

THE FENCE POST

Newsletter of the Florida Section ASABE



A message from the FASABE Chair...

Happy holidays fellow Ag and Bio Engineers. We are about to start a whole new year and we're already well into our planning for the 2019 Florida Section ASABE Conference. This year we'll be at the Delray Beach Marriott from June 26th-29th. The focus for this year's conference will be "Modernizing Policy for a Resilient Future". Each year we strive to put together the most engaging and valuable conference we can for our members with quality speakers and networking opportunities. If you're reading this right now, there are things you can do to help us make this conference even more successful. Turn-out is important, more attendees mean more networking and increased diversity for our technical sessions. If you're a member, plan to come and plan to recruit fellow professionals to come with you. Though we are ag and bio engineers, we work side by side with many civil and environmental engineers, scientists, ag producers, material and equipment suppliers, etc. I would like to encourage everyone to pester your colleagues early and often to put this conference on their schedule. Awards and executive committee positions will also be up for nominations soon. More participation in these areas of our organization leads to higher quality conferences and return value to members. If you know someone deserving of an award for their achievements or who could serve our organization well, now is the time to get them nominated. I hope you all had a wonderful 2018 and have an even better 2019. Here's to the new year!

Taylor Kroll

2018-2019 Florida Section ASABE Chair

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 and Facebook ([Florida Section ASABE](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSectionASABE))



Florida Section ASABE Conference 2019



The Florida Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (FASABE) will be hosting the **2019 Annual Conference and Trade show** from **June 26-29, 2019**. The event will be held at the **Delray Beach Marriott** in **Delray Beach, Florida**. This year's theme is "**Modernizing Policy for a Resilient Future**". Go to <http://www.fl-asabe.org/> for more details.

Sponsors and Trade Show Vendors may contact Derek Hendrie at any time for more information or to register for the 2019 conference. If you know if anyone that may be interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor feel free to pass along Derek's contact info to them or pass their info along to Derek Hendrie: (863)-214-1536, Derek.Hendrie@Lykes.com.



Call for Presentations

The **deadline** to submit **presentation proposals** for this year's annual conference in Delray Beach is **12 March 2019!** Go to http://www.fl-asabe.org/ewExternalFiles/ASABE_Call_for_Pres_2019_Form.pdf for submission forms.

Theme: Modernizing Policy for a Resilient Future

Florida's agricultural and natural systems are undergoing significant transformations due to a shift in land use, climate, technology, and societal preferences. For example, consecutive hurricanes Irma and Michael are likely to have a long-lasting impact on the agricultural industry as well as the ecosystem in Florida. Policy needs to reflect this evolving paradigm shift; therefore, the executive officers of FASABE have developed this year's theme to reflect this reality.

Graduate Student Presentation Competition

The Graduate Student Forum Presentation Competition provides an excellent opportunity for graduate students to sharpen their presentation skills. There is also the chance of collecting a cash award in the process.

Best Presentation awards are \$200 for 1st place and \$100 for 2nd place. Graduate students are asked to present their work at the FASABE Annual Conference.

Paper titles and abstracts should be submitted by completing the FASABE Presentation Proposal form (see link in the Call for Presentations section). **Be sure to complete Line 1c.** Submit to Rajendra Sishodia, 2685 State Road 29N, Immokalee, FL 34142, Email: rpsishodia@ufl.edu, Fax: 239-658-3403.

The **deadline** to submit a proposal is **12 March 2019!**

Florida Section ASABE Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the 2019 Florida Section ASABE Awards in the following categories: Outstanding Professional Engineer, Outstanding Young Engineer, Distinguished Achievement, Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Service, Outstanding Young Extension Worker and Outstanding Young Researcher. The nomination form is attached to this newsletter or available from <http://www.fl-asabe.org/ewExternalFiles/FASABE%20AWARDS%20FORM%202019.pdf>. Please take some time to nominate and acknowledge your colleagues! Forms need to be returned to Nicole Pennington to nmpennington@gmail.com by the deadline of **5 April 2019**.

