

NRLI seeks to impact decision making in Florida by creating a network of professionals prepared to effectively address natural resource issues through collaborative leadership and conflict management.



Port Everglades: The impact of port expansion

Director's Corner Jonathan Dain

Welcome Dr. Wendy-Lin Bartels



As we welcome this year's impressive group of Class XVI Fellows to the NRLI program, we are also excited to welcome new project team member. Dr. Wendy-Lin Bartels is an expert in natural resource collaboration and brings to NRLI a wealth of experience in training, facilitation, and evaluation. Born in South Africa and raised on the dairy her father managed, she studied corn genetics as an undergraduate and eventually came to the U.S. to pursue a Master's degree in Science Communication at the University of Florida (UF). For her thesis, she analyzed the way controversial natural resource issues are framed by the media. An alumna of NRLI class III, Wendy-Lin went on to obtain her Ph.D. from UF's School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her doctoral work examined land use planning in Brazil, particularly the interactions and relationships among farmers, the government, and non-governmental organizations. Before joining NRLI, Wendy-Lin was a Faculty member in UF's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering where she led stakeholder engagement processes that brought together climate scientists and row-crop farmers to improve research and training efforts in the southeastern United States. She has also worked with communities, institutions, and planning processes in places as far-flung and distinct as India, the Brazilian Amazon, and Albany, Georgia. In addition to teaching and program and partnership development, Wendy-Lin will help us increase our focus on impact assessment. We are thrilled to have her join Jessica Ireland, Paul Monaghan, Joy Hazell, and me on the NRLI Project Team, in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and in the IFAS Center for Leadership.



Photos from the Session 1 field trip: a waterside tour of Port Everglades and a tour of the Nova Southeastern University National Coral Reef Institute. Photos by Wendy-Lin Bartels & Jon Dain

In this issue

Natural Resources Focus: Port Everglades	2
Curriculum Focus.....	3
Session 1 Fellows' Article.....	5
NRLI Class XVI Fellow Spotlight	6
Looking forward.....	7



Class XVI Fellows. Photo by Wendy-Lin Bartels.

Natural Resources Focus: Port Everglades

Twenty-two Class XVI Fellows* traveled from Fort Walton, Miami, and areas in between for the inaugural Class XVI session, August 17-19, 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The issue focus of this first session was Port Everglades: The impact of port expansion. We were in the area to learn about and reflect on the many perspectives surrounding the economic, social, and environmental impacts of port expansion.

On Wednesday, Project Team members led Fellows through a variety of activities to get to know each other. These included a “walk-on-the-map” introductory activity, an explanation of the NRLI curriculum, an overview of the syllabus, and discussions of participant expectations, assignments, and responsibilities. Fellows also developed an initial set of group norms for use during the year.

A key component of NRLI is learning about the range of perspectives that exist among those involved in and affected by natural resource issues in the communities that we study. To this end, the group participated in a water taxi tour of Port Everglades on Thursday, August 18 as well as a tour of the Nova Southeastern University National Coral Reef Institute.

*See page 8 for a complete list of Class XVI Fellows.

During the field tour, Fellows heard from Port Authority Directors as well as graduate students who described their marine-related research. As part of each monthly session, we invite 4-6 people who represent a range of viewpoints and have first-hand knowledge of the topic and to take part in a stakeholder panel discussion. In Fort Lauderdale, stakeholders who joined us for a discussion on the expansion of Port Everglades included

- ◆ Representative Kristin Jacobs, Florida House of Representatives, District 96
- ◆ Dr. Rachel Silverstein, Executive Director & Waterkeeper, Miami Waterkeeper
- ◆ Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Broward County
- ◆ Captain Todd Cooper, Port Everglades Pilots’ Association
- ◆ David Anderton, Assistant Director of Port Everglades, Office of Chief Executive-Port Director

For more detail on the inaugural session, please read the Fellows’ article written by Class XVI Fellows Phillip Stokes and Erika Zambello (page 5).



