



TAMPA BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

WWW.TBAEP.ORG

THE 32ND ANNUAL NAEP CONFERENCE: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MAY 2007

While an overwhelming majority of the attendees and presenters at the 32nd annual NAEP conference were professionals, the arena of ideas and networking proved to be quite an experience from a student's perspective. For the handful of students in attendance, the conference provided an opportunity to be in a professional setting, make introductions, and form contacts. I was introduced to many professionals at the conference and immediately felt welcomed and encouraged. The veteran professionals had great career advice for those of us getting started, while the newcomers to the field offered information regarding their recent experiences and obstacles with school and entering the professional scene. Among the many opportunities of the conference, the Environmental Careers Seminar was especially relevant and I took away a further understanding of the skills, experience, and personal traits that are necessary for environmental professionals, as well as career opportunities that are currently available to me.

As a student, I am very passionate about making a difference in the world and in having a career in which I can continue to learn and refine my ideals. From this standpoint, I was most impressed by the professionals I was able to meet at the conference. People talked of their work with pride and conveyed, even to a newcomer, a spirit of collaboration and appreciation of each other's efforts.

While our educations give us a platform to work from, it was quite clear from the presentations I attended that the environmental professions are challenging and dynamic fields that require integration of knowledge and experience in the realms of policy, science, and conservation. I am excited to be on a path that is leading me toward such a career and am fortunate to have been able to attend the NAEP conference. The conference has left me with a very positive impression regarding the environmental profession and I have left the conference with increasing confidence in the career path I have chosen. I would encourage all students and newcomers to the field to take advantage of the opportunities that this organization has to offer.

I would like to thank the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals for the scholarship that allowed me to attend, as well as all of the presenters and attendees that I was able to meet and interact with.

Jessica Orlando

Charter Chair of Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals,
University of Tampa Student Chapter

Mark your Calendar!

Upcoming Meetings:

• **May 16 - 11:30-1:00**
Global Risk Based Corrective Action

Keith Tolson

EpiCenter at ICOT

• **June 20 - 11:30-1:00**

GulfStream Gas Pipeline

Michael Aubele

EpiCenter at ICOT

• **July 18 - 11:30-1:00**

Luncheon

• **Aug. 15 - 11:30-1:00**

Luncheon

• **Sept. 19 - 11:30-1:00**

Luncheon

Link to map to EpiCenter:

http://www.pced.org/download/document/20050526_170508_26332.pdf

NAEP CALL FOR PAPERS

CHANGING CLIMATES

March 25-28, 2008 San Diego

Go to: www.naep.org



April Meeting

Thanks to **Tom Connolly** for giving us a presentation on the issues that are being discussed during the development of the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan. TBAEP will have a speaker come explain the Management Plan when it is finalized.

Faulty NEPA Analysis Results in Injunction Against Planting Genetically Modified Crops

A federal district court in California recently enjoined seed growers from planting genetically modified alfalfa, concluding that the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") violated the National Environmental Protection Act ("NEPA") by failing to adequately assess the environmental effects of "Roundup Ready" alfalfa before deregulating it. *Geertson Seed Farms v. Johanns*. The opinion illustrates the ongoing struggle to harmonize the interests of agricultural biotechnology corporations competing in domestic and global markets with those of non-modified crop producers, consumer advocacy groups, and the environmental community.

USDA regulates genetically engineered plant pests through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer ruled that this introduction qualifies as a significant environmental impact under NEPA, so required preparation of an EIS. He made the following findings in support of that conclusion:

- 1) A realistic potential for contamination of non-genetically engineered alfalfa exists.
- 2) APHIS failed to address the effects of genetically engineered alfalfa on organic farmers' business.
- 3) APHIS failed to adequately examine the potential for development of glyphosate resistant weeds.

For more details go to:

<http://www.martenlaw.com/news/?20070502-crop-planting-injunction>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Did you know that together we can achieve more? If every TBAEP member introduced the benefits and services of our association to a co-worker, colleague, friend or associate, we would double the resources available to meet the needs of **YOU**, our member. Not only financial resources, but human resources, our most important ones.