Florida Section ASABE Outstanding Student Award

The Outstanding Student Award recognizes an outstanding undergraduate student member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) who excels scholastically and shows community involvement through participation in professional, local, regional, or international activities as demonstrated by activities and/or offices held. The recipient of this award will receive an Outstanding Student Award plaque and \$500. For eligibility, selection criteria and sponsor information please see http://www.fl-asabe.org/ewExternalFiles/2019_FSABE%20Outstanding_Student_Award_Application.pdf

Application needs to be sent to Nicole Pennington at nmpennington@gmail.com by **19 April 2019**

Request for Nominations: 2019-2020 FASABE Executive

It's that time of year again, when the Nominating Committee begins to put together the ballot for next year's slate of officers that will make up the Florida Section ASABE Executive Committee. This is your opportunity to help the society and make a difference in the Florida Section, simply by volunteering or nominating a colleague to serve. So now is the time, if you, or someone you know is interested in serving on the Executive Committee, please provide us with the pertinent contact information. General descriptions of the positions are attached to this newsletter and you can get the official job descriptions from the Section Bylaws, which are found at www.fl-ASABE.org. By all means, if you have questions regarding the various officer roles, feel free to contact me or any of our current Executive Board members.

The Section is always looking for the leaders of tomorrow, now is the opportunity to become one today! Become that voice and give our chosen Society direction for the coming years. Many current and past officers agree that their active involvement in the Executive Committee has been extremely rewarding.

Jason Strenth, Past Section Chair

The nomination form and position descriptions are attached to the end of this newsletter.

Please send the nomination form to:

Jason Strenth

USDA-NRCS

2614 NW 43rd Street

Gainesville, FL 32606

Phone: (352) 338-9559

Email: jason.strenth@fl.usda.gov

**Nominations are due by
1 March 2019!**

Student News - FAMU



Hurricane Relief Efforts

Our students made significant contributions to relief efforts organized by FAMU, in the aftermath that Hurricane Michael left in October of 2018. Specifically, the students organized a gift drive and collected significant number of essential goods that have been delivered to the people in need.

At FAMU our students learn about empathy for the community and what it means to give back. They participate in community engaged learning and service, establish community organizations and links, and respond to community needs, especially in challenging times and situations.

The "I" of the Storm by Raeven Good (Student Reflection)

"I" have the power." Those four very simple but inspiring words flowed from my mind and into my heart as Hurricane Michael devastated the panhandle on an early October morning, while I still had a place to call home.

As a member of the ASABE student club, I felt the importance of both being present and playing an intricate role in helping to build a stronger foundation in honor of those who had been gravely affected. With the help our of super supportive and diligent club officers, I gathered over 100 clothing items to donate. The last two weeks of October through Thanksgiving was spent gathering items and decorating cards. Clothing items ranged from casual, to business attire and evening wear, just so that the victims felt like they had options after many lost so much. It wasn't by my own efforts that I would be making a significant change, it was the dedication of club members and student body leaders that made this possible. Despite the tangible items that were sent off, it made a huge difference to see the time and effort many students gave up focusing on a cause so much larger than us all and to be the "I" of someone else's storm. Whether it was donating or transporting items or simply being a shoulder to lean on, the fact that our ASABE club had such a strong presence said enough.

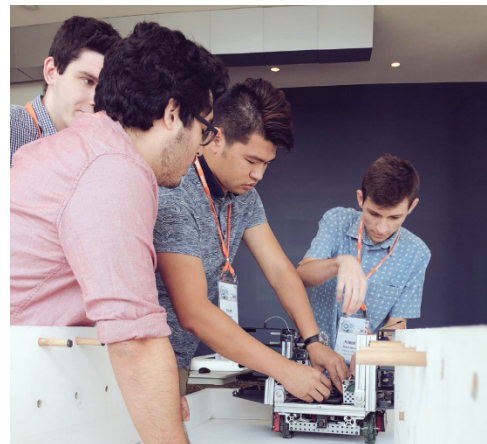
Hurricane Michael had certainly left its ecological footprint, though what was "I" going to do about it? What heavy impact and immense contribution was I going to make on this earth? This hurricane season forced me to look beyond the own personal storms I was enduring and to focus on how "I" might show up in someone else's life. Now I want you to say those same words to yourself, "I have the power." Make it your service motto, your reason why, your lifestyle. Let the next hurricane season be a symbolic one, no matter how life rages and how the winds toss the sea at you. What aftermath do you strive to have written about in your name? Hopefully, yours is destined for greatness rather than destruction.

