risk Management and many more. Registration for exhibitors, potential underwriters, and attendees is now open!

November 15, 2012: TAEP Luncheon Meeting at Brady's Landing Restaurant. **Our guest speaker is Mr. Tim Gratto, - VP of Sustainability for the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.**

For more chapter information and event registration, please visit WWW.TAEP.ORG



WALK THE TALK
JW Marriott - LA Live
Los Angeles, CA
<http://www.n-aep2013.org/>
April 1 – 5, 2013

Please join us for the 2013 NAEP/AEP Joint Conference. The conference committee is hard at work planning what will sure to be an informative and engaging event for environmental professionals. The conference program will feature dynamic regional and national keynote speakers, and an all-day pre-conference symposium on climate change adaptation. Conference sessions will cover topics including NEPA and CEQA, Climate Change, Water Supply and Delivery, Air Quality, Energy and Alternative Energy Development, Marine and Coastal Issues, Habitat Mitigation, Transportation, Land Use, and Cultural Resources. There will also be numerous other conference and social events that will take advantage of the conference location, including a number of mobile workshops and a 5K run through some of downtown Los Angeles' top attractions.

The online abstract submission site is available and awaiting your input. The deadline for submission is September 30, 2012. It is earlier this year because the conference is earlier. So don't wait, get your submission in.

There are many opportunities for exhibitors and sponsors to become involved and it's a great opportunity to place your company in front of key decision makers in the environmental area. Don't wait! Sign up now.

Our conference will be held in an outstanding, state-of-the-art conference facility at the JW Marriott Hotel, located in the vibrant LA Live complex in downtown Los Angeles. The hotel and conference facility sport a front-row seat to some of Los Angeles' top attractions, include the Staples Center, the Nokia Theatre, Regal Cinemas, and a wide variety of shops and restaurants. In addition, despite the car-centered nature of greater Los Angeles, many world-class attractions can be reached via public transit which is easily accessible from the complex.

See you in LA in April. If you have questions, contact me.

Donna Carter
naepfl@verizon.net
863-949-0262

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When you're ready to invest in your organization's future
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American Public University is ready to help your team succeed. We're a nationally recognized university with certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees for environmental science, policy, and management professionals – completely online. So your employees can take classes on their own time. And people are taking notice. 99% of employers surveyed would hire one of our graduates again.*

When you're ready, visit StudyatAPU.com/NAEP



*APUS Alumni Employer Survey, January 2011–December 2011
We want you to make an informed decision about the university that's right for you. For more about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed each program, and other important information, visit www.apus.edu/disclosure.



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Looking for Career Advice from Top Environmental Experts?

Register for a Complimentary Career Advice Three-Part Webinar Series

With the current economic conditions and job market, Environmental Professionals need to stand out in order to compete for jobs or to advance their careers. Recognizing this challenge, the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and American Public University (APU) are bringing together top academic leaders and subject matter experts to collaborate on a 3-part webinar series, helping educate environmental professionals on this highly informative topic of career preparation. Register today at www.studyatapu.com/NAEP-Webinars to learn critical skills that may help you shape the future of your career in this field!

NAEP and APU have selected some of the top environmental experts today to provide relevant and cutting-edge career advice that you can use to help you advance in your field. The caliber of the experts speaking at this webinar series really highlights both NAEP and APU as thought leader organizations in the environmental field as well as their legitimate interest and commitment toward helping drive professional advancements through career-relevant education.

Taking advantage of this career-advice webinar series is complimentary and is offered for registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees will need to register separately for each webinar. For more information, please refer to the webinar descriptions below.

Part 1 • Preparing to Stand Out — Call occurred on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 — the archive video of the presentation can be found at www.studyatapu.com/NAEP-Webinars

Long-time career professionals will share tips for navigating employment and application procedures for jobs in the federal and local government, as well as private and consulting firms. With the challenging economic environment today, employers have the opportunity to be extremely meticulous when it comes to selecting the perfect candidate from a pool of applicants that can often reach the 100's. Topics covered will include: simple application enhancements to help you stand out, resume submission best practices, self-assessment questions for finding the perfect job, relationship building tips, mastering the job interview, and demonstrating your qualifications beyond the resume and cover letter. Attendees will also get a “sneak peak” of the results of 2012 NAEP/ECC National Environmental Employer Survey revealing details on how best to enter or advance in an environmental career.

Part 2 • The Perfect Resume — Call occurred on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 — the archive video of the presentation can be found at www.studyatapu.com/NAEP-webinars

This resume-focused session brings experts to the table providing a deep dive on building a powerful resume. Attendees will hear perspectives from experienced HR and hiring managers as well as top career development experts in the industry who play active roles at the National Association of Environmental Professionals. Speakers will address the following: understanding the different needs between the federal and private sectors, documenting your key accomplishments, highlighting your daily responsibilities, appropriate use of language and grammar, using resume builder software and keywords, cover letter etiquette and formatting, and online resources for additional reference. An overview of the career services department at American Public University will also be provided.

Part 3 • Leveraging LinkedIn to Land Your Next Job — Wednesday, October 17, 2012 — 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Our tech-savvy panel will cover the ins-and-outs of how job hunters and employers utilize social media and how you can leverage LinkedIn to network your way to your next job. Topics to be covered include: strategies for job hunting, importance of networking, social media best practices, job boards and social media sites, how social media can help or hurt your search, participation in associations, chapters and communities, and managing your personal brand.

