

COMMUNITY STORMWATER PONDS: INTERSECTING SCIENCE, STAKEHOLDERS & DECISION-MAKING

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Stormwater ponds are designed and managed by individual, community, and regulatory levels of society. These ponds are designed to provide primary services (flood control, pollutant removal) but also provide numerous secondary services. Management of these ponds may limit their potential to provide multiple ecosystem services. This panel will explore various management styles and some of their consequences on social, economic, and environmental conditions within the community and beyond.

PANELIST BIOS:

#1 Mr. Russ Hoffman has been a research manager for a pond maintenance company, Beautiful Ponds, Inc., for five years after being the general manager for fifteen. He received a bachelor's degree in environmental design from Iowa State University and a master's from Wheaton University. Russ has worked with homeowner's associations on issues concerning stormwater ponds and has contributed to University of Florida research in these areas. Beautiful Ponds, Inc. encourages littoral plantings and management with reduced use of chemicals.

#2 Dr. Steve Postle is chair of the facilities, ponds, and landscape committee in Central Park, Lakewood Ranch, FL. He obtained his bachelor's, masters and doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Oxford. Following a research fellowship at the University of Cambridge, he entered the specialty chemicals industry, where has held a number of senior management positions in marketing, intellectual property management, and R&D. Steve holds over fifty first-issue patents in areas as diverse as dyestuffs, inks, coatings, color management, security systems, photovoltaics, stained-glass windows, and ultraviolet-curable materials. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

#3 Dr. Alexander "AJ" Reisinger is an assistant professor of urban soil and water quality and specializes in the ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry of urban environments. He is a member of the Sustainability Human and Ecological Development group. He focuses on the ecosystem functions of nutrient and energy cycling and the effect of traditional (e.g., nutrients) and novel (e.g., pharmaceuticals) contaminants on these functions. Dr. Reisinger received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

#4 Dr. Mary Lusk is an assistant professor and Extension specialist in urban soil and water quality and specializes in the flux and storage of nutrients in managed urban landscapes, and the linkages between landscape management practices and urban soil and water quality. Dr. Lusk's Extension program aims to ensure that Florida residents, homeowners, urban landscaper managers, city and county officials, and others have the knowledge they need to make scientifically sound decisions about water use and water supply management. She received her PhD in urban biogeochemistry from the University of Florida.

#5 Dr. Paul Monaghan, Associate Professor in Agricultural Education and Communication, specializes in Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM). His research evaluates CBSM's efficacy in behavior change, predicting adoption of new behaviors, and measuring program effectiveness. His Extension work applies CBSM to public issues and promotes collaborative conflict management via the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute. He received a PhD in anthropology and a MA in Latin American studies, both from the University of Florida

MODERATOR BIO:

Mrs. Michelle Atkinson is an Environmental Horticulture agent based in Manatee County, FL, specializing in pond and landscape best management practices. She also oversees a mobile irrigation lab focused on promoting outdoor water conservation and water quality. Michelle received her bachelor's degree at Stetson University and her master's degree in natural resource policy and administration from the University of Florida.