

# Florida Pool Pro<sup>sm</sup>

A PUBLICATION OF  
FLORIDA SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION

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## The Virginia Graeme Baker Act - one year later

By Jennifer Hatfield, Director of Government and Public Affairs

The effective date of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (VGBA) was December 2008, almost one year ago. There were many questions and concerns surrounding the Act, many of which stemmed from a lack of approved covers. How was

the VGBA going to be enforced? How was the VGBA going to mesh with the Florida public pool code (64E-9, F.A.C.)? Nearly a year later there is more information and more answers. Turn to pages 7-9 to read a special section on the VGBA.

### FL DOH begins cover enforcement November 20

The Department of Health will begin enforcing the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 drain cover requirement on pools that have direct suction, not those with gravity drains. See pages 7-9 for details.

## FSPA Swim Meet a success!

The FSPA High School Invitational Swimming & Diving Meet had a great turnout October 9-10. More than 1,700 athletes took over the YMCA Aquatic Center in Orlando for two days of swimming, diving, competition and fun. Seventy five schools from across the state competed in the developmental meet on Friday and the invitational meet on Saturday.

Athletes in the invitational meet must have qualifying times to compete and then the top swimmers qualify for finals. At the end of the day points are tallied for each school.

The Bolles School in Jacksonville received first place, Countryside High School in Clearwater received second place and American Heritage School in Plantation received third place. Congratulations!

Thank you, volunteers and sponsors! Please view our meet sponsors on page three. By donating their time, our volunteers show the FSPA's commitment to the community and the industry's customers. We hope to see you there for the fun next year.



Girls relay race underway!

Volunteers having fun:  
Steve Bludsworth,  
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Swimmers and divers having fun!

## News Splash

- **Service Scoop:** The unlicensed can't compete. Success or failure is based on good marketing, smart business plans and sometimes even dumb luck. Page 4
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- **Energy Talk:** Heat pumps - some certainty in a crowded market. Heat pump selection choice should start with only manufacturers who participate in the AHRI Certification program. Page 10

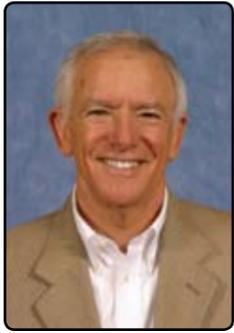
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# President's Column

## Accomplishing the objectives



**Alan Cooper**  
FSPA President

How do we accomplish the objectives of our organization? The first thing we do is establish the objectives. This is done through the budget with input from the

Board and committees.

Staff, Board members, committees and volunteers work to achieve the objectives. One might ask, "Isn't a Board member a volunteer?" The answer is yes and no. Chapter by-laws may require certain local officers to serve on the state Board and others are elected by their local members to serve on the state Board. A volunteer is a person who performs or offers to perform a service willingly and without pay. This definition of a volunteer would define a Board member as a volunteer. However, once a person is elected to the Board they accept the responsibilities of that position.

Some of the Board members responsibilities are as follows: 1. Define mission and purpose, 2. assure adequate funding, volunteers and resources to accomplish the strategic plan, 3. set the organizations annual calendar, 4. promote the organization's image, 5. ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability, 6. recruit new volunteers, 7. secure sponsorships and participants, and 10. support the staff and work hand-in-hand to accomplish the organizations objectives. Are we fulfilling these responsibilities?

October 9-10 we hosted the FSPA High School Invitational Swimming

and Diving Meet. Charis Tyson did an outstanding job in organizing the meet and she should be congratulated by each and every one of us. Sometimes I think we take our staff members for granted. Charis and Wendy Parker Barsell arrived on Thursday and did not get home until late Saturday night. I am sure that other staff members assisted with the planning and organization prior to the actual meet.

We had a good number of volunteers but there could and should have been more. A special thanks to Mitch Brooks, Andy Mallison, Karen Hobby, Janet Bridges, Jordan Bridges and Daniel Newcomb, all from the Charlotte Harbor, Florida Gulf Coast and Manasota Chapter office, as well as Ian Ferguson, Jack's Magic Products, who worked all three of the shifts. A big thanks to all those who volunteered and worked at the swim meet.

We have a dedicated and hard working staff and we have a responsibility to assist them in carrying out the organization's goals. This also applies to the Chapters working with their local staff. For those Chapters who do not have paid staff, it is the responsibility of your Board members and Chapter members to assist and support those who have taken on these additional duties.

It is that time of the year when new volunteers are stepping up to the plate. Local Chapter elections are being held and new Board members are being elected. Remember responsibilities come with these positions.

Congratulations to our new state Officers. Let's get behind them; volunteer for committee chairs and committee positions.

## Education monitors needed, earn FREE CE

**The 2010 Orlando Pool and Spa Show is scheduled for February 19-20, 2010 with continuing education starting on Thursday, February 18. Continuing Education is a significant element of the annual Show and volunteer monitors play a crucial role in making the program a success. FSPA invites all FSPA members to volunteer as a course monitor.**

**Volunteer Id checkers support course monitors by helping to verify photo identification of attendees. They can earn points for their Chapter but no portion of their CE fees will be refunded.**

To see what is available for monitoring go to [www.floridapoolpro.com/industry/monitor.html](http://www.floridapoolpro.com/industry/monitor.html). The course charts show courses by meeting room – this year we request that you pick a room and monitor all the courses in that room for that day. Course descriptions are available on the Show Web site at [www.OrlandoPoolShow.com](http://www.OrlandoPoolShow.com). Click on "attendee information" and then on "education seminars".

Benefits of monitoring include receiving CE credit for the courses that you monitor, Chapter points and your CE registration fee refunded by the FSPA for the day(s) that you monitor.

As a monitor your duties and responsibilities include:

- Arriving at the meeting room prior to start time to ensure that the speakers are set-up and all their audio visual needs have been met.
- Check in attendees that are scheduled to attend the course. Check in will require attendees to present photo identification at the door.
- Give attendees an evaluation form and copy of the course syllabus.
- Ensure that the instructor and attendees sign the attendance roster.
- Read the instructor announcement prior to the class beginning.
- Monitor seminar times to ensure they begin / end promptly.
- Collect attendee course tickets as they leave the meeting room.
- Clear speakers/attendees from meeting room when course is complete.
- Monitor the doors so no one arrives late or leaves early.