Student News - UF

On 1 August 2018, Ian Hahus won the "Robert E. Stewart Engineering Humanities Award" at the ASABE Annual International Meeting in Detroit, MI. The award was established in 1986 by Bonnie Stewart as a tribute to her husband Robert. The award recognizes an outstanding for their contributions to the advancement to the interaction of the engineering profession and the humanities, including the arts, foreign languages, English, history, linguistics, music, philosophy, religion, or theater. Ian is a recent Land and Water Resources PhD graduate of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department.



The ASABE UF Chapter is looking for sponsors for its design teams to compete at the Annual International Meeting! Fundraising is what makes these competitions happen. Last year, over a thousand dollars for our robotics team's expenses was raised. This covers about 1/4 of the cost. Approximately, it takes about \$4,500 to fund everything from materials to travel to hotel rooms for each team. If you would like to know more about how to donate, please contact Max Williams at mandomax@ufl.edu and specify the team to which you would like to donate. See below for a description of the competitions.



Graduate Student Presentation Competition

The FASABE Graduate Student competition took place at the Hutchinson Shores Resort and Spa in Jensen Beach on 15 June 2018. Thiago Onofre from the UF Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department won **1st place** in the competition that saw several fantastic entries. His presentation was titled, "Evaluation of a Wireless Sensor Network for a Strawberry Advisory System". Thiago is a 3rd year PhD student under Dr. Clyde Fraisse. After his PhD he plans on working as a professor teaching and doing research in precision agriculture.

Robotics

The 2018 ASABE Robotics competition took place in Detroit during the ASABE AIM. The team **placed 3rd** in the event and won a trophy for the first time in this competition. The UF robotics team joined five other universities in the advanced division. The team built a robot that could collect balls from two walls at a time while running continuously. The robot was equipped with multiple microcontrollers, servo motors, and various sensors, and was built using flexible metal structures and 3D-printed parts. The task was to select ping-pong balls of different colors which represent unripe apples (green), ripe apples (red), and spoiled apples (blue). These will be magnetically attached to 5 wooden walls on the competition board. The goal is to collect 8 red, remove 8 blue and leave 8 green on the "field". There are two divisions: beginner (undergrads only) and advanced (also graduate).

Member News



Birthday Celebration

Professor Rush Choate celebrated his 100th birthday on 18 December 2018. He is being driven by Larry Shaw in his 1916 Maxwell. Professor Choate is a professor emeritus at the University of Florida where he worked in the department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

Congratulations Professor Choate!

New Members

New members of the ASABE Florida Section that joined between August and November 2018 are:

William Pinkepank and Ryan McDowell

Welcome! We look forward to getting to know you, and share knowledge and experiences!

FASABE has recently updated its member directory. To see all current members, please visit

<http://www.fl-asabe.org/ewExternalFiles/FASABE%20Membership%20Directory.pdf>

Deadlines and Dates

15 January 2019	Last day to renew AND save \$10 on FL Professional Engineering license
28 February 2019	Deadline renewal for FL Professional Engineering licenses and certificates
1 March 2019	Executive Committee 2019-2020 nominations due
12 March 2019	Presentation proposals
12 March 2019	Graduate Student presentation proposals
26 March 2019	Notification of acceptance to presenters by email
5 April 2019	Florida Section ASABE Award Nominations
19 April 2019	Outstanding student
24 May 2019	Last day for early bird registration (reservations at group rate)
26 June 2019	Continuing Education, Delray Beach Marriott, Delray Beach
26-29 June 2019	Florida Section ASABE Annual Conference, Delray Beach Marriott, Delray Beach
29 June 2019	Florida Section ASABE Annual Business Meeting, Delray Beach Marriott,

