

Voices of the Everglades:
All for Restoration

Thirty - First Annual

Everglades Coalition Conference



January 7-10, 2016 • Biltmore Hotel • Coral Gables

Hosted by The Florida Wildlife Federation & The National Wildlife Federation

Schedule Overview

Thursday, January 7th

- 1:00-6:00pm On-site Registration at the Biltmore Hotel
- 6:30pm Welcome Reception • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by Tropical Audubon Society & The Biltmore Hotel

Friday, January 8th

- 8:00am Breakfast • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by Sierra Club
- 9:00am Plenary I • Granada Ballroom
Amendment 1, Act 2: Where Do We Go From Here?
Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation
- 10:30am Plenary II • Granada Ballroom
Missing Piece of the Restoration Puzzle: The Everglades Agricultural Area
Ken Ammon, Ammon Water Resource Engineering
- 12:00pm Lunch • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
- 1:30pm Breakout I
 - **Big Cypress National Preserve Restoration: Another Missing Piece of the Puzzle** • Marbella Room
Pete Quasius, Audubon of the Western Everglades
 - **Emerging Voices: Engaging Youth and Diverse Leaders to Advance Restoration** • Aragon Room
Irela Bagué, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Sustainability, Environment, and Energy Committee
 - **Estuary Assessment: Recognizing Progress and Looking Ahead** • Prado Room
Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
- 3:00pm Plenary III • Granada Ballroom
Ecology & Economy: National Park Restoration for Local Communities
John Adornato, National Parks Conservation Association
- 5:30pm Reception • Southwest Terrace
Hosted by the Everglades Foundation
Featuring "Guardians of the Everglades" induction and portrait unveiling of activist Mary Barley
- 7:00pm Dinner & National Park Service Centennial Celebration • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association

Saturday, January 9th

- 8:00am Breakfast • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by Florida Oceanographic Society
- 9:00am Plenary IV • Granada Ballroom
Chirps, Croaks, and Cries: The Many Wildlife Voices of Everglades Restoration
Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife
- 10:30am Breakout II
 - **National Wildlife Refuges as a Greater Everglades Conservation Tool** • Prado Room
Brad Cornell, Audubon of the Western Everglades
 - **Restoring Biscayne Bay and Increasing Sea Level Rise Resiliency for Miami** • Aragon Room
Caroline McLaughlin, National Parks Conservation Assn.
 - **Urban Development and Infrastructure in the Everglades: A Constant Threat to Restoration** • Marbella Room
Richard Grosso, Nova Southeastern University
- 12:00pm Lunch • Alhambra Ballroom
Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida
- 1:30pm Breakout III
 - **Florida Bay: "Déjà Vu All Over Again"** • Aragon Room
Jerry Lorenz, Audubon Florida
 - **From the River of Grass to the Louisiana Bayou: What We're Learning About Restoration** • Prado Room
Manley Fuller, The Florida Wildlife Federation
 - **Life with Invasive Species** • Marbella Room
Jaclyn Lopez, Center for Biological Diversity
- 3:00pm Plenary V • Granada Ballroom
Everglades and Estuaries: Repairing and Sustaining Our \$10 Billion Fisheries Economy
Terry Gibson, The Florida Wildlife Federation
- 4:30pm **Special Session: Protecting the Everglades with Sustainable Energy** • Granada Ballroom
Jim Murley, Miami-Dade County
- 6:30pm Dinner & Awards Ceremony • Country Club Ballroom
Hosted by The Florida Wildlife Federation and The National Wildlife Federation

Sunday, January 10th

- 9:00am Everglades National Park Field Trip
Sponsored by the City of Homestead

Welcome!

Welcome to the 31st Annual Everglades Coalition Conference!

Thank you for joining us in Coral Gables, Florida for the 31st Annual Everglades Coalition Conference, hosted by The Florida Wildlife Federation and The National Wildlife Federation! We look forward to a productive three days full of meaningful dialogue, building relationships, and inspiration to help continue momentum for restoration progress.