**If you would like to volunteer as a monitor please indicate your preferred room choice. Assignments are on a first come first served basis so please return your course selection as soon as possible to fax: 941-366-7433 or email: [Bernice@FloridaPoolPro.com](mailto:Bernice@FloridaPoolPro.com).**

### Florida Pool Pro<sup>sm</sup>

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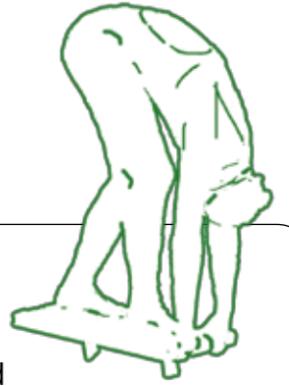
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# Thank you sponsors of the FSPA Invitational Swimming & Diving Meet!



Thanks to our Butterfly Sponsors!



FSPA thanks all of these sponsors and the volunteers who came out to help! There was a great turnout with more than 1,700 athletes, 1,000 spectators and 75 schools participating.

Congratulations to the top three schools:

- 1st place: The Bolles School, Jacksonville
- 2nd place: Countryside High School, Clearwater
- 3rd place: American Heritage School, Plantation

Thanks to our Freestyle Sponsors!



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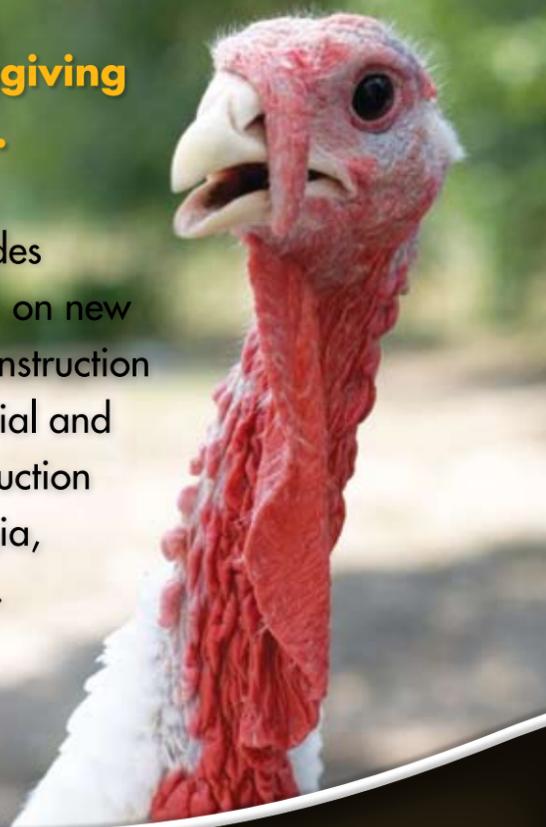
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Refer to [www.hbweekly.com](http://www.hbweekly.com) for county coverage.

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## The Scoop on Service

### The unlicensed can't compete

By Keith Johnson, Tri-Fl Water Treatment d/b/a Pool Works

It isn't often that a pool guy or gal can compare themselves to Wall Street. According to Wall Street, "Flat is the new up." In today's trying times the pool servicing contractor has to work harder just to maintain their existing customer base. Gone are the days of simply gaining lots of new service accounts simply by hanging a shingle and slapping a magnetic sign on your truck door. So much of our competition today is by unlicensed service contractors. Many licensed service contractors blame their economic hardships on unlicensed activity decimating their bottom line.

The success or failure of a company is based on good marketing, smart business plans and sometimes even dumb luck. One major step in the right direction is to hit the unlicensed guys head on. The only thing they can offer is cheaper prices. Today's consumer isn't always seeking cheap prices. The good consumers (the ones you want, who take care of their belongings and are willing to spend money to keep their pools in top shape) are seeking value. You can sell against the unlicensed guys and beat them all day long.

Invest time and money in making sure that you and all of your employees

have the highest level of training and education. Take the time away from your work day to get all of your employees in classes at the Orlando Pool & Spa Show in February. Run comprehensive background checks on everyone who comes to work for you. Make sure you are a drug free workplace. Make sure your employees leave door hangers and provide a consistent level of service. Expect a high level of standards in appearance and dress from each employee and their company trucks. Most of us do this anyway but how many of us tell our customers this?

When you explain to a good consumer that you have liability insurance, workers' compensation, a drug free work place, highly trained and skilled employees and that you will never allow an employee in their backyard that hasn't undergone a comprehensive background check then you are setting yourself apart from the unlicensed pool guy. A savvy consumer will quickly see that you and that guy are not competitors, and they will understand when you tell them that the two of you are not even providing the same type of service. The unlicensed pool guy providing the dump-and-dash service at half price will cease to be an issue for you.

## Florida Pool Permits

County Name	September 2008	September 2009
Alachua County	11	2
Bay County	10	7
Brevard County	13	36
Broward County	46	33
Calhoun County	0	0
Charlotte County	15	14
Citrus County	16	7
Clay County	3	7
Collier County	47	30
Dade County	47	32
Duval County	5	20
Escambia County	12	10
Flagler County	9	14
Franklin County	1	0
Gadsden County	0	1
Gulf County	2	0
Hernando County	6	11
Highlands County	2	6
Hillsborough County	57	38
Holmes County	0	0
Indian River County	23	9
Jackson County	0	0
Jefferson County	0	0
Lake County	18	17
Lee County	72	78
Leon County	12	8
Liberty County	0	0
Manatee County	33	38
Marion County	13	10
Martin County	20	13
Nassau County	1	8
Okaloosa County	10	9
Orange County	64	45
Osceola County	35	12
Palm Beach County	64	67
Pasco County	35	19
Pinellas County	41	28
Polk County	36	25
Putnam County	0	1
Santa Rosa County	7	9
Sarasota County	25	29
Seminole County	18	3
St Johns County	20	17
St Lucie County	22	10
Sumter County	13	15
Volusia County	31	17
Wakulla County	2	0
Walton County	8	7
Washington County	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>762</b>



Provided by HBW / [www.hbweekly.com](http://www.hbweekly.com)



# Digging Up Ideas



## Involvement = growth

By Richard Moseley, Champagne Pools of Central FL

I raised my hand at a recent FSPA Board of Directors meeting only to realize I had volunteered and write the Builders' article for *Florida Pool Pro<sup>sm</sup>*. Lesson one of this article - pay attention at meetings!