We'd like to welcome these new and renewing members to our organization:

Carl Asprinio	Joe Calamari
Jane Colson	V. James Dickson
Pedro Fierro	Selena Kupfner
Heather Maggio	Greg Page
Carl Riddlemoser	Elizabeth Shaffer
William Woods	

124 Current Members

Pasco County Environmental Lands Program

The next meeting of the Pasco County Environmental Lands Acquisition Selection Committee will be Wednesday, May 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the West Pasco Government Center in New Port Richey. They are planning a Full Review of the Pasco Palms property on Strauber Memorial Parkway, and an Initial Review of Cypress Bayou.

They would also like to report that they closed on the Hoover property on April 27! The property is 11 acres adjacent to their previous acquisition, the Upper Pithlachascotee River property. The Hoover property provides access to the larger piece and will be the location of a trailhead and other day-use facilities.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rene Wiesner Brown at 727-834-3670 x310.

Tampa Bay Watch

- **ECO Day** - Saturday, May 12, 9AM-12PM Ft De Soto (at the train station shelter near the Fort and the Gulf Pier) Restoration Projects - salt marsh & native beach planting and coastal cleanup
- **Tampa Bay Watch Summer Camps!** Link: <http://www.tampabaywatch.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.home&pageID=33>
- **Kahuna's & Tampa Bay Parrotheads Annual Pig Roast** to benefit Tampa Bay Watch May 12th, 5PM \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door Kahuna's Bar and Grill

Ethanol Demand Drives 15% Increase in Corn Plantings

High corn prices spurred by a surge in demand for ethanol production have led to a 15% increase in planned plantings of corn in the U.S., according to the USDA. The "Prospective Plantings" report, issued in April by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, says farmers intend to plant 90.5 million acres of corn this year - an increase of 12.1 million acres - resulting in the largest area planted for corn since 1944. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, that acreage should yield more than 13 billion bushels of corn, which will provide "ample corn supplies to economically meet the needs of all the sectors that rely on it." Farmers will have some catching up to do, though, since last week's "Grain Stocks" report notes that corn stocks are down by 13% - more than 900 million bushels - from this time last year.

EERE Network News

Biodiesel-Fueled Boat Takes to Sea in Circumnavigation Attempt

The Earthrace, a futuristic trimaran fueled with 100% biodiesel, is now crossing the Pacific Ocean in its bid to circle the world. The attempt to circumnavigate the globe in record time is now far behind schedule due to a tragic collision with a fishing boat off the coast of Guatemala. The Earthrace boat and its crew were released by Guatemalan authorities after being detained for 11 days, but on their way up the coast, they had to deal with problems from bent props and an uncooperative gearbox. Upon arriving in San Diego, California, the crew found damage to the boat's engine mounts, gearbox, and driveshaft and were delayed another five or six days to make those repairs, finally heading off to sea April 8th. The boat was bound for Hawaii, still dealing with a vibration problem that they hoped to fix upon arrival at Maalaea Bay in Maui on April 12th.



See the latest Earthrace [press releases](#).

Test Drive: Nissan Altima Hybrid

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Bradley Berman spent one week driving the Altima Hybrid and meeting with Camry Hybrid owners to study the differences between the two vehicles. Here are the most important distinctions:

Power & Style: There's no doubt about it. The Altima Hybrid is noticeably more responsive than the Camry Hybrid. If the extra pep is essential, and you're willing to sacrifice the ultra-quiet (some call it "numb") ride of the Camry, then your decision is made.

Interior Quality and Room: After jumping back and forth between the seats of the Camry and Altima, you definitely feel that the Camry has more space and a generally more pleasant feel. The high degree of finish on the materials of the Camry makes it seem like Nissan didn't spend as much money or care on the Altima interior.

Instrumentation: Half the fun of driving a hybrid is monitoring the fuel efficiency and flow of energy. Toyota's been in the hybrid game for nearly a decade, and benefits from its experience in producing hybrid instrumentation. The Altima's dashboard, on the other hand, made reading the mpg a guessing game. The one exception, and it's an important one, is the Altima's backup camera. The Altima's use of overlay guidelines to show distance from the car and likely distance from the curb beats out the Prius. The Camry lacks the backup camera entirely.

