

2024 Florida Groundwater Conference – January 23 & 24, 2024

Presenter Bios (alphabetical order)

Mike Alfieri, PG, Senior Managing Hydrogeologist, Water Science Associates, Tampa, FL



With over 23 years of experience, Mike manages hydrogeological/water resource engineering teams in the evaluation, planning design, permitting and construction of water supply wells, deep injection wells, managed aquifer recharge systems, groundwater flow and transport models, hydrologic and water resource technical reports, data collection and analysis, aquifer performance test design and analysis, and statistical analysis of hydrologic data. He is an established subject matter expert recognized in the U.S. Federal Court and state/county court systems, as well as the Florida Department of Administration Hearings. He is past Chair of the Florida Board of Professional Geologists and Chairman of ASTM Sub-Committee for Well Design, Maintenance & Construction. Mike has managed and completed numerous large and small-scale geologic, hydrogeologic, and karst science project investigations. He earned his M.S. in Geological Science from Binghamton University and B.A. in Geology and Environmental Studies from Alfred University.

Tim Bahr, PG, Director, Division of Waste Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL



Tim has been with FDEP since 1987 after working for EPA Region V in the underground injection control program. With over 36 years with FDEP, Tim has worked in almost all facets of the Division of Waste Management's programs. His career began with FDEP as an environmental specialist in the Petroleum Cleanup program. He was promoted to environmental administrator of the Hazardous Waste (RCRA) program and for eleven years, he supervised, managed and provided guidance for the statewide RCRA permitting, compliance and cleanup program. Later he served as Program Administrator for the Permitting and Compliance Assistance Program, administering all aspects of permitting, compliance and enforcement processes for solid and hazardous waste and storage tanks system programs. Tim now works as Director for the Division of Waste Management, which provides oversight of solid and hazardous waste and petroleum storage system prevention programs and all remediation programs. Tim earned his B.S. degree in Geology at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, his M.S. degree in Geology at University of Akron in Ohio, and is a licensed PG in Florida.

Aurora Bouchier, PG, Lead Hydrogeologist, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL



Aurora has over thirteen years of experience in the hydrogeology field. During her career, her focus has been to work within the resource extraction field to develop in-situ resources, and in the mining field to push the environmental constraints to the forefront of discussions. She has been employed at SFWMD for over two years as a Lead Hydrogeologist. Previously, she was held the position of Senior Hydrogeologist at Oregon Water Resources Department for over six years. Aurora earned her M.S. Degree in Hydrology from the Colorado School of Mines and B.S. Degree in Geology from Fort Lewis College.

Mike Britt, PE, One Water Project Manager, City of Winter Haven, Winter Haven, FL



Mike Britt, One Water Project Manager, City of Winter Haven, is a professional engineer and water resource planner with 35 years of experience managing water in Central Florida. He has an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Georgia Southern University and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Florida State University. Mike was the city of Winter Haven's natural resources director for 25 years and assistant utilities director for seven years before taking his current position as the One Water project manager. Mike's career focus has been the establishment of sustainable water management practices that consider the full value and benefit that water provides.

Geoff Burdick, PE, Southeast Sales & Business Development Engineer, AqueoUs Vets, Huntersville, NC



Geoff recently joined AqueoUs Vets, having previously worked at Underground Solutions for over 7 years. As the Regional Sales Manager at Underground Solutions, he focused on overall marketing responsibilities of the product to municipal water and wastewater utilities, consulting engineers, and contractors, developing technical specifications that support product position and facilitate operational efficiency, bidding projects, negotiating contracts, and assistance with project execution. Geoff earned his Master of Business Administration from Pfeiffer University and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from UNC Charlotte. He is a Professional Engineer in the State of North Carolina.

