

33rd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 11 to 14, 2018

Hutchinson Island

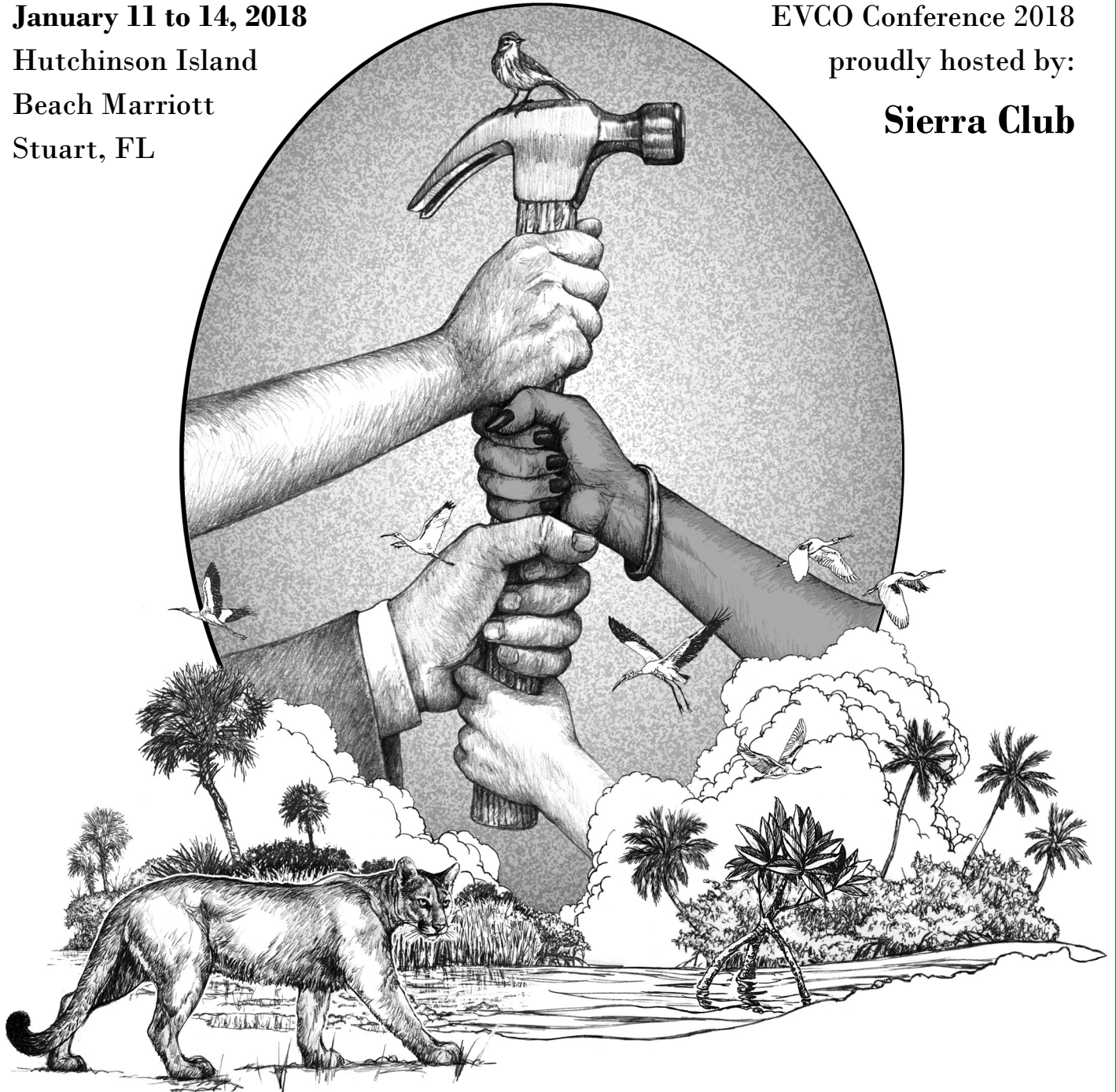
Beach Marriott

Stuart, FL

EVCO Conference 2018

proudly hosted by:

Sierra Club



Everglades for Everyone

Building Connections for Progress

Schedule Overview

Thursday, January 11th

1:00-6:00pm	On-site Registration at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort in Stuart, Florida
6:30pm	Palm Pavilion • Welcome Reception • <i>Hosted by Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort</i>

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Friday, January 12th

8:00am	Palm Pavilion • Breakfast & Guest Speaker • <i>Hosted by Florida Oceanographic Society</i>
9:00am	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary I • Making the Connection: Southern Everglades Restoration and the Estuary Solution

