

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

March 2013

### Regional Leadership Academy Class Meets in Palatka

The Regional Leadership Academy's (RLA) Class of 2013 held their third program day on March 13th in Palatka. The day started with an overview of Ride Solution's innovative public transit system, including a presentation from Ride Solution's CEO, Boyd Thompson, on the design and construction of the Brevi Bus. The class was then transported from Ride Solution's office at the Train Museum to the Riverfront Park area of Palatka. Palatka city employees Thad Crowe (RLA Class of '13 member) and Jonathan Griffith then provided the class with a site visit of the Palatka Riverfront Park and explained the plans that the City has for continuing the redevelopment of this area of the City. The class then was provided a tour of the Ravine Gardens State Park. The field trip ended with a trip to the Palatka WaterWorks, the original water works for the City, where efforts to provide for natural food gardens and other education and conservation efforts were discussed.

The afternoon session kicked off with a presentation by Brad Thoburn, Vice President of Long Range Planning, Capital Programs and System Development, JTA (and RLA Class of '13 member) addressing regional issues in transportation and the multiple modal options that are being studied by JTA. Natural resource issues were addressed by Sarah Owen Gledhill, Planning Advocate, Florida Wildlife Federation, (and RLA Class of '10 graduate) and Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. Ms. Gledhill discussed the issues facing Northeast Florida as growth continues and ways in which growth can be planned while maintaining the natural resources in the region. Ms. Rinaman provided insight on the role of the Riverkeeper in protecting the most important natural resource in Northeast Florida, the St. Johns River. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org).



Ravine Gardens State Park



Ride Solutions Brevi Bus



WaterWorks



Above & to the right, the Palatka Train Museum



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

## Clay Back to Basics

The Northeast Florida Regional Council, in conjunction with Clay County Emergency Management, conducted a Disaster Preparedness Exercise on March 13th at the Clay County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The intent of this exercise was to provide information on various disaster related topics, and to identify gaps in training or resources that should be addressed to allow the county to function more efficiently in a real disaster event.

Nearly 70 people attended the full day event which covered subjects such as the Role of Key Leadership in a Disaster, Available Technology in a Disaster, FEMA Reimbursement, EOC Activation/Operation during a Disaster, and Incident Action Plans and Situation Reports. Several prominent speakers also addressed the group throughout the day. Mike DeLorenzo, Deputy Director of Florida DEM provided the morning Keynote Address, followed by Mike Buresh of Action News as the closing Keynote Speaker. For more information, contact Beth Payne at [bpayne@nefrc.org](mailto:bpayne@nefrc.org).



## NEFRC Staff Engages in Sea Level Rise Discussion

NEFRC staffer, Margo Moehring, participated in a Florida Planning and Zoning Association presentation on Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning in Northeast Florida on March 8, 2013. She was joined by Dr. Katherine Frank of the University of Florida and Emily Montgomery of the GTM NERR. Dr. Frank discussed the statewide perspective, Ms. Moehring discussed the regional efforts being undertaken by the Regional Community Institute, and Ms. Montgomery discussed the study currently underway related to the Matanzas Basin, in Flagler and St. Johns Counties. For more information, contact Ms. Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## Regional Update given to Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition

At the request of former NEFRC Board member Dr. Mary Kohnke, Margo Moehring presented to the Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition on March 25, 2013. Margo provided an overview of the visioning and regional plan update process. There was great interest in and discussion on the Regional Community Institute's work on sea level rise, and Margo may be invited back to keep the group apprised of progress on that project. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## St Johns Easter Outbreak

St. Johns County Emergency Management in partnership with the Florida Department of Health – St. Johns County, held an exercise at the EOC on Thursday, March 21st. This exercise, entitled "Easter Outbreak 2013," focused on a disease outbreak, which required the County to have a mass vaccination of the citizens. This was a tabletop exercise which consisted of two modules of discussion and one breakout module in which participants were tasked with crafting their plans and procedures for the next operational period. The exercise included over 50 representatives from the applicable Emergency Support Functions (ESF) including Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue, Public Information, School District, Health, Red Cross, Medical Examiner's Office, Flagler Hospital and other agencies that would play a role in an outbreak. Emergency Preparedness Staff at the Council designed and facilitated this exercise as part of the County's State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) contract, which the Council has managed for the last several years. For more information, contact Beth Payne at [bpayne@nefrc.org](mailto:bpayne@nefrc.org).



## Did you know?

The Region's land area covers 4,428 square miles and the population surpasses 1.5 million. Forty-three percent of the Region is dedicated to agriculture, two percent to industry and commercial use, thirteen percent is otherwise urbanized and the remaining forty-two percent is covered by a variety of other uses.

*(Source: Florida Regional Council Assoc., 2011-2012 Annual Report)*