



*Presenter Bios and Contact Information  
(In Order of Presentation)*

**Shannon Carnevale, Natural Resources and Conservation Extension Agent**

Shannon Carnevale is an Extension Agent in Polk County, FL, where she leads the Natural Resources and Conservation extension program. Shannon's extension work focuses on the interaction between water and upland ecosystems, the benefits of integrated ecosystem management, and engaging Polk's residents in responsible use of our natural resources. She also chairs University of Florida's statewide extension priority initiative "Public Awareness of Water Issues" and collaborates with Florida LAKEWATCH by training volunteers and tracking active/inactive sampling sites. Locally, she serves as the Chair of the City of Winter Haven's Urban Forestry Advisory Board.

Before joining UF/IFAS Polk County Extension, Shannon worked as a project manager for the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, and biological science aid for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Gainesville, FL). Shannon received her Bachelor degree in Forest Resources and Conservation (2009) from the University of Florida and is currently enrolled in the MS of Agricultural Education and Communication program at the University of Florida. As a fellow in the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute, she received Burl Long Award in 2011.

**Shannon (McGee) Carnevale**

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**Jeffrey Spence, Polk County Parks & Natural Resources Director**

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Biological Sciences from the University of Central Florida. He started his career as an Environmental Planner with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Over his thirty-one years of service to the Board, Jeff has held many different positions. In his present job, he is responsible for Parks & Recreation, Regional Drainage, Water Resources, Mosquito Control, the History Center, Invasive Plant Control and the

Environmental Lands Program.

**Jeff Spence**

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**Jemy West Hinton, University of Florida IFAS Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Team**

Jemy is a native of Florida and Polk County. She is an alumna of University of Florida and Florida Southern College, majoring in agriculture and natural sciences.

Jemy has spent most of her working career with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Several years ago, she saw an opportunity to serve agriculture and the environment by working in Ecosystem Management with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) where she served as the Southwest District's Agricultural Liaison. This position enabled her to facilitate the interactions between growers and a large regulatory agency, particularly as it related to land use and water quality.

Eight years ago, Jemy was lured back to IFAS when she combined her love of agriculture and her love of the environment in the position of University of Florida/IFAS Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation which was a natural evolution of her earlier work with FDEP. She works with farmers and ranchers to educate them about Department of Agriculture BMPs and to assist them in signing up for the program and thereby avoiding many of the regulatory requirements associated with monitoring for water quality impacts. Participation in this program also provides growers a presumption of compliance with Florida's water quality regulations.

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## **Jason M. Mickel, Water Supply Section Manager**

As manager of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Water Supply section, Jason Mickel oversees the coordination, planning, management and development of projects that provide potable and alternative water supply, promote water conservation and research, and implement beneficial reuse of reclaimed water. The section provides water audits and leak detection services for utilities; conducts economic analyses, population projections and demands in support of water use permitting; produces the regional water supply plan and the estimated water use report; and has a leadership role with the Central Florida Water Initiative. Prior to becoming the manager of the Water Supply section in 2012, Jason worked for FDEP as an environmental scientist, Hillsborough County as the manager of the Lake, Pond and Stream programs, and SWFWMD as a senior water resource planner. Jason holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a master's degree in Environmental Management from the University of South Florida.

### **Jason M. Mickel**

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## **Melissa Dickens, Staff Planner**

As staff planner for the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Melissa Dickens is responsible for planning and policy analysis and provides technical assistance and coordination with external partners and stakeholders. She is assisting with the facilitation of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) stakeholder meetings and wrote portions of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy Five-Year Assessment. Dickens has more than seven years of public and private sector environmental and land use planning experience. Prior to joining the District, she worked for a planning consulting firm in Tampa, Florida. She is a certified planner and holds a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Melissa Dickens, AICP**

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### **Nicole Dodds, Outreach and Training Coordinator**

Nicole serves as the outreach and training coordinator for the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center). Nicole received her B.S. (1999) and M.S. (2005) from the University of Missouri in Secondary Science Education and Biology, respectively. She also holds a graduate certificate in tropical biology and conservation. Nicole has almost 15 years of experience as a science educator working both in the U.S. and abroad. She has worked as a lecturer at the community college and university levels and as a trainer for the US Forest Service. Nicole joined the PIE Center in fall 2012. She is responsible for developing and delivering outreach and training programs to stakeholders in effort to relay PIE Center research results, build capacity and address stakeholder needs. She coordinates a monthly webinar series, develops online learning opportunities, and contributes to the development of in-person trainings and print materials. She supports faculty extension efforts as well as other PIE Center projects, as needed.

#### **Nicole Dodds**

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### **Dr. Mark Clark, Extension Specialist and Associate Professor of Wetlands and Water Quality**

Dr. Clark is an Associate Professor in the Soil and Water Science Department at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is also an Extension Specialist in the area of Wetlands and Water Quality. Dr. Clark has worked in Florida for almost 25 years from marine systems in the Florida Keys to the Florida Everglades and now most of his work is focused on urban stormwater and evaluation of enhanced agricultural BMPs to improve water quality. He is an expert in the area of wetlands nutrient assimilation and storage process, vegetative succession dynamics, wetland macrophyte

ecophysiology and ecological engineering design using wetland process to improve water quality and enhance ecological function of altered landscapes.

**Dr. Mark Clark**

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