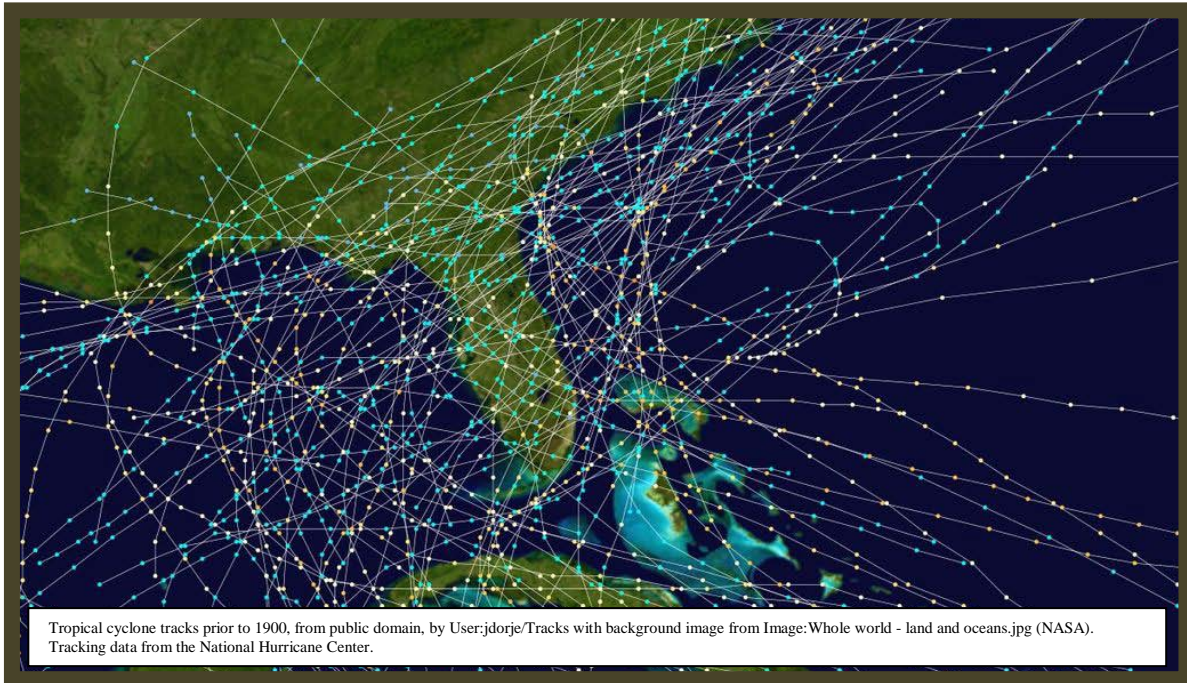


Everglades Geological Society

BULLETIN



Volume 19, Number 2

November 2012

Meeting This Month: Monday, November 19, 2012

(Note Monday meeting date due to Thanksgiving Holiday week)

Speaker: Joanne Muller, F. G. C. U

Topic:

Investigating Climate Change: Paleotempestology of Southwest Florida

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Everglades Geological Society
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The Everglades Geological Society is an organization which seeks to promote interest in and understanding of Geology and the related Earth Sciences, and to provide a common organization for those individuals interested in geology and the related earth sciences. The Bulletin is a publication of the Everglades Geological Society, Inc.

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Meeting This Month:

MONDAY November 19, 2012
6 pm (Social hour starts at 5 pm)
(NOTE MONDAY MEETING DATE)