Olivia Cain, PE, Environmental Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants, Clearwater, FL



Olivia is an Environmental Engineer and licensed, Professional Engineer in the State of Florida. Her practice includes contaminated site assessment, remediation, and litigation support. She supports clients with the characterization and remediation of sites impacted by chlorinated solvents, PCBs, petroleum hydrocarbons, PFAS, and metals. Ms. Cain's PFAS practice includes the characterization and assessment of PFAS sources, including extensive historical document review, identification of potential PFAS sources at and around sites, multi-media sampling, evaluating PFAS fate and transport, and source attribution assessments. She has supported clients at over 20 different PFAS sites, including 15 associated with fire training and/or the use of AFFF. Olivia earned a B.S. in Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

Sara Chudnoff, PG, Program Director/Hydrogeologist, American Ground Water Trust, Pinetop, AZ



Sara recently joined the American Ground Water Trust. She has been working in the water resources and environmental field in New Mexico since the early 2000s. As a consulting scientist, she worked on projects from methane monitoring and reporting to hydrogeologic investigations and well design. In 2009, Sara left her regulatory role with the State and started working with Bernalillo County. In this position, she worked with hundreds of residents monitoring water levels and promoting outreach and education. At the New Mexico Bureau of Geology, she took this model to work on a State-Wide Groundwater Level Monitoring Network. Sara facilitates educational outreach for watershed health with the local school district and provides water resource consulting in New Mexico. She has a B.S. in Geology from New Mexico Tech and a M.S. in Water Resources from the University of New Mexico.

Aaron Collier, PG, Vice President, Collier Consulting, Inc., Stephenville, TX



Aaron is a professionally licensed hydrogeologist with over 17 years of experience in all facets of groundwater management, planning, sourcing, and subsurface investigations. As one of the vice presidents, his primary responsibilities are overseeing the daily operations of the organization and being the primary point of contact for many of the firm's geoscience and engineering projects. Representative projects have included local and regional hydrogeological investigations throughout Texas and Florida, groundwater modeling, borehole and surface geophysical investigations, water resource engineering, and environmental litigation. Aaron is the managerial lead for Collier Consulting's water asset management software product HYDROS, a custom-built cloud-based Software. He received a B.S. in Geology from Tarleton State University and M.S. in Geology from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Stacey Coonts, GIT, Hydrogeologist, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL

Stacey has worked at the SFWMD for over five years. In her present position as a Hydrogeologist, her primary responsibilities include investigating the groundwater and hydrogeology of South Florida through involvement in the Regional Florida Groundwater Monitoring Network, Central Florida Water Initiative, and other projects, performing water quality sampling, aquifer pump tests, and lithologic descriptions, overseeing drilling and geophysical logging, data processing and creating reports, assisting with model development. She is experienced in water quality data analysis, lithologic descriptions, and ArcGIS. Stacey earned her M.S. in Geology from the University of South Florida and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Florida. She is a Certified Geologist in Training.

Rick Cowles, Principal, Sr Hydrogeologist, Stantec, Sarasota, FL



Rick is a senior hydrogeologist with over 28 years of experience in groundwater supply and development. He enjoys the challenges of providing water for people while respecting its role in nature. He currently manages the largest aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well project in the United States. This multi-year project is part of the South Florida Water Management District Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. It includes the design, construction, and testing of 55 ASR wells at seven sites. Combined, these wells will have a total pumping capacity of 275 million gallons per day. The project includes the evaluation of technologies to treat surface water to primary and secondary drinking water standards prior to injection into aquifers, as well as the design and construction of treatment systems. The recovered water will improve water quality and stabilize lake levels during the dry season.

AnnieLu Dewitt, Remediation Technologies Business Development Manager, Clean Harbors Environmental Services, South Portland, ME



AnnieLu is the National Technical and Sales Lead for the Emerging Contaminant and Water Treatment Program for the Clean Harbors Environmental Services Group. She brings her 25 years of experience in the environmental laboratory and remediation fields to assist clients in interpreting their analytical results to evaluate their options for treatment utilizing varied medias and pre-treatment equipment. Having worked as a GC/MS and LC-MS/MS chemist for PFAS compounds, she believes in the importance of evaluating the project as a whole, from suggesting the most valuable testing methods that help determine the best treatment trains and medias for complex waste streams and options for final deposition of their spent media. AnnieLu holds a BS in Chemistry-Geology from

Bridgewater State University.

