Ditchmen Online Magazine

December 2014

Issue 65

Image by **Douglas J. Eng**

San Marco Blvd Streetscape Improvements. Shown in picture is the traffic loop at the intersection of San Marco Blvd and Naldo Ave. adjacent to Balis Park. Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors reconstructed San Marco Boulevard from Naldo Ave. to Prudential Blvd. which included roadway reconstruction, signal improvement, landscape, hardscape, irrigation, sidewalk, street lighting and uplighting, drainage reconstruction, and utility improvements. Also included in the project was streetscape improvement along Gary Street from San Marco Blvd to Palm Ave.

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Contents

Cover	. 1
List of Members	.2
Contents & Advertisers	
President's Message	.4
Capitol Chatter	.5
Speaker Steve Crisafulli	.7
Email Address Notice	
Did you know?	.7
NUCA Plaque	.7
George Moraitis	.9
Looking Ahead to the 2015 Legislative	
Session	10
DBPR Executive Summary	11
2014 Sporting Clay Sponsors	12
NUCA of North Florida Calendar of Event	ts
	14
NUCA of Southwest Florida Calendar of	
Events	14
SUCA Calendar of Events	14
UCA of South Florida Calendar of Events	
Florida Building Code Update	14

DEP Commits \$4.75 Million to Northv	vest
Florida Water Projects	16
🖒 Featured Sponsor: Beard Equipm	ent
Co	18
Contractor Night	19
🗘 Featured Contractor: TB Landmai	rk .20
SUCA Installation Banquet	21
811 Safety Day	23
State Regulatory Agency, Local Law	
Enforcement 'Sting' Unlicensed	
Contractors in Miami Gardens	25
2014 -2016 Committee and	
Appropriations Subcommittee Ch	airs
	25
2015 ASJMSF Fishing Tournament	
Announcement	28
2015 ASJMSF Fishing Tournament	
Registration Form	29
PAC Donation Form.	
We Need Cover Photos!	

Advertisers

BlueBook	8
Business Card Ads	. 13
Efficiency Shoring & Supply	6
GrayRobinson Flyer	. 27
HD Supply & Waterworks	. 15
Mabey Bridge & Shore	8
R. H. Moore & Assoc	. 24
Sunshine 811	. 22
Гhompson Pump	. 24
Irench Shoring Services	. 30

President's Message



Perspective

For some reason known only to Him, God made the world unfair. You don't have to be very bright to observe that fairness is not natural in our world. Ugly, ill-tempered animals eat cute, nice ones; smog will kill us, but it produces breathtaking, lovely sunsets; some people are born in Greenland, while perverts get to produce TV shows.

What makes it so confusing is, in order to make life fair for one person; God must make it unfair for someone else. At the same moment a farmer is praying for rain to water his watermelons, his contractor brother-in law is praying it will be sunny and dry while he sinks a wet well; a sea bass is fleeing for his life from a barracuda who will starve to death if he doesn't get something to eat; my office sometimes hides a cell phone in my golf bag so they can reach me when I should be suffering through another meeting.

Yet, even though life clearly isn't supposed to be fair, we normal people are determined to make it so. We clump into different groups, which promise to make everything fairer for us than it is for rich people. We elect politicians who promise to suspend the laws of nature. We buy diet products so we will look like the people on the advertisements who have sym-

metrical eyes, long legs and clear skin.

Like a herd of whitetail deer in heat with over programmed imprinting tendencies on our frontal lobes, most of us will follow anybody who promises to make our life fairer just as long as someone else is paying and it doesn't require any effort on our part. A wise construction attorney once observed that if the politicians in Washington were to succeed in making life fair, they would be out of a job. So, in addition to the laws of nature, we also have this fact to insure that the clowns will never be the ones to make life fair either.

So, if your feely picked on, let's be honest, judging by the decibel level of our whining out there, there must be millions of us, I have an old fashion remedy: PERSPECTIVE. For times when you are made extra aware that life isn't fair, here are some poor creatures that are probably even more wretched than you... at least I hope so.

Wolves' only friends are environmentalists and taxidermists.

A fruit fly's entire life cycle is over in 48 hours. What great things could YOU accomplish on that schedule?

Work, effort and nasty food are all required if a person is to stay in shape.

People often show their love for a beloved pet by having him neutered.