Class XVI Fellows interact with Port Everglades stakeholders. Photo by Wendy-Lin Bartels.



Class XVI Fellows observe a Panamax cargo ship coming into port during the field trip. Photo by Wendy-Lin Bartels.

Curriculum Focus: Introduction to Natural Resources Leadership

Objectives

By the end of the session Fellows:

1. Learned about the NRLI curriculum and Fellows' skill-building activities.
2. Reviewed Fellows' and Project Team objectives and expectations.
3. Explored the NRLI concept of leadership in natural resource management.
4. Participated in a discussion of natural resource issues and stakeholders in Florida.
5. Built a cohort and atmosphere of trust
6. Explored the issue: impacts of port expansion; heard from Port Everglades stakeholders.

Steps to NRLI

Steps to NRLI provides an opportunity for Fellows to interact and get to know each other. Members of the group create a map of the U.S. on the floor using masking tape, with Florida proportionately larger than the rest of the U.S. They then take turns recreating their steps to NRLI by walking around the map and standing on the locations of the events they describe: where they were born/where they grew up; 3 major life events that led them to NRLI. This activity enables Fellows to find connections/commonalities with others in the group and to learn about each other's histories/stories in an interactive and participatory manner.



Fellows participate in the Steps to NRLI activity. Photos by Wendy-Lin Bartels.

Introduction to NRLI: Overview of Syllabus and Curriculum

Following Steps to NRLI, Jonathan Dain provided an overview of the curriculum focus and objectives for the year, clarifying what Fellows would be doing and why.



Fellows discuss the location and issue focus for the 8 sessions. Photo by Wendy-Lin Bartels.

Fellows' Expectations and Group Norms

In the next stage of cohort building and establishing trust, Wendy-Lin Bartels led Fellows in an activity to brainstorm and reflect on their expectations, i.e., what they hope to get out of their participation in NRLI. Fellows were divided into small groups and asked to brainstorm their expectations and then share with the larger group. Fellows will also be asked to think about and record their own individual expectations (learning goals). Both the group and individual expectations will be referred back to during the mid-program review in November and the final reflection in April. Wendy-Lin also facilitated a discussion on group norms, i.e., guiding principles that the group sets for themselves and agrees to follow throughout their time in NRLI. These norms will be posted at each session. Discussing expectations and establishing group norms are both important strategies for improving the effectiveness of groups, one of the core objectives of NRLI training.



Fellows share their NRLI expectations. Photo by Jon Dain.

Curriculum Focus: Introduction to Natural Resources Leadership

Natural Resources Leadership

On Friday morning, Jon Dain and Wendy-Lin Bartels led the group in a two part activity focused on natural resources leadership. In the first part of the activity, Wendy-Lin led the group in a brainstorming activity regarding the key natural resource issues in Florida. Fellows broke into small groups and discussed, from their perspective, the most important natural resource issues facing Florida. Each issue was recorded on a large post-it and placed on the wall. Wendy-Lin then facilitated a plenary discussion: What are the issues? Who are the different groups most affected? Who might we have forgotten about? Has there been collaboration among these groups involved in the issue? Which of these issues are particularly messy and why? Why do different groups see things differently? Figure 1 shows a word cloud (<http://www.wordle.net/>) of the issues Fellows identified.

In the second part of the activity, Jon Dain linked the discussion to leadership; what makes an effective leader effective when we are talking about natural resource issues? What skills do they demonstrate?

Jon then explained that NRLI promotes a form of facilitative, service leadership. In NRLI, leadership is less about being “out in front” and more about recognizing what needs to be done to move things forward at any given time. It is about helping people work together,

finding collaborative solutions that protect our natural resource base while meeting the needs of the many. It is about empowering those around us to do their best thinking—and working—by listening and observing, learning and respecting. It is about knowing when to step up, when to get out of the way, and when to quietly work behind the scenes to get things done. NRLI leadership is about knowing yourself, understanding groups, and serving society. It can be advocacy. It can be reconciliation or peace-making. It can be efficiency, creativity, vision, or inspiration. In NRLI, we don't point fingers; we point out common interests.