I'm taking a minute of your time to talk about the great joy it is to be involved in the FSPA as a pool builder and a volunteer. Back in 1996 the Central Florida board of directors of the NSPI had an opening and my good friend Michael Manley said, "Go ahead become involved." He said the only true way you can have a voice is to be present at the table.

You may be thinking as I was, 'the only thing I have to do is volunteer and my voice is heard?' Wow what a concept. But my first thought then was why will anyone want to hear what I have to say? So away I went, and what a great ride it has been. The excitement, joy and satisfaction I get from being involved, still to this day, is overwhelming at times.

Being on the Board and active in FSPA committees is great. I have learned more from sitting back and listening as well as debating an issue than anyone could ever imagine. Because I took some time away from personal activities to be involved I now have the ability to call owners and managers of pool companies, distributors and manufacturers for honest discussions on industry issues. Sure, at any one of those other activities I may have found my next ex-wife, but it would not have helped my business.

The knowledge and power I gained by being a part of the FSPA includes code writing for the Florida

Building Code and volunteering at our annual swim meet where I see our future and the joy they get out of swimming. I found out about future laws and the best way to plan and predict what costs to do business might be. I gained a better understanding of how to use chemicals and teach my employees safe use and handling, took lots of continuing education classes, participated in Vent Line testing, and gained countless new friends and associates who understand what I deal with everyday.

If you take all that away I would say the last nine years would not have been anywhere near as fun. Then I think of the joy in helping to raise money for swimming lessons, and in fixing and building new pools for underprivileged families and the physically handicapped. To see the smiles and joy on their faces is extremely rewarding. "Good old boys club" it is sometimes called; well only my daughter calls me old so I guess it should be called the Fun Club for Business.

I don't want to say this too loud or I might lose my seat, but how can you not want to be a member and not be involved? It is our profession and how we make a living. If it is a hobby, then I get it, but lesson number two - Get Involved!

Thank you to all the great people who have taken the time to teach me how to be a better person and thank you in advance for all the free advice and help you plan on giving me in the future. Thank you for letting me be involved it is a great honor and joy that I will treasure always.

# New Member Applications

### Treasure Coast

H & H Custom Pools, Inc.  
Frederick Hopkins, Hobe Sound

(Builder / Installer) CPC1457801

### Polk County

Allen & Company  
Andy Hernan, Lakeland

(Other firm: Financial Consultant)

### Florida West Coast

Larry Ahern Pool Remodeling Inc  
(Service Company: Fountain Water Service)  
Larry Ahern, St. Petersburg

### Northeast Florida

Blue View Pools  
(Service Company: Pool Cleaning & Water Treatment)  
Israel Aristide, Ponte Vedra Beach

### Tampa Bay

Pleatco, LLC  
John Antretter, Glen Cove, NY

(Manufacturer)

### Palm Beach

Aquamate Pool Services  
(Service Company: Pool Cleaning & Water Treatment)  
David Short, Hobe Sound

HornerXpress - Treasure Coast (Distributor - Multiple Chapters)  
Steve Lumerman and Kim Guerra, Ft. Lauderdale

### Central Florida

Hayward Pool Products, Inc.  
Randy Kusiv, Longwood

(Distributor - Multiple Chapters)

If you have actual knowledge of any grounds why the above companies do not meet FSPA criteria, contact the Chapter Director in writing

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# The Virginia Graeme Baker Act - one year later

The effective date of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (VGBA) was December 2008, almost one year ago. There were many questions and concerns surrounding the Act, many of which stemmed from a lack of

approved covers. How was the VGBA going to be enforced? How was the VGBA going to mesh with the Florida public pool code (64E-9, F.A.C.)? Nearly a year later there is more information and more answers.

## Approved Covers

The VGBA currently requires all public pools and spas to have an ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 compliant cover, otherwise known as a VGB 2008 compliant cover. Before the VGBA was passed these covers did not exist, therefore all public pool/spa facilities need to replace the drain cover with a new one. If there is not a compliant drain cover on a public pool or spa it should be shutdown until it the cover is replaced.

In Florida, there is an additional requirement for these covers. The Department of Health (DOH) does not allow the flow of water through the cover to exceed 1.5 fps. There are now multiple manufacturers of approved covers that meet the VGBA and Florida DOH requirements. A complete list can be found on the DOH Web site at [www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/swim/Approved.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/swim/Approved.pdf) and is shown here.

When dealing with cover replacement consider the following:

1. When replacing a drain cover, all parts must be considered. This includes the cover, grate, frame and sump.
2. Although VGBA went into effect December

19, 2008, the FL DOH did not have the authority to enforce the law.

As of May 24, 2009, the Florida public pool code (64E-9) requires any main drain covers being replaced to comply with both the ASME 2007 standard and the 1.5 fps requirement. This means that DOH is still not mandating that all covers be changed, but if a cover is changed it must comply with VGBA.

Starting November 20, 2009, 64E-9 will require all existing direct suction pools and spas have the main drain cover replaced. The Florida DOH will start enforcing the cover requirement on direct suction pools, but it will continue to allow pools and spas with gravity drainage systems to operate without replacing the cover.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is assigned to enforce the VGBA and can enforce the requirements at any time on all public pools/ spas. In September 2009 there were several reports that the CPSC had been in many states inspecting public pool facilities for compliance.