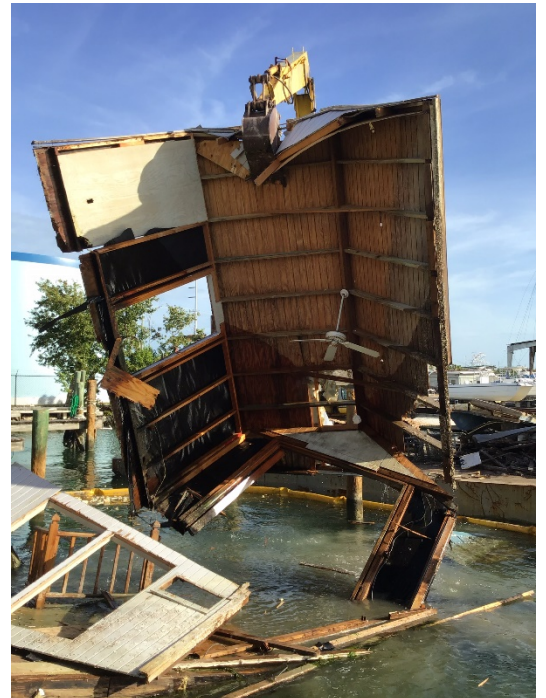
Project Update

Project Update:

The Monroe County Marine Debris Removal Project is 50% complete. Of the 172 canals in the Florida Keys approved for debris removal after Hurricane Irma, 91 have been completed as of early December. The project is funded with an Emergency Watershed Protection program grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. The USDA's NRCS is also the entity that approves which canals can receive the grant funding. Nine crews have been working in six geographical regions within Monroe County. The hurricane marine debris is being taken to nearby debris management sites before being hauled to Homestead for proper disposal. Tavernier-based Adventure Environmental, Inc. was hired by the County to lead the clean-up effort and Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions was hired by the County for oversight of the project. The project is well within the marine debris clearing budget, with only \$11.9 of the available \$45.8 million used to date. To date crews have removed nearly 8,000 cubic yards of debris from Monroe County canals. The project is scheduled to be complete by March 21, 2019. For up-to-date information on the cleanup, including a master schedule of the work and the list of canals approved for the project, go to www.monroecounty-fl.gov/irmacanalcleanup.

Taylor Kroll, PE

2018-2019 Florida Section ASABE Chair



FLORIDA SECTION ASABE AWARDS

The awards committee is seeking nominations for the 2019 Florida Section ASABE Awards. This form can be completed to nominate a candidate. Please copy the form to submit more than one nomination. Please send the nomination(s) to:

Nicole Pennington - AWARDS VICE CHAIR

E-mail: nmpennington@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 5, 2019

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Position: _____

- Outstanding Professional Engineer**
This Award is given to a professional engineer in the field of Agriculture Engineering. This person should be a leader who represents the profession through his or her work as an Agricultural Engineer.
- Outstanding Young Engineer**
This Award is given to a young engineer (40 or younger) in the field of Agricultural Engineering. This person should be a leader who represents the profession through his or her work as an Agricultural Engineer.
- Distinguished Achievement**
This Award is typically given to an individual who is, or has been, active in the state section and in the profession of Agricultural Engineering. Typically, the recipient has served the section as an active member of the Executive Committee. The recipient has gone beyond the State Section and served the Profession of Agricultural Engineering in other endeavors that represent the Profession proudly.
- Teacher of the Year**
This Award is typically given to the teacher considered to have provided the Student Section of our Society the best tools for a successful education thereby elevating the students' appreciation and understanding of our profession.
- Outstanding Service**
This Award is given to a member of the Society who has served the section with distinction. The recipient is also seen as a representative of the Agricultural Engineering community in his place of work.
- Outstanding Young Extension Worker**
This Award honors outstanding success in motivating people to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding to improve agricultural operations. Nominee must be under the age of 40 at time of selection.
- Outstanding Young Researcher**
This Award honors dedicated use of scientific methodology to seek out facts or principles significant to agricultural engineering. Nominee must be under the age of 40 at time of selection.

Briefly describe Nominee's Qualifications:

Member submitting the Nomination: _____

Telephone Number of the Member submitting the Nomination: _____

Florida Section ASABE Executive Committee Nomination Form

The nominating committee is seeking nominations for the 2019-2020 Florida Section ASABE Executive Committee. Please provide the nominee's name and contact information below.

