

CLASS NOTES



The Soggy Sunshine State: Figuring out Florida's Freshwater

Featured Guests: Dr. Matt Cohen, Director of the UF Water Institute & Professor of Forest Water Resources and Hydrology in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (FFGS)

Key Takeaways

- The majority of Florida's water challenges can be sorted into one of two categories: water quantity and water quality. Some of these challenges are more easily solvable than others.
- Much of Florida's freshwater is housed underneath the ground in the Floridian Aquifer.
- Florida's unique geology contributes to unique opportunities and challenges associated with its water supply, such as drainage and the overall health of the Aquifer.
- These challenges touch on many different areas of our lives, and often require the collaboration of many different experts to address.
- The UF Water Institute was established to serve as a connector between disciplines to broker such collaborations.

Additional Resources

- UF Water Institute Website: <https://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/>
- Dr. Cohen's faculty directory page: <https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/cohen-matthew/>

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between water quantity and water quality challenges? Are there any specific issues where these challenges would overlap?
- Of the challenges discussed in this episode, which one do you think is the most pressing and why?
- What are the historical factors that have shaped Florida's current water management policies?
- How has Florida's population growth impacted its water resources?
- Pick one of the water challenges discussed in today's episode. What types of experts do you think would be needed to solve it?
- How can individuals and communities contribute to water solutions?
- What are the different competing interest groups that are affected by changes in Florida's water quantity and quality? Is there a way to balance their needs?

**This Season of F.R.E. Lunch
is Produced by:
UF/IFAS Food and Resource
Economics Department & The UF Water
Institute**

Visit our website at go.ufl.edu/FRE-Lunch