Generally, the worse the job, the lower the pay, and vice-versa.

And according to my kids if life were fair, they would get the worst zits they ever grew while on Christmas break instead of on picture day in school.

Yours Truly,

Lauren C. Atwell



Capitol Chatter

by Kari Hebrank, Wilson & Associates

- Florida's minimum wage will raise \$0.12 to \$8.05 an hour effective Jan. 1, 2015.
- On December 4, 2014, the Florida Supreme Court issued an order in one of the three workers' compensation challenges before it, Morales v. Zenith. In summary, the Court ruled that the law's mechanism of exclusive remedy when injured workers settle their workers' compensation cases bars their further recovery in tort actions against their employer. This is a positive ruling for Florida's business community. Many thanks to Associated Industries of Florida which spear-headed the challenge for the business community with creation of a Workers Compensation Coalition in which Wilson & Associates participates.
- With the recent elections over, legislators are gearing up for the first week of committee meetings commencing January 5th. Committee assignments are trickling in as leadership in both chambers move the "players" around the game board –changing committee structure, doling out chairmanships, and assigning office space, with the least favorite assignment being the top floors of the "tower" due to lengthy elevator wait-times.
- Other changes are underway in the "big white building" on the hill, specifically resignations offered by several key agency heads. Recently, Secretary Prasad, Florida Department of Transportation, announced he will leave the job Jan. 2. Under Secretary Prasad, Governor Scott's push to expand parts of Florida's transportation infrastructure resulted in the agency growing from a \$7 billion operation to \$10.1 billion in the current year.
- Likewise, Department of Corrections Secretary Mike Crews and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard will retire from their posts by year's end. The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice are operating under interim secretaries.
- Legislation is beginning to be filed as lobbyists scramble to secure clients and bill sponsors alike. Of interest, Rep. Jared Moskowitz-D, Coral Springs, and Sen. Dorothy Hukill-R, Port Orange, have filed bills to reduce the corporate income tax by increasing the current \$50,000 exemption to \$75,000. The legislation is also a priority for Governor Scott.
- Live in a rural area? Bills have been filed to exempt rural letter carriers from having to "buckle up" with seat belts when delivering the mail in rural regions.



Yesterday we delivered the PAC check to Rep. Reggie Fullwood. In photo from left to right: Tony Zebouni, Mike Woodall, Rep. Fullwood, and Lauren Atwell.

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Speaker Steve Crisafulli

Incoming Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli, R-Merritt Island, listed his legislative priorities for the upcoming session to the Space Coast Tiger Bay Club, according to Florida Today.

Policy priorities include:

- Indian River Lagoon restoration
- Addressing school accountability measures
- Continuing incentives for film and advertising projects
- Funding seaport projects
- Reforming the Florida Retirement System

He also expects the Legislature to take up gambling and medical marijuana.

Email Address Notice

Please note that NUCA of Florida lobbyist Bruce Kershner has changed his email address to rbkershner@att.net. Also note that all email addresses @uucf.com are now inactive.

Did you know?

Florida led the nation in new construction jobs in October, adding 10.4 percent, or 40,100 jobs since the year before, according to the state.



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FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

October 31, 2014

NUCA of Florida Political Action Committee 113 East College Avenue, Suite 200 Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Sir,

As we continue to implement results-oriented solutions to address the challenges Florida faces, I am optimistic about the momentum we are building for job creation and economic expansion.

While we have faced unprecedented challenges, I am proud of the work we are doing in the Legislature. I believe common sense - combined with innovation and hard work - is the best approach for Tallahassee and in our district. I am excited to find my colleagues in the Florida House agree.

Thank you for the generous contribution to my reelection campaign. With Election Day right around the corner, it is vital we run a vigorous, effective effort to fend off those who would take our positive agenda in a different direction.

As always, I appreciate that you have made my campaign a priority. As in all elections, some will want to play politics instead of focusing on sound public policy, so it is critical that we have the resources to defend our record and communicate directly with the people of Florida.

Thank you again for your continued support, input and friendship.

Sincerely, de Moraitis

P.O. BOX 7237 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33338

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Looking Ahead to the 2015 Legislative Session

By R. Bruce Kershner NUCA of Florida Director of Government Affairs

Lawmakers returned to Tallahassee on November 18, 2014 to swear in new members and elect legislative leaders for the 2014-2016 legislative term. The Organizational Session signals the kick off for Senate President Andy Gardiner and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, two central Florida legislators, who will guide their respective chambers for the next two years.