## Manufacturers with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 drain covers

(As listed on DOH Web site as of 10/21/09)

- Aquastar Pool Products
- Custom Molded Products
- Current Systems, Inc.
- Eureka Manufacturing Co.
- Hayward Industries, Inc.
- Lawson Aquatics, Inc.
- New Water Solutions aka DrainSafe
- Neptune-Benson
- Paramount Pool and Spa Systems
- Paddock Pool Equip Co., Inc.
- Pentair Water Pool and Spa
- Shasta Industries d/b/a A&A Manufacturing
- Triodine Safety Systems, LLC
- Waterway Plastics
- World Wide Sports LLC

## Commercial Pools: Federal VGBA compared to FL DOH 64E-9

	Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act	Florida 64E-9: Public Pool Code
<b>Approved Covers</b>	All public pools/ spas must have ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 compliant drain covers.	- Flow rate cannot exceed 1.5 fps on all covers. - November 20, 2009 pools with direct suction must have 2007 ASME covers and 1.5 fps requirement.
<b>Additional Devices</b>	Single drains, unless unblockable, must also have a gravity drainage system, vent line, SVRS, automatic pump shut-off or drain disablement.	All public pools/ spas must have a gravity drainage system installed. See the timetable on page 8 for exact dates.

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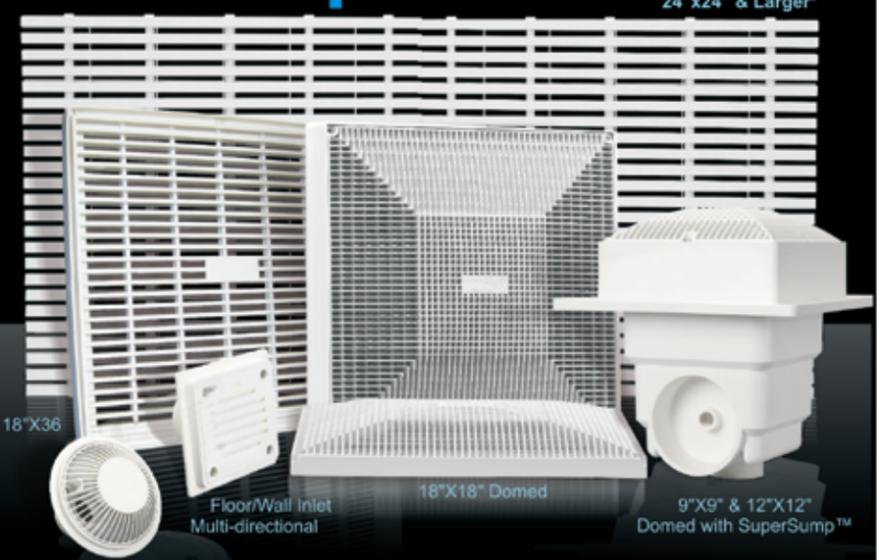
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## Additional devices

Per the VGBA, all public pools and spas with a single main drain, unless it is unblockable, must also have an additional safety device. Options to meet the requirement include a gravity drainage system, automatic pump shutoff, suction vacuum release system (SVRS), vent line, installation of a second drain or drain disablement.

All non-unblockable single drain public pools or spas that do not have an additional device currently installed should be shutdown until a device is in place. The Florida DOH has a more limiting requirement. All existing direct suction pools or spas must be retrofitted with a gravity drainage system (see timetable).

Gravity drainage systems have been required on Florida public pools since 1977 and on spas since 1993 (some older spas have vent lines) so most of the state's 37,000 public pool facilities already meet this part of the VGBA. Last year the DOH reported that about 7,000 of Florida public pool facilities had a direct suction pool or spa.

Per VGBA these facilities have six options; however, per 64E-9, eventually a gravity drainage system must be installed.

Since installing a gravity drainage system is more costly and invasive than some of the other VGBA options, the DOH is addressing the pools with the largest hazard potential first. Pool contractors need to make sure public pool facilities with single drain direct suction systems are aware of both VGBA and 64E-9. Ultimately a gravity drainage system will have to be installed and doing the work now will

satisfy both the federal and state requirements.

If a facility has a spa that is not required to meet 64E-9 until a later date and at this time cannot afford a gravity drainage system, one of the VGBA options can be used as a temporary fix. The owner of a public pool with a main drain may consider installing an SVRS or automatic pump shut-off as a temporary fix rather than performing the more invasive installation of a dual drain. If the facility does nothing, it is in violation of federal law which could result in criminal or civil penalties.

The DOH is not currently enforcing the VGBA. If an SVRS or automatic pump shut-off is installed, this is not under the DOH rule, but the DOH should not block the installation of such a device.

### Timetable for 64E-9 gravity drainage system installation:

- All pools, including wading pools, with a main drain located in four feet of water or less: **by May 24, 2010 (one year after the effective date of the revisions to 64E-9)**
- All spa type pools built before 1977: **by July 1, 2010**
- All spa type pools built between 1977-1986: **by July 1, 2011**
- All spa type pools built between 1986-1995: **by July 1, 2012**
- All other pools (main drain in water greater than four feet): **by July 1, 2013**

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STANDARD 50-2008

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ASME A112.19.8-2007,  
including A112.19.8a-2008  
addenda

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Virginia Graeme Baker  
Pool and Spa Safety Act  
(VGB 2008)

For additional information, including technical data, please visit our website at [www.antihairstnare.com](http://www.antihairstnare.com).

## CPSC action

When the VGBA passed, the CPSC recognized the challenges it posed and the shortage of approved drain covers on the market. In the year since, things have changed. Covers now exist, most public pool facilities and pool contractors are aware of the law, and many questions have been answered by the CPSC to clear up confusion.

The CPSC has dedicated a Web site to pool safety and the VGBA at [www.poolsafety.gov](http://www.poolsafety.gov). They have been on national news continually encouraging compliance and most recently have begun the inspection of public pools around the country.

### CPSC in Florida

**There are reports the CPSC has been in Florida cities requesting bids from those interested in inspecting public pools for VGBA compliance.**

**The hired contractors have been contacting pool professionals directly with violations. In many instances it appears the state and local code officials may be unaware of these inspectors.**

**FSPA continues to encourage compliance with the VGBA.**

## Who can do VGBA work?

The work required on public pools to meet the VGBA began to draw attention from several health and building departments. Which type of license could do what type of VGBA work was not completely clear and not being addressed consistently. Due to the legal nature of the VGBA there are possible criminal and civil penalties associated with it and determining who can do each type of work involved in VGBA compliance is imperative. As a result, the Pinellas County Licensing Board filed a declaratory statement request to the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB). The petition will be heard at the November 13, 2009 CILB meeting in Orlando.