Jeremy Eaton, Hydrogeologist, ASRus, LLC, Tampa, FL



Jeremy has worked at ASRus, LLC for over 5 years as a Hydrogeologist. He is responsible for hydrogeologic testing and analysis, geophysical log interpretation, GIS analysis, well construction oversight, technical report writing and UIC permitting and compliance. Jeremy earned his degree in Geology/Earth Science from the University of South Florida and Associates's Degree from St. Petersburg College.

Felipe Franco, Hydrogeologist, Black & Veatch, Miami, FL



Felipe has a BS in Geoscience and over 5 years of experience including oversight of construction and testing of large diameter deep injection wells and dual zone monitoring wells, hydraulic testing, and diverse sampling methods at public works facilities. He has been involved in various hydrologic, geologic, environmental investigations, and feasibility studies. This experience includes, design, permitting, construction and testing of Public Water Supply Wells/Wellfields (Surficial and Floridan Aquifer System) Class I injection wells, Class V Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells, Aquifer Recharge wells, industrial supply wells, irrigation wells, monitor wells, and rehabilitation of deteriorated wells, as well as abandonment of deteriorated wells. Felipe has lead teams during Class I and Class V

injection well facility construction projects. He has been involved in regional and departmental studies to determine feasibilities for the potential placement of ASR wells, Class I injection wells, and Carbon capture, utilization and storage wells (Class VI injection wells). He is trained in the use of programs like Geographic Information Systems (GIS), AQTESOLV and is actively involved in groundwater modeling training for Groundwater Vistas and Groundwater Modeling Systems (GMS).

Christina Garcia-Alario, Hydrogeologist, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, Miami, FL



Christina is a Geologist with a diverse background in hydrogeological consulting services. Her time as a consultant has made her a diversified professional developed around permitting and construction and testing of large multi-well Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class I Injection Wells systems. In her recent years with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Hydrogeology Section, Christina has been focused on assisting with the planning, direction and coordination of Miami-Dade Water and Wastewater projects, conducting soil and groundwater sampling, analysis of hydrogeologic water quality data, and technical compliance and reporting to federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to all things water and wastewater. She has a BS in Geology from the University of Miami.

Jeff Hart, Director, Field Operations, Water Resources Division, Layne, A Granite Company, Denver, CO



Jeff has been employed with Layne for over 22 years. For the past 6 years, he has served as a Director of Field Operations. Prior to this position, he was the General Manager International Operations-Specialty Drilling and Operations Manager. Jeff also worked as the Drilling Manager for over 3 years with Hydro Resources before rejoining Layne in his current position.

Noah Heller, PG, President, BESST Inc., San Rafael, CA



Noah has been a practicing geologist for the past 35 years, has a MS in Geology and is a California registered geologist. In total, he has received 16 patents and has patents pending as well. Since 2005, Noah has focused much of his time on the commercialization and continuing technical development of the Tracer Flowmeter and Depth Dependent Sampler that was initially developed by the USGS and licensed exclusively to BESST. Over the past 15 years, BESST has profiled approximately 1,000 public supply wells, primarily for water quality and has amassed a large database of zonal geochemistry throughout California. BESST has applied this knowledge to better understand subsurface distribution patterns of naturally occurring and anthropogenic compounds. These insights have led to the development of a new application for the technology called Stacked Profiling of Long Screened Test Wells. This technology and method are being applied at sites through the US.

John Jansen, PG, PGp, PhD, Senior Geophysicist & Hydrogeologist, Collier Consulting, Milwaukee, WI



John has a B.S. in Geology and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Geological Sciences with an emphasis in hydrogeology and geophysics, all from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a Senior Geophysicist and Hydrogeologist for Collier Consulting. John works on a wide variety of ground water projects around the country specializing in high-capacity wells and groundwater resource management. He received the NGWA Keith A Anderson Award in 2012 for service to NGWA and the groundwater industry and was the NGWA McElhiney Distinguished Lecturer in Water Well Technology in 2013. John was an invited lecturer on managed aquifer recharge and groundwater geophysics for the Geoscience University of China in Beijing in June of 2018.

