

# An Insider's Guide to the 2013 ELULS Annual Update



## *Celebrating 40 Years of Service to its Membership*

### **Conference Happenings**

- Expo  
One of the highlights of the ELULS Annual Conference is the conference expo. Exhibitors will be present in the exhibit hall during each scheduled break in conference programming. Companies that provide services and products of interest to ELULS members participate in the show to meet prospective new clients and to connect with existing contacts. The expo showcases these service providers in a low-key, professional atmosphere. The ELULS has enjoyed the support of many of these service providers as sponsors and exhibitors each year. Please plan to spend time in the expo hall to meet new service providers and to say thank you for giving back to the section. While you're there, make sure to get the raffle entry card stamped by each participating sponsor and get it in on time for the drawing on Friday.
- Executive Council Meeting (Wednesday) and ELULS Committee Meetings (Saturday)  
Interested in getting more involved with section activities? Then make plans to arrive early or stay late for these Section-business sessions. The Saturday Committee Meetings will be conducted by the Affiliate Membership, CLE, Law Schools, and Public Interest Committees. Section members old and new are welcome at these Council and Committee meetings, which tend to focus on section happenings for the coming year. Come learn what's going on behind the scenes in your Section.
- Substantive Committees Luncheon (Thursday)  
The Thursday lunch is your opportunity to discuss hot topics related to young lawyers; land use law; pollution assessment, remediation management and prevention; water, wetlands, wildlife & beaches; and energy. These informal roundtables will guide what the ELULS committees devoted to these topics are doing in the coming year. Fill your plate, grab a seat at a table marked with a topic of interest to you, and start talking!
- Thursday and Friday Evening Receptions  
Stick around immediately after the program educational sessions close for the day for some drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and socializing with fellow conference attendees--and bring the family.

- EcoWalk  
Representatives of ESciences will be our guide on an interpretive beach walk at the Guana Reserve. Dress casually as you prepare to enjoy some of Florida's natural wonders. Past walks have included sea turtle nest observations and dolphin sightings. A great way to fit a little nature time in with your CLE. Kids are welcome! The walk typically lasts up to two hours, but with your own transportation you can come and go as you please.
- Thursday Night Entertainment  
An Annual Update tradition! Join your colleagues for great music from John Henry Hankinson & The Non-Essentials. Expect to hear some of your favorite songs and enjoy dancing (or just jamming). Cash bar.
- Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon (Friday)  
The Annual Meeting luncheon is our celebration of the 2012-2013 section year and a look ahead towards 2013-2014. Awards will be presented for outstanding Affiliate member, public interest attorney and citizen, as well as awards recognizing superior service to the Section and notable contributions to environmental law. Students selected to receive honors through several Law School Committee programs are also celebrated. Section members are provided the opportunity to vote on nominees to the Executive Council as well as the upcoming year's Council officers. This is one of the best events for slowing down and getting to know some of the new faces you've come to recognize over the prior day and a half.
- Young Lawyers Committee Social (Friday)  
Not just for the chronologically young, this informal conference event is an opportunity for all those still young-at-heart to mix and mingle a little later into the evening at the Resort's on-site pub.

### **Around the Sawgrass Marriott**

The Sawgrass Marriott offers plenty to do for those looking to bring the family or stay a little longer. Here's a look at a few of the resort offerings:

- Golf  
The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa offers access to Eight World-Class Championship Golf Courses, including exclusive access to one of the PGA TOUR's most venerable tournament courses - THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Designed by Pete Dye, THE PLAYERS Stadium Course is ranked among the top 80 golf courses in the world, according to Golf Magazine, and ranked #1 by Travel & Leisure among the Best Resort Courses in Florida. Receive instruction at the TOUR Academy at TPC Sawgrass, or match your skills against The Most-Photographed Hole in the World, the No. 17, par-3 Island Green. Ready to reserve? Visit <http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/golf> for more information.
- Spa and Fitness  
The Spa at Sawgrass offers 19 private treatment rooms, including 12 massage rooms, four skincare rooms, two hydrotherapy rooms, and one couples' massage room. It also features a workout studio, a movement studio (for Pilates, Yoga, Aerobics, and Spinning), an outdoor heated pool and whirlpool. Visit [http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/spa/spa\\_menu.asp](http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/spa/spa_menu.asp) for more information.
- The Beach  
Overlooking a pristine ribbon of powdery sand, The Cabana Beach Club at the Sawgrass Marriott features an exclusive location among Florida family beach hotels. The Cabana Beach Club is only a short distance away on the hotel's continuous complimentary shuttle. So grab your suit, shades, and sun block, dip your toes in the sand and then ...well, see where the day takes you. See <http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/beach> for a list of activities available at the beach club.

- Dining  
Something for everyone, the Sawgrass Marriott has multiple dining options to choose from. Visit <http://sawgrassmarriott.com/dining> for a full list of options.
- Just for Kids  
Sawgrass Kids Klub and Kids Night Out are supervised children's programs, tailored to ages 5-12. Operated by the resort's professional recreation staff, these programs promise to keep kids entertained while parents enjoy some time on their own. Bear in mind that participation requires a 24 hour advance registration. See <http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/activities/sawgrass-xplorers> for details
- Still not sure?  
Check out <http://www.sawgrassmarriott.com/calendar> for a full list of activities scheduled during your visit.

### **More Things to Do**

- Adventure Landing & Shipwreck Island Water Park  
(approximately 8 mi. from Sawgrass)  
1944 Beach Blvd (U.S. 90), Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
<http://www.adventurelanding.com/parks/jacksonville-beach/home/>  
(904) 246-4386  
Offering miniature golf, batting cages, go-karts, laser tag and more.
- GTM Reserve Environmental Education Center  
505 Guana River Rd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/COASTAL/SITES/gtm/education/center.htm>  
904-823-4500  
9 am – 4 pm  
Recreational activities at the GTM Reserve are primarily based around the rich variety of natural resources found here and include hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking or canoeing, bird watching and much more. Hiking and biking are popular along the more than nine miles of nature trails and old service roads that wind through the hammock, scrub and flatwoods in the interior portion of the GTM Reserve. Access to the trails is at the west end of the Guana River Dam. There are no overnight camping facilities or developed picnic areas. There are three beach parking lots on the west side of A1A. Park here and walk across A1A to the beach dune walkovers that will lead you to a beautiful coquina sand beach.

### **Other Tips**

- Attire is business casual, except for the Thursday night entertainment and EcoWalk, where party and outdoor attire sneak in.
- Wondering what happened to the Ethical Challenges for the Environmental Lawyer and Consultant portion of the program? In an effort to make the Annual Update more cost effective for all, the ethics component has been rolled into the main Annual Update agenda. We're now offering one-stop shopping for ethics and general CLE credits.
- Don't forget to pack extra business cards!