The largely ceremonial session did provide some insight on some of the public policies that will be debated in the upcoming Legislative Session. One item discussed was voter approval of Amendment 1 which sets aside money for conservation, an issue legislators will confront when they begin work after the holidays.

"The challenge of Amendment 1 is not spending more on the environment," Senate President Andy Gardiner said. "It is the impact of Amendment 1 on other areas."

The amendment requires a third of the money from documentary stamp revenue collected on real estate sales to be set aside for conservation spending. That means less money for other areas, like transportation, economic development and low-income housing.

The House did take a vote during its organizational session that will affect residence living in House District 64, which includes parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. There was confusion around the seat after a judge delayed the primary between James Grant and Miriam Steinberg until November. Earlier in the year, a judge had ruled that a write-in candidate in the race was ineligible because he didn't live in the district. However, an appeals court last month ruled that the write-in candidate should have remained eligible.

The conflict caused the House to not accept incumbent James Grant's victory in House District 64 and sets the stage for a special election. Governor Rick Scott has issued an executive order scheduling a February 10 special primary, followed by an April 21 special election. This means those residences living in House District 64 will not have representation in Tallahassee for most of the 2015 Legislative Session.

Some of the construction and business issues looming large during the 2015 Legislative Session include changes to the lien law, water-related policies certain to impact stormwater rules, and building code issues.

The following is a brief description of some of the issues that NUCA of Florida will be tracking.

Changes to Florida's Lien Law: The impending initiative by Representative Richard Corcoran to eliminate non-privity liens on residential homestead properties continues to be a hot button issue for the construction industry. I have had several meetings with Representative Corcoran on this looming issue which will undoubtedly have an effect on how the construction industry conducts business in the future should the Representative be successful with his proposal.

In a recent meeting, Representative Corcoran agreed that, where a lender is involved, the lender should assume full responsibility for making proper payments and protecting their customer. That still leaves projects without lenders as a point of contention.

- Geographic Bid Preference (Fair Competition): Proponents are preparing to file legislation which would preempted local ordinances that give a preference to companies who have a local place of business or hire a specified number of local employees. It will be very similar to the bill filed last year which died in committee.
- Notarial Log Mandate: Proponents have indicated that they will bring the issue back in 2015. It is not clear if they will file the bill as originally filed in 2014 or a more narrow form that only addresses real property, wills and trust documents.
- Statute of Repose: Moving from 10 to seven years, the latest in which a party must bring suit for a deficiency in construction or flaws in the materials used during construction, otherwise known as construction defects.
- Workers' Compensation: This could potentially be a large issue depending on court actions. Recently, a Florida circuit court judge ruled that the state's workers' compensation law is unconstitutional because it no longer provides adequate benefits to injured workers giving up their right to sue. An appeal has been filed by the Florida attorney general's office to overturn a ruling.
- Continued funding of the Clean Water/ Wastewater Treatment SRF: The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program provides low-interest loans to fund clean water and water pollution control activities and facilities.
- Continue funding the Unlicensed Activity Program at the Department of Business and professional Regulations (DBPR): For the past two years, the Florida legislature has provided additional funding to DBPR to conduct stings and sweeps in search of unlicensed activity.

I will be providing weekly updates on these and other issue to members of NUCA of Florida during the 2015 legislative Session. If any member has questions relating to this article, please feel free to contact me at (407) 830-1882 or rbkershner@att.net.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Unlicensed Activity Program within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation exists to serve the state of Florida by vigorously examining compliance issues, comprehensively educating consumers about unlicensed activity and thoroughly investigating complaints against unlicensed individuals.

Some of the services most commonly targeted by unlicensed individuals include General Contracting, Veterinary Medicine, and Cosmetology which are under the Department's jurisdiction. Unlicensed Activity threatens the livelihood of law-abiding, state-licensed professionals and creates personal or financial harm to consumers. Awareness and the prosecution of unlicensed activity benefits both consumers and licensees by keeping business straightforward and competitive. Through the endeavors of knowledgeable and conscientious investigative staff and statewide public/private partnerships, the Department's unlicensed activity efforts are protecting Floridians. The Department strives to improve the business environment and compel previously unlicensed individuals to comply with the law.

