



DEP Linkups

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SOUTH DISTRICT

Weedy or Wonderful? What Science Says About Water Plants

Speaker Bio:

Dr. James G. Douglass, is an associate professor of marine science in the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Since first studying seagrasses as a graduate student at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science he has been fascinated with aquatic plant life, the animals it supports, and how it affects and is affected by the environment. His research at FGCU addresses water plants along the fresh to saltwater gradient, from sedges on the edges of ponds to seagrasses in the Gulf of Mexico.

Maria Romero, Lee County TMDL Coordinator and Principal Planner

Maria Romero is responsible for managing the County's watersheds improvement plans, facets of the BMAP process and overall water quality planning efforts. She participates in outreach programs like the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and WETPLAN. Maria has a B.S in Biology from the University of Seville and a M.S. in Aquaculture and Fisheries from the University of Cadiz. She has 11 years of experience working with Florida Ecosystems.