This year's conference "Voices of the Everglades: All for Restoration" challenges each of us to bring our individual voice and perspective to the important mission of restoring America's Everglades. There is much work to be done, but with diverse and passionate support we can work together toward our shared goal of an abundant, healthy Everglades.

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair
National Parks Conservation Association



Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair
Everglades Law Center

The Everglades Coalition

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance 58 local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee and to the estuaries, through the River of Grass, out to Florida Bay and the Keys. Everglades Coalition members:

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Caloosahatchee River Citizens
Association / Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Coordinating Council
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Alliance

Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council

Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
Tropical Audubon Society
Urban Environment League of Greater Miami

Conference Program

Thursday, January 7th

1:00pm - 6:00pm

On-site registration at the Biltmore Hotel

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Opening Reception at the Alhambra Ballroom • *Hosted by Tropical Audubon Society & Biltmore Hotel*

Friday, January 8th

8:00am

Alhambra Ballroom

Breakfast • *Hosted by Sierra Club*

Guest Speaker: Dr. Edie Widder, Ocean Research and Conservation Association

Plenary I

9:00am - 10:15am

Granada Ballroom

Amendment 1, Act 2: Where Do We Go From Here?

In the November 2014 election, nearly 75 percent of Floridians who cast a vote on Amendment 1, voted in favor of it. The people of Florida spoke with a clear, unified voice, calling on state leaders to continue the vital project of acquiring and protecting land and water resources in the vulnerable and unique ecosystems of Florida. Did the Florida legislature ignore 4.2 million Floridians with its 2015 budget? This plenary will explore the path forward to get Amendment 1 dollars to restore America's Everglades, protect Florida's springs and wetlands, and safeguard our drinking water.

Moderator: Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation

Panelists: Drew Bartlett, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; David Guest, Earthjustice; Alike Moncrief, Florida Conservation Voters;

Plenary II

10:30am - 11:45am

Granada Ballroom

Missing Piece of the Restoration Puzzle: The Everglades Agricultural Area

In 2015, the fight for land acquisition south of Lake Okeechobee took the restoration community to the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, to Tallahassee, and to the streets. In the wake of the cancelled U.S. Sugar purchase option, stakeholders, policy makers and experts will explore a path forward to securing the land that is at the heart of the restoration of the River of Grass. This panel will highlight the importance of water storage, treatment and conveyance in the Everglades Agricultural Area to reduce the harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the coastal estuaries and to restore the flow of clean water south into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

Moderator: Ken Ammon, Ammon Water Resource Engineering, LLC

Panelists: James Evans, City of Sanibel Natural Resource Director; Jeff Kivett, South Florida Water Management District; Dottie Moses, Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowner Associations; Dr. Thomas Van Lent, Everglades Foundation

12:00pm

Alhambra Ballroom

Lunch • *Hosted by "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society*

Keynote Remarks: U.S. Senator Bill Nelson *and* Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy, U.S. Army (Civil Works)

Breakout I

1:30pm - 2:45pm

A) Estuary Assessment: Recognizing Progress and Looking Ahead • Prado Room

Restoration of the Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee River are vital components of Everglades restoration. Progress has been made in the past few years, including congressional authorization of the Caloosahatchee C-43 West Basin Reservoir and groundbreaking on the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area. Still, much work remains to bring relief to the estuary communities that have suffered ecological and economic harm as a result of polluted flow from Lake Okeechobee. What progress is expected in 2016 and how can we help advance restoration efforts?

Moderator: Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society

Panelists: Dr. Peter Doering, South Florida Water Management District; Deborah Drum, Martin County Ecosystem and Restoration Management; Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Edie Widder, Ocean Research and Conservation Association; Rae Ann Wessel, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Breakout I

1:30pm - 2:45pm

B) Emerging Voices: Engaging Youth and Diverse Leaders to Advance Restoration • Aragon Room

“Voices of the Everglades” are made up of stakeholders, residents, and decision-makers of all ages, genders, cultures, and walks of life – advocacy efforts must match this level of diversity to expand our base and be effective at our mission of restoring America’s Everglades. The panel highlights the need to attract and maintain the participation of youth and minority voices for the longterm success of our organizations – and what we stand to lose if the face of advocacy continues as the status quo. Substantive dialogue will engage the audience about how groups can initiate change, including what tools and policies are most successful. Now is the time to ensure that our organizations – from Board to staff to volunteers – look like the diverse communities that enjoy and depend on the environment we are working to protect.

