



# 2022 Charlotte County Water Quality Summit

9 a.m. – 12 p.m., March 7, 2022

**Charlotte Harbor Event  
& Conference Center**  
75 Taylor St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950



## AGENDA

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Bill Truex, Charlotte County

**Session 1:** What We're Learning- Agency Research and Activities

- Earth Systems Modeling and Analyses to Identify Water Quality Drivers and Forecast Future Conditions in the Greater Charlotte Harbor Watershed- Dr. Christine Angelini, University of Florida Center for Coastal Solutions
- Advances in harmful algal bloom tracking, prediction and communication services- Betty Staugler, FL Sea Grant/ NOAA HAB Liaison
- Florida Gulf Coast University Water School Overview and Mission- Dr. Michael Parsons, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Moderated Questions and Answers with the Community

**Session 2:** What We're Doing- Present and Future County Initiatives

- Water Quality Enhancement Projects and Continued Research Into Onsite Treatment and Disposal System Impacts in Charlotte County- Charlotte County Utilities and Dr. Matt Reeves, Western Michigan University
- Water Quality Monitoring and Planning Updates- Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager
- Collaborative Juvenile Sportfish Habitat Conservation- Corey Anderson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Moderated Questions and Answers with the Community

**Session 3:** How You Can Help- Citizen Opportunities for Action

- Protecting Water Quality: Educational Opportunities for Homeowners, Communities, and Professionals- Don Rainey, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Charlotte County Extension

- Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network (CHEVWQMN) Program- Mindy Brown, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves
- Working Together to Protect Our Water, Wildlife, and Future- Jennifer Hecker and Nicole Iadevaia, Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)
- Moderated Questions and Answers with the Community

## **Thanks and Adjournment**

## Presenter Information

**Dr. Christine Angelini, Center for Coastal Solutions-** Dr. Angelini is the Director of the Center for Coastal Solutions and an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida. Angelini received her bachelor's in science in Marine Biology from Brown University and her PhD in Biology from the University of Florida. Angelini is an experimental community ecologist and her research focuses resolving how and why coastal ecosystems, including salt marshes, oyster reefs, and coastal dunes are changing and applying this knowledge to the design of ecosystem restoration. Angelini is the author of nearly 70 peer-reviewed publications, and was the recipient of an NSF Career Award, National Academy of Sciences Gulf Coastal Early Career Award, and Coastal and Estuarine Research Foundations' Early Career Award.

**Betty Staugler, M.S., University of Florida Sea Grant-** Betty Staugler is the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Liaison, a federal/state partnership position between NOAA's Sea Grant, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and CoastWatch programs. As the Harmful Algal Bloom Liaison, her work focuses on mitigating harmful algal blooms nationwide by helping to expand and improve forecasting tools through stakeholder collaboration and engagement. Located in Florida, Staugler serves as a Harmful Algal Bloom extension specialist for Florida Sea Grant at the University of Florida. Prior to her role as liaison, Staugler was a Florida Sea Grant Agent in Charlotte County, Florida, where her work involved developing comprehensive marine and natural resource educational programs that focused on sustainable coastal communities and habitat/water quality issues. Betty holds an MS in Environmental Science with an emphasis on coastal disturbance ecology from Florida Gulf Coast University.

**Dr. Michael Parsons, Florida Gulf Coast University-** Michael Parsons is a Professor of marine science in the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University and Director of FGCU's Vester Field Station. In addition to his teaching duties focused on marine ecology, Parsons has built a successful research career, receiving over \$20 million of extramural funding to study harmful algal blooms and ecosystem health. His work has been cited over 3,000 times in the scientific literature, demonstrating the quality of his work. In addition to working with other researchers around the state to find solutions to our algal bloom problems, he was appointed to the Blue-Green Algae Task Force by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019 to work to reduce the impacts of harmful algae in our region.

**Corey Anderson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-** Corey Anderson is an Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Biologist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He plans, manages, and monitors fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects in Southwest Florida. Corey has previous experience with water quality monitoring in Florida, and aquatic conservation in the southeast and western U.S. He holds a B.S. in Fisheries Biology from California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, and a M.S. of Coastal Sciences from the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

**Don Rainey, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)-** Don Rainey is a University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Regional Specialized Agent responsible for disseminating researched-based information. Don provides training and program support to cities and counties in implementing water protection education and awareness programs to address urban water quality and conservation efforts. His audiences include the general public, the professional landscape maintenance industry, sports field managers, builders/developers,

pest control operators, and government leaders and staff. Today, Don is to speak on the various water protection programs from UF/IFAS Extension and Charlotte County Extension.

**Melynda Brown, Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves-** Melynda Brown works for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (CHAP) office in Punta Gorda. She started at this office in 2004 as the volunteer water quality monitoring program coordinator and is currently the CHAP Manager overseeing multiple monitoring programs and projects throughout the five aquatic preserves. Mindy has a degree from the University at Buffalo, and continues to learn from various partners who help protect and restore our local estuaries.

**Jennifer Hecker, Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership-** Jennifer Hecker is the Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), working to bring together diverse stakeholders and local, state and federal governments to restore and protect water and wildlife habitat in the CHNEP area in Central and Southwest Florida. She presently serves as a Science Advisory Committee member on South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, as well as is the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Prior to joining CHNEP, Jennifer was the Director of Natural Resource Policy for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for approximately 13 years, an environmental scientist working for the government and private sectors, and served on numerous boards including the national Great Waters Coalition, Everglades Coalition, and the Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition. Jennifer's undergraduate work was in Environmental Studies, and graduate in Tropical Biology and Conservation.

**Nicole Iadevaia, Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership-** Nicole Iadevaia currently serves as the Research & Outreach Manager of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP). Nicole oversees the CHNEP's work in science communications, public outreach and engagement as well as research and restoration project management on projects that restore and protect water resources and habitat in Central and Southwest Florida. She has a background in research science, environmental communication and policy, water quality and fisheries monitoring, as well as stormwater management.