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10:30am	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary II • Can Hurricane Recovery Efforts Build Resiliency for All? Lessons Post-Irma
12:00pm	Palm Pavilion • Lunch & Keynote Remarks • <i>Hosted by “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society</i>
1:30pm	Breakout I – A) Elliott Amphitheater • Power of Grassroots to Influence Growth Decision Makers

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1:30pm	Breakout I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Elliott Amphitheater • Power of Grassroots to Influence Growth Decision Makers B) Stuart Hall • Lake Okeechobee: Connecting the Northern & Southern Everglades C) Egret Room • Pine Rocklands: Lifeboats in Peril

	C) Egret Room • Pine Rocklands: Lifeboats in Fern
3:00pm	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary III • Expanding the Dialogue for a Just and Equitable Plan Forward
5:30pm	Piano Foyer • Reception • <i>Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida</i>

	C) Egret Room • Pine Rocklands: Lifeboats in Fern
3:00pm	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary III • Expanding the Dialogue for a Just and Equitable Plan Forward
5:30pm	Piano Foyer • Reception • <i>Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida</i>

7:00pm Palm Pavilion • Dinner & Keynote Remarks • *Hosted by the Everglades Foundation*

Saturday, January 13th

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8:00am	Palm Pavilion • Breakfast & Guest Speaker • <i>Hosted by Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society</i>
9:00am	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary IV • Keeping the EAA Reservoir on Track: SB 10 and Beyond

8:00am	Palm Pavilion • Breakfast & Guest Speaker • <i>Hosted by Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society</i>
9:00am	Plantation Ballroom • Plenary IV • Keeping the EAA Reservoir on Track: SB 10 and Beyond

10:30am	Breakout II A) Elliott Amphitheater • South Florida Water Quality: What's in Our Water? B) Stuart Hall • Everglades and Beyond: Threats to Public Lands C) Egret Room • Up in Flames: Sugar Field Burning and the Dangers it Poses to the Everglades, its Residents, and the Future of the Everglades Agricultural Area
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Everglades, its Residents, and the Future of the Everglades Agricultural Area	
12:00pm	Palm Pavilion • Lunch & Keynote Remarks • <i>Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association</i>
1:30pm	Breakout III A) Egret Room • Conservation Funding for the Future

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1:30pm	Breakout III A) Egret Room • Conservation Funding for the Future B) Elliott Amphitheater • River Warriors: Impact and Significance of the Grassroots Movement C) Stuart Hall • Landscape Connections: A Path to Species Survival in the Everglades

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3:00pm	Elliott Amphitheater • Plenary V • Triple Threat: Florida Policy on Water, Growth, and Conservation Funding
6:30pm	Plantation Ballroom • Closing Dinner & Keynote Remarks • <i>Hosted by Sierra Club</i>

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Welcome

Welcome to the 33rd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference!

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition, welcome to the Hutchinson Island Marriott Resort in Stuart, Florida for the 33rd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference, the largest event for discussion and progress reports on restoring America's Everglades. This year's conference, hosted by Sierra Club, will bring together a diverse and passionate group of individuals and organizations united in our support for Everglades restoration. Thank you for being part of the discussion to advance our shared goals for America's Everglades through 2018 and beyond.



Mark Perry, EVCO Co-Chair
Florida Oceanographic Society



Michael Baldwin, EVCO Co-Chair
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society

Everglades Coalition

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to the 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.

1000 Friends of Florida

Arthur R. Marshall Foundation

Audubon Florida

Audubon of Southwest Florida

Audubon of the Western Everglades

Audubon Society of the Everglades

Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples

Bullsugar

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 Foundation

Everglades Law Center

Everglades Trust

FL Conservation Voters Education Fund

Florida Defenders of the Environment

Florida Keys Environmental Fund

Florida Native Plant Society

Florida Oceanographic Society

Florida Wildlife Federation

Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Friends of the Everglades

Hendry-Glades Audubon Society

Institute for Regional Conservation

International Dark-Sky Association, FL

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 Pine Rocklands Coalition

Miami Waterkeeper

National Audubon Society

National Parks Conservation Association

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

North Carolina Outward Bound School

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 National Wildlife Federation

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Tropical Audubon Society

Urban Environment League of Greater Miami

Conference Schedule

Thursday, January 11th

- 1:00-6:00pm On-site Registration at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort in Stuart, Florida
- 6:30pm Welcome Reception in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort