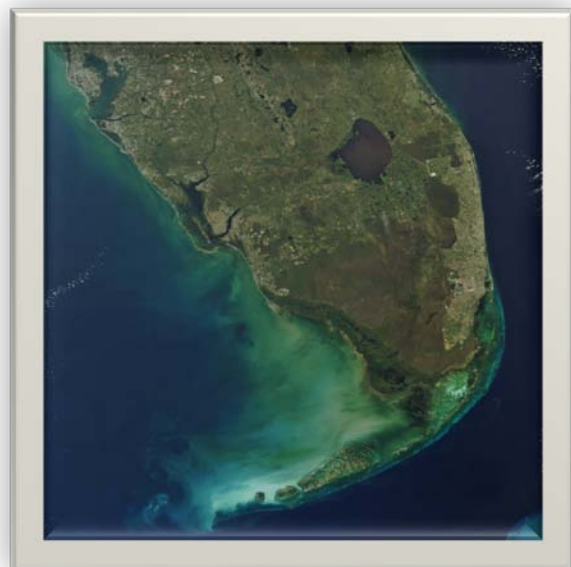
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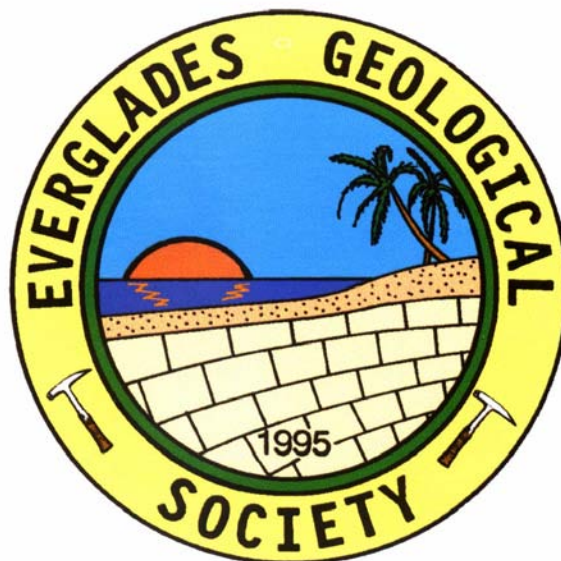


PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Kim Arnold, P.G.

**Hydrogeologist
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Serendipity could not have provided a more topical speaker this month than Dr. Joanne Muller of FGCU. Dr. Muller investigates paleotempestology, the study of the geological signatures of past storms (and also the coolest word I've heard all year, which I fully intend to work into casual conversation at every available opportunity). In the wake of Hurricane Sandy's destruction in the northeast, climate change has again come to forefront of discussion after going dormant during the campaign cycle. Research like Dr. Muller's offers real scientific insight on a debate often high-jacked by political rhetoric. As chance would have it, I also just finished reading *The Global Warming Reader*, edited by Bill McKibben, for an environmental health class I'm taking through the University of Florida. I did my graduate thesis on paleoclimatological research, but it amazes me how many developments have occurred in the field since I ventured outside the Gothic fortress of Friday afternoon beer on the wall and Blue Devil basketball and got a real job. For example, the issue of ocean acidification did not really hit the mainstream radar until the early years of this century, when Chris Langdon and Ken Caldeira, among others, began publishing their findings on the subject. This just goes to show how we as both scientists and informed citizens need to keep our fingers on the pulse of ongoing scientific developments, even after sundry diplomas and licenses are well in-hand. Given our specialized backgrounds, we possess a valuable ability to contextualize the extreme weather events and other natural phenomena observed in recent years and offer both intelligible and intelligent contributions to the popular discourse.



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

INVESTIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE: PALEOTEMPESTOLOGY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

presented by

JOANNE MULLER, F.G.C.U.

ABSTRACT

Scientific literature has proposed that the recent rise in sea surface temperatures, driven by anthropogenic climate change, has led to more frequent and intense tropical storms. This hypothesis has been challenged due to the limited availability of instrumental and observational hurricane data. Currently, the use of Paleotempestology in identifying geologic remnants of past storms is being used to assess storm frequency and strength over longer periods of time. Specifically, storm overwash deposits, that are preserved in back-barrier lagoon sediments, provide the opportunity to study the connections between past climate change and hurricanes over thousands of years. This research uses sediment cores from back-barrier lagoons to reconstruct continuous hurricane records for the Southwest Florida region that extend back well beyond the observational record. This work will contribute to our understanding of past hurricane landfalls in Southwest Florida, and more broadly hurricane dynamics in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico in the distant past.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