Pete Larkin, PG, Vice President, ASRus, LLC Tampa, FL



Mr. Larkin is a Vice President at ASRus, LLC and licensed professional geologist in the state of Florida. He has 24 years of experience in the development of Class V ASR and aquifer recharge systems, and Class I injection well systems including design, permitting, construction, and operational testing and maintenance. Mr. Larkin has managed a variety of ASR and aquifer recharge projects that include potable water, reuse, and surface water applications and Class I injection wells including domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater systems. He serves as Project Manager and Lead Hydrogeologist for Public Utilities and Private industry clients throughout southwest and central Florida. Pete received his B.A. in Natural Science/Geology from the University of South Florida.

Bill Lester, PhD, UF/IFAS Hernando County Extension Agent, Brooksville, FL



Dr. William Lester holds a graduate degree in Plant Medicine from the University of Florida and currently works for UF/IFAS Extension in Hernando County, FL. Combining a mix of horticultural knowledge and management skills, his current responsibilities include teaching the public and working closely with county and professional clients. As a frequent guest on radio and writing for local newspapers, his goal is to put complex scientific findings into language that can be understood by school age children and the general public alike.

John Lisle, PhD, Microbial Ecologist, USGS-Florida Water Science Center, St. Petersburg, FL



Dr. Lisle's research is focused on characterizing how microbes influence the geochemistry and carbon and nutrient cycling in surface water, ground water and coastal marine water and associated sediment systems thru the application of phylogenetics, microbial energetics and stable isotopes and radiolabeled substrates. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of South Florida in the College of Public Health. Following his post-doctoral fellowship at Montana State University, he was employed by NASA's Astrobiology Institute at Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX where his research focused on the microbial ecology in extreme environments, including Antarctica. Since 2002, Dr. Lisle has worked for the USGS where he has applied his experience to projects related biogeochemistry of surface and groundwater systems, ocean acidification and climate change.

Robert Maliva, PhD, PG, Principal Hydrogeologist, WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, Fort Myers, FL



Dr. Maliva has been a consulting hydrogeologist since 1992 and is currently a Principal Hydrogeologist with WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff. He has a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has held research positions in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge, England and the Rosenfiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science of the University of Miami, Florida. Dr. Maliva specializes in alternative water supply projects including managed aquifer recharge and desalination. He is registered Professional geologist in Florida and Texas. Dr. Maliva has managed or taken the technical lead on numerous water resources and hydrologic investigations including contamination assessments, environmental site assessments, water supply investigations, wellfield designs, and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects. He has designed raw water supply wellfields for brackish water desalination systems, alternative intakes for seawater desalination systems and injection well systems for concentrate disposal. He is the senior author of five books, "Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Managed Aquifer Recharge Using Wells: Planning, Hydrogeology, Design, and Operation" (2010), "Arid Lands Water Evaluation and Management" (2012), "Aquifer Characterization Techniques" (2016), "Anthropogenic Aquifer Recharge" (2021), and "Climate Change and Groundwater: Planning and Adaptations for a Changing and Uncertain Future" (2021).

W. Kirk Martin, PG, Principal Scientist, President, Water Science Associates, Fort Myers, FL



Kirk Martin has over 35 years' experience as a practicing hydrogeologist specializing in water supply planning and development, water resource characterization, and the application of a wide range of analytical methods in developing innovative solutions to complex water resource challenges. Mr. Martin's experience includes development of large capacity water supply and aquifer recharge projects for state and municipal governments, agricultural enterprises, and industrial applications. He commonly serves in a technical advisory capacity to state, regional, and local governing councils and legislative bodies on water resource issues. Mr. Martin has held past positions of Vice President and Water Resource Practice Leader with CDM and Missimer International. He currently serves as the lead water resource practitioner and president of Water Science Associates.

