



## Accredited Professionals Update



The Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> (FWS) Accredited Professional (AP) program continues to grow and is considered a very credible landscape industry certification throughout Florida. Thank you for being a part of its success in creating water-efficient landscapes!

As the program grows, FWS and the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) are reaching out to you, our APs, about a few program benefits and requirements to help you make the most of your professional designation. Based on recent inquiries, here is information about adding your name to the FWS website, using the FWS-AP logo and, most importantly, maintaining your accreditation.

### A Successful 2016

There were six FWS-AP training classes in 2016 with 147 eager landscape and irrigation professionals in attendance. In addition, FWS Certifiers were encouraged to attend an AP class to learn about designing and installing FWS landscapes. FWS's partnership with FNGLA continues to contribute to successful trainings throughout our state. Since the first workshop in 2010 at FNGLA's Landscape Show, nearly 30 workshops across Florida have been held with over 700 attendees and 325 becoming FWS-APs.



## The FWS AP Web List

Once you pass your AP exam, you can have your name added to the FWS website list where potential customers, including builders and homeowners, can contact you. Take a look at those who are already listed: <http://floridawaterstar.com/professionals.html>

Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> Accredited Landscape Professionals

Name	Company	Service Area
Ann Berendzen	<a href="#">Design by the Yard, LLC</a>	Central Florida
Chris Boehmer	<a href="#">Foster Conant</a>	Central Florida
Rhonda Colon	Plantscape Designs <a href="mailto:Rhonda.colon@yahoo.com">Rhonda.colon@yahoo.com</a>	Central Florida
Edward Crowley	<a href="#">Sustainable Design and Consulting</a>	Central Florida
Benjamin Ellis	<a href="#">Littlejohn</a>	Central Florida
Sandra Harrison	Fernview Farm, Inc. <a href="mailto:fernviewnursery@aol.com">fernviewnursery@aol.com</a>	Central Florida
Phillip Hisey	<a href="#">On Top of the World</a>	Central Florida
Marie Magrath	The Designing Gardeners, Inc. <a href="mailto:mariemagrath@gmail.com">mariemagrath@gmail.com</a>	Central Florida
Kristin Pategas	<a href="#">Hortus Oasis</a>	Central Florida
Stephen Pategas	<a href="#">Hortus Oasis</a>	Central Florida
Andrew Riley	<a href="#">John Madison Landscape</a>	Central Florida
Diane Sappington	A Landscape Vision <a href="mailto:landscapev@aol.com">landscapev@aol.com</a>	Central Florida
Denise F. Smith	<a href="#">Evergreen Consulting</a>	Central Florida

To be included, simply email Deirdre Irwin at [dirwin@sjrwmd.com](mailto:dirwin@sjrwmd.com). Be sure to include your name, company name, the region of Florida where you provide service and a link to contact you – usually this is your company website or email. If you are already listed on the website but your information has changed, be sure to contact Deirdre.

## Using the FWS-AP Logo



The FWS-AP logo is available for promotional purposes to all APs who have passed either one or both exams. To receive a copy of the FWS-AP logo for your use, email Deirdre at [dirwin@sjrwmd.com](mailto:dirwin@sjrwmd.com) for the relevant licensing agreement (landscape and/or irrigation), then sign and [return](#) the document. Once it's received, you will be emailed the logo and instructions for use. It's that easy and, you've earned the right to trumpet your FWS-AP success!

## Maintaining Your FWS-AP Accreditation

Page 7 of the AP Candidate Handbook outlines the requirements for maintaining

accreditation. It is located on the AP page of the FWS website:  
[http://floridawaterstar.com/pdfs/FWS\\_Candidate\\_Handbook.pdf](http://floridawaterstar.com/pdfs/FWS_Candidate_Handbook.pdf)

Remember: every **three** years you must submit proof of 15 continuing education credits (CEUs) to FNGLA's Director of Industry Certifications, Merry Mott, at [mmott@fn gla.org](mailto:mmott@fn gla.org). CEUs are available everywhere, whether at industry trade shows, educational programs or another Florida Water Star program. You earn 1 CEU for each hour of instruction, up to 4 in a day.

2017 promises to be another successful year for FWS and the AP program. In fact, we have two programs this spring – March 22<sup>nd</sup> in St. Petersburg and May 24<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Lauderdale.

Let us know if we can help you in any way or if you have questions about FWS or the AP program. To learn more about upcoming classes for co-workers and friends look on the FWS training page: <http://floridawaterstar.com/trainingandworkshops.html>

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