In accordance with the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act, this annual report on Professional Regulation Unlicensed Activity highlights the unlicensed activity functions performed by the Department during Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The report outlines the expenditures of the Unlicensed Activity Program as well as details the efforts, activities and revenues utilized by the Department's Boards, Council and staff within the Division of Regulation, Division of Real Estate, and Division of Certified Public Accounting respectively in compliance with Section 455.2281, Florida Statutes.

The total appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was \$1,449,175. By Division, each received:

- Division of Regulation received \$849,175;
- Division of Real Estate received \$500,000; and
- Division of Certified Public Accounting received \$100,000.

Each licensee is required by Section 455.2281, Florida Statutes, to pay an unlicensed activity fee to fund efforts to combat unlicensed activity. All licensees pay a \$5 unlicensed activity fee as part of their initial license fee and license renewal fees.

To preserve the integrity of licensed Florida professionals, the Division of Regulation focuses efforts on:

- Proactive education and marketing;
- Efficient complaint process; and
- Enforcement and prosecution, when it is necessary, through regional State Attorney's offices.

Public awareness is an essential tool in combating unlicensed activity. The Department maintains a robust promotional campaign which broadcasts unlicensed activity media information to consumers and licensees concerning the dangers of hiring unlicensed individuals for professional services. Several factors were considered while identifying the targeted professions, including risk potential, numbers of consumers affected, and volume of citizen complaints.

The Department received more than 4,200 unlicensed activity complaints, of which more than 2,600 were found to be legally sufficient and resulted in further investigation. These investigations resulted in nearly 2,100 actions against unlicensed subjects, including the issuance of Notices to Cease and Desist, imposition of Administrative Fines and Final Orders filed by the Department.

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NUCA of North Florida Calendar of Events

December 11	Jax Holiday Bash	
Jan 13	Executive Committee Meeting	
Jan 22	Board of Directors 4:30 pm	
	Installation of Officers 6 pm, River City Brewing	
Feb 10	Executive Committee Meeting	
April 6	NUCANF Golf Tournament St. Johns Golf & Country Club	

NUCA of Southwest Florida Calendar of Events

December 6

Holiday Party & Installation of Officers

SUCA Calendar of Events

January 16	Roundtable The Columbia	
February 12	Tampa Bay Lightning Contractor Night	

UCA of South Florida Calendar of Events

December 11	Annual Holiday Party 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Maggiano's - Boca Raton
January 15	Construction Night at the Panthers 7:30 pm

Florida Building Code Update

January 5, 2015 - Rule Hearing for Rule 61G20-1.001 Florida Building Code Adopted

Draft 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building Code

This is to inform you that the Florida Building Commission will hold a rule hearing January 5, 2015 at 10:00 am via conference call/webinar. The purpose of the hearing is to accept public input regarding the proposed 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building Code. The "Notice of Proposed Rule" and the proposed 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building are available for review via the Commission website, www.floridabuilding.org at the following link. Calling and webinar access information are available from the "Notice of Proposed Rule".

http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/thecode/2013_Code_Development_Process.html

Written comments on the proposed rule will be accepted through December 25, 2014 by 5:00 p.m. or at the hearing. For written comments, please send comments to the following email address:

mo.madani@myfloridalicense.com

Should you have questions, we can be reached at (850) 487-1824.

Thank you!

Building Codes and Standards Office

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DEP Commits \$4.75 Million to Northwest Florida Water Projects



counties.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection announced Monday it will provide \$4.75 million for six water-related projects in northwest Florida.

The projects come as a result of matching local funds, a total of \$7.5 million to be invested in Bay, Liberty, Jackson and Walton County work. The projects will provide upgrades to potable-water, wastewater and stormwater facilities in the four

"These substantial upgrades coming to northwest Florida are essential to ensuring our residents have access to the necessary quantity and quality of water," said DEP Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. in a written statement. "I appreciate the leadership of Governor Scott and the foresight of the Florida Legislature to make these investments."

"The economic and environmental health of northwest Florida communities depends on water quality and adequate supplies of water," Sen. Don Gaetz said. "That's why I appreciate Gov. Scott and my legislative colleagues supporting these important projects that I placed in the state budget."