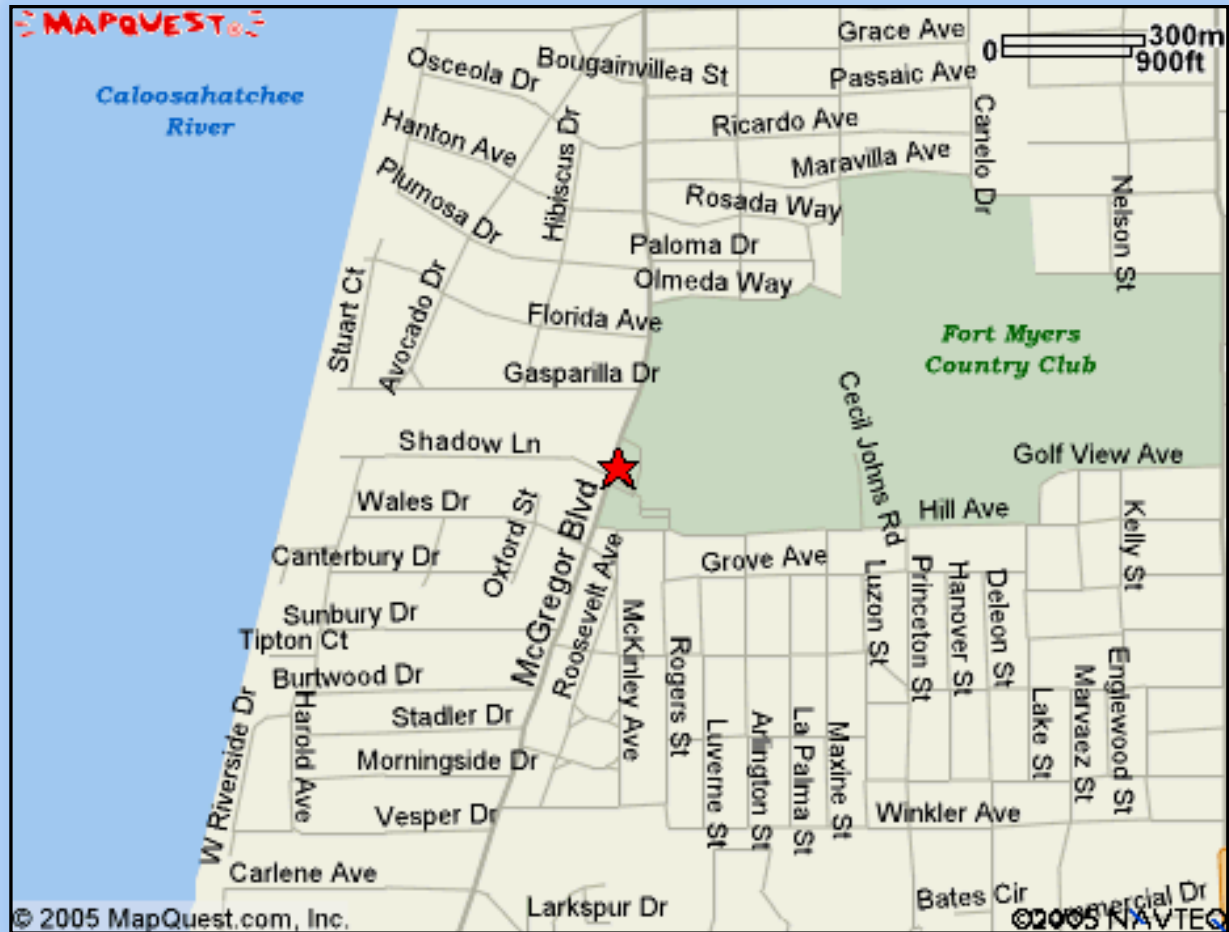
Joanne Muller, Ph.D.
Paleoclimatology

Assistant Professor
F.G.C.U

Joanne Muller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia and received her Ph.D. in Paleoclimatology from the James Cook University, Australia. Prior to being recruited to FGCU in 2011, Dr. Muller was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Dr. Muller's current research interests center on past climate change in tropical latitudes with special focus on the Southwest Florida region.

Everglades Geological Society

Meets on the Third Tuesday every other month at The Edison on McGregor Blvd at the Fort Myers Country Club in Fort Myers, Florida. Social hour starts at 5:00 PM. The meeting begins at 6:00 PM. No meetings are held in July or August. **NOTICE: DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, THE NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012.**



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at meetings, by mail and on our web site.
www.evergladesgeologicalsociety.com

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