

PIPELINE

The Official Publication of the Florida Irrigation Society

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50

YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

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PIPELINE

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President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Irrigators,

The Florida Irrigation Society relies on its ability to work off of strong local chapters. The chapters serve as our eyes and ears. Without them it is much more difficult to be in front of irrigation business related issues as they happen over a very large state like Florida.

While the state board is active on issues on the state level such as licensing, The Florida Building Code and related legislation, the local chapters are the boots on the ground when it comes to local issues affecting our member's businesses. The fact that over 400 counties and cities can all move in different directions regarding our interests is a lot to keep up with. This why developing and keeping local chapters is critical.

Membership and local issues are chapter intensive. Without members, the chapter goes dormant. When chapters are not active we tend to miss opportunities to look after our interests and as membership declines we find it harder to financially exist as an association.

With Appendix F falling short by one committee vote of being mandatory in the Florida Building Code, we now have to push hard for local governments to take on the voluntary Appendix F should they wish to implement any water conservation policies. The water availability issues are only going to get more limited as our states population grows so the potential for ill written water ordinances or a total ban on irrigation water will increase. Local chapters will be busy just on this issue alone. If local governments start moving on this issue, then we want to be the ones to help mold the agenda for each municipality we can get to.

As we are moving forward to shore up chapters and membership numbers, please keep in mind what is at stake when the effort reaches your area.

I hope 2016 was a good year for everyone and I look forward to working with you in 2017.

Scott King

Florida Irrigation Society President





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Legislative News Update



“If we don’t get the water policy right, the rest of this stuff doesn’t really matter. It is our golden goose.”

**By Diana Ferguson, Esq.
Rutledge Ecenia, P.A.**



The new year just made it around the corner, and with it comes a renewed legislative effort to bring irrigation and water conservation issues to the forefront.

FIS will be working to educate legislators about the importance of recognizing all smart controllers and their potential for water savings. Regulatory incentives that benefit only one product or vendor are not appropriate. Florida needs policies in place that will result in noticeable water conservation and that recognize and help to further advance technological progress the irrigation industry has made.

We will also be discussing the importance of including minimum standards for irrigation systems in the building code statewide, rather than as just an appendix. Florida needs one set of statewide standards for irrigation systems to streamline the regulatory process for irrigation contractors and to create regulatory consistency and certainty.

And we will continue to discuss the need for mandatory statewide regulation of irrigation contractors, to provide for regulatory streamlining and a minimum standard of professionalism in order to protect consumers. Florida's water is too critical a resource to squander on residential and commercial irrigation systems that are not properly installed.

We have an ambitious agenda and it will take a team effort to move these issues forward. I look forward to working with FIS and its members to continue a dialogue with key legislators, as well as to educate new members. One-third of both chambers is made up of brand new legislators. This presents an opportunity to forge new relationships and educate lawmakers about the importance of water conservation and what it means to your profession. It is also critically important for legislators to understand why regulation is not always bad and how it can in fact play a part in sensible, business-friendly policies. It is our collective responsibility to get that message out.

Without water, there can be no development, and the construction industry will come to a grinding halt. As Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam recently said, "If we don't get the water policy right, the rest of this stuff doesn't really matter. It is our golden goose." I could not agree more. That is what makes our work so important. We have already made much progress. I am honored to have been a part of that progress, but now is the time to take a fresh look at these important water issues and work to advance them further.