Moderator: Irela Bagué, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Sustainability, Environment & Energy Committee

Panelists: Jacqueline Crucet, National Parks Conservation Association; Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida; Superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades National Park; Saige Raymond, Mahogany Youth and Miami-Dade College Student; Mark Walters, Sierra Club National Diversity Steering Committee

C) Big Cypress National Preserve: Another Missing Piece of the Puzzle • Marbella Room

Big Cypress National Preserve is one of the headwaters for the historic Everglades, Florida Bay, and Ten Thousand Islands, but is significantly altered by roads, canals, and drainage. Hydrological restoration projects are congressionally authorized and Army Corps approved. Completion of these projects would result in significant improvement to wildlife habitat in the Big Cypress and hydrological benefits to Mullet Slough, Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, and the 10,000 Islands. A Master Plan for Hydrological Restoration of the Big Cypress has been on the shelf since 1998 but not implemented because of a lack of funding, although numerous small projects have been completed. Some have argued that for approximately \$25M, tremendous benefits could be provided to the Greater Everglades.

Moderator: Pete Quasius, Audubon of the Western Everglades

Panelists: Franklin Adams, The Florida Wildlife Federation; Dennis Duke, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Everglades Restoration; James Erskine, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Robert Sobczak, Big Cypress National Preserve; Superintendent Tammy Whittington, Big Cypress National Preserve

Plenary 3

3:00pm - 4:15pm

Granada Ballroom

Ecology and Economy: National Park Restoration for Local Communities

2016 marks two important centennial anniversaries – that of the U.S. National Park Service, and of Royal Palm State Park around which Everglades National Park was later established. As we celebrate these milestones, we also acknowledge the incredible socioeconomic impact that healthy, restored national parks have on the local community. We’ll hear firsthand from local elected and business leaders about the importance of a restored ecosystem for South Florida’s economy, then turn to examine whether we are doing all we can to further restoration efforts that will benefit America’s Everglades. With recently-released general management plans for both Everglades and Biscayne National Parks coinciding with the NPS centennial, what progress can we expect to see in 2016 and beyond? What more can the advocacy community do to engage decision-makers to find the political leadership and funding necessary to advance critical restoration efforts? The best birthday gift we can give our national parks is sustained funding and healthy management practices to see these great places through the next century – what role does the Everglades community play in this critical mission?

Moderator: John Adornato, National Parks Conservation Association

Panelists: Councilman Steve Shelley, City of Homestead; Brian Carlstrom, National Park Service Natural Resource and Science Stewardship Division; Col. Jason A. Kirk, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Audrey Peterman, Earthwise Productions Inc. and Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau; Bill Talbert, Greater Miami Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

5:30pm

Southwest Terrace

Reception • *Hosted by the Everglades Foundation*

Featuring “Guardians of the Everglades” induction and portrait unveiling of activist Mary Barley

7:00pm

Alhambra Ballroom

Dinner & National Park Service Centennial Celebration • *Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association*

Keynote Remarks: Congressman Patrick Murphy and Michael J. Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior

8:00am
Alhambra Ballroom

Breakfast • *Hosted by Florida Oceanographic Society*
Guest Speakers: Florida Reps. Heather Fitzenhagen and Gayle Harrell (*invited*)

Plenary IV
9:00am - 10:15am
Granada Ballroom

Chirps, Croaks, and Cries: The Many Wildlife Voices of Everglades Restoration

The Greater Everglades is one of the most species rich regions of the world, yet many of these species are imperiled and in need of strategic conservation actions for survival and recovery. This panel highlights the many wildlife voices of Everglades restoration from the Kissimmee Prairie to Florida Bay. Panelists will discuss how we use wildlife to gauge Everglades restoration, how Everglades restoration is benefiting wildlife, and what more we can do to recover wildlife populations system-wide. The session will cover topics including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's South Florida Multi Species Recovery Plan; landscape level planning as a tool for Florida panther and black bear conservation; indicator species and their relationships to ecosystem health; and the importance of wading bird recovery as a CERP goal.