Kevin McGillicuddy, PG, Chief Hydrogeologist, Roscoe Moss Company, Los Angeles, CA



Kevin McGillicuddy is Vice President and Chief Hydrogeologist for the Roscoe Moss Company. He joined the Roscoe Moss Company in 1996 and has worked as a technical liaison to municipal water agencies, groundwater consultants, and water well contractors. He has managed and participated in several educational workshops on water well design, testing and rehabilitation. Prior to joining Roscoe Moss Company, he worked as Director of Recharge Operations and as a Senior Hydrogeologist for the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley, CA. Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from Boston College and Masters' of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Southern California. He is a Registered Geologist in California.

Guy "Harley" Means, State Geologist, Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee, FL



Guy ("Harley") Means is the State Geologist and Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of the Florida Geological Survey. He earned both his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in geology from Florida State University and is a licensed Florida Professional Geologist. During his 25-year career with the FGS, Means has served as a board member or delegate for multiple organizations including the Southeastern Geological Society, Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, Florida Paleontological Society and currently serves on the Florida Board of Professional Geologists. He has also served on multiple graduate student committees and is a courtesy assistant scholar scientist at Florida State University. He has given more than one hundred invited lectures and presentations on a broad range of geologic topics and has authored more than 70 publications and abstracts.

Neal Megonnell, Vice President of Technical Services, Aqueous Vets, Pittsburgh, PA



Neal Megonnell has over 33 years of experience in the activated carbon industry holding management positions in several, most recently as the Global Sales Director for Puragen Activated Carbons. He is a member of the American Water Works Association Activated Carbon Committee, a voting member of the ASTM D28 Activated Carbon Committee, as well as several other industry related groups and committees. Neal spent many years of his career in R&D and has published multiple papers and holds two patents related to activated carbon. He holds a BS in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh, an MS in Colloids, Polymers, and Surfaces, and an MS in Chemical Engineering both from Carnegie Mellon University.

Samuel Miller, PE, Civil Engineer, Black & Veatch Corporation, Ocoee, FL

Sam Miller has been supporting various water resources projects across the state of Florida ranging from stormwater to water supply. Sam has led and supported various planning projects including water supply planning and capitol project prioritization for the public works and utilities space. Additionally, Sam has been involved with various design efforts including drainage design and wellfield construction. Recently Sam has led and supported the development of management tools for water supply management including dashboarding and application development utilizing open-source tools.

Thomas Missimer, PhD, PG, Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL

Dr. Missimer teaches groundwater hydrology and contamination transport and research methods at the graduate level. His current research is focused on groundwater quality, seawater desalination issues (membrane biofouling prevention by using alternative intake designs), brackish-water desalination (development of new conceptual models for prediction of long-term salinity changes in groundwater sources), evaluation of artificial recharge systems, and coastal geology. He founded three consulting companies that specialized in groundwater development, water management, and remediation of groundwater contamination. He also worked in a management and technical capacity as a consultant for 35 years before entering academia. Dr. Missimer was a visiting professor at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia. He became an eminent scholar in hydrology at FGCU and director of the Emergent Technologies Institute. He authored more than 100 peer-reviewed journal papers and 11 books as well as 300 other publications. He is an elected Fellow of the Geological Society of America and has won numerous awards for his publications and research work. Dr. Missimer earned a BA in geology from Franklin & Marshall College, an MS in coastal geology from Florida State University, and a PhD in marine geology and geophysics from the University of Miami.

R. David G. Pyne, PE, President, ASR Systems LLC, Gainesville, FL



David is a professional engineer who has pioneered development of the ASR technology for storage of water through wells in fresh, brackish, or seawater aquifers to meet seasonal, long-term, or emergency demands and to achieve sustainable water supplies through underground storage in confined and unconfined aquifers. He has directed or provided technical consultant assistance during development of about half of the 140 operating ASR wellfields in the United States. He is a civil engineer with extensive national and international experience, and is the author of the first book published on ASR.