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Lee Alderman, Safe-Lee Green, Inc.
Joe Bennett, Ewing Irrigation
Paul Bode, Paul Bode Landscape Service, Inc.
Dave Bullard, Hunter Industries
Megan Cavazos, Wilhelm Brothers Landscape Management
Mike Cohen, Ewing Irrigation
Trent Cotney, Trent Cotney, PA
Paul Donofrio, Advanced Contractors/Outdoor Water Solutions
Donald Glass, Sureflo Irrigation Services, Inc.
David Gruber, Earthscapes Unlimited, Inc.
Arthur Hampton, Sadler's Site Works, LLC
Tim Haskins, Ewing Irrigation
Steven Heake, Greener Gardens of Central Florida
Morgan Hopkins, UF/IFAS Extension Service Miami-Dade County
Steven Jenkins, Jenkins Landscape Company
Dustin King, King Landscaping
Chad Legan, Irrigation Concepts, LLC
Jesus Lomeli, UF/IFAS Extension/Miami-Dade Florida Yards
Rob Maier, Cepra Landscape
Chris May, Green Effex, LLC
Doug Meyer, Myers Nurseries Inc.
Michael Molloy, Turf Tec of WNY, Inc.
Angel Monte, Avila Pumps & Service
Lawrence O'Dell, PROscape, Inc.
Sean O'Reilly, Old Marsh HOA
Kelly Palmer, Ewing Irrigation
Rudy Peckham, Ewing Irrigation
Ryan Pons, Ewing Irrigation
Jenny Reemelin, Hunter Industries
Leonard Schulz, D Thomas Landscape
Eric Sondgeroth, Central Pump and Supply
Steve Stanford, Plantz
Mary Catherine Sterba, Lasco Fittings, Inc.
Matt Taylor, The Toro Company
Laura Vasquez, UF/IFAS Extension/Miami-Dade Florida Yards
Alejandro Vethencourt, EvergreenTech Irrigation and Landscaping
Terry Wood, Mediterra Community Association
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Florida WaterStar

CREATING A "GREENER" GREEN

This article in Pipeline celebrates the 10th anniversary of the first home to achieve Florida Water StarSM (FWS) certification in Jacksonville Beach, Florida (see house below).



10 ANNIVERSARY YEARS

Recognizing that our water resources our coasts, rivers, springs, lakes and wetlands — define the quality of life in Florida, the FWS program was launched by the St. Johns River Water Management District to ensure our water is used in a sustainable manner.

While April 20, 2007, was the date of the first FWS-residential certification, program development began in 2003 and involved experts from not only across the state, but throughout the nation. Today, FWS has evolved into a statewide voluntary certification program and covers specific water-efficiency criteria for inside and outside residential homes and commercial buildings.

From the very inception of FWS and leading to today's program successes, the Florida Irrigation Society and its members have played a crucial role in the development of program criteria, the promotion of trainings and education to our many building industry professionals.

CERTIFICATION SUCCESS

As a result of your support, more than 4,000 residential properties have achieved FWS certification statewide as of December 2016. Beyond residential, there are more than 22 commercial buildings and 13 communities that have achieved certification — meaning not only are they meeting indoor criteria, but they are also meeting a water budget of less than 20" of irrigation per square foot annually (60 percent less water than the average permitted amount). *(continued pg. 10)*

FWS RESIDENTIAL: 4,057
FWS COMMERCIAL: 22
FWS COMMUNITY: 13

ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

In order to assist landscape and irrigation professionals prepare for FWS program requirements, the FWS program partnered with the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and has offered more than 27 FWS Accredited Professional (FWSAP) trainings. These trainings provide advanced education to practitioners in the landscape and irrigation fields, resulting in the sustainable design and implementation of projects that conserve water resources and achieve FWS program certification. To date, more than 683 professionals have participated in the training and 325 participants have passed the exam required to become an official FWSAP. This accreditation allows irrigation and landscape professionals to provide their clients with value-added water efficiency in features and designs. Additionally, builders and developers planning to construct FWS-certified projects are referred directly to FWSAPs.

AP CLASSES HOSTED: 27

AP CLASS PARTICIPANTS: 683

AP EXAM SUCCESSES: 325

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ST. PETERSBURG FWSAP TRAINING

Training Date: March 22, 2017

8:30 am–5 pm (lunch provided by Toro®)

Exam Date: March 23, 2017 from 8 am–12 pm

St. Petersburg Water Resources Department

1650 3rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713

The Miami training is \$25 and the St. Petersburg training is free. The exam cost is \$50.

To register and pay for the exam and training, please contact FNGLA's

Merry Mott at mmott@fngla.org or 1-800-675-3642. Additional FWS AP trainings are offered throughout the year. To be placed on an email list for notification of trainings,

please email Robin.Grantham@WaterMatters.org

CERTIFIER TRAINING

More than 17 FWS certifier trainings have been offered for those in the green building profession that are interested in becoming FWS certifiers. During the training, certifiers learn how to understand the building criteria required for water-efficient construction. Once completing the classroom training and passing the exam, participants are then required to complete two apprentice inspections. As of December 2016, there are more than 52 active FWS certifiers throughout Florida who are referred to our builders.

