

Keynote Speaker

With over two decades of experience forecasting Florida's severe weather, **Jeff Berardelli** is local NBC affiliate WFLA News Channel 8's Chief Meteorologist and Climate Specialist and leader of the Max Defender 8 Weather Team. You can see him on the 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 p.m. shows.

This is Berardelli's second time serving Tampa Bay area viewers, having last worked here from 1997 to 2003 as a meteorologist and fishing/boating reporter. Berardelli considers his return to be a homecoming, as coming back to make Tampa Bay his permanent home has been a long-time goal of his.

Berardelli returns to the Tampa Bay area by way of New York City where, for the past few years, he served as CBS News Meteorologist and Climate Specialist. In this capacity, he delivered weather for the network's CBS Mornings show, worked as a climate correspondent traveling the country reporting on environmental stories and provided scientific analysis for various platforms.

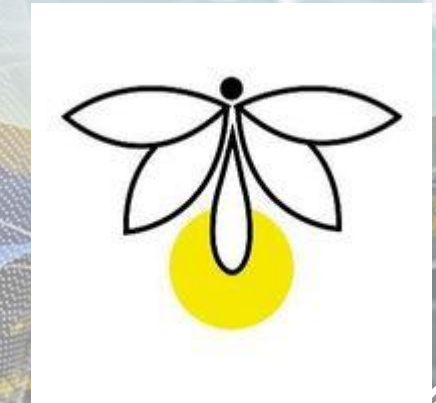




Rick Gilbert has 15 years of solar project development and implementation from all aspects of the solar industry. Rick has been responsible for many of the higher-profile installations in the region, from the largest system in Cuba at Guantanamo Bay to the recent Tampa International Airport and Legoland systems. Rick has authored courseware on solar technology and sits on the Editorial Board of Solar Power World, the main industry publication. Rick attended the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in Business Administration and has been a Certified Technical Trainer since 1997. Rick is currently the President of Solar Source Institute (SSI) and the Executive Vice President of Solar Source. SSI is a Licensed & Accredited school, a NABCEP Authorized Training Provider, and a Continuing Education Provider for the Construction Industry Licensing Board and the Electrical Industry Licensing Board. Solar Source is the largest solar contractor in FL with over 60,000 customers and, at 38 years old, is one of the most established solar companies in N. America.

Lt Col Diane Zamot is an energetic and skilled STEM instructor passionate about inspiring students to pursue science and math excellence and I am currently a science educator at Illumina Learning Center in Tarpon Springs. I am also a Veteran military pilot dedicated to influencing young Americans by developing future leaders of character and an exceptional project manager and leader devoted to educating and mentoring the next generation of aerospace leaders.

I graduated from the US Air Force Academy and went on to Undergraduate Pilot Training. I flew operationally in the Air Force in the KC-135 Stratotanker, an air refueling platform. I was part of the Gulf War in 1990 -1991 and flew to many parts of the world. I was promoted to mom and spent time raising two wonderful boys as we moved around the world and supported my husband in his Air Force career. I flew in the airlines just briefly for Silver Airways before the furlough caused by the pandemic. During that furlough, I reflected on my true passion which is working with students to learn and appreciate the wonder of science. I was a STEM educator at STARBASE Academy Massachusetts for a few years awhile ago and now I am happily back to teaching. I volunteer with Civil Air Patrol as well, to help with the Aerospace Education program.





Brittany Baldrica is a Senior Rescue Biologist at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. She started in this position in January 2022, but has worked in the marine mammal stranding field since 2013. Throughout her career, Brittany also worked as a marine mammal trainer with Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, rough-toothed dolphins, and California sea lions. In her current role, she is responsible for marine animal stranding response and necropsy, cetacean rehabilitation, law enforcement training, grant writing, and intern coordination. Brittany graduated with her Bachelors of Science in Psychology with a concentration in Animal Learning and Behavior from the Florida Institute of Technology. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Professional Science in the Conservation of Marine Mammals from Unity College. In her career, she wants to focus on live animal response and cetacean rehabilitation. Her long term goal is to work for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service as a Regional Stranding Coordinator.