FSPA will provide the CILB with input on the matter. A position was established by the FSPA Service Council and Board of Directors stating

that only a commercial pool builder can do structural modifications to a commercial pool. Anything that does not amount to a structural change to the existing pool can be done by a service contractor. For example, installing a gravity system on an existing direct suction commercial pool would require a commercial pool builder license, but to resurface a pool, install a new drain cover, repair a pool pump, or re-tile a pool would still be under the scope of work for a pool service contractor. The FSPA position was determined prior to review of the Pinellas County declaratory statement submission. FSPA is currently reviewing the submitted statement to determine a final position to bring to the CILB. Look for a final outcome in the Splash e-newsletter and December *Florida Pool Pro*<sup>sm</sup>.

## Q & A - answers from the CPSC

A full list can be found at [poolsafety.gov](http://poolsafety.gov)

**Q: Does the VGBA apply to vacuum line covers?**

**A:** Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(i) of the VGBA requires that public pools and spas in the United States be equipped with drain covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8. Section 1.1.5.2 of ASME/ANSI A112.19.9 provides, "Vacuum connection covers shall be excluded from evaluation to this Standard." Thus, vacuum connection covers are not covered by the VGBA. However, vacuum connection covers are subject to requirements of two different standards: ANSI/APSP-7; and IAMPO SPS 4.

**Q: Are equalizer lines in public pools covered in the Act?**

**A:** Yes, skimmer equalizer lines are submerged drains and must have a compliant cover or be plugged. Equalizer lines are not considered to be main drains based on CPSC staff's interpretation of the law.

**Q: What is CPSC's position regarding sumps and the ASME/ANSI standard?**

**A:** CPSC staff supports the technical requirement standard, which calls for

field-built sumps to have a depth of 1.5 times the diameter of the piping; however, the federal VGBA does not require pool owners/operators to replace their sump. If a new, compliant drain cover can be safely secured onto a pre-existing sump, while properly controlling the flow rate, then it meets the intent of the law. If a Professional Engineer determines that additional engineering work needs to be done to the sump or the sump needs to be replaced in order to comply, it must be done.

**Q: If I have a gravity drain system, am I required to change the drain cover?**

**A:** Yes, but that is all that is required since the gravity drain systems qualifies as a second anti-entrapment system.

**Q: Are single-family rental property pools considered to be public under the Act?**

**A:** No, these pools are not considered public under section 1404(c)(2) of the Act and therefore are not required to comply with the cover replacement or secondary anti-entrapment system requirements.

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Javier P.  
San Diego, CA

The Push or "Yankee" Drill worked great; I used a dive tank & regulator so I could take my time.

Jim E.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

The DS 360M is not only the simplest conversion to a safer pool, but because of the four screw installation process, it gives me as an installer the ease of mind that it will stay that way.

Chris N.  
Pleasant Valley, NY

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Jason S.  
Palm Beach, FL



# Energy Talk



## Heat pumps - some certainty in a crowded market

By Jeff Tawney, AquaCal

As our customers look to make greener and wiser choices with their pool and spa heating they quite often encounter either too many choices and/or little credible information to help them make decisions.

Pool heating offers our customers three main choices in the type of heater to buy: gas, LP or natural; heat pump; and solar. Each has a different level of cost of operation and reliability of delivered water temperature.

There are four main vendors of gas heaters and all of their products are certified to mandatory safety and performance testing.

Solar also has only three or four main vendors and products are performance tested and certified through mandatory programs.

There are 11 domestic heat pump choices (including Canada). Why so many? Two reasons: It is relatively easy to set up a heat pump assembly line and the industry has few mandatory-testing requirements.

I didn't say it was easy to set up a quality heat pump assembly line, but it is not difficult to copy a basic design and get in the game. The lack of testing requirements makes it even easier.

It would be highly cost prohibitive to test every heater for compliance. A certification program is intended to create a manufacturing environment

where a consistent product will be produced. Regular, random-selection testing is the key to this process.

Many of you will remember the Pool Heat Pump Manufacturers Association (PHPMA) pursuing standardized, mandatory testing. The association achieved the standardized part just fine but the problem was the mandatory aspect of the program.

Several members of PHPMA found out that building one heater and getting it to perform the way they want was easy but getting every single unit to do the same thing was another story. When the random-selection testing part of the certification program exposed quality control weaknesses, manufacturers quit the program.

The industry is trying again. The Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) program is act two in the industry's effort to clean house. The AHRI Certification Program is in place and active, and it is not expensive to comply. Maybe it's time to ask those not participating, "Why not?" There are also several initiatives to bring the mandatory part into play. Until then, the heat pump selection choice should start with only manufacturers who participate in the AHRI Certification program. This will clear up some of the product confusion and support your customers "green" efforts.

# Chapter News

Check out Chapter Web sites for current information!

## Broward

Executive Director: Kathy Bohlander  
(866) 414-4771

FSPABroward@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPABroward.com

**Pat Riley, Broward County Health Department**, met with the members of the Broward Chapter on September 29 at **HornerXpress**. The turn out was great with over 70 members and non-members in attendance.

Pat went over the changes to codes and the timeline for each of them. Pat was able to answer many questions for the attendees. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like a printout of the timelines please feel free to call the Chapter office. Thank you to Pat and to HornerXpress for sponsoring this meeting.

On November 17, the Chapter will be holding a CE course. **Proline Distributors** is sponsoring this meeting and it will be held at their location in Weston. The course is "Advanced Swimming Pool & Spa Hydraulic Design" (CILB course #0008282, two hours, meets General credit requirement, FSPA d/b/a FSPA CILB providership #0000917) and it will be taught by **Don Cesarone Jr., Van Kirk and Sons**. This hydraulic course focuses on advanced spa jet manifolds, required vanishing edge flow and catch basin sizing with related

plumbing, in-floor returns, fountain manifolds, and gravity feed systems with related slot or gutter systems. Also reviewed are the fundamentals of water flow, pump and component design, and hydraulic design.