-- The **city of DeFuniak Springs** in Walton County received \$417,498 to replace deteriorating water lines and water mains that are crucial to the city's water system. The project consists of replacing more than 9,800 linear feet of concrete water main with PVC. This replacement will help conserve water by correcting leaks as well as improve water quality and pressure. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2015.

-- The **city of Marianna** in Jackson County will be able to continue its ongoing water transmission improvement project thanks to a \$665,000 investment. The city recently constructed a new well, elevated storage tank and replaced more than 8,500 linear feet of water main. This funding will go to the creation of a reliable water transmission main connection between the city's two elevated storage tanks. The project also includes 10 new connections to the distribution system, new fire hydrants and the replacement of approximately 3,500 linear feet of water main. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2015.

-- **Liberty County** is currently experiencing a shortage of storage and well capacity. To address this shortage, the department is providing the county \$75,000 to evaluate its current storage tank and well capacity to determine how much additional well capacity can be obtained. The funding will also be used for the design and construction of additional well capacity. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2015.

-- **The city of Mexico Beach** in Bay County received funding for the construction of two new water production wells to supply the city with an alternate water supply in the spirit

of preparedness. The current water supply has to travel a considerable distance to the city and therefore is vulnerable in the case of a natural disaster. This project is valued at \$1,592,309 and is anticipated to be completed in June 2016.

Additionally in **Bay County** are two wastewater projects to increase protection of St. Andrews Bay. One is in Southport and consists of removing septic tanks and connecting 220 residential and small commercial properties to the Bay County Utility Service. The county is providing \$1,220,405 and the department is contributing \$1 million. The second wastewater project is focused on the Bay County Road 388 force main. The project will involve diverting wastewater flow from an old package plant to a Class I regional wastewater treatment and reuse facility. The county is contributing \$1.5 million for this project and DEP is providing an additional \$1 million. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of November 2016. The Southport project is anticipated to be completed by spring 2016.



Beard Equipment Company was founded in 1970 as a John Deere Construction & Forestry Dealer. Over the years, expanding with locations in Mobile, Alabama, Pensacola, Panama City, Freeport, Tallahassee, Perry, Jacksonville, Lake City and Palatka, Florida.

Three generations of the Beard family have operated the business over the last 40 years with the family approach to customers and employees as a key ingredient to our success. The company continues to operate with these values at the core of our philosophy. Today more than 250 hard working employees serve customers across all of our equipment divisions. They are all linked by one common goal: Focusing on our customers and their equipment needs.

Beard Equipment's product lines include John Deere Construction & Forestry, Commercial Worksite Products, Commercial and Consumer Equipment, Golf Equipment, STIHL and many other allied equipment suppliers (some products vary by location).

To support our growing customer base across all the product lines, Beard Equipment has 9 full service locations throughout South Alabama and North Florida. We also offer a extensive selection pre-owned equipment. You can view our pre-owned inventory online at **beardequipment.com** under the PRE-OWNED EQUIPMENT tab.

Beard Equipment is a proud member of the NUCA, NUCA of North Florida, NUCA of Northwest Florida chapter and Alabama Utility Contractors.





Beard Equipment Company 6870 Phillips Highway Jacksonville, FL 32216 (904) 296-5000





THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING INVITE YOU TO Contractor Night



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 Chapter

 nachos station * spring rolls * wings



Please RSVP by February 2nd. This event will sell out! Contact Theresa Mannix at 727.600.7158 or tmannix@suca.org with any questions. ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NONREFUNDABLE





HDD | Water Conveyance | Natural Gas

TB Landmark Construction, Inc. (TBL) is a multi-licensed general and underground utility contractor that has been installing natural gas and water conveyance pipelines throughout the southeastern United States, since 1999. What makes us a unique vendor and business partner is our ability to provide turn-key services. TBL owns and operates a fleet of ten (10) horizontal directional drilling (HDD) machines with pull-back capacities up to 500,000 lbs., in addition to performing trench/excavation work, pipe fusion (HDPE, PVC), welding, cathodic protection and de-watering activities without the use of sub-contractors.