To be placed on a waiting list for future FWSAP or certifier trainings, please email Deirdre Irwin at DIrwin@sjrwmd.com.

INCENTIVES

Beyond training our industry leaders in water-efficient design and certification, the FWS administrators have been actively working with government agencies to incentivize the building of homes and commercial buildings that become FWS certified.

(continued pg. 12)

Florida WaterStar

Below are current builder incentives to construct FWS-certified homes with even more incentives expected in late 2017:

- Polk County Political Boundaries — \$700 irrigation offset rebate
- Citrus County Utilities — \$1,000 irrigation offset rebate
- City of Deland — \$50 rebate per home. \$100 rebate per commercial building plus a 15 percent credit on impact fees
- Orange County Utility Commission — \$300 rebate on utility connection fee. \$100 rebate for apartment units
- City of Palm Coast — 20 percent rebate on impact fees
- Alachua County — \$700 irrigation offset rebate

Thank you for your support, Florida Irrigation Society and sponsors! We express our most sincere thanks to the support provided by the Florida Irrigation Society and by those who have helped sponsor FWS workshops and events over the last 10 years, including:

- Ewing Irrigation®
- Florida Irrigation Society
- Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
- Horizon™
- Hunter Industries®
- JEA
- Rain Bird®
- SiteOne Landscape Supply
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To learn more about trainings, incentives and the FWS program, please visit FloridaWater.com or contact Robin Grantham at Robin.Grantham@WaterMatters.org.



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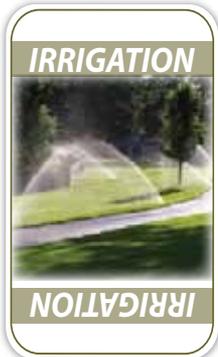


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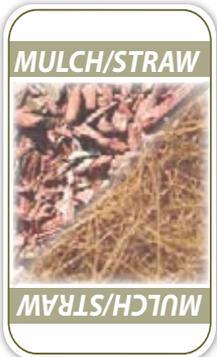
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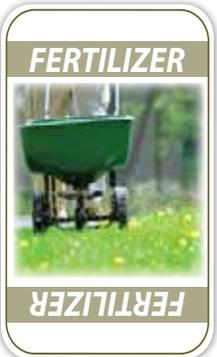
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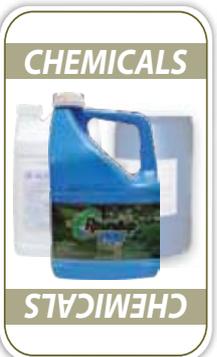
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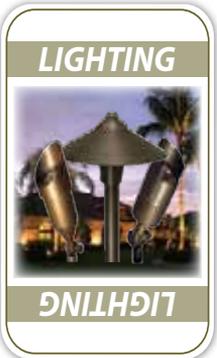
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)

By Benjamin T. Lute, Associate Attorney - Trent Cotney, P.A.

Since its inception in the '70s, the Clean Water Act (the "CWA" or "Act") has remained one of the most controversial and complicated federal statutes in America. Environmentalists, farmers, developers, contractors, and government agencies consistently find themselves warring over when, where, and how the law should apply. Its main function is to prohibit "the discharge of any pollutant" (which includes dredge and fill) without a permit into "navigable waters." Although the term "navigable waters" ushers thoughts of expansive bodies like oceans, rivers, and lakes, the term is actually further defined by statute as "waters of the United States." As of passage of the US Army Corps of Engineers' (the "Corps") and US Environmental Protection Agency's (the "EPA") new rule in 2015, protected areas include even land only occasionally saturated with water. This too has been the issue of much recent litigation, for many fear that ditches, puddles, and other seemingly insignificant "waters" potentially fall within the scope of the CWA's broadened jurisdiction.

More recent, the US Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *United States Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes Co.* that carries major implications regarding how government agencies, specifically the Corps, implement the Act moving forward. In an 8-0 decision this past May, the Justices unanimously held that the Corps' jurisdictional determinations ("JDs") concerning "waters of the United States" are, in fact, "final agency action" for purposes of judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act (the "APA"). This is, without a doubt, a monumental victory for those often subjected to the CWA's stringent permitting process.