The Board of Directors will meet at Proline at 4:00 p.m. on November 17. As always, all members are encouraged to attend.

## Central Florida

Executive Director: Mary Manion  
(800) 416-6774

FSPACentralFlorida@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPACentralFlorida.com

We will have lots of pictures from our Texas Hold'em Tournament available soon. The event was October 16 and was a fun time with some big winners! Thanks to all who participated in the event and especially to those who donated product, gift certificates and prizes.

Not only does the Central Florida Chapter appreciate the support from the fundraising event, but the swim teams from Boone High School, Olympia High School and Winter Park High School all expressed their appreciation for the sponsorship of their teams at the FSPA Swim Meet. This year the Chapter sponsored these three teams and also contributed as an event sponsor. What a great event it was! The 2009 FSPA High



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School Invitational Swimming and Diving Meet was run with incredible precision and a good time was had by all the swimmers, divers and volunteers alike. The Central Florida Chapter provided many volunteers and should be commended for their participation.

Our next big event will be our annual "Meet and Greet our Legislators" being held on November 10. The event will be held at the Historic Dubsdread Ballroom, 549 Par Street, Orlando. During the "cocktails and conversation" portion of the evening you will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with our legislators and ask them for support for congressional bills that would be pertinent and of interest to the swimming pool industry. It is important for our legislators to understand our governmental issues and the wants and needs of our industry and what better way is there than to meet with them face-to-face in open discussion.

The open forum part of the event will be moderated by Jennifer Hatfield, Director of Government and Public Affairs. Jen has been the driving force behind our government relations efforts both in Florida and Washington and we are delighted she will be moderating our meeting again this year. As we are all aware, 2009 has been an active year legislatively for the swimming pool industry. Many of our own Chapter volunteers have given extra volunteer hours to assist in the passage of legislation that has saved pool builders time and money. We need to thank those legislators who support us.

We will be honoring two Central

Florida legislators, Senator Carey Baker and Representative Scott Plakon, who have each been selected as FSPA Legislators of the Year. We are honored to announce Senator Carey Baker will be attending as our keynote speaker.

This is your opportunity to voice opinions and learn firsthand what may be ahead for your businesses. It is time for us as an industry to take a proactive step forward. This should be a must-attend meeting for every Chapter member. Join us Wednesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. with the open forum starting at 7:00 p.m. The fee is \$15 for each member company and includes heavy appetizers. Please bring all your employees and spouses for one flat rate. We need to show support to get support!

### Charlotte Harbor

Executive Director: Andy Mallison  
(800) 569-6774 Ext. 11  
FSPACHarlotteHarbor@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPACHarlotteHarbor.com

Many thanks to Janice Letgers and her team from First Financial Employee Leasing for their presentation at our October Chapter meeting. The program, "The Value of Employee Leasing Companies", was well received by industry members. Information on the next membership meeting will be available soon and reservations can be made by contacting the Chapter office.

Congratulations to the 2010 Chapter slate of Officers. President

**Kris Peterson, True Blue Pool Supply; Vice President Fred Terhune, Howard's Pool World; and Secretary/Treasurer Lyndsey Shock, Florida Water Products.** Our Directors are **Colin McTigue, Fulton Pools; Pete Cocarro, Nautilus Pools; and Gary Hendrickson, Gorman Company.**

Many thanks to the Ladies Night Out committee for their hard work in organizing the event and making it one of the most successful events ever held by the Chapter. The event was held on Friday, October 23 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda. Our committee members were **Kris Peterson, True Blue Pool Supply; Colin McTigue, Fulton Pools; Fred Terhune, Howards Pool World; Lyndsey Shock, Florida Water Products; and Teresa Evan, Clear Channel Communications.**

### East Central Florida

Executive Director: Lynn Hecklinger  
(386) 673-0038  
FSPAEastCentralFlorida@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPAEastCentral.com

The East Central Florida Chapter will hold its last meeting before the holiday break on Wednesday, November 18 at the River Grille on the Tomoka, Ormond Beach. **Ralph White, Hayward**, will address the timely topic of energy conservation. Thanks to **Kim Raszl, Raszl Inc. Custom Pools and Spas**, for making the speaker arrangements.

The membership meeting will be preceded by the first meeting of the Chapter's new Board of Directors. Elected by mail ballot in October, the officers are President **Donald Bryant** and Vice President **Lori Bryant**, both of **Bryant Pools**; Secretary **Terry Bachi, American Leak Detection**; and Treasurer **Billy Moore, Gorman Company**. The new members of the Chapter's Board of Directors are **Denise Craver, Aqua Clear; Jeff Lucas, The Pool House; Wayne Phillips, Wayne's Solar; Kim Raszl, Raszl Inc. Custom Pools and Spas; Mickey Ryan, Ohanu Waters; Shannon Smith, SCP; and Brock Tanner, SCP.** Congratulations to all!

### Florida Gulf Coast

Executive Director: Mitch Brooks  
(800) 569-6774 Ext. 12  
FSPAFloridaGulfCoast@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPAGulfCoast.com

The Chapter staff is looking for information from our members! A survey will be sent to all member companies to determine interest in certain activities, CE course topics and other ideas. So, please take a moment to complete the survey and fax it back to the Chapter office. Planning is underway to schedule membership meetings based on what is requested by our members.

### Florida West Coast

Executive Director: Malinda Howard  
(727) 638-6072  
FSPAFloridaWestCoast@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPAWestCoast.com

The Chapter Board of Directors met at noon on Tuesday, October 6 at **Jack's Magic Products, Inc.** in Largo. Thank you to **Ian Ferguson, Jack's Magic Products**, for hosting the meeting/luncheon and providing a tour of their facility.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, November 3 at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill, 5110 East Bay Drive in Clearwater (TriCity Plaza). We will be electing new Officers and Directors for 2010 at this meeting. Remember that any Chapter member can sit on the Board of Directors and every member is encouraged to attend Board meetings. If you would be willing to serve on the Board, please contact Malinda Howard or any one of the current Board members. Also, we are always interested in hearing your ideas for Chapter meetings and programs. Please call Malinda if you plan to attend this meeting.