Our experience varies across many types of construction sites from Miami, Florida to Charlotte, NC. These range from military installations like NAS Jacksonville and Mayport Naval Station to municipal work in or outside of DOT right-of-ways, active air and seaports and on industrial projects. We are adept at performing various types of drill shots including sub-aqueous crossings, boring under rail lines, jack & bore under roads, sand, clay and rock bores - while working in environmentally sensitive areas pulling pipe up to 36" in diameter.

Through in-house training programs, our crews stay competent and ahead of the safety curve by completion of OQ tasks administered through MEA for B31Q compliance; as applicable per project type.

TB Landmark is registered with ISNetworld, uses the E-Verify system, carries a \$10M umbrella liability insurance policy and is bondable up to \$40 million for a single project. Lastly, we are registered as a non-disadvantaged small business with the Federal Government under NAICS codes 237110 & 237120 and our CAGE # is 3W3E0. Please visit our website at www.tblandmark.com or contact Dustin White for more information.

Marty Adams General Manager <u>madams@tblandmark.com</u> 904.751.1016 office Dustin White Business Development Manager <u>dwhite@tblandmark.com</u> 813.714.8757 cell

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUCA's Annual Installation Banquet 12.05.2014

7:00 PM DINNER, AWARDS & DANCING Cost: \$80.00 per person or \$600 for table of 8 Location: Glazer Children's Museum



Take damage prevention to the next level with these 3 tools

Positive Response

No marks, no utilities? Not always. Utilities are required to use the Positive Response System, and you're required to check it before digging. Why? To verify if utilities are cleared, marked or not marked, and if you need to provide more information. Enter your ticket and contact numbers online or call (800) 852-8057.*

Safety Matters

Get your damage prevention questions answered in Safety Matters. It's Sunshine 811's one-hour online course. You get real life examples and relevant content to help you make good decisions before putting your shovel in the ground.*

Internet Ticket Entry

- ITE makes it easy to:
 - Create tickets online 24/7
 - Search and manage tickets
 - E-mail or print tickets

 Check positive response Plus, we now offer webinar training for new ITE users. Complete your application today!*

> For more details or to download an ITE application visit www.Sunshine811.com.



Safe digging is no accident. Always call 811 before you dig. Sunshine 811 raises awareness and educates Florida on preventing digging damages to underground utilities. The goal is to make Florida the safest place to dig through a series of five steps that begin with "Call 811 Before You Dig." Learn more at www.Sunshine811.com.

811 Safety Day

Free Safety Day gives you tools to build strong foundations for worker, jobsite safety.

DeBARY, FL (November 15, 2014) — The 811 Safety Day, 2015, promises education, exhibits, networking and compelling stories for public works, excavator, locator and utility employees March 12, 2015 in Orlando – all at no cost.

Why wouldn't you want to attend? Ninety-five percent of those who attended 811 Safety Day in 2013 felt safer on the job because of what they learned in the free sessions and demonstrations. You'll hear about issues facing the industry from both utility owner and contractor perspectives. Check out what else we have in store for you:

- Cliff Meidl, two-time U.S. Olympian kayaker and lunchtime keynote, is a living, breathing testament to what can happen when short cuts trump safety. A horrifying construction accident involving a jackhammer and three electric cables caused cardiac arrest and extensive physical damage, leaving Meidl facing three years of excruciating rehabilitation. Because of this, Meidl is a champion for construction safety and is the spokesperson for One Calls of America, an organization made up of several onecall centers throughout the nation.
- John Phillips, President and CEO of Team Fishel, will discuss the excavation contractor's role in the damage prevention process and the safe excavation practices that must be followed for a successful, damage-free project. Team Fishel is a national utility contractor working for communication, power and natural gas utilities across the country. John joined Team Fishel in 1983 and has been President and CEO since 2001.
- Creating a Safety Culture in the Workplace. Don't miss this popular workshop developed by the United Safety Council and OSHA Alliance. You will examine the current safety culture in your workplace and learn about new tools and safety information to create a positive safety culture.
- "5 Steps to Safe Digging" is a continuing education course approved by the Construction Industry Licensing Board for one CEU toward a contractor's license or Florida Water and Pollution Control Operator's Association certificate. Take part in this interactive session to learn how you can help prevent damages to underground utility lines, pipes and cables.
- Video sessions with Q&A follow-up:
 - DVD Locating Safely: Avoiding Hazards: Featuring top ten hazards locators face, featuring insight and commentary by NULCA President Christopher Koch, a seventeen year locating veteran.
 - DVD Locating Best Practices
 - DVD Basic Locating Theory: Locating explained in layman's terms.
 - DVD Basic Locating Skills: Practical tips for basic troubleshooting and recognizing signal distortion.
 - DVD Damage Investigation Field Investigation Techniques: Conducting thorough investigations and properly documenting damages using proven photographic, interview, and investigative procedures.
- Pipeline education. Learn how to work around pipelines and prevent right-of-way encroachment, recognize and respond to gas leaks, recognize high consequence areas, and identify products, hazards and characteristics.
- 100-plus exhibitors featuring the latest advances in safe digging equipment and technology.
- Sunshine 811 Stakeholder Roundtable. Offering you a chance to discuss and work through issues common to you. Prepare to be part of the solution!
- Register TODAY
 - Remember it's all free! It doesn't matter what company you work for or what your job title is, this event will help you create the safe working environment you deserve. Register early at www.811safetyday.com to guarantee your spot.
 - Sign up for Safety Day updates at http://811safetyday.com/event_updates.php
- Safety Day is run in conjunction with the Common Ground Alliance's Excavation Safety Conference.