Introduction to the NRLI Practicum

The last activity of the session before the final debrief and feedback panel was an explanation of the NRLI practicum. To assure that the skills learned in NRLI go beyond the classroom, a practicum is built into the program. In teams, Fellow's develop projects that allow them to apply the skills and concepts learned in NRLI to actual conflict, decision making, or situational leadership needs in their organizations or communities. Paul Monaghan introduced the NRLI practicum to Fellows and provided an overview of the assignment along with illustrative examples from previous years. Fellows were tasked with developing practicum ideas for discussion at the next session.



This word cloud summarizes the most important natural resource issues in Florida, as identified by Fellows. (<http://www.wordle.net/>)

Session 1 Fellows' Articles

Erika Zambello & Phillip Stokes (Class XVI Fellows)

Each month, we ask a pair of Fellows to reflect on the session in their own words. This article describes the key takeaways from the point of view of Fellows Erika Zambello and Phillip Stokes.

For our first session, we focused on Port Everglades and the ongoing discussion of port capital improvements. Due to the expansion of the Panama Canal, enormous cargo ships can easily reach the east coast of Florida. However, Port Everglades is not currently large enough to dock these ships if they are full. As a result, port staff plan to deepen the main navigation channels from 42 to 48+ feet, as well as increase the size of the entrance channel and sections of the intracoastal waterway. If construction is completed by 2022, the Port says 1,500 permanent jobs will be added in the local area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has approved the economic and environmental report.

However, the widening and deepening has environmental consequences, including the destruction of 21 acres of coral reef and removal of mangrove forest. While Port Everglades staff has said that they will mitigate this damage, three environmental groups and a scuba trade association filed a lawsuit in mid-August. While they do not want to cancel the project, they do want a more detailed environmental review and better protection for the corals.

During our NRLI session, we toured Port Everglades to learn about the ramifications of an expansion, and heard from a panel of stakeholders on the positives and negatives of the proposed port expansion. The main purpose of this session was to examine the impacts of public infrastructure growth.

One prevailing theme from session one was the concept of progress and how stakeholders may view progress differently. For some, progress is made by developing physical structures that will improve the economy of a city, and others think progress can be achieved by avoiding development for the preservation of natural resources.

The stakeholder panel discussion was comprised of a state representative, the director of the Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, a Port Everglades pilot, an assistant director of Port Everglades, and the executive director of Miami Waterkeeper. Interestingly enough, the overall aim and desires of the stakeholders were fairly consistent. Each stakeholder recognized the value of the port expansion project and each wants to see the project through. The pilot, a crowd favorite among the NRLI cohort, summed up his stance well, which seemed to offer a good synopsis of what all of the stakeholders believed. To paraphrase, he stated that he wanted to live in a city with a strong economy with good job opportunities, a safe city to raise a family, and a city with pretty and clean beaches. It's interesting how stakeholders and community members may value the same quality of life standards, but have different means for reaching those standards.

Due to the lawsuit filed against the USACE, their agency was not represented in the stakeholder panel discussion. The NRLI cohort recognized that their presence would have provided an essential perspective on this issue. The USACE had shortcomings in their environmental analysis of the PortMiami expansion project, and most of the coral near the dredging site was killed due to sediment. While everyone from Port Everglades was adamant that they would not make the same mistakes, the Miami Waterkeeper director argued that much of the same information used in the PortMiami environmental analysis is being used in the Port Everglades analysis and there could be similar ramifications if the project continues without further evaluation.

Session one also included a tour of Nova Southeastern University National Coral Reef Institute/Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center. It was fascinating to hear about the different projects taking place, but there seemed to be a prevailing irony. This institute is spending so much time and money researching and restoring coral reefs, and the Port Everglades expansion project will decimate large areas of reefs that take very long to establish and grow. This happens in many different ecosystems all over the world. Academic and conservation groups work painstakingly to restore vulnerable habitats while they are simultaneously destroyed. It seems more effective to protect undisturbed ecosystems that are still intact and continue to modify the disturbed habitats for the growth of economic infrastructure.

