



**7th Annual**

**South Florida  
Environmental Ethics  
Conference**

*Annual "Living on the Edge" conference*

**University of Miami  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences  
Virginia Key, Florida**

February 15, 2008

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# South Florida Environmental Ethics Consortium (SFEEC)

**N**ow in its seventh year, SFEEC is dedicated to education, research, community service and the fostering of public discourse on issues in environmental ethics. Its core contribution is the annual ethics conference. Customarily titled “Living on the Edge,” we this year devote the program to food and agriculture.

SFEEC is a collaboration of the University of Miami Ethics Programs, Florida Atlantic University, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and the Florida Bioethics Network. Other collaborators are welcome.

SFEEC seeks to link academic and educational institutions, governmental agencies, nongovernmental agencies and advocacy groups. SFEEC aims to bring diverse communities into dialogue.

## Carbon Offsets

CO<sub>2</sub> offsets are a short-term tool to help us transform to a low or no-carbon economy in which CO<sub>2</sub> offsets are no longer needed. CO<sub>2</sub> offsets are a mechanism to accommodate the fact that for now there are practical limits to how much each of us can reduce our own energy use. To make up for the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions we can't avoid, we can instead help someone or something else reduce other CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ([http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/faq\\_s/15.php](http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/faq_s/15.php)).

The 7th annual Environmental Ethics conference has chosen the NativeEnergy company (<http://www.nativeenergy.com/>) to offset CO<sub>2</sub> produced in conjunction with the conference. This includes such things as travel to and from the site for conference goers, and electricity for cooling the room and lighting. The money we donate helps finance and build new clean and renewable energy projects that help create sustainable economic benefits for Native Americans, Alaska Native villages and other local communities, and that help America's family farmers compete with agribusiness. These projects will displace electricity from fossil fuels and reduce other greenhouse gas emissions ([http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/why\\_carbon\\_offsets/11.php](http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/why_carbon_offsets/11.php)).

# Program

## **7th Annual South Florida Environmental Ethics Conference**

A project of the South Florida Environmental Ethics Consortium, including the University of Miami Ethics Programs, Florida Atlantic University, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and the Florida Bioethics Network.

**Feb. 15, 2008, Virginia Key, Florida**

**8:15-9:00 Registration/exhibits/continental breakfast**

**9:00-9:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Anita Cava, J.D.  
Co-Director, University of Miami Ethics Programs

Robin N. Fiore, Ph.D.  
Adelaide R. Snyder Professor of Ethics  
Florida Atlantic University

Scott Lewis, Ph.D.  
Field Botanist  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Robert Meyers, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Miami Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**9:10-10:10 Session 1**

## **Providing Quality Food in Ethical and Sustainable Ways**

This presentation will include an overview of the geographic areas devoted to farming in South Florida and issues related to their sustainability.

**Colleen Ahern-Hettich (Moderator)**  
**Director, Earth Ethics Institute**  
**Miami Dade College**

Colleen Ahern-Hettich grew up in Colorado, and she spent her formative years hiking the mountains of the Continental Divide. As Director for The Earth Ethics Institute at Miami Dade College ([www.earthethicsinstitute.org](http://www.earthethicsinstitute.org)), she coordinates several initiatives to bring environmental sustainability to the College and community. She works with others to develop programming that is instrumental in bringing “environmental awareness” to college faculty, staff and students as well as the general population of Miami through as many public venues as possible, including conferences, gardens in public schools, and nature immersions. An organic gardener and enthusiastic explorer of the Everglades and Big Cypress, she is currently working on a collaborative project to develop the Green Urban Living Center, a part of the MDC North Campus Community Education Department, which will offer courses exploring how to live sanely in a busy metropolis.

**Don Pybas, M.S.**  
**Director, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**  
**Miami-Dade County Extension**

Donald Pybas has been a faculty member with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service in Miami-Dade County for 29 years. From 1978 until 1996 he served as the Sea Grant Marine Extension Agent working with marine industries and resources of South Florida, including the marina and boating community, commercial and recreational fisheries, resource agencies, and the general public. Marine industries disaster preparedness education and planning, marine resources management and marine recreation industries, aquaculture, artificial reefs and fisheries were part of his responsibilities, including development of educational materials and events over the 18 years. In 1996 he became the Division Director/County Extension Director and administers a 16 member faculty and total staff of 40 personnel in the Miami-Dade County Extension operation. Program areas include: Commercial Agriculture; Urban Horticulture; Family and Consumer Sciences; 4-H Youth Development; and Marine Science (Sea Grant). Besides the administrative duties, programmatic

areas include the areas of community development, natural resources and agricultural interface, and disaster preparedness for the agriculture industry.