Lauren Brandkamp is a marine animal stranding biologist currently working as a Senior Rescue Biologist for the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. In this position, Lauren coordinates with a team of biologists to respond to whales, dolphins, manatees, and sea turtles in distress along Florida's Gulf Coast. As a part of the Rescue Team, she is on call 24/7/365, responding to hotline reports about live and dead animals. Lauren's job focuses on live animal stranding coordination, cetacean necropsy (post-mortem examination), response readiness such as boat, vehicle and gear maintenance, and data management. In 2014, Lauren graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Biological Oceanography. She has worked as a research scientist studying coral reef biochemistry in the South Pacific, a veterinary tech in wildlife and companion animal clinics, and a toxicologist in an aquatic toxicology lab. Lauren aspires to continue her work in the marine mammal field, and aims to specialize in pinniped and cetacean necropsy



Casey Sapp is CEO of Blue Ring Imaging. His background is in underwater technology innovation for Hollywood creating many first of its kind systems while running VRTUL (www.VRTUL.co). Some of Casey's inventions include the first 360 3D underwater camera system, the first underwater 360 live broadcast (GMA), the first ROV VR piloting system (MBARI), the first 360 cinematic camera on a submarine, and the highest resolution underwater cinematic camera system in the world (MSG Sphere). His customers and clients include the United States Military, SeaWorld, Google, the BBC and National Geographic.



Ami Parrino graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and minors in Public Health, Biomedical Physics, Spanish, and Classics. She serves as the Laboratory Manager at Florida Avenue Brewing where her duties include quality control and quality assurance. She is an Advanced Cicerone™, beer judge, and is Siebel Institute sensory trained. Outside of her work in the lab, Ami is a board member for the Florida chapter of the Pink Boots Society and is passionate about championing women in both the brewing industry and STEAM fields. She is in the process of writing a book on beer and food pairing culture around the world and shares her love of beer and food with the public by offering educational seminars on pairing the two. In her free time she likes to travel and enjoys the hunt for good beer in far-away places."



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Chris Anderson is a native of Tampa, graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Geography. After graduation, he started his job with the Florida DEP's Florida Marine Research Institute, now Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Over the past 28 years, Chris has become a jack of all trades at FWRI. His roles include administering the agency's ArcGIS Online account, creating data entry tools for biologists, providing GIS and cartographic support and mentorship to GIS analysts within the agency, and creating high-quality maps as part of the Florida Boating and Angling Guide Series. Assisting agency biologists in the field, Chris has had the pleasure of participating in field sampling for alligator gar, alligators, Florida panthers, and Florida manatees. In addition, he is also a member of FWC's disaster response team, providing GIS support after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Hurricanes Katrina and Ian, and manatee unusual mortality events. In 2017, Chris earned his GIS Profession Certification (GISP), one of only 2 GISPs at FWC. When not mapping Florida's resources, Chris spends lots of time training his border collie and competing in multiple dog sports.



Ashlee Painter is the Environmental Management Supervisor for the City of Oldsmar. She has a Masters degree in Marine Biology and Coastal Sustainability. She currently oversees sustainability, resilience, and environmental regulations for the city. Ashlee's work includes climate change adaptation and mitigation, stormwater management, habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and potable and wastewater environmental regulations. She is actively working on implementing the city's Climate Resiliency Plan and ensuring the health of both the natural and built environments.



Shea Dunifon aka Lady Caca, is the Education Coordinator at Pinellas County Utilities' South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility in St Petersburg. Shea oversees the public education program which interacts with 30,000+ Pinellas County students through facility tours, classroom teach-ins, and participation in public events. She has a Masters degree in the Crop and Environmental Sciences from Virginia Tech. An award-winning educator, she is the chair of the Water Environment Federation's Public Communication and Outreach committee.