It will be interesting to see what comes from the lawsuit and the call to protect and mitigate the environmental destruction in the Port Everglades expansion project. After attending session 1 of NRLI class XVI, it is evident that there is a need for effective communication and education among all stakeholder groups concerning the port expansion project, as well as all Florida natural resources issues.



Photos by Phillip Stokes.

Jessica Stempien

Environmental Manager, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

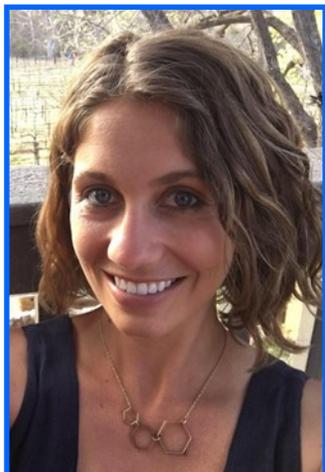


I was born and raised in Lutz and am raising a family in the same neighborhood I grew up in. I went to college at Florida Institute of Technology and earned a BS in Environmental Science after which I worked as a teacher for a brief time period and then onto consulting. Following this, I moved back to Lutz from Melbourne and worked with County for four years permitting septic systems. I have been with the FDACS/Office of Agricultural Water Policy for almost 10 years. I was just promoted to Environmental Administrator and will be managing a team of staff in North and Southwest Florida. I finished the UF's Legacy Leadership Program last year and was honored to be chosen for it. I am a part of the 4-H program, am on the Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation Board, and have my own 4-H Club in Pasco County, the Lutz Leaders, in which we are doing a food and nutrition club with community service this year. Currently, I have

initiated the formation of our neighborhood coalition, the Sierra Pines Coalition, truly a NRLI situation, to help bring attention to our stormwater issues. We are organizing as we speak. I love working with agriculture and bridging the gap between the public and agriculture.

Maddie Southard

Program Manager, Florida Wildlife Corridor

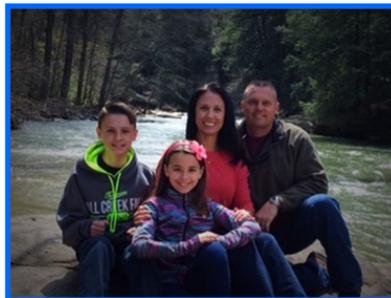


Maddie Southard is the Program Manager for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a conservation advocacy organization dedicated to permanently protecting a statewide network of connected lands and waters that support wildlife and people across Florida. She's responsible for creating, managing, evaluating, and refining the programmatic work, while shaping the organization's message to the public, volunteers, government agencies, donors and other public audiences. A fourth generation Floridian born in

Clearwater, Maddie attended the University of South Florida, where she completed her Master of Arts in Environmental Communication in 2013.

Scott Kihei

Law Enforcement Captain, North Central Region Investigations, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



I am 47 years old and have been married to my beautiful wife Melinda for 18 years. We have two children, A.J who is 13 and Hanna who is 10. I have to admit that only because of my wife's influence on my children that they are turning out to be pretty good kids. We are originally from Homestead,

Florida but have moved all over the state during my 20 year career with Law Enforcement. We settled in Lake City, Florida in 2005 and plan on staying right there. We are actively involved with our church to include Mission Trips to Haiti and Guatemala. I graduated from Miami Palmetto Sr. High in 1987 and immediately started college. I joined the United States Marine Corps in 1988, and stayed enlisted until 1992. I became a Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival. During my enlistment, I was able to travel the world, see some interesting places and do some unforgettable things. When I left the military I floated around doing different jobs in search of a career.