Best Management Practices Erosion and pollution control practices employed during construction to protect surface waters and wetlands from construction activities





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THOMPSON

State Regulatory Agency, Local Law Enforcement 'Sting' Unlicensed

Contractors in Miami Gardens

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) participated in a multi-agency undercover sting operation on November 20-21 targeting unlicensed contractors in the Miami Gardens area. Investigators identified 14 unlicensed contractors who were allegedly offering estimates for contracting services which require a Florida license. The operation was part of ongoing local and statewide efforts to protect and educate Florida's consumers on the dangers of doing business with unlicensed individuals.

The sting targeted unlicensed individuals who provided bids for home repairs such as plumbing, roofing and electrical work, all of which require a license for the scope of work offered. The following individuals were issued \$2,500 citations due to a previously issued Notice to Cease and Desist:

- ▶ Johnnie Vasquez, Jr., 53, of Hollywood, d/b/a Higher Power Electric Services
- Ricardo Hernandez, 54, of Palmetto Springs, d/b/a Quality Design and Finish Carpentry
- Pedro Jose Pulgar, 64, of Miami, d/b/a Rick Corp.
- Uriah Manning, Jr., 56, of Port St. Lucie, d/b/a Universal.

The following individuals were issued Notices to Cease and Desist:

- Eduardo M. Ramirez Gaston, 50, of Miami, d/b/a Mayfair Home Services
- Dan Green, Jr., 57, of Miami Gardens, d/b/a Dan's Appliances
- Rafael Lamboy, 34, of Miami, d/b/a Rafael's Service & Repair
- Ricardo Reyes Garcia, 48, of Homestead
- Donnie Dean Hasebroock, 52, of Homestead
- Jeffer Bordan Anton, 32, of Miami, d/b/a D&J Remodeling and Tiles
- Pablo German Ramos, 46, of Hallandale, d/b/a PR USA, Inc.
- Enrique M. Garcia, 42, of Miami, d/b/a Florida Marble & Construction Corp.
- Elba Valdes, 66, of Miami, d/b/a Florida Marble & Construction Corp.
- ▶ Jose Francisco Musso, 54, of Doral, d/b/a JBM Remodeling LLC.

Each individual was charged with violations of Chapters 489.127(1)(f) and 489.531(1)(a) F.S., advertising to perform contracting services which require a license and practicing contracting without a license. They were also arrested by Miami Gardens Police Department and issued Promises to Appear.

Unlicensed activity occurs when an individual offers to perform or performs services that require a state license and the individual does not hold the required license. Florida law sets specific rules and guidelines for obtaining professional licensure, and the people who have met these requirements are held to professional standards. Consumers can verify professional licenses with the DBPR online at www.myfloridalicense.com, by calling (850) 487-1395, or by downloading the free DBPR Mobile app through iTunes or the Google Play store.

Unlicensed activity is against the law and can result in misdemeanor or felony charges if an individual is convicted. Floridians are asked to report any suspected unlicensed activity by email to ULA@myfloridalicense.com, or calling the Unlicensed Activity Hotline at 1 (866) 532-1440.