Position	Nominee	Phone	Email
Vice Chair Programs			
Vice Chair Membership			
Vice Chair Publicity			
Vice Chair Awards			
Vice Chair Continuing Education			
Secretary			
Treasurer			

Please send the nomination form to: Jason Strenth

USDA-NRCS

2614 NW 43rd Street

Gainesville, FL 32606

PH (352) 338-9559

EM Jason.strenth@fl.usda.gov

Nominations are due by March 1, 2019.



Position Descriptions:

General responsibilities of all members of the Executive Committee include the attendance at Executive Committee meetings, held quarterly or as otherwise scheduled by the Chair, which are typically conducted via teleconference or other distance media, as well as contribution of an article for the quarterly newsletter regarding their specific duty. All positions are empowered to appoint Committees to assist in the execution of their duties. All positions are supported by an Administrative Consultant.

Chair: The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Section and shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall exercise such duties as customarily pertain to the office of Chair and shall have general and active supervision over the property, business and affairs of the Section and over its several officers.

The Chair may appoint officers, agents, or employees other than those appointed by the Executive Committee. The Chair may sign, execute, and deliver in the name of the Section powers of attorney, contracts, bonds, and other obligations and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Committee or by the By-Laws.

Historically, the sitting Vice-Chair for Programs has been automatically nominated for the position of Chair. However, the position is an elected one and any member in good standing of the Section may be considered upon being nominated and accepting such nomination.

Vice Chair for Programs: The Vice Chair for Programs is responsible for the organization and execution of the Section's annual conference and tradeshow. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the selection of an appropriate conference location, all negotiations with the venue and any necessary vendors, selection of a conference general theme, drafting the Call for Presentations, selecting conference speakers and presenters, drafting the Call for Vendors, organizing and executing the tradeshow within the conference. The Vice Chair of Programs typically appoints a Tradeshow Coordinator to assist with, or delegate to, all responsibilities associated with the vendor tradeshow.

Vice Chair for Membership: The Vice Chair for Membership is responsible for growing and maintaining the membership of the Section, maintaining the Section membership roster, and working with the Treasurer to ensure all Section members are in good standing.

Vice Chair for Publicity: The Vice Chair for Publicity is responsible for the publication of the Section's quarterly newsletter, including setting deadlines for the timely submittal of newsletter articles and coordination with the other Executive Committee members in the submittal of their newsletter articles.

Vice Chair for Awards: The Vice Chair for Awards is responsible for selection of appropriate individual for the annual Section Awards. Specific responsibilities include preparation of the Call for Awards, selection of award recipients, and presentation of the awards at the Section's annual conference and tradeshow.

Vice Chair for Continuing Education: The Vice Chair for Continuing Education is responsible for the development of a continuing education program to accompany the Section's annual conference and tradeshow, as well as the maintenance and/or renewal of the Section's approved continuing education provider status by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE). Typically, continuing education in even numbered years consists of Laws & Rules, while continuing education in odd years consists of a technical topic.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the members, and of the Executive Committee, and to the extent ordered by the Executive Committee or the Chair, the minutes of meetings of all committees; shall cause notice to be given of meetings of members, Executive Committee, and of any committee appointed by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall have the general charge of the records, documents, and papers of the Section not pertaining to the performance of the duties vested in other officers, which shall at all reasonable times be open to the examination of any member; may sign or execute contracts with the Chair or Vice Chair thereunto authorized in the name of the Section and affix the seal of the Section thereto; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Committee or by the By-Laws.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have general custody of all the funds and securities of the Section and have general supervision of the collection and disbursement of funds of the Section; shall endorse on behalf of the Section for collection checks, notes and other obligations, and shall deposit the same to the credit of the Section in such bank or banks or depositories as the Executive Committee may designate; may sign, with the Chair, or such other person or persons as may be designated for the purpose by the Executive Committee, or alone if so authorized by the Executive Committee, all bills of exchange or promissory notes of the Section. The Treasurer shall enter or cause to be entered regularly in the books of the Section full and accurate account of all moneys received and paid on account of the Section; shall at all reasonable times exhibit books and accounts to any member of the Section during business hours, and whenever required by the Executive Committee or the Chair; shall render a statement of accounts; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Committee or by the By-Laws. Upon the request of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of prescribed duties in such sum and with such surety as shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined by the Section as it may from time to time determine.