



**Announcing the 31st Annual Meeting of
The Florida Association of Benthologists
and
The 30th Anniversary of the Founding of FAB**

First Call for Papers and Posters

November 7-9, 2017

The 31st Annual Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists will be held 7-9 November 2017 in Gainesville, Florida, at the Doyle Conner Building, Florida Division of Plant Industry, 1911 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL. The meeting will begin Tuesday afternoon, November 7 and conclude at 12 Noon on Thursday, November 9.

Oral Papers and Posters

We welcome oral presentations and posters on any topic pertaining to benthic animals or plants and their taxonomy, systematics, ecology, biogeography, physiology, behavior, or other related topics on benthic habitats, communities or populations. We also welcome papers or posters on other elements of aquatic ecology. Papers or posters on methodology or experimental design are also appropriate and welcome. Submittals from students are particularly encouraged and as an incentive, students who present an oral paper or poster get their meeting registration fee waived. Registration information is on the FAB website at:
<http://www.flbenthos.org/Item/2017-Annual-Meeting> .

Abstracts should be submitted (in Microsoft WORD format) via email to Rob Mattson at rmattson@sjrwmd.com or president@flbenthos.org by **Friday, October 19, 2017**.

Special Sessions and Events

This is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Florida Association of Benthologists (1987-2017). Special Sessions and events are being planned in conjunction with the meeting to celebrate this.

The Annual Taxonomy Fair will be held Tuesday afternoon, November 7, from 3:00-5:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Doyle Conner Building. Experts on various taxonomic groups will be available with microscopes to examine your “problem identifications” or verify any tentative identifications. Please keep requests moderate, on the order of 2-3 specimens maximum per expert.

As at past Annual Meetings, a Silent Auction will be set up to raise funds to offset meeting expenses. Donations (books, artwork, jewelry, field gear, clothing, etc.) are welcome for this event. Please contact the FAB President (Rob Mattson) with any questions or to donate items. Bidding on the Silent Auction will close 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 9 and the winners will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting by 12 Noon that day. Please bring check or cash to pay the Treasurer for the item(s) you have won.

A tour of the Division of Plant Industry facility is planned (date and time to be determined). Among other things, this facility houses the State Invertebrate Collection.

Registration:

You must register to attend the Annual Meeting. On-line registration is preferred, but you may also register at the door. Registration fees are \$70.00 for current FAB members, \$125.00 for non-members, and \$45.00 for students (student oral paper/poster presenters have the registration fee waived). Registration must be paid by cash or check. No credit cards. To register on-line go to: <http://www.flbenthos.org/cgi-bin/cp-app.cgi>

