

June 22, 2012

Save the Date



Our annual GreenTrends Conference is moving to the Fall, so mark your calendars!

GreenTrends 2012
Sept 12-14, 2012
 PGA National Resort
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL

www.GreenTrends.org

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Orange County Wetlands Case Heads to U.S. Supreme Court

The Pacific Legal Foundation that last year opened a Florida office is carrying an Orange County landowner's case against the St. Johns River Water Management District to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case raises important legal questions about the government's ability to negotiate conditions with landowners who apply for development permits. The state's five water management districts have faced withering criticism from legislators who in 2011 forced them to cut taxes while Gov. Rick Scott's administration is revamping the districts to provide permitting "consistency."

Coy A. Koontz Sr. in 1994 proposed developing 3.7 acres of his nearly 15 acres along State Road 50 in Orange County. He applied to the district for a permit to fill 3.4 acres of wetlands for the development.

Koontz claimed the St. Johns River Water Management District had taken his property illegally by denying his application for development when he refused to reduce the size of his development to 1 acre or perform mitigation projects several miles away. A state circuit court agreed and ordered the district to pay \$376,154 for a temporary taking.

But the Florida Supreme Court in November said the trial court erred. The Pacific Legal Foundation last week asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the case, with a foundation attorney calling the district's permit demands a "classic case of an unconstitutional shakedown" by government. [[More](#)]

Shortelle Becomes 3rd DEP Manager To Take Over Water District

Ann Shortelle was named executive director of the Suwannee River Water Management District on June 12. She was director of the Office of Water Policy at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection until she started with the district on June 18.

Shortelle, 58, becomes the third DEP manager in the past 13 months to be tapped as a water management district chief. The directors of all five districts resigned or were pushed out within 15 months of Gov. Rick Scott taking office. She denied

[FEMA Halts Insurance
Rebate Program](#)

Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

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[Facebook Blog](#)

Certification News

New Certifications

City of Coral Springs

Certified: 5/8/12
Level: Silver
Score: 36

Village of Pinecrest

Certified: 5/8/12
Level: Silver
Score: 37

**Florida Water Star
Certifications
NFWMD and SRWMD
Areas**

Congratulations to the following companies for earning the Florida Water Star certification

**Big Bend Habitat for
Humanity**

2650 Ridgeway Street
Tallahassee

**Bill Kimberl
Construction**

2001 Ellicott Drive
Tallahassee

**"Florida Green"
Certifications to Date**

Homes

832 Homes in 2012
4,961 total as of 6/12/12

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 15
Certified: 5

Hi-Rise

Registered: 4
Certified: 1

Land Development

Registered: 61
Certified: 16

Local Government

Registered: 57
Certified: 38

rumors of a DEP takeover of the districts.

Joe Lstiburek to Speak in Jacksonville

The Northeast Florida Builders Association is hosting a two-day workshop titled "Renovation and Rehabilitation of Florida Homes" featuring building science expert Joe Lstiburek on July 11-12, 2012.

Lstiburek is a principal of Boston-based Building Science Corporation and an ASHRAE Fellow. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Building Science at the University of Toronto. He has 25 years of experience in design, construction, investigation, and building science research.

Joe's down-to-earth and commonsense approach to buildings and building failures allows any audience to relate to the material. His focus on building durability ultimately helps reduce energy consumption and allows contractors to provide a higher level of service to the local community.

The course will discuss:

- Foundations: Slabs and crawlspaces
- Roofs and attics: Efficient and effective roof and attic systems with a focus on unvented attics and cost effective upgrades for vented attics that provide peak performance.
- Ventilation and HVAC systems: In depth discussion on HVAC systems and fresh air ventilation for hot humid climates.
- Efficient water heating
- Thermal boundary issues

RSVP to Jamie Atkins at jatkins@nefba.com or call (904) 725-4355.

Conservation Group Solicits Scott To Create Spring Protection Committee

The Florida Conservation Coalition, formed by U.S. Senator Bob Graham, is asking Governor Rick Scott to establish a committee to oversee the protection of Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs in Marion County. The letter was sent after months of public debate over the proposed Adena Springs Ranch water-use permit application to the St. Johns River Water Management District. The ranch had requested 27 million gallons per day but now is requesting 13.2 million, most of it to grow food for cattle.

Graham's request cited dramatic declines in water flows to Silver and Rainbow springs. Graham called on Scott to establish a resource planning and management committee as provided for under Florida law to oversee protection of springs in north Florida. The committee would be assigned to the

Multi-Family

In 2012
26 Buildings
302 Units

Education Opportunities

July 17, 2012 3 p.m. EDT (Webinar)

The U.S. Department of Energy will present a live webinar on communities converting landfill gas to energy.