The Altima Hybrid's retail price is competitive at \$24,400—about \$1,500 less than the Camry. When you add another \$2,350 offered to Altima buyers in the form of the federal hybrid tax credit, then the difference in price between the two vehicles approaches four grand. Nissan hybrids will benefit from the full amount of the tax credit for several years, while the tax credit for Toyota hybrids were sliced in half a few months ago. Within a year, the Toyota credit will be reduced to zero—thanks to an odd provision in the 2005 Energy Bill

Learn more: <http://www.hybridcars.com/compacts-sedans/nissan-altima-hybrid-overview.html>

Lexus Announces Luxury Hybrid MSRP, Hybrid Sales Increase

Toyota Motor Corporation announced the MSRP last week for its 2008 Lexus LS 600h L luxury hybrid sedan. When Lexus dealers begin selling the amenity- and technology-packed car in June, it will carry a base MSRP of \$104,000. The LS Hybrid is equipped with a 5.0-liter V8 gas engine with a high-output electronic motor and is expected to receive a Super Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Rating and produce 70 percent fewer emissions than its cleanest competitors. In addition, the vehicle employs a full-time all-wheel drive system and a dual-stage electronically controlled continuously variable transmission. The combination results in power and performance on par with 12-cylinder engines.

While the high price tag will likely prevent many consumers from purchasing the new Lexus hybrid, hybrid vehicles in general are making up a larger share of U.S. auto sales and incentives are enticing more mainstream consumers. In a March report titled, "The Steady—but Slow—Rise of Hybrids and Diesels in the U.S. Auto Market," J.D. Power and Associates Automotive Forecasting predicted that sales of diesel and hybrid engines will represent 9 percent of total auto sales in the U.S. by 2009. Toyota alone showed a record 12% increase in sales last month, largely due to demand for its hybrid vehicles. Toyota has increased production, lowered prices, and began offering financing and lease incentives this year on the popular hybrid Prius, taking at least this hybrid from the realm of exclusive and into the sights of mainstream buyers. Other hybrid carmakers, including Honda and GM, however, are expected to increase their sales of hybrid vehicles as well, taking back some of the market share that Toyota currently owns.

From EERE Network News

NREL Laboratory Earns LEED Platinum, a Federal First

The new Science and Technology Facility (S&TF) at DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is the first federal facility to earn LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings, and LEED Platinum is the highest certification level in the LEED rating system. The 71,000-square-foot S&TF, completed in June 2006, consumes 41% less energy than comparable buildings through the use of daylighting, evaporative cooling, and efficient motors, ventilation fans, windows, and lighting. The building's architect and construction contractor also emphasized the use of recycled and locally sourced materials for the building and took care to avoid disturbing the natural terrain while constructing the facility.

Looking for a green building that you can call home? LivingHomes, the company that built the first LEED Platinum home, began offering the first pre-fabricated LEED-certified homes to consumers in late January. At costs of more than \$215 per square foot, the homes are by no means cheap, but the company considers the pre-fabricated homes as a relatively low-cost approach to owning a high-design home from a highly acclaimed architect. The two designs currently offered are meant to achieve a Silver LEED certification. See the LivingHomes [Web site](#).

from EERE Network News

Adopt-A-Pond

Do you use a pond maintenance company to help maintain your pond? If so, do you like the service? What do you like about their service? If you've used a company in the recent past, we want to know about them as well.

We at **Adopt-A-Pond** get questions regarding companies that do this kind of work. As a government agency we cannot recommend any particular company, but we do keep a list of companies that our pond groups have used. It's time to update the list.

So once again, if you use (or have recently used) a maintenance company to help care for your pond, please tell us the name, the service(s) they provide for you, and how you like(d) it. We'll use this information to update our list. Contact John McGee at: mcgee.j@hillsboroughcounty.org

Prius Sales Take Off

HybridCars.com and R.L. Polk continue to closely monitor and report on hybrid sales and trends through their Hybrid Market Dashboard. They reported that the Toyota Prius hit another all-time high, selling 19,156 units in March, a 57% increase over February. Put into perspective, consider that more Priuses were sold in March than that of entire nameplates such as Subaru, Mercury, and Cadillac. Camry Hybrid sales also hit a record level, rising 54% from February to 5,144 units. Even the Highlander Hybrid had respectable sales of 2,501 units, 32% above February levels. With these results, Toyota seems well-positioned to meet its target of increasing North American hybrid sales by 50% over 2006 levels.

