

## **FNGLA LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE**

### **Exercising Industry Leadership**

#### **Opening Gateways to Florida's Voluntary Irrigation License!**

Heavy emphasis is placed today on water used for lawns and landscapes by an increasingly urbanized Florida. With our state's population projected to reach 35 million residents in 2070, there are those who intend to significantly reduce the amount of water used for landscape irrigation. The bar of professionalism needs to be raised in the landscape/irrigation disciplines.

The mission of the ***FNGLA Landscape Irrigation Committee*** is to achieve maximum irrigation efficiency and achieve water savings. So, the Landscape Irrigation Committee developed policy recommendations to open additional gateways so more landscape and irrigation professionals may be eligible to apply for the state's voluntary irrigation license. While one may take the state exam, current requirements effectively limit who can actually earn the license even if one passes the exam! The Landscape Irrigation Committee's recommendations appear to be both timely and in line with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' interest in promoting entry to occupations and expanding vocational training and education. FNGLA's professional certifications are a center pin of these recommendations.

FNGLA presented its recommendations to the Florida Construction Industry License Board (CILB) during its formal hearing in April 2019. The CILB expressed receptivity to FNGLA's recommendations and agreed to schedule a rule workshop to accommodate FNGLA's request. Special thanks go to Rick Manley, the chairperson of FNGLA's Landscape Irrigation Committee, for expertly outlining FNGLA's recommendations to the CILB. Stay tuned for updates!

#### **Strengthening Florida's Landscape Irrigation Design Standards!**

The 2004 Florida Legislature created the *Committee on Landscape Irrigation and Florida-Friendly Design Standards* to improve landscape water use efficiency by developing landscape irrigation design standards for new construction. FNGLA was among those named in the law to help develop such standards.

The FNGLA Landscape Irrigation Committee conducted a thorough review of Florida's Landscape Irrigation and Florida-Friendly Design Standards to assess the need for modifications. The FNGLA Landscape Irrigation Committee concluded the standards sorely needed to be updated to reflect and benefit from new advances in landscape irrigation components, system technologies and science-based industry practices. FNGLA proudly presented the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with a top-to-bottom, 21-page recommended revision. FNGLA encouraged DEP to use FNGLA's proposed revisions as a springboard to review and endorse these updated standards. Stay tuned for updates!

###