**Nancy Roe, Ph.D.**  
**Farming Systems Research**

Nancy Roe has worked for several vegetable production operations during more than 25 years in agriculture. She has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Horticulture from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Horticultural Sciences from the University of Florida. During the 1980s, she and husband Charlie produced vegetables and fruit for local markets and owned a small nursery in Denton County, Texas. Before coming back to Florida to farm, she was a Horticulture Extension Specialist for Texas A&M University.

**James Wildman**  
**Humane Educator**  
**Animal Rights Foundation of Florida (ARFF)**

As the Humane Educator for the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida, James Wildman reaches out to the community through classroom presentations providing information to all ages on animal related issues that emphasize humane lifestyles and alternatives. He received his bachelor's degree in English from Clark University and a master's in Humane Education from the Institute for Humane Education.

**10:10-10:20 Break**

**10:20-11:35 Session 2**

## **Fishing Sustainably in South Florida**

**Julie Lambert, Ph.D.** (Moderator)  
**College of Education**  
**Florida Atlantic University**

Dr. Julie Lambert, Assistant Professor of Science Education, published "Ocean Science in the Classroom: Using an Integrated Ocean Science Approach to Chart a New Course in High School Science Curricula" in the Sept. 6, 2006, issue of *The Science Teacher*. She is co-Principal Investigator (2002-Present) of the Florida Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence. Her Ph.D. is from Florida State University in Science Education (2001). She is an author of the high school textbook, *Life on an Ocean Planet*, which has been adopted in Florida and several other states. Her research interests include teaching and learning science through an integrated and Earth systems approach.

**Elizabeth Babcock, Ph.D.**  
**Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences**  
**University of Miami**

Dr. Elizabeth Babcock is a Research Assistant Professor in the Division of Marine Biology and Fisheries at RSMAS, and the Chief Scientist of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science at RSMAS. She has a Ph.D. in Fisheries Biology from the University of Washington and she worked in the Marine Conservation Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society before coming to RSMAS. Her work involves developing improved quantitative methods to analyze fisheries data to make fisheries more sustainable. She has analyzed the sustainability of fisheries for swordfish, bluefin tuna, and sharks including blue, shortfin mako, sandbar and blacktip sharks and the beluga sturgeon of the Caspian Sea. She has conducted research on the efficacy of marine protected areas for conserving tropical sharks.

**Captain Dan Kipnis**  
**Florida Wildlife Federation**

Captain Dan Kipnis, fresh off tutoring sessions with former Vice President Al Gore, is giving a series of talks on climate change. He was among the first of 1,000 disciples Gore plans to train to help spread his gospel of global climate change aiming to convert skeptics. Kipnis, an ardent fisheries conservationist who the National Wildlife Federation has tapped to talk to hunters and anglers about Global Warming and its effect on the oceans and near coastal environments, directs billfish tournaments in South Florida and South America, is a former charter captain and has been president of the Miami Beach Rod & Reel Club. Kipnis also serves as a director for the Florida Wildlife Federation and has been appointed to the South Florida Climate Change Task Force. Additionally, he has served on the State of Florida Marine Fisheries Commission, Biscayne Bay Management Committee, and City of Miami Waterfront Board.

**11:35-11:45 Participants adjourn to cafeteria for lunch**

**11:45-12:45 Luncheon Address**

## **Bringing Environmentally Sound Foodways Home**

**Nancy Ancrum**  
*The Miami Herald*

Nancy Ancrum is the co-founder of Curated Dining ([www.curateddining.com](http://www.curateddining.com)) and the co-host of “Join Us at the Table,” a weekly conversation about food and the people who create it. Ms. Ancrum is a member of Slow Food and the American Institute of Wine and Food. Her philosophy: “The more we know about the foods we eat, the more we know about ourselves and each other.” In addition to writing a biweekly column for *The Miami Herald's* Food & Dining section

about the culinary legacy of the African diaspora, she is a member of the newspaper's Editorial Board.

**12:45-2:00    Session 3**

## **Providing Healthy Food for Lower Income Populations: Issues of Nutritional Equity**

**Scott Lewis, Ph.D. (Moderator)**

**Field Botanist**

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

Dr. Scott Lewis has recently taken a position as a field botanist at Fairchild to assist in the Corridor project, to help establish corridors between the rapidly disappearing Pine rockland natural areas in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Lewis also adjuncts at FAU as an instructor in Environmental Education. He recently completed a post-doc in Science Education at the University of Miami, working on the NSF funded Promoting Science among English Language Learners (P-SELL) project. Dr. Lewis has worked in the science education field with pre- and in-service teachers for a number of years and has a particular interest in the intersection of culture and cognition. Dr. Lewis has also become interested in food issues in recent years, including school gardening, and is a Slow Food and CSA member.

