

## Forward

This manual was developed to assist in the implementation of Chapter 62-340, Florida Administrative Code, *Delineation of the Landward Extent of Wetlands and Surface Waters*. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the five Water Management Districts (WMDs) were directed through Chapter 94 - 356, Laws of Florida, to develop a training manual describing the use of Chapter 62-340, F.A.C. through its application to selected, publicly accessible, reference sites located throughout the state. Funding for this project was provided for one year from the Department's Pollution Recovery Trust Fund.

The concept for this manual originated with Dr. Michael Dennis of Breedlove Dennis & Associates, and Chuck Littlejohn of Littlejohn & Associates, representing the Florida Chamber of Commerce, during the discussions which resulted in the ratification by the legislature of the Florida unified wetland delineation methodology (Chapter 62-340, F.A.C.). As representatives of affected regulated interests, they were seeking a solution to the perception that, through time, interpretations of rules have changed, while the wording of the rules have not changed. To prevent what has been perceived by them as the "creeping up hill" of previous wetland delineation rule interpretations, Dr. Dennis suggested establishing a number of control sites where the use of the Florida unified wetland delineation methodology could be demonstrated. These sites would be used to "anchor" the rule interpretation in time, thus reducing future innovative interpretations which may differ from the common understanding as it existed when the legislature ratified the rule. In the view of the Department and the Water Management Districts, this approach also provides the opportunity for staff and private sector training.

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Emergent aquatic vegetation *Nelumbo lutea* (American lotus)