Moderator: Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife

Panelists: Kim Dryden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Kevin Godsea, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; Dr. Paul Gray, Audubon Florida; Tom Hoctor, University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning; Dr. Frank Mazzotti, University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Breakout II
10:30am - 11:45am

A) Restoring Biscayne Bay and Increasing Sea Level Rise Resiliency for Miami • Aragon Room

Biscayne Bay is a critical region of the Greater Everglades that has been severely impacted by draining and cutoff of water flow. Now, starved for freshwater and facing a severe decline in vital ecosystems and wildlife, restoration must move forward to restore the Bay and surrounding coastal wetland areas. In addition to benefitting local ecosystems, restoring coastal ecosystems surrounding Biscayne Bay would enhance resilience to the impending impacts of sea level rise, climate change, and saltwater intrusion facing Miami-Dade County. The recent authorization of Phase 1 of Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands presents a huge opportunity to complete this portion of the project, which has already been partially constructed. Planning must now begin for the second phase of the project to achieve the full spectrum of ecological benefits as originally envisioned in CERP. This panel will address ways to expedite the completion of Phase 1 and how to initiate planning for Phase 2 in order to enhance ecological benefits and improve climate change resiliency in the region. The session will also examine the role of FPL's Turkey Point power plant in restoration plans and will explore ideas for productive partnerships to benefit restoration goals and climate change resiliency.

Moderator: Caroline McLaughlin, National Parks Conservation Association

Panelists: Dennis Duke, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives; Lee Hefty, Miami-Dade County; Matt Raffenberg, Florida Power & Light; Laura Reynolds, Tropical Audubon Society; Tom Teets, South Florida Water Management District

B) National Wildlife Refuges as a Greater Everglades Conservation Tool • Prado Room

America's National Wildlife Refuge System is the only network of public lands in the world dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitat. Florida is home to 29 refuges, including 14 throughout the Greater Everglades. A proposed Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (EHNWR) of 150,000 acres north of Lake Okeechobee was announced in 2012. A second new refuge initiative, the Fisheating Creek NWR and Conservation Area, was slated to follow, and would serve as a habitat linkage between the EHNWR and an expanded Florida Panther NWR. The preservation and restoration of a vast ecological network supports healthy and diverse wildlife populations, including wide-ranging species such as Florida panthers and Florida black bears. Despite early momentum, there has been little progress on the ground. Development and road building are accelerating in the region. We need to resuscitate this unprecedented opportunity to preserve valuable lands and waters while we can.

Moderator: Brad Cornell, Audubon of the Western Everglades

Panelists: David "Lefty" Durando, Durando Ranch; Roney Gutierrez, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bill Miller, Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Brian Moore, National Audubon Society; Julie Morris, National Wildlife Refuge Association

Breakout II

10:30am - 11:45am

C) Urban Development & Infrastructure in the Everglades: A Constant Threat to Restoration • Marbella Room

As Florida's economy rebounds, the incessant march of development towards the Everglades is picking up speed. New communities within and adjacent to the Everglades are being proposed and threaten to reduce the footprint of land available for restoration. From major new housing projects adjacent to the EAA, new towns in the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River, the Sugar Hill Sector Plan in the heart of the Everglades, and the never ending effort to expand Miami-Dade County's urban development boundary, the Everglades is threatened by those who seek to urbanize within and around it. Local government leaders and advocates will discuss the threats and seek solutions that ensure the Everglades footprint remains intact.