**Linda Parker, D.Sc.**

**School of Nursing and Health Studies**

**University of Miami**

Dr. Linda Parker has been an Assistant Professor in nutrition at the School of Nursing and Health Studies since 1998. She received her Doctor of Science Degree in Nutrition from Harvard School of Public Health. She is Co-Investigator of the 10 year Women's Health Initiative Research Study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health which focuses on health issues of older women. Her current area of practice and research focuses on nutritional assessment and counseling of low income women with AIDS/HIV disease in South Florida.

**Janisse Rosario**

**Program Officer and Senior Research Analyst**

**Health Foundation of South Florida**

Janisse Rosario, MPH, is a Program Officer and Senior Research Analyst for Health Foundation of South Florida, a grantmaking organization that aims at increasing access to health care and promoting healthy lifestyles among the underserved and uninsured in the South Florida region. Ms. Rosario earned a Master's in Public Health from Florida International University where she worked



for 3 years as project coordinator for the Partnership Against Lead project, a 5 year grant aimed at identifying children with high blood lead levels and educating families on preventive strategies. She has been at the Foundation for approximately 4 years where she is responsible for assisting with program development, monitoring, and evaluation, in particular health promotion programs. In addition, Ms. Rosario is actively involved in the identification of public policy strategies to further the Foundation's goals of increasing access to health care and improving health status among the underserved and uninsured populations. She is currently completing a Doctorate Degree in Public Health at Florida International University with a specialization in health promotion.

**Judith Gatti**  
**Executive Director, Daily Bread Food Bank**

Judith Gatti serves as Executive Director of Daily Bread Food Bank, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide food and grocery items to other not-for-profit organizations serving those in need; and to engage and education our community on issues of hunger and poverty. DBFB is the South Florida affiliate of America's Second Harvest, a member of the Florida Association of Food Banks and the largest food bank in the State of Florida. Currently, operating 4 distribution warehouses and a reclamation center, DBFB employees 80 people and distributes 18 million lbs. of food annually through a network of approximately 700 not-for-profit organizations.

**2:00-2:10**      **Break**

**2:10-3:25**      **Session 4**

**Balancing Continued Development with Food Production  
in South Florida**

**Len Berry, Ph.D. (Moderator)**  
**Center for Environmental Studies**  
**Florida Atlantic University**

Leonard Berry earned his Doctorate from the University of Bristol, England, with studies focusing on East and South Asia tropical environment. Twelve years residence in Eastern Africa at various university positions drew him toward an interest in natural resource management, rural development applied problems and regional planning problems. At Clark University in Massachusetts, in 1970 he served as Professor of Geography, Graduate School of Geography Director and Provost before leaving Clark for Florida Atlantic University in 1987. In 1994 he was appointed Director of the Florida Center for Environmental Studies (CES) a state-wide center of the Florida State University System which focuses on critical environmental management issues of the state and of tropical, subtropical

ecosystems worldwide. Dr. Berry has authored/edited 26 books, more than 250 professional papers and reports and has been consultant for many environmental development agencies.

**Katy Sorenson**  
**Miami Dade County Commissioner**

Commissioner Katy Sorenson, representing District 8 since 1994, has been an outspoken advocate for her community and all of Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Sorenson has worked diligently to enhance the quality of life for South Miami-Dade through wise economic and growth management policies, crime prevention initiatives, and protection of the region's environmental resources. She has also been a staunch advocate for human rights, a champion of regional cooperation, a leader in child welfare issues, and a promoter of the arts. Commissioner Sorenson was the Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners from 2002 through 2004 and currently serves on the Budget & Finance Committee, Transit Committee, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee, State Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, and is Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Human Services Committee. In 2004, she was selected to attend Harvard University's Senior Executive Program in State and Local Government. Commissioner Sorenson also serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of Counties, is the County Commission's representative on the Tri-County Commission Task Force on Health, Medicaid and Indigent Care and is a member of the Criminal Justice Council. Commissioner Sorenson served on the South Florida Regional Planning Council from 1994 to 2006, served as Secretary of the organization and was elected Treasurer in 2006.

**Alan Farago**  
**Columnist**  
*Orlando Sentinel*

Alan Farago is a writer and consultant on environmental issues. His opinion columns appear in the *Orlando Sentinel* and on the website, Counterpunch.com. He was a founder of the campaign to "hold the line" on the movement of the Urban Development Boundary in Miami-Dade and lead the successful, multi-year campaign to halt the conversion of the Homestead Air Force Base into a major commercial airport wedged between the Everglades and Biscayne National Park. He has received numerous awards from South Florida environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club where he served as a board member of the national foundation, as volunteer chair of the local group and of state committees charged with chapter policy on suburban sprawl and the Everglades. In 2002 he received the John Kabler Award from the Everglades Coalition for his work. He is currently a board member of Friends of the Everglades and serves on the Miami Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force. He was educated at Yale University with a degree in Chinese Studies, and at Columbia University where he earned a MFA.

**3:25-3:30      Adjourn**