JDs issued by the Corps are binding "opinions" that designate a particular area as covered by the Act, which essentially make it illegal for the owner of the land/water to conduct certain acts without acquiring the proper permit(s) first. As Chief Justice Roberts discussed:

The costs of obtaining such a permit are significant. For a specialized “individual” permit . . . the average applicant [can spend] “788 days and \$271,596 in completing the process,” without “counting costs of mitigation or design changes” Even more readily available “general” permits [can take] applicants, on average, 313 days and \$28,915 to complete.

Although the CWA, along with corresponding regulations and agency directives, provide exceptions concerning artificial irrigation, these only exempt artificially irrigated land that is wet solely because of the use of artificial irrigation. In other words, any pre-construction property that is occasionally saturated with water, or even post-construction property that the Corps later determines is same, is subject to the Act’s permitting requirements. Although nothing new, irrigation contractors, especially those throughout Florida, must remain fully cognizant of this.

Fortunately, now that JDs are officially considered “final agency action,” a person issued one may immediately seek judicial review if he or she believes that the Corps’ assessment of his or her property is incorrect. Previously, a person issued an unfavorable JD would have had no recourse in this situation; one would have been forced to have waited until the Corps arbitrarily changed its stance, subjected oneself to the grueling permitting process, or proceeded without acquiring proper permits, exposing oneself to serious civil and/or criminal penalties.

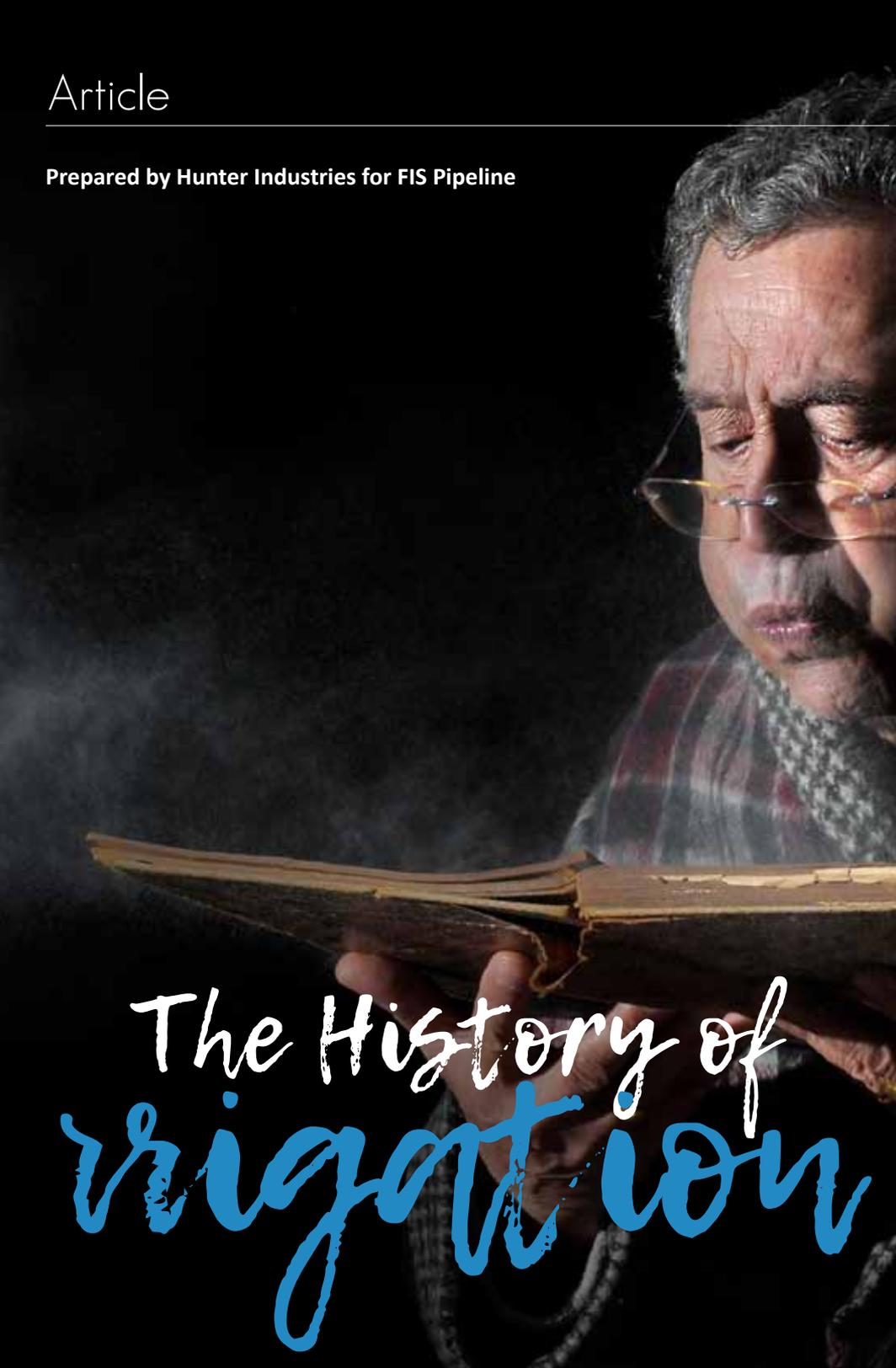
Remember: If a property owner grudgingly declines your services because he or she has received an affirmative JD, or because he or she believes an updated irrigation system is not worth the trouble of the permitting process, you may now confidently tell that owner that he or she is not bound absolute by the JD, and that if he or she wishes, may immediately seek judicial review of the determination.