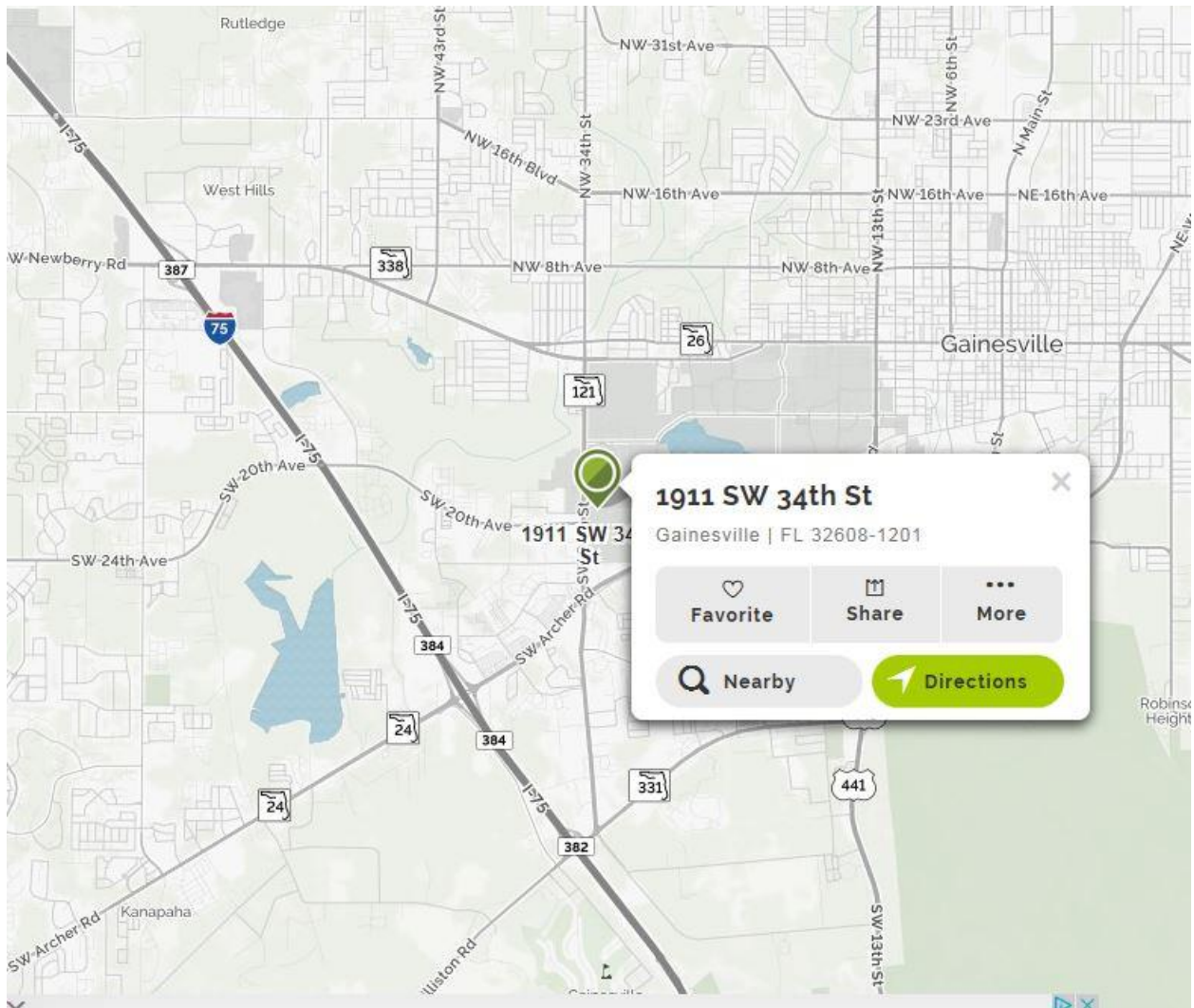
Once registered on-line, please print your registration confirmation page and mail your check (checks payable to FAB) to: Jennifer Bernatis, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 7386 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653. Payments (check or cash only, no credit cards) will also be accepted at the door during registration.

Refreshments and Social Events:

Soft drinks, water, and light snacks will be available during breaks throughout the meeting. Continental breakfast items (bagels, fruit, doughnuts) will be available in the mornings prior to the start of the meetings. A reception and social will be held Tuesday evening, November 7, at a local brewery (to be determined), beginning at 6:00 PM. FAB will provide light snacks and appetizers.

Meeting Location:

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Conference Room in the Doyle Conner Building, Florida Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL. The address is 1911 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL. Map to the site:



Student Awards:

Two types of student awards are available:

Student Presentation Awards:

Best Oral Presentation for a Graduate Student - \$200

Best Oral Presentation for an Undergraduate Student - \$200

Best Poster Presentation - \$100

Information on applying for these will be posted on the FAB web site (www.flbenthos.org).

Travel Awards. Also this year, we are making available a limited number of Student Travel Awards to reimburse travel costs. Travel Awards will be a maximum of \$200 and will be awarded at the Annual Meeting. A selection committee will evaluate student applications and determine the number and amounts of awards to be given out. Information on applying for these awards will also be posted to the FAB web site.

Accommodations:

A block of rooms has been reserved for FAB at the Holiday Inn Express on Archer Road. If we book 10 or more rooms the rate is \$110.00 per night (includes breakfast). If fewer people reserve rooms the rates will be \$124-139 per night (depending on choice of bedding). Please support the organization by booking a room at the meeting hotel. The direct phone line to the hotel is (352) 376-0004. Mention Florida Association of Benthologists when you make your reservation and these need to be made by Friday, October 26 to get the discounted room rate.

Executive Committee Members:

The FAB Executive Committee will meet from 9:30 AM- Noon on Tuesday, November 7 in the Conference Room in the Doyle Conner Building.

Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists

The Annual Business Meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday, November 8 from 1:30-2:45 PM. This has been changed from the usual time at the end of the last day of the meeting in order to allow for more participation by the general meeting audience. This meeting is important for FAB as an organization and your participation is highly recommended and encouraged.

Questions:

Questions regarding the Annual Meeting or accommodations? Please contact:

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