Moderator: Richard Grosso, Nova Southeastern University

Panelists: Marge Holt, Central Florida Sierra Club; Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center;
Sean McCrackine, Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine-Cava;
Betty Osceola, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and Walk for Mother Earth

12:00pm

Alhambra Ballroom

Lunch • *Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida*

Opening Remarks: Commissioner Ron "Alligator" Bergeron, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Keynote Remarks: Congressman Curt Clawson *and* Former U.S. Senator and Florida Governor Bob Graham

Breakout III

1:30pm - 2:45pm

A) Florida Bay: "Déjà Vu All Over Again" • Aragon Room

Is Florida Bay on the brink of collapse again? As famed Yankees catcher Yogi Berra said, "Its like déjà vu all over again." About 25 years ago the clear waters of Florida Bay turned pea green after a massive seagrass die-off. We then lacked the sophisticated monitoring tools that we have today, but scientists have since pieced together the triggering factors behind that event: extremely low freshwater inflow from the Everglades, hypersalinity, high temperatures, and high light intensity. This same concoction of conditions began to take shape in central and western Florida Bay in the summer of 2015. Despite progress made on Everglades restoration since passage of the CERP in 2000, restoring the flow of freshwater has been delayed. As a result, reduced flows to the south and through Everglades National Park combined with low rainfall in 2015 are contributing to seagrass die-off and potential ecosystem collapse in Florida Bay. Policymakers, fisherman, and scientists will talk about the ecological and economic impacts of hypersalinity, seagrass die-off and algae blooms and how to expedite relief for this world-class site of fishing and tourism.

Moderator: Dr. Jerry Lorenz, Audubon Florida

Panelists: U.S. Congressman Carlos Curbelo (*invited*); Mayor George Neugent, Monroe County;
Dr. Steve Davis, Everglades Foundation; Captain John Kipp, Florida Keys Fishing Guide;
Carlos Solis, Florida Bay Recreational Fisher

B) From the River of Grass to the Louisiana Bayou: What We're Learning About Restoration • Prado Room

For years before Louisiana began coastal planning in earnest, experts in the state were harvesting lessons learned from the development of Florida's Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. In many ways, Louisiana followed Florida's lead in addressing its coastal wetland crisis. However, since CERP authorization in 2000, Louisiana has made enormous strides of its own, establishing a Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and undertaking a robust, science-driven coastal planning process to develop its Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, with implementation underway. Everglades restoration and the restoration of Louisiana's Coastal zone share much in common – size, complexity, and challenge of restoring natural flows of water and rebuilding soils. Historically the Two wetlands are the largest in the coterminous United States. Hydrologic modification has been the most detrimental factor in both, and restoration depends primarily on the extent to which fresh water flows can be restored. Valuable insights can be gained from a two-way exchange of "lessons learned" in a side-by-side discussion of the similarities and differences of the systems, restoration planning and analysis, and successful implementation. This session will pose the questions: What's worked? And what steps do we take next?

Moderator: Manley Fuller, The Florida Wildlife Federation

Panelists: Former U.S. Senator and Florida Gov. Bob Graham; Howard Gonzales, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
John Hankinson, Jr., Former Director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force; David Muth, The National Wildlife Federation; Dr. Fred Sklar, South Florida Water Management District

Breakout III

1:30pm - 2:45pm

C) Life with Invasive Species • Marbella Room

Second only to habitat loss, invasive, exotic species pose the biggest problem for native wildlife in the Everglades and the problem is getting worse. The boa and tegu are emerging as most harmful as they are at the top of the ecological food chain and are difficult to capture. Meanwhile exotic plants take root and are only overcome by a combination of herbicides, scrapping, girdling, and fires. We are now at the extreme edge of the invasion curve, meaning that the longer a species is in an environment, the more difficult and expensive it is to get rid of it. The panel will discuss what is working and what isn't. It will provide updates from the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and National Invasive Species Council, and challenge the audience to participate in identifying solutions.

Moderator: Jaclyn Lopez, Center for Biological Diversity

Panelists: Shannon Estenoz, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force; Bryan Falk, U.S. Geological Survey Invasive Species Science; Tony Pernas, National Park Service and Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area; Rolf Olson, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Plenary V

3:00pm - 4:15pm
Granada Ballroom

Everglades and Estuaries: Repairing and Sustaining Our \$10B Fisheries Economy

Freshwater and saltwater commercial and recreational fishing is a \$10B economic engine in Florida. About two-thirds of all recreational fishing trips in Florida take place in the Everglades region, and Everglades habitats produce saltwater fishes that replenish populations across the Gulf of Mexico and along the Eastern Seaboard. Everglades restoration projects, especially Picayune Strand and the Kissimmee River, have dramatically improved fishing and economic confidence in fisheries. However, the slow pace of restoration – further impeded by business-as-usual politics – severely threatens commercial and recreational fishing in the Southeastern United States. Fishing industries are among the state's leading economic drivers; yet the concept of water management for the sake of maximizing fisheries production gets little attention because of competing interests in the development and agricultural industries. Panelists will discuss why, for the sake of economic diversity and security, it is necessary to recognize our fisheries as an essential component of Everglades restoration. They will be able to offer a different and refreshing perspective on the value of the resources that the Everglades community strives to restore.