Eric Sagar, PG, Senior Principal Geologist, Geosyntec Consultants, St. Petersburg, FL



Eric Sagar is a Senior Principal Geologist based in Florida with over 25 years of experience working collaboratively to build project teams that solve complex problems and meet client expectations. His practice includes contaminant assessment, conceptual site model development, feasibility studies, remedial design and implementation, and long-term monitoring for sites contaminated by volatile organic compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides, herbicides, metals, and several emerging contaminants of concern in various media. Eric's practice includes the programmatic investigation of sites impacted by PFAS, and he has been the Project Manager (PM) or Project Director (PD) for PFAS investigations at over 20 facilities in Florida, Alabama, and California, and he is currently working on some of the largest PFAS sites identified in Florida. Eric's background includes diversified technical and program management experience and regulatory negotiations. His clients have included the FDEP, NASA, the electric utility industry, the oil and gas industry, chemical manufacturers, the retail industry, real estate developers, and others. Eric earned a M.S. in Geology from East Carolina University and B.S. in Geology from The College of William and Mary.

Harshit "Sunny" Saini, GIT, Hydrogeologist, Water Supply Bureau, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL



Harshit "Sunny" Saini is a hydrogeologist in the Water Supply Bureau at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Originally from Jodhpur, India, he moved to Florida in 1996. He attained both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geology at the University of Florida. As a student, Sunny worked both as a lab technician in the UF hydrogeochemistry lab and as an environmental analyst intern for Kimley-Horn. He joined SFWMD in 2019 and then attained his Geologist in Training license. He is the project lead for the regional groundwater sampling program that covers Orlando to Key West. Sunny has co-authored multiple Water Supply hydrogeological investigation reports and is currently collaborating with the USGS on fracture porosity analysis as part of the ASR Science Plan.

Anamaria Sarmiento, PG, Senior Hydrogeologist, Black & Veatch Corporation, Miami, FL



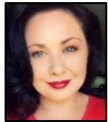
Anamaria is a Supervising Hydrogeologist with Black & Veatch. She is a Professional Geologist with 10 years of experience, including permitting, design, construction and rehabilitation of production wells/wellfields, Class I Injection Wells, Class V Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells, and monitor wells. Ms. Sarmiento has participated in various MDWASD projects such as the Class I Industrial Injection Well that was drilled to 10,000 feet below land surface (bls) and was completed in the boulder zone for CDWWTP in Virginia Key, FL. Her design, permitting and specialized hydrogeologic oversight experience includes the Ocean Outfall Legislation – Deep Injection Well Program for MDWASD and she is currently participating in the construction phase of the Deep Injection Well Program at CDWWTP and NDWWTP. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Geological and Earth Sciences from Florida International University.

Caroline Smith, GIT, Senior Hydrogeologist, Stantec, West Palm Beach, FL



Caroline has over 7 years of working experience in design, permitting, and hydrogeologic field oversight during well construction of Class I and Class V Underground Injection Control, Municipal Supply, and environmental wells. Her experience includes the oversight of drilling; including power auger, mud rotary, reverse air, Geoprobe, and coring; geophysical log interpretation; hydrologic data collection; water quality profiling, nano-filtration and reverse osmosis raw water supply investigations, wellfield contamination investigations, collection and analysis of water quality data; rehabilitation of older wells, performing field geologic analysis; pump testing for Surficial and Floridan Aquifer projects in South Florida; and ensuring compliance with construction contracts and Florida DEP permits. She has overseen the construction of Upper Floridan Aquifer wells and provided onsite construction management and coordination. Caroline has performed Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, contamination assessments, water quality sampling for numerous monthly monitoring sampling plans, and compliance reporting for water use permits.

Sammy Smith, PhD, GIT, Water Supply Supervisor, Water Resources Bureau, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Brooksville, FL



Sammy has been worked for the SWFWMD for over 4 years and has served as the Water Supply Supervisor for the past year. She is responsible for the supervision of scientific staff and project managers including hydrogeologists, engineers, and environmental scientists, who oversee large-scale AWS, UIC (aquifer recharge and ASR), and conservation projects. Sammy directs management of large-scale projects and contracts, communicates with local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and oversees injection well operation, resource management, groundwater/surface water sampling, and other duties. She earned her PhD, in Geochemistry, Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Geology and Master's degree in Geophysics and Volcanology from the University of South Florida.