About Trent Cotney, P.A.

Trent Cotney, P.A. is a law firm currently with offices in Tampa, Orlando, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville providing national representation for all contractors. Specializing in the representation of businesses and professionals in construction disputes and transactions throughout the nation and with a proven track record in the State of Florida, Trent Cotney, P.A. is a well-known advisor and legal counsel for all construction matters. The firm’s practice areas include construction law, litigation, arbitration, contract review and drafting, OSHA defense, licensing defense, bid protests, lien law, bond law, construction employment law, and alternative dispute resolution. For more information, contact the author at 813.579.3278, blute@trentcotney.com, or visit www.trentcotney.com.

Article

Prepared by Hunter Industries for FIS Pipeline

A close-up photograph of an older man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a plaid shirt and a patterned scarf. He is looking down intently at an open, thick, antique book he is holding. The scene is dramatically lit from the side, casting deep shadows and highlighting the texture of the book's pages and the man's features. The background is dark and out of focus.

The History of
rigation

Florida relies heavily on irrigation, from our dominant citrus industry to the growing residential communities and golf courses. While people reached Florida at least 12,000 years ago, Florida’s modern irrigation history began in 1821, when Spain deeded the land to the United States for 5 million dollars.

The Spanish, for the most part, had neglected the swampy interior except for some exploratory travel in Ponce de Leon's quest for the fountain of youth. During Spain's 300 year rule of the area, south Florida remained wet. When it gained statehood in 1845, Buckingham Smith was appointed to make the first inspection of the lower Florida Peninsula. He reported, in 1848, that it was his belief that if the Everglades were drained, a new agricultural industry would thrive.

This was an impressive insight, considering today Florida has over 47,000 commercial farms, is ranked eighth in the U.S. for agricultural exports, second in the U.S. for value in vegetable production, and accounted for 59 percent of total U.S. citrus production.



The history of residential and commercial irrigation is relatively shorter compared to the 8000 year old development of agricultural irrigation. In the 1870s and 1880s, numerous patents for landscape watering tools were registered in the U.S., including designs that would become the pre-cursors of today’s irrigation products.

“Underground turf sprinklers” began to appear in the early 1900s in commercial projects and a few high-end residential estates. During the Florida land boom of the 1920s and across the U.S, above ground “Oscillating Sprinklers” were still to norm for residences and can be seen in many early photos and newspaper advertisements. *(continued pg. 21)*

WATER ISSUES?

