

Balancing Growth & Water Resources in Marion County

Hosted by the UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Water School for Leaders Program

Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (SELP) Auditorium
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470

Day 1: Thursday, May 1, 2025

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

8:30 - 9:00 - **Registration and Refreshments**

9:00 - 9:15 - **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Crystal McCazzio, Interim County Extension Director, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
- Michael Dukes, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor, Director, UF/IFAS Center for Land Use Efficiency
- Tony Cunningham, Utilities Director, Marion County Utilities

9:15 – 9:30 – **Hydrogeology of Marion County**, Mary Beth Lupo, Ph.D., P.G., Professional Geologist Administrator, Florida Geological Survey

9:30 – 9:50 - **Understanding Water Regulations and Policy Analysis in Florida**, Weizhe Weng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department

9:50 – 10:10 – **Break**

10:10 – 10:40 - **Florida Water Star – Meeting Water Needs During Explosive Growth**, Robin Grantham, Lead Communications Strategist, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

10:40 – 11:20 - **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™**, Claire Lewis, Director, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program, UF/IFAS Program State Specialized Extension Agent, and Amanda Marek, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

11:20 – 11:40 - **Soil Amendments and Research at On Top of the World**, Eban Bean, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, UF/IFAS

11:40 – 12:00 - **Turf Age and Fertility and Research at On Top of the World**, AJ Lindsey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture

12:00 – 1:00 - **Lunch**

1:00 – 4:30 - Field Trip

On Top of the World Communities: Tour model homes to learn how Tour model homes to learn about the latest landscape and irrigation approaches to conserving water including Florida Water StarSM and Florida Friendly LandscapingTM designs.

- Andrew Jorgensen, Director of Community Maintenance Operations, On Top of the World Communities, LLC

Bay Laurel Center CDD: Visit the new state-of-the-art advanced water reclamation facility designed to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to groundwater while providing reclaimed water to the growing community's golf courses and landscaping.

- Bryan Schmalz, Utility Director

4:30 - Adjournment

Day 2: Friday, May 2, 2025

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

8:30 - 9:00 - Registration And Refreshments

9:00 – 9:15 - Welcome, Introduction to Extension, Kevin Camm, Associate District Extension Director – Central District, UF/IFAS Extension

9:15-10:00 - Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 - Break, Springshed Map activity

10:15 – 10:30 - Rainbow Springs and Silver Springs BMAs, Ondine Wells, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

10:30 – 11:00 - Marion County Growth and Farmland Preservation Area, Kenneth Weyrauch, Deputy Director, Growth Services, Marion County

11:00-11:30 - Florida Regional Landscape Conservation and Watershed Protection, Tom Hocht, Ph.D., Director, University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning

11:30 – 12:00 - Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Plan, Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

12:00 – 1:30 - Lunch

1:30 – 2:10 - Rotations:

- **Taylor Garden Tour,** Amanda Marek, Florida-Friendly LandscapingTM Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
- **Water Resources in Marion County** - Trevor Knight, Water Resources Liaison, Office of the County Engineer, Marion County
- **HB 1379 related to septic systems and & Water-Efficient Landscaping study** - Yilin Zhuang, Ph.D., Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent, UF/IFAS Central District Ondine Wells, Water Resources Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

2:10 – 4:10 - Group Discussion

4:10 – 4:30 – Closing and Evaluation