Moderator: Terry Gibson, The Florida Wildlife Federation

Panelists: Dr. Peter Barile, Marine Research, Inc.; Capt. Mike Connor, Fishing Guide and Charter Operator; Peter Frezza, Audubon Florida; Elizabeth Jolin, Bay and Reef Company of the Florida Keys; Capt. Will Ward, Esq., Gulf Fisherman's Association

Special Session

4:30pm - 5:30pm
Granada Ballroom

Protecting the Everglades with Sustainable Energy

On Earth Day 2015, President Obama chose Everglades National Park as the backdrop to address the impacts of climate change and gave national recognition to the Everglades' vulnerability. Restoration aims to increase freshwater storage and treatment for sufficient flows to support the environment and water supply - mitigating the impacts of sea-level rise. However, new oil and gas exploration proposals, a new natural gas pipeline, and proposed power plants and expansions (including nuclear) are presenting obstacles to restoration - threatening to further disrupt flows and use even more freshwater, as well as present new contamination and other environmental risks to the Everglades. 2016 will be a pivotal year in which many of these energy decisions will be made in Florida, and whether Florida continues to invest in non-renewable energy sources or more sustainable energy generation will shape the future of the Everglades and the public water supply for nearly a third of Florida's residents. Join us for this special workshop to discuss current energy proposals in and around the Everglades, as well as what can be done to promote more sustainable energy solutions that support Everglades restoration and water resource protection in South Florida.

Moderator: Jim Murley, Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience

Panelists: Susan Glickman, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; Jennifer Hecker, Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Laura Reynolds, Audubon Society

6:30pm
Country Club
Ballroom

Dinner • *Hosted by The Florida Wildlife Federation & The National Wildlife Federation*

Keynote Remarks: Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz

Sunday, January 10th

Field Trip

9:30am—1:00pm

Everglades National Park

Hosted by the City of Homestead

Celebrate the kickoff of the National Park Service's Centennial Year with a morning at one of nation's most unique, beloved, and dynamic places — Everglades National Park! Participants will provide their own transportation from the Biltmore Hotel to the Seminole Cultural Arts Theatre (18 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL) where free parking is available. Please plan to arrive by 9:30am.

The morning will kick off with welcome remarks by City Manager George Gretsas, who will share insight as to how the city's current revitalization process will bolster its role as Gateway Community to Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, and the importance of Everglades restoration for the local economy.

At 10:00am participants will board two National Park Trolleys to enjoy a half hour ride to Everglades National Park narrated by knowledgeable park rangers. You'll arrive at Royal Palm Visitor Center, where a guided tour of Anhinga Trail awaits. National Park Service staff will lead an informational discussion while exploring this 0.8 mile fully accessible trail, which offers views of alligators, wading birds, native plants, and scenic views of the River of Grass.

After the tour, the trolleys will take participants to the Ernest Coe Visitor Center to explore educational displays and visit the gift shop. Board the trolley at 12:30pm to head back to downtown Homestead in time for lunch. Consider supporting one of these locally-owned businesses, all within walking distance of the trolley drop-off:

Casita Tejas • Casual Mexican Dining • 27 Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030

Chef's On The Run • Modern Assorted Cuisine • 10 E. Mowry Drive, Homestead, FL 33030

Mama Mia's • Tradition Italian and Pizza • 538 Washington Ave., Homestead, FL 33030

Uncle Tom's BBQ • Classic BBQ • 128 Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030