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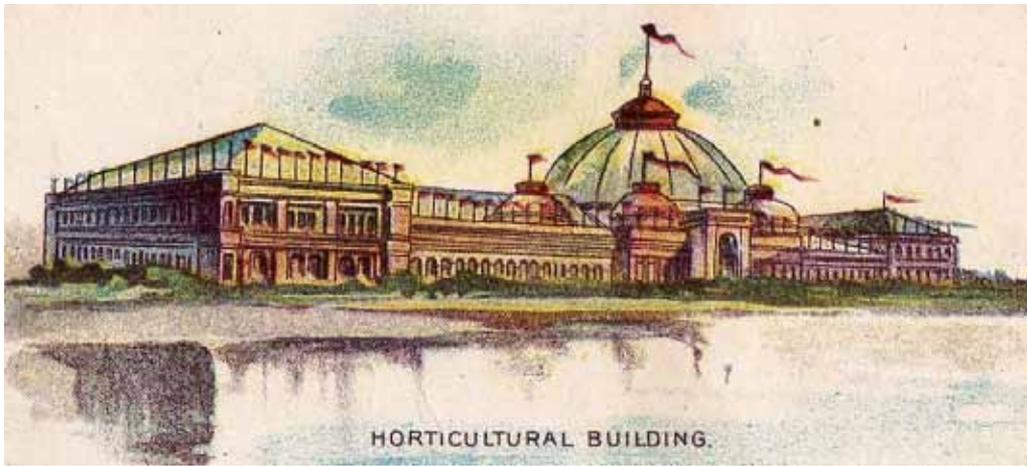
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The post-World War II housing boom saw the creation of suburbs with row after row of houses with front and back yards. In 1945, the pollster George Gallop asked Americans what states they would most like to move to. California and Florida ranked first and second. The Florida Dream swelled during this era, buoyed by prosperity and the lure of unhurried beaches and warm Februaries.

To keep up with the residential housing demand, large builders began building mass-produced tract housing, making owning a home affordable to millions. And the masses didn't stop at housing, American families wanted new amenities, like washing machines, and picture-perfect yards. This heralded a new era of residential irrigation and widespread contractor installation.

Once the Second World War ended, outdoor recreation and golf also accelerated. With Florida's already established golf scene, the turf grass irrigation industry boomed.

Completely automatic irrigation systems were available after the war, but converting quick-coupler systems did not gain momentum until the 1960s and 1970s. The 1960's also brought new plastic underground sprinklers to the market, which began to replace traditional brass and iron systems.

In 1983, new engineering advancements by Edwin Hunter introduced the PGP rotor, a gear-driven, slow-rotating, plastic pop-up head that exhibited great reliability and uniform applications of water. This invention replaced the standard impact sprinklers of the day and began what is now referred to as "The Rotor Revolution" in the landscape irrigation industry.

The irrigation industry continues to explore new avenues of innovation, with new ways to conserve water and wifi enabled controllers. As Florida's home market continues to grow, many home builders look to the irrigation industry to help differentiate themselves with high-quality systems. For instance at The Villages, the largest master-planned retirement community in the world, new "Smart" controllers with software are being installed. These Hydrowise® controllers allow for management, predictive watering and reporting on each residence's irrigation.



The future of residential and commercial irrigation in Florida is bright. Today, Florida boasts over 7 million housing units, over half of which are detached single-family homes. Since the last

census in 2010, it is estimated that Florida has grown in population by 9%. With this trajectory the Sunshine State, along with the irrigation industry, will continue to grow with this ever-changing market.

Pictures courtesy of the Irrigation Museum



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ANNIVERSARY

50

The Florida Irrigation celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2016. It was an exciting year culminating with a push to include irrigation standards in the base Florida Building Code and succeeding in a major revision of Appendix F. Another FIS Chapter was launched in November in the Sarasota area. Workshops were established via webinars to assist contractors to sit for the State licensure exam that FIS had lobbied for more than 35 years before legislation passed in 2013. FIS began working in partnership with local water authorities, water management districts, and local governments to bring both education and standards on irrigation to agencies and members. A coalition of Associations in the green industries was brought together with the leadership

of FIS to address common water related issues. A successful Water Summit was held that brought in quality education on management and technical topics for irrigation professionals and supported by our industry partners (distributors, manufacturers and consultants). All of this activity, influence, and recognition of FIS as an association leader dedicated to improving water quality and use and the professionalism of the irrigator could not have happened without the dedicated leaders of the last 50 years. A huge thank you to each and every Officer, Director, Committee member at the state and local chapter level and for the support of the many members at all levels. The Society is looking now at the next 50 years of leadership and setting goals that will continue to build on the work of the past. Following is a walk down memory lane with a few pictures and people from FIS Archives.

1966



Florida Irrigation Society's First President

JOE MCNAMARA

Joe was the first president in 1966 and remained an active member for 35 years. He passed away in January 2001.