The Chapter sponsored three local teams, Countryside High School of Clearwater, Northeast High School of St. Petersburg and Osceola High School of Seminole, for the FSPA High School Invitational Swimming & Diving Meet in Orlando. Thank you to **Ian Ferguson, Jack's Magic Products; Rick and Bryant Howard, Rick's Pool Service;** and Malinda Howard, Chapter Executive Director, for volunteering on behalf of the Chapter at the meet.

The Annual Tampa Bay Area Pool Industry Table Top Event was held on Tuesday, October 27 at Ruth Eckerd

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Hall – Great Room in Clearwater. There will be more to follow on this event in next month's issue.

### Manasota

Executive Director: Andy Mallison  
 (800) 569-6774 Ext. 11  
 FSPAManasota@FloridaPoolPro.com  
 www.FSPAManasota.com

Thanks to **Jim Gay, Jack's Magic Products**, for his one hour CE presentation on stain removal at the October Chapter meeting at the Lakewood Ranch Holiday Inn.

Our next Chapter membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12. A CE course is being organized for the meeting and reservation information will be made available to all members via fax and e-mail. Due to the busy holiday season, there will be no Chapter meetings scheduled during the month of December.

### North Central Florida

Chapter President: Randy Taylor  
 State office: (800) 548-6774  
 FSPANorthCentralFlorida@FloridaPoolPro.com  
 www.FSPANorthCentral.com

No news this month.

### Northeast Florida

Chapter President: John Garner  
 State office: (800) 548-6774  
 FSPANortheastFlorida@FloridaPoolPro.com  
 www.FSPANortheast.com

The next Chapter meetings will be November 19 at the Holiday Inn at 9A and Baymeadows. The Board will meet at 5:00 p.m. There will be a social at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner/meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. We will have guest speaker Bill Andrews talk to the group on compliance with wage and hour laws.



Connie Sue Centrella, HornerXpress teaching at the Northeast Florida Chapter's October meeting

### Northwest Florida

Chapter President: Mack Crumpler  
 (850) 902-1151  
 State office: (800) 548-6774  
 FSPANorthwestFlorida@FloridaPoolPro.com  
 www.FSPANorthwest.com

No news this month.

### Palm Beach

Executive Director: Doris Rohner  
 (954) 723-0937  
 FSPAPalmBeach@FloridaPoolPro.com  
 www.FSPAPalmBeach.com

It's that time of year when the time changes, leaves fall, the weather cools and Florida starts chilling enough to begin thinking about pool heaters. Those in attendance at the October 7 membership meeting heard an excellent presentation by **John Antonio, State of Florida Bureau of LP Gas Inspection**. The program was on gas pool heaters and the laws and rules governing them. He pointed out common mistakes contractors and homeowners make while handling LP gas and explained the correct procedures. Attendees were given information booklets on LP gas. Thank you, John Antonio, your presence and program were greatly appreciated.

The Palm Beach Chapter members present at the October membership meeting elected the following slate of officers and directors for 2010. President **Jim Stevens, Crystal Blue Pools**; Vice President **Kim Allert, Southern Pool Plasterers**; and Treasurer **Jim Bingold, Proline Distributors**. Additional directors



Palm Beach Chapter CE course held in October

are **Dave Ballard, Horizon Pool & Patio**; **Lisa Galan, Fountain Blue Pools**; **Steve Hackl, Hackl Pool Construction**; **Bill Peterson, American Leak Detection**; and **Mike Shirey, Clear Pool Maintenance**. Additional directors are pending final confirmation and the secretary position is still open. The state Directors will be **Jim Stevens, Kim Allert** and **Steve Hackl** with **Mike Shirey** as the alternate. Volunteers are the core of an association and the Palm Beach Chapter is fortunate to have some of its key members step up to the leadership roll.

Please visit our Chapter Web site at [www.fspa-pb.com](http://www.fspa-pb.com). There you will find pictures of the October 24 Road Rally benefiting the Palm Beach Drowning Prevention Coalition and Chapter operations. Visit the Web site and get all the flyers and registration forms for upcoming events and meetings. As a member benefit we are including a list of our members with links to their individual Web sites. Members are encouraged to submit a short bio of their business. We will include it as a link from the



John Antonio, Bureau of LP Gas Inspection, and Kim Allert, Southern Pool Plasterers, at the Palm Beach Chapter meeting in October

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membership roster. This is especially beneficial to the members that do not have Web sites. Submit your business info or further inquiries to the Chapter office.

We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and board member Dan Welsh, SCP Distributors. Dan was an instrumental part in the success of the Chapter. He will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him.

## Polk County

Chapter President: Ed Delafield  
(863) 665-8080

State office: (866) 930-3772  
FSPAPolkCounty@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPAPolkCounty.com

No news this month.

## Space Coast

Chapter President: Shelly Grundhoffer  
State office: (800) 548-6774

FSPASpaceCoast@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPASpaceCoast.com

Free CE course for members! We are offering another free course on November 10 at Doubles Hoagies in I.H.B. The course is "Workers' Compensation" (CILB course #0006955, ECLB course #0007551, one hour, meets workers' compensation requirement, FPSA d/b/a FPSA CILB and ECLB providership #0000917). There is a social/ dinner for \$10 at 6:30 p.m. and the course begins at 7:00 p.m. Non-members can enjoy

the course and dinner for \$40. It is very important to RSVP for this event by November 7 by sending an e-mail to [dmontanaro1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dmontanaro1@cfl.rr.com) or leaving a message at 321-777-4847.

The Space Coast Chapter was well represented at the FSPA Swim Meet. We had **David Nye, Solar Energy Systems of Brevard; Eva Adcock, Best Pools of Brevard; and Shelly Grundhoffer, Aqua Rite, Inc.**, work the event. A member volunteering their time is so helpful at this event. We also had **Dominick Montanaro, M & M Pools; Carl Moody, Solar Energy Systems of Brevard; and Bobby Johnson, Aqua Rite, Inc.**, help sponsor the event. **Jim Fisher, Pentair, and Scott Waymire, United Chemical Corp.**, also pledged money to help the event.