Fortunately, I landed and began with the Florida Marine Patrol. In 1999, we merged with the Florida Game and Fish Commission and was renamed to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. During my 20 years with the commission, I have been involved in saltwater/boating safety, freshwater and land patrol/investigative related work. I began as an officer in 1996 in Dade County. Throughout this time, I have promoted through the ranks and worked in central Florida, the Ocala National Forest, and Tallahassee. My career has allowed me to be involved with responding to and assisting during natural disasters. I have been a regional training lieutenant, academy instructor for new recruits and serve on several rule making committees. In 2005 we moved again, this time to Lake City where I supervised a squad of officers working in and around Columbia, Hamilton, Baker and Union Counties which included the Osceola National Forest. I promoted to my current position as Captain, where I supervise all investigative efforts of the region and a patrol squad that covers Clay and Bradford counties. Additionally, I supervise the regional dispatch center, agency efforts at the Jacksonville International Airport, the Port of Jacksonville and all of the primary private shippers. I am currently serving on our Vehicle and Vessel Rigging Committee and I am the Statewide Coordinator for our 50 person Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

I love what I do and plan to work another 14 years. We are the only agency whose primary focus is on our natural resources. Our area of responsibility ranges from 200 miles of the east coast, 180 miles of the west coast and everything in between. We are a science based agency and my division is responsible for enforcing federal law, state law and the rules our Commissioners approve to become Florida Administrative Code. If we continue to work hard in making a difference, we may have resources our children and grandchildren can enjoy...

Looking Forward

Class XVI Sessions 2-8

Dates	Topic	Location
September 14-16, 2016	Rodman Reservoir: An intractable dispute?	Palatka
October 19-21, 2016	Agriculture and water quality: BMAPs in Jackson Blue Springs & Suwannee River Basins	Marianna
November 16-18, 2016	Everglades restoration in progress	Naples
January 15-17, 2017	Protection & use of marine resources	Key West
February 15-17, 2017	Recreation & the endangered Florida manatee	Crystal River
March 15-17, 2017	Responding to sea level rise	St. Augustine
April 6-7, 2017	Graduation & practicum presentations	Gainesville



Class XVII (2017-2018)

The schedule for class XVII will be available in mid-October, and the application process will open around the same time.

Please visit the NRLI website for additional information (<http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu>) or e-mail Jessica Ireland (jjtireland@ufl.edu).

Class XVI Fellows

Savanna Barry, Regional Specialized Sea Grant Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Nature Coast Biological Station

Tyler Beck, Snail Kite Conservation Coordinator, Species Conservation Planning Section, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Amy Castaneda, Water Quality Technician, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Walter Cheatham, Wildlife Biologist, Ostego Bay Environmental, Inc.

Houston Cypress, President & Artistic Director, Otter Vision, Inc.; Co-Founder, Love the Everglades Movement

Courtney Davis, Florida Vegetable Sales Representative, Speedling, Inc.

Sarah Funck, Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Teresa Gallagher, Public Affairs Specialist/Volunteer and Services Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service, National Forests in Florida

Margaret Guyette, Water Resource Data Manager, St. Johns River Water Management District

Katie Hallas, Environmental Administrator, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Basil Iannone, Assistant Professor, University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation/Program for Resource Efficient Communities/Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology

Scott Kihei, Law Enforcement Captain, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Audrey Kuipers, Program Manager, Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

Jason Mathis, County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) Program Coordinator, Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Meredith Moreno, Archaeologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Maddie Southard, Program Manager, Florida Wildlife Corridor

Jessica Stempien, Environmental Administrator, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Phillip Stokes, Education Specialist, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education

Donald Voss, Founder/Long-term Strategies, One Florida Foundation, Inc.

Patrick Walsh, Law Enforcement Academy Captain, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Matthew Wegener, Biological Scientist II, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Erika Zambello, Marine Economic and Tourism Development Resource Coordinator, Okaloosa County Tourism and Development Department

NRLI Project Team

Jonathan Dain
Jessica Ireland
Wendy-Lin Bartels
Paul Monaghan

Contact us:

Jessica Ireland
NRLI Program Coordinator
P.O. Box 110410
Gainesville, FL 32611-0240
Phone: 342-294-7643
E-mail: jjtireland@ufl.edu
Website: <http://nrli.ifas.ufl.edu>