** Please be sure to bring appropriate footwear, sun protection, drinking water, and other personal needs.*

Voices of the Future: Student Participants

This year the Everglades Coalition is thrilled to offer conference participation scholarships to two dozen passionate college students from all across the state! These young men and women come to us with a variety of professional interests and educational pursuits including biology, hydrology, urban planning, environmental policy, law, education, and more. We celebrate the participation of these students and extend special thanks to our conference sponsors who helped make their presence possible! Students are joining us from:

Eckerd College • St. Petersburg

Florida Atlantic University • Boca Raton

Florida International University • Miami

Miami-Dade College • Miami

Nova Southeastern University • Davie

Rollins College • Winter Park

Santa Fe College • Gainesville

Seminole State College • Sanford

University of Florida • Gainesville

University of Miami • Coral Gables

University of South Florida • Tampa

Conference Sponsors

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Sawgrass Roots

Artists in Residence in Everglades

Audubon of the Western Everglades

Audubon Society of the Everglades

Audubon Society of Southwest Florida

Center for Biological Diversity

Defenders of Wildlife

Everglades Law Center

Florida Native Plant Society

International Dark-Sky Association, Florida Chapter

League of Woman Voters of Florida

Martin County Conservation Alliance

Ocean Research and Conservation Association

Reef Relief

Acceptance of sponsorship donation has no bearing on conference program, content, or the views and positions of the Everglades Coalition, nor does it imply recommendation or endorsements by the Coalition or any of its members.

Award Winners

Aliki Moncrief

George M. Barley Conservationist of the Year Award

As Deputy Campaign Manager and Field Director for Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Aliki was instrumental in the passage of Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment that will set aside funds to protect our state's most precious natural resources, including the Everglades. She helped recruit and mobilize campaign volunteers and organizations to educate voters about Amendment 1. She oversaw and guided digital strategy, developed and implemented field strategy, and lead a team of organizers to ultimately gather nearly 1 million signed petitions. The constitutional amendment was approved by an overwhelming 75% of Florida voters and dedicates roughly \$20B over the next 20 years towards conservation. A former attorney at Earthjustice, Deputy General Counsel at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Executive Director of Environment Florida, Aliki now serves as Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters, a nonpartisan, conservation organization aimed at electing conservation leaders to public office.

Cris Costello

John V. Kabler Award for Grassroots Activism

Cris Costello, senior regional organizing representative for the Sierra Club, requires no introduction to most Everglades advocates already accustomed to her passion and acute sense of how to engage the public and inspire them into action. Cris demonstrated her superior grassroots organizing savvy in 2015, rallying communities in support of storage to send Lake Okeechobee water south to protect the northern estuaries and restore the River of Grass. Going far beyond generating turnout to public meetings, Cris convened rallies in Tallahassee and organized the Big Sugar Summit bringing more than 300 people, including global and healthcare officials, to discuss the many costs of the subsidized sugar industry. Cris is hands down one of the most passionate activists in Florida and her dedication is infectious always bringing together different regions, personalities, priorities to one goal – clean water for Floridians. Cris' efforts have helped to spark statewide support demanding a storage solution to protect our communities, our water supply and America's Everglades.

Brian Carlstrom

James D. Webb Public Service Award

In his capacity as Superintendent of Biscayne National Park, Brian demonstrated exemplary leadership and a clear commitment to protecting the resources and wildlife of Biscayne Bay, a critical area of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Under his tenure, both the General Management Plan and Fishery Management Plans for the park were finalized, including a broad suite of protections designed to restore native ecosystems, protect valuable biodiversity, improve water quality, and provide enhanced visitor experiences to the public. At the core of these efforts was the decision by the National Park Service, prompted by Brian's strong leadership, to create a marine reserve within Biscayne National Park to protect the park's unique but severely threatened coral reef ecosystem. Despite enormous obstacles and intense pressure from opponents, he was successful in ensuring that future park management plans include the best and most effective resource management options to protect the resources of Biscayne for future generations. He has built and maintained strong relationships with the environmental community and demonstrated the commitment of the National Park Service to protect and restore the Everglades.

See You Next Year!

32nd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference
January 5 - 8, 2017 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort
Hosted by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation



Everglades
Coalition