The recent CILB class taught by **Roy Lenois, Artesian Pools of East Florida**, was also a success. It was very informative and we had a good turn out at Doubles Hoagies. The Florida DBPR wants you to report unlicensed activity either by calling 1-800-532-1440 or by going online to [MyFloridaLicense.com](http://MyFloridaLicense.com).

## Tampa Bay

Executive Director: Karen Cobo  
(813) 265-2907

FSPATampaBay@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPATampaBay.com

A special thank you to those who renewed their membership. Please remember all the benefits you receive with your membership. Your

dues money comes back directly to the Chapter and helps support the efforts your Chapter makes with local government relations, public relations and educational opportunities, just to name a few. New members can join any time and even though September is over you can still renew and become reinstated. Please call the State office at 866-930-3772 or one of your Board members for additional information.

Please consider how you would like to be involved in the Chapter; if you are interested in learning more please contact one of your Board members.

Chapter dinner meetings resumed on October 28 with **Marc Gordon, HornerXpress**, providing us with CE courses on workers compensation and workplace safety. All suggestions are welcome regarding any programs or CE courses you would like to have at the Chapter meetings. Please forward suggestions to Karen Cobo for submission to the Board.

We would like to welcome our new member **John Alexander, AO Smith**.

Many thanks to **Annie Marquis, AmeriGas**, for volunteering with Karen Cobo at the FSPA High School Invitational Swimming & Diving Meet Friday, October 9.

Our next Chapter Board meeting is scheduled for November 4 at 11:30 a.m. at The Tilted Kilt, Dale Mabry. We encourage all members to attend.

We are all feeling the crunch of the tough economic times. Let's continue to work together and make this Chapter the best! We all welcome your comments and suggestions to help our Chapter thrive in the coming year.

## Treasure Coast

Executive Director: Susan Gilbert  
(772) 263-2653

FSPATreasureCoast@FloridaPoolPro.com  
www.FSPATreasureCoast.com

We want to thank our 2009 Board members for their service. We have had a great year in difficult circumstances. We also want to welcome our new Board President **Derek Proffitt, Harbor Bay Pools, Inc.**; Vice President **Vinnie Fuggetta, Safety Pool Covers**; Secretary **Bob Miller, Palm City Pool & Spas, Inc.**; Treasurer **Ken Parker, Ken Parker Pools, Inc.**; and Directors **Mauread Slack, Palm City Pool & Spa, Inc.**, and **Joe Janis, Superior Pool Products**. We look forward to another great year.

Look for more information about our Christmas party that will be held December 4.

Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the holiday and be safe!

For additional information about any of the events or meetings listed in the Chapter News, please contact the Executive Director listed at the top of each Chapter's News. Event meeting and information can also be found in Chapter newsletters sent to members and available at local distributors.



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A form of identification is required when taking any continuing education courses. If you do not present an ID when you arrive at your course and sign in, you will not receive credit.

**Office space available in Sarasota**

The FSPA state office has 470 sq.ft. of office space with a private entrance available. It includes two offices approximately 12' x 11' each, a reception area that is 12' x 16' and a restroom. Located near I-75. \$550/ month includes utilities. Contact Wendy Parker Barsell for additional information at (941) 952-9293 or (800) 548-6774.

# Calendar of Events

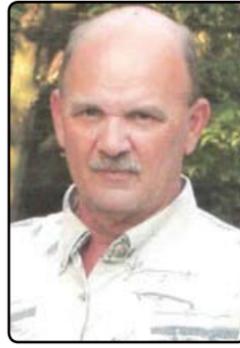
## November 2009

- 3 FSPA Florida West Coast Chapter Board Meeting  
Noon at Applebee's, 5110 East Bay Drive, Clearwater (TriCity Plaza)
- 4 FSPA Tampa Bay Chapter Board Meeting  
11:30 a.m. Tilted Kilt, Dale Mabry
- 10 FSPA Central Florida Chapter Meet & Greet with Legislators  
Historic Dubsdread Ballroom, 549 Par Street, Orlando  
  
FSPA Space Coast FREE CE Course  
6:30 p.m. Social / dinner  
7:00 p.m. CE Course  
Double Hoagies in IHB
- 11 FSPA Charlotte Harbor Chapter Meeting
- 12 FSPA Manasota Chapter Board and Chapter Meetings
- 17 FSPA Broward Chapter CE Course
- 18 FSPA East Central Chapter Board and Chapter Meetings  
River Grille on the Tomoka, Ormond Beach
- 19 FSPA Northeast Florida Chapter  
5:00 p.m. Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Social  
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Meeting  
Holiday Inn at 9A and Baymeadows
- 23 FSPA Charlotte Harbor Chapter Board Meeting

## In Remembrance

### Daniel L. Welsh

(March 18, 1951 - September 27, 2009)



Daniel L. Welsh, of West Palm Beach, passed away in Delray Beach on September 27, 2009. Daniel was 58; he was born March 18, 1951 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He moved to West Palm Beach in 1989. Daniel was a big NASCAR fan. He also enjoyed deer hunting and was an avid bass fisherman.

Daniel leaves behind his wife of 38 years, Sue Ellen Welsh; two children, Chay and Andy Welsh; four grandchildren, Hunter, Christian, Madison and Jayla; sisters Debra Ford and Donna Baird; mother Darlene Welsh; mother and father-in-law

Willa and Charles Morris; 4 nieces; 3 nephews and 3 great nephews. Daniel will also be missed by his three canine companions, Cassie, Lucy and Ramy.

A Memorial Service took place Thursday, October 1, 2009 at Tillman Funeral Home in West Palm Beach with Pastor Bill Stepp officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to [www.campboggycreek.org](http://www.campboggycreek.org) or call 352-483-4200, ext. 676.

Dan was a loyal FSPA member and advocate for our industry. He started in the pool business at Coastal Wholesale in 1989 which was acquired by Hughes Supply where he was elevated to Branch Manager. Hughes in turn was acquired by Poolcorp and Dan has served as Manager, forklift-driver, delivery, sales and service man since 1999. He served on the FSPA Palm Beach Chapter Board and has been a member of the FSPA State Board since 2003. We will all miss him very much.



# ORLANDO

## POOL & SPA SHOW

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