As mentioned in the February dashboard, the rise in Toyota hybrid sales is due partly to the company's marketing efforts. In addition to its advertising campaign for the Prius, Toyota offered discounted financing on both the Prius and the Highlander Hybrid and, in some areas, also had dealer incentives in place (as much as \$400/unit on the Prius, and \$2000 on the Highlander Hybrid). Sales also were buoyed by rising gas prices, as well as a general uptick in vehicle sales this month. As a result, all hybrid models showed sales gains over February's numbers.

They're getting ready to post their analysis for April sales. Check it out:
<http://www.hybridcars.com/market-dashboard.html>

From HybridCars.com

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

PHASE I ESA AND AAI TRAINING COURSE	JULY 16-17	MARCO ISLAND	FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION 850-558-0616
INTERNATIONAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY-INVASIVE SPECIES SYMPOSIUM	JULY 21-25	TAMPA	WWW.SWCS.ORG
AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM	AUG. 13-17 OR AUG. 20-24	WARREN COUNTY, NY	WWW.HUDSONBASIN.ORG/MACROPROGRAM.HTM
FLORIDA REMEDIATION CONFERENCE	OCT. 11-12	ORLANDO	WWW.ENVIRO-NET.COM
ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION & CREATION	NOV. 1-2	PLANT CITY	WWW.HCCFL.EDU/DEPTS/DETP/ECOCONF.HTM
FLORIDA BROWNFIELDS ASSOCIATION 10 TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION	NOV. 7-9	ORLANDO	WWW.FLORIDABROWNFIELDS.ORG
17 TH ANNUAL CLEAN GULF EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE	NOV. 15-16	TAMPA	WWW.CLEANGULF.ORG

DOE to Provide Up To \$14 Million for Plug-In Hybrid Battery Research

DOE recently announced that it will provide up to \$14 million of a \$28 million cost-shared solicitation for plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) battery development. The U.S. Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC) has issued the call for proposals. DOE and USABC aim to improve battery performance so vehicles can drive up to 40 miles on electricity before recharging, or the range of most daily roundtrip commutes. The research will seek to identify battery technologies that have the potential to be commercialized and quickly brought to market, in addition to meeting USABC's criteria for performance, weight, life-cycle, and cost.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program is working with industry to bring PHEVs to market and advance the President's Twenty in Ten plan, which aims to reduce gasoline usage 20% by 2017. USABC is the industry arm of the partnership, and as a consortium of the U.S. Council for Automotive Research, supports collaborative research among DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors Corporation to develop electrochemical energy storage technologies that support the commercialization of fuel cell, hybrid, and electric vehicles. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2007. See the [DOE press release](#).

While plug-in hybrid vehicles significantly lessen our dependence on petroleum fuels by drawing power from our homes, they can also work the other way around, providing power back to our homes. According to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), using our cars as a power source could help avoid blackouts on extremely hot days. The approach, called "Vehicle-to-Grid" technology, was demonstrated by PG&E on April 9th using a Toyota Prius that was converted into a plug-in hybrid with an add-on lithium-ion battery pack. During the demonstration, the vehicle's power energized several lights and appliances. See the [PG&E press release](#).

from EERE Network News

TBAEP BOARD

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TAMPA BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

New Member? Yes No Renewal? Yes No Date _____

\$45 Chapter Membership *and* FAEP Membership \$10 Student Chapter Membership

National Association of Environmental Professionals Membership (optional)

\$150 NAEP only Dues (NAEP Member # _____)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone (w): _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

CEP? Yes No

May newsletter

Employment: Academic Government Private

Type of Work: (1) Environmental Management (2) Environmental Planning (3) Environmental Compliance

(4) Biology-Botany, Ecology, Wildlife Management (5) Engineering

(6) Law (7) Environmental Consulting (8) Other

Area of Expertise: (10) Impact Assessment (20) Design (30) Permitting

(40) Monitoring/Analysis (50) Teaching (60) Research

(110) Waste Management (120) Other

Degree(s)/Year _____ University _____

AFFIRMATION: I hereby affirm and agree that I will abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association. I further understand that falsification of the contents of this application will be grounds for rejection and/or termination of my Association membership and revocation of all benefits resulting there from.

Signature _____ Date _____

Questions?
Contact Teri Hasbrouck
(Membership Services)
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