We invite you to join us to learn critical skills that will help you shape the future of your career in this field.

Register today at www.studyatapu.com/NAEP-webinars



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Thank you,
Gary F. Kelman, Chair

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Become a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP)

OBTAIN THE RECOGNITION YOUR CAREER DESERVES:

- *Do you have an environmental certification? Good*
- *Does this environmental certification measure your experience and depth of knowledge, not just facts? Yes*
- *Does this environmental certification include an objective peer review of your abilities? Yes*
- *Is your environmental certification accredited by a third-party certifying body? Yes*
- *Then your environmental certification must be a CEP from The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP).*



Certification is available in five areas:

- Assessment
- Documentation
- Operations
- Planning
- Research/Education

Beginning in 1979, experienced environmental professionals were able to become certified through a comprehensive peer review addressing years of experience, responsibility, and knowledge. Certifications are nationally-recognized and available for a wide range of eligible professionals including:

- Federal/state/local agency staff - Consultants - Researchers - Compliance managers
- Enforcement officials - Activists

Initially offered as a certification through the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) established organizational independence in 1993. In 1999 ABCEP became a nonprofit organization. In 2005, the ABCEP achieved accreditation by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB – www.cesb.org)

The ABCEP CEP brings heightened confidence in the professional quality of documents, evaluations, and decisions. Certified individuals satisfy the professional requirements outlined by the USEPA, ASTM, and other regulatory agencies, providing assurance to employers and customers. For the individual, certification increases opportunities for promotions, marketability, and career advancement. Certified individuals maintain their knowledge, experience, and credentials through continuing education, teaching, mentoring, publishing papers, and complying with the Code of Ethics.

Become a CEP-IT: The ABCEP offers mentoring and a CEP-In Training (CEP-IT) designation to junior and mid-level professionals developing towards CEP eligibility. The CEP-IT increases individual and firm marketability, enhanced career opportunities, and enhanced networking opportunities.

More Information: Contact ABCEP at office@abcep.org; www.abcep.org; or 1.866.767.8073 Do you have an upcoming meeting and need a speaker? Speaker opportunities by CEPs about ABCEP are available in certain geographic locations.



Call for papers for publication in the scholarly journal:

Environmental Practice

The journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

CHINA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE vol. 15 no. 3

Over the last three decades, China's rapid economic expansion has lifted millions of people out of poverty and returned China to prominence on the international stage. At the same time, however, it has placed a tremendous strain on the natural environment. According to the World Bank, sixteen of the twenty most polluted cities in the world are in China and air pollution alone contributes to 750,000 premature deaths in China each year. China's pollution not only harms its citizens' health, but also potentially threatens future economic growth, undermines political stability, and complicates China's relations with the rest of the world.

This issue of *Environmental Practice* is dedicated to exploring the causes and consequences of China's environmental challenge. We invite manuscripts that touch on an array of themes, including but not limited to: (1) the sources of China's environmental degradation; (2) the social, economic or political costs of China's pollution; (3) new measures and government policies aimed at the promotion of environmental protection; (4) the role of non-state actors in environmental governance (e.g. NGOs, student groups, corporations, etc); (5) the obstacles inhibiting better environmental protection; (6) China's environmental foreign relations.

We welcome a variety of perspectives and submissions from scholars, practitioners, and students.

**Deadline for submissions is
February 15, 2013 to
dcarro17@depaul.edu**

**Sample issues of the journal
can be found at:**

[http://journals.cambridge.org/action/
displayJournal?jid=ENP](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ENP)

Guidelines for publication can be found at:
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/>

The editorial office of
Environmental Practice is located
at DePaul University.

For questions, please contact
Dan Carroll, Managing Editor, at
773-325-2298, or by email at
dcarro17@depaul.edu

Call for papers for publication in the scholarly journal:

Environmental Practice

The journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

Kelly Tzoumis, Lead Editor

GREAT LAKES SUSTAINABILITY

vol. 15 no. 4

with Guest Editor Dr. Susan Hedman, Great Lakes National Program Manager, USEPA

The Great Lakes hold 95% of the United States' fresh water supply, which is one-fifth of the fresh water on the Earth. As a result, the Great Lakes have immense environmental, economic, and cultural significance, especially for the roughly 30 million people who live, work, and recreate in the Great Lakes basin. The Great Lakes ecosystem is under significant environmental stress due to potentially harmful and disruptive algal blooms, invasive animal and plant species, climate change, legacy pollutants such as PCBs and metals, and airborne contaminants such as mercury that are being added to the ecosystem every day.

To respond to the need for policy solutions to these threats, President Obama launched the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to restore and protect the Great Lakes. At the same time, the United States and Canada entered into negotiations to update the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

In light of the many difficult and complex challenges facing the Great Lakes ecosystem today, and given the current focus on its restoration and protection, this issue of *Environmental Practice* is dedicated to exploring the challenges faced in Great Lakes restoration. We welcome a variety of perspectives and submissions from scholars, practitioners, and students. Manuscripts are particularly sought with a focus on public policy.

**Deadline for submittals is
May 15, 2013 to
dcarro17@depaul.edu**

Published by Cambridge University Press

Sample issues of the journal

can be found at:

[http://journals.cambridge.org/action/
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The editorial office of *Environmental Practice* is located at

DePaul University's Department of Public Policy.

For questions, please contact Dan Carroll,
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