[\[More\]](#)

August 14-15, 2012 FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course

(To become a Certifying Agent)

Florida Solar Energy Center
1679 Clearlake Road
Cocoa, FL

[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

July 19-22, 2012 AIA-Florida Conference

The Breakers
Palm Beach, FL

[Register](#)

July 26-28, 2012 Southeast Building Conference

Orange County
Convention Center
Orlando, FL

[Register](#)

August 15-17, 2012 Florida Energy Summit

Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, FL

[Register](#)

August 23-25, 2012 FL League of Cities Annual Conference

Westin Diplomat
Hollywood, FL

[Register](#)

Sept. 10-12, 2012 Florida Housing Coalition

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which includes the state's planning division. Another approach would be to create a stakeholders task force as was used to protect the Wekiva River near Orlando.

"Those springs (Silver and Rainbow) are examples of what is happening all over north central Florida: Flow levels in springs and rivers declining, pollution levels increasing," Graham commented. "It is not a site-specific issue. It is a regional issue calling for a regional policy and implementation."

Graham commented that the lack of setting "minimum flows and levels" to protect Silver Springs shows the state water regulatory system is not working. The St. Johns River Water Management District says it will set minimum flows for Silver Springs in 2013, which could be after the issuance of the ranch permit. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Herschel Vinyard said he doesn't know why the minimum flows haven't been set for those springs.

Two groups have already been involved in the issue: The Central Florida Water Initiative and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. A third working group was established three weeks ago to share data on Silver and Rainbow springs, said Jennifer Diaz, DEP's press secretary. The agencies involved are DEP's Florida Geological Survey, the St. Johns River Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Florida's Transportation Loan Fund Opens July 2

The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) annual application and award cycle for the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) program will begin July 2, 2012. This year FDOT has about \$125 million to lend for transportation projects. Applications will be accepted from July 2 to Aug. 31. The department expects to announce the awards in October with the money becoming available July 2013.

The SIB is a 17-year-old federal program that passes money through state transportation departments to local governments for programs. Communities get the loans at below market rates. The idea is to use the funds to leverage more money to pay for road improvements and create jobs. Funds are available to both public and private entities.

Last fall the DOT approved loans totaling \$105 million for 11 projects. Delray Beach received a nearly \$2 million loan, about a fifth of the project's total cost, in October to complete a beautification effort and install safety features. [\[More\]](#)

Home Sales, Prices Jump in May

Existing home sales in Florida shot up 7.2 percent last month

Affordable Housing Conference

Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, FL
[Register](#)

Sept. 12-14, 2012 GreenTrends Conference

PGA National Resort
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
www.greentrends.org

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Articles of Interest

Straw Gets High-Tech Touch as a Green Building Material

[More](#)

2012 America's Greenest Cities

Miami comes in at #27 and is the only Florida city ranked

[More](#)

Top 10 Green Mayors of America's Largest Cities

Tallahassee Mayor John Marks Earns #9 Position

[More](#)

FGBC Committee Meetings

Affordable Housing

3rd Thursday-monthly
10 a.m.

Board of Directors

2nd Wednesday-monthly
3 p.m.

Commercial

1st Tuesday-monthly
3 p.m.

Education

1st Thursday-monthly
2 p.m.

GreenTrends

4th Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m. (New Time)

Hi-Rise Residential

3rd Tuesday-monthly

compared with May 2011, and the median sale price got a boost of 8.9 percent in the year-over-year comparison, jumping to \$147,000, according to a report released by Florida Realtors.

Condominium resales got an even bigger jump, increasing 33.4 percent over May 2011. The median sales price was \$112,000 last month, an increase of 14.3 percent from the same period last year.

"Some very positive trends have been developing in the Florida market, and the May numbers indicate those trends are continuing. Closed sales, pending sales and prices -- both average and median -- are strongly above where they were a year ago. In fact, average prices have increased in 11 of the past 12 months," said John Tuccillo, chief economist for Florida Realtors.

FEMA Halts Insurance Rebate Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has halted a six-year practice that allowed insurance agents to offer customer's rebates from the agent's commissions on flood insurance policies sold in Florida under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Florida's commercial property owners and shared ownership communities statewide have come to rely on the rebates to help them offset rising costs of operation. NFIP policyholders have been receiving as much as 15 percent of their premiums returned annually through the FEMA-endorsed rebate program. Adding to this burden is the cost of rising property insurance premiums and rate increases that could jump 17 to 25 percent.

A statewide non-profit, Community Advocacy Network (CAN) is asking Floridians statewide to sign a petition encouraging FEMA to reverse its decision. [Sign the petition](#)



September 12-14, 2012
PGA National Resort & Spa
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

Quarterly
(*New schedule*)

Local Government

1st Tuesday-monthly
10:30 a.m.

**Membership
Committee**

3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (*New Time*)

**Programs &
Promotions**

3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (*New Time*)

Surf's Up! The construction economy is recovering and we feel the excitement everywhere. Join us for the annual GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow hosted this year at the beautiful PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, September 12-14, 2012.

For more information:

<http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org/greentrends>

Exhibit space is limited so you're encouraged to reserve a booth soon. For more information, download the [exhibitor information brochure](#).

Exhibitor Early-Bird Discount

available through June 30, 2012

Member Discount Rate: \$450

Non-Member Rate: \$575

After June 30, 2012

Member Rate: \$599

Non-Member Rate: \$750