1978

Florida Irrigation Society President

JACK KOUNS

He started his company, The Jack Kouns Company, in West Palm Beach in 1957 and became the largest turf contractor east of the Mississippi in 1960s.



1985



FIS team making the first real and serious attempt to get Florida State-wide Irrigation Contractor license. Picture taken in front of the State Capitol, Tallahassee in 1985.

(continued pg. 26)

2003



Florida Irrigation Society Board of Directors

RICK CHEEK

Rick was on the Board of Directors and a 20 year member of FIS. He had influential interest in the development of standards for licensing of irrigation contractors in North Florida.

2004

Florida Irrigation Society President

RICHARD NEFF

Richard was a member of FIS for 18 years and served as president in 2003-2004. During his presidency, he was instrumental in the creation of an education initiative to provide training programs for irrigation contractors.



2005



2008



2008 Summer Meeting and Technical Conference on Sanibel Island

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(continued pg. 28)

2011



2011 Florida Water Summit at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate

2014



2015



Florida Irrigation Society President

JEFF DAVIDSON

Owner and president of Davidson Landscape and Irrigation in Tampa is a long-time member and FIS Board member. Davidson presided over the Board in a time of transition for administrative management of the Society and push to get members to accept and obtain the new state license. He remains active on the Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President.

2015



2015 Florida Water Summit at the Naples Beach Resort and Golf Club. Where state legislators responded to questions on state licensing and other FIS concerns.

2016



2016 Florida Water Summit

Pictured (l to r): Past President Kevin Cavaioli with Scott King, current President.



SMART WATER APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIES (SWATS) NOVEMBER 9, 2016

In November 2016, the University of Florida, Tampa Bay Water and the Florida Irrigation Society again collaborated on a workshop that brought SWAT (Smart Water Application Technology) training to Tampa Bay area contractors. Earlier in the year the same parties sponsored a workshop on Soil Moisture Sensors that qualified area irrigation contractors to offer Hillsborough county rebates to their customers. Participants in the workshop learned best practices of installing controllers and sensors and system evaluation from Dr. Michael Dukes and Dr. Bernard Cardenas, and Professor Michael Gutierrez as well as updates from the manufacturers who demonstrated their products. A thank you to each of those exhibitors that supported the workshop: Baseline, Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply, Hunter Industries, K-Rain, Rachio, Inc., Rain Bird Corporation, The Toro Company, and Weathermatic.



Dr. Michael Dukes, professor at the University of South Florida

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I am: A New Member Renewing my Membership

Note: All new applications are considered pending until approved by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.

Company: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Fax: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____
 Voting Representative: _____ Email: _____

For new applications:

Please list sponsor or Member company:

Would you like information about your local chapter: Yes No

For renewal applications:

If you are a renewing member, please list chapter affiliation here: _____

If you are renewing, please indicate most recent membership year: _____

Please indicate your Category and enclose relevant dues

	Annual Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> A Manufacturer	\$380.00
<input type="checkbox"/> B Distributor	\$325.00
<input type="checkbox"/> C Contractor	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> D Consultant, P.E., L.A.	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> E Irrigation System Operator	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> F Associate	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> G Technical	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> H Student	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> I Supporting	\$150.00

Helpful Category Information:

- *Associate Members are employees of current FIS Member firms in categories A-E.
- *Technical Members are individuals employed by educational institutions or governmental agencies.
- *Students retain all Membership rights except voting Representation.
- *Supporting Members are individuals that wish to be members that are not in the irrigation industry. (Example: Insurance Agents, Auto Dealers, etc.)

Please tell us about yourself so we can better serve your specific industry needs

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installer of Irrigation Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Professional Engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dealer in irrigation equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Landscape Architect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor in irrigation equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified IA Designer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation System Design only | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Certifications: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well Driller | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operator of Irrigation Systems | _____ |

If your business is located in a county that requires an irrigation contractor license through testing, please provide your license number and county for Membership Directory listing.

License #: _____ County: _____

Applicant Signature & Date

Sponsor Signature & Date (New Members Only)

Payment may be made by check or credit card. Make Check payable to Florida Irrigation Society or go to www.fisstate.org to pay by credit card.

Questions? Call the Society at 727-209-1595 or visit our Web site at www.fisstate.org

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