Jorge Valdes, GIT, CDM Smith, Coral Gables, FL



As a Geologist in Training at CDM Smith, Jorge provides hydrogeologic services and contractor oversight during the construction, testing, and rehabilitation of various types of groundwater wells including production wells, monitoring wells, and Class I deep injection well systems in the State of Florida. Previously, Jorge worked at BND Engineers, Inc. as a Field Hydrogeologist where his responsibility was Construction and testing oversight for several deep injection wells and associated dual-zone monitoring wells for the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department. He received his B.S. in Geological and Earth Sciences from Florida International University.

Miguel Valencia, PHD Candidate, Florida International University, Miami, FL



Miguel Valencia is a graduate student pursuing a PhD degree on Earth System Science with a focus on hydrogeological modeling at Florida International University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Sukop, Miguel is currently working on hydrological simulations of deep injection wells, regional particle tracking simulations of septic effluents, and working on the design and deployment of a coastal subsurface monitoring network that will integrate the vadose and saturated zone. As a student, Miguel has been an active member of different societies like GSA, NGWA, AGU, among others. Miguel has been involved with leadership at the Geological Society of America as a student representative to the Hydrogeology Division Management Board and as chair of the student Advisory Council.

Rafael Vázquez-Burney, PE, U.S. South Region Wastewater Solutions Leader, Jacobs, Tampa, FL



Rafael is a Professional Engineer and globally recognized expert in treatment wetlands. He has led large technical teams in innovative and award-winning water reuse and reclaimed water treatment wetland projects and supports a myriad of Florida clients with effluent management and water reuse planning. With 18 years of experience he has successfully completed relevant projects for large and small utilities across the world. This experience provides him with in-depth technical knowledge of natural treatment technologies to target specific contaminants including nutrients, metals, trace organics, and those associated with industrial wastes. Rafael earned his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering/Water Resources and Bachelor of Education in Environmental Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Robert Verrastro, PG, West Palm Beach, FL



Mr. Verrastro has been a professional geologist for 33 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in Geology from Rider University (Lawrenceville, New Jersey) and an M.S. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette ("Raging Cajuns"). He initiated the first seven years of his career in Houston, Texas as an Explorationist with Conoco, Inc., in the search for deep Jurassic oil fields in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. He subsequently "got his mind right" and switched to the environmental field and moved to Palm Beach County, Florida. Prior to joining the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in 2000, he worked for eleven years as a groundwater consultant at Arcadis (Geraghty & Miller) and MWH (Montgomery Watson). After a 23-year career with SFWMD, Bobby retired.

Michael Whittaker, Southeastern US Sales Manager, Cotey Chemical Corp., Rocky Mount, VA

Michael is the Southeastern US Sales Manager at Cotey Chemical Corp. Prior to working for Cotey, Mike was a Sales Representative at Driller Services, Inc.

Yilin Zhuang, PhD, UF/IFAS Regional Specialized Agent, Water Resources, Central District, Apopka, FL



Dr. Yilin Zhuang is a Regional Specialized Agent (RSA) in water resources serving the UF/IFAS Extension central district. Regional Specialized Agents cover multiple counties and specialize in a specific program area. Zhuang's specialty is in water, specifically, integrated water resources management. Her coverage area includes Orlando and 11 central Florida counties. Dr. Zhuang has her doctorate in civil engineering from the University of South Florida, where she studied the water-energy nexus, the relationship between how much water is used to generate and transmit energy and how much energy it takes to collect, clean, move, store and dispose of water. She has a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Tongji University in Shanghai.

Justin Zumbro, PG, Lead Hydrogeologist, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL

Justin has worked as a geologist for over 20 years, primarily in California as a hydrogeologist and engineering geologist, and most recently works in South Florida as a Lead hydrogeologist in the water resources/water supply sector. He has extensive experience with drilling, soil and rock logging, geologic mapping, fault trenching, design and installation and testing of water supply wells and large diameter test wells, aquifer testing and analysis, levee investigations, task and project management, and report preparation and technical reviews. Justin earned his M.S. in Geological Sciences from The University of Texas and B.S. in Geology from the University of Florida. He holds Professional Geologist certifications in California and Florida.