2014 -2016 Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs

- Appropriations
 - Representative Richard Corcoran (R-Land O' Lakes)
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula)

- Education Appropriations Subcommittee Representative Erik Fresen (R-Miami)
- Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Representative Jeanette Nuñez (R-Miami)
- Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee Representative Matt Hudson (R-Naples)
- Justice Appropriations Subcommittee Representative Larry Metz (R-Yalaha)
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- Economic Affairs Committee
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- Health & Human Services Committee Representative Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford)
- Judiciary Committee
 Representative Charles McBurney (R-Jacksonville)
- Local & Federal Affairs Committee Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala)
- Regulatory Affairs Committee
 Representative Jose Diaz (R-Miami-Dade County)
- Rules, Calendar & Ethics Committee
 Representative Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne)
- State Affairs Committee
 Representative Matthew Caldwell (R-North Fort Myers)

SAVE THE DATE!

NUCA of Florida's 2015 Annual Conference Renaissance Vinoy

St. Petersburg, Florida July 30 - August 1, 2015



Stay up-to-date on the conference theme, room block information, and registration details by checking the website and future Ditchmen issues!

If you are interested in joining the Conference Committee please contact Kari Hebrank at khebrank@wilsonmgmt.com or Sydney Phillips at sphillips@wilsonmgmt.com.

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GrayRobinson, a full-service corporate law firm with nearly 300 attorneys throughout 12 offices across Florida, provides legal services for underground utility contractors, material and equipment suppliers, and manufacturers. Our ties to NUCA of Florida date back more than 25 years and we are proud to serve as General Counsel to the NUCA of Florida. We understand the daily issues facing your business, and we offer breadth across a great many legal specialties, as well as depth and proficiency. Our attorneys are on the forefront of emerging legal issues and work expeditiously on behalf of our clients and respond quickly to their needs. We have invented a better brand of law firm that best serves our clients and our communities while counting creativity as a hallmark characteristic and

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NUCA of Florida/Andrew Scott Johnson

Memorial Scholarship Foundation

15th Annual Bass Fishing Tournament



February 19-21, 2015

Big Toho Marina * Kissimmee, Florida

New this year— anglers will have the option of choosing a guided boat or going it alone! Prizes will be awarded in both categories.

Check out sponsorship opportunities on the following page.

Stay tuned for lodging accommodations.

Join ASJMSF Tournament Chair Clark Cryer and the newly-formed Fishing Committee to help make this year's event the best ever! Contact Sydney at sphillips@wilsonmgmt.com or Kari at khebrank@wilsonmgmt.com to get "hooked" into the action.



NUCA of Florida/ Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation 15th Annual Bass Fishing Tournament February 19-21, 2015 Big Toho Marina- Kissimmee, Florida Sponsor Registration Form

The NUCA of Florida/ Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Foundation's Bass Fishing Tournament was organized to help raise funds for the scholarship foundation. Sponsorships are very important to the tournament's success. Please consider one of the following sponsorships.

□ Platinum: \$2,500

Your company logo will be on the trophies and tournament t-shirts. You will also receive an embroidered jacket, a t-shirt and hat, and three complimentary angler registrations.

□ Trophy Sponsor: \$1,500

Your company logo will be on the trophies and tournament t-shirts. You will also receive an embroidered jacket, a t-shirt and hat, and two complimentary angler registrations.

□ Weigh-in Sponsor: \$1,000

Your company logo will be on the tournament t-shirts. You will also receive an embroidered jacket, a t-shirt and hat, and two complimentary angler registrations.

□ Captain's Meeting Sponsor: \$1,000

Your company logo will be on the tournament t-shirts and a sign at the Captain's Meeting. You will receive a t-shirt and hat.

□ Angler Dinner Sponsor: \$1,000

Your company logo will be on the tournament t-shirts and a sign at the Angler Dinner. You will receive a t-shirt and hat.

□ Major Sponsor: \$500

The company banner will be on display at the marina on Friday and Saturday. Your company logo will be on the tournament t-shirts. You will receive a t-shirt and hat.

General Sponsor: \$200

The company name will be on a banner with other General Sponsors at the marina on Friday and Saturday. Your company logo will be on the tournament t-shirts. You will receive a t-shirt and hat.

_____ I would like to donate a door prize. My company will donate: ______

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We Need Cover Photos!

Submit a Cover Image