Friday, January 12th

- 8:00am Breakfast in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by Florida Oceanographic Society
Featured Speakers: Vincent Encomio, PhD. and Zack Jud, PhD., Florida Oceanographic Society
- Plenary I
9:00am **Making the Connection: Southern Everglades Restoration and the Estuary Solution • Plantation Ballroom**
The Everglades community has long embraced the need to “send it south.” The ability to send clean water south depends on the success of a suite of projects in South Dade to improve flow and distribution into Everglades National Park, including the Modified Water Deliveries Project, C-111 South Dade, C-111 Spreader Canal, the Central Everglades Project, and bridging Tamiami Trail. What will it take to get the water right for the southern Everglades, and what hangs in the balance? This includes direct benefits needed for Florida Bay and the Keys communities that depend on clean water, as well as relief for the northern communities desperately seeking a safe outlet for the overflow that burdens the coastal estuaries. The amount of water flowing into Everglades National Park will remain the limiting factor for overall ecosystem until we get it right.

Moderator: Ansley Samson, Everglades Law Center
Panelists: Ron “Alligator” Bergeron, Bergeron Everglades Wildlife Foundation; Cara Capp, National Parks Conservation Association; Steve Friedman, Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association; Lt. General Todd T. Semonite, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Brandon Tucker, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
- Plenary II
10:30am **Can Hurricane Recovery Efforts Build Resiliency for All? Lessons Post-Irma • Plantation Ballroom**
Sustaining and restoring the Everglades is one of the best ways to enhance natural resiliency to storm surge and flooding in South Florida and beyond. The greater Everglades is a collection of wetlands, mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs and upland resources — all critical components of our natural line of defense against hurricanes and rising seas. As climate change worsens and the storms battering our shores increase in frequency and severity, we must prioritize maintaining and expanding natural buffers along our coasts and inland areas. Federal, state, and local governments have the opportunity invest in natural infrastructure to fortify our communities. Everglades restoration can help us be better prepared to withstand the next big storm.

Moderator: Julie Hill-Gabriel, Audubon Florida
Panelists: Commissioner George Neugent, Monroe County; Aimee Delach, Defenders of Wildlife; Sarah Barmeyer, National Parks Conservation Association; Jenny Staletovich, Miami Herald
- 12:00pm Lunch in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society
Keynote Remarks: Congressman Francis Rooney and Senator Bill Nelson
Presentation of the Barley Conservationist of the Year Award to Celeste De Palma
- Breakout I
1:30pm **A) Power of Grassroots to Influence Growth Decision Makers • Elliott Amphitheater**
Growth is a constant and compounding stressor related to most issues affecting the Everglades. Growth paves over or needed to restore the Everglades. It increases the negative impacts of sea level rise, flooding, limited water resources, and loss of conservation land, wildlife habitats and corridors. Whether challenging growth within or at the edges of the remaining Everglades or introducing citizen-driven local initiatives to conserve land and water resources, the voices of citizens have proven a powerful force in defeating incompatible development and supporting responsible alternatives compatible with restoration goals. Opportunities and challenges for grassroots engagement within current growth laws will be discussed.

Moderator: Scott Zucker, Audubon Society of the Everglades
Panelists: Emily Bonilla, Orange County Commissioner and Save Orange County; Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida; Richard Grosso, Nova Southeastern University; Laura Reynolds, Friends of the Everglades; Holly Schwartz, former Lee County Assistant City Manager and Environmental Policy Management Director

Friday, January 12th

- Breakout I** **B) Lake Okeechobee: Connecting the Northern and Southern Everglades • Stuart Hall**
- 1:30pm Lake Okeechobee is Florida's largest lake – 750,000 square miles, about the size of Rhode Island. The lake has frequently been called “the heart” of the Everglades ecosystem, and likened to the human heart and circulatory system. For years water flowed from Central Florida south into the lake, which spilled over its southern shore to spread in a shallow sheet-flow through what are now the Water Conservation Areas, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, into Biscayne and Florida Bays. Prompted by severe flooding in 1947, construction of the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project severed these natural connections of Everglades ecosystem. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan sets out 60+ projects to reestablish historic connections to the Everglades. This session will provide a progress report on efforts to restore those lost connections and improve the quality of water flowing south from the Kissimmee through Lake Okeechobee. Panelists will assess the efforts to maintain and restore a viable littoral zone, address water quality issues posed by the deep layer of sediments, and overview progress with the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (LOW) project.
- Moderator: Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation
- Panelists: Paul Gray, Ph.D., Audubon Florida; Ramon Iglesias, General Manager of Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston; Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Brandon Tucker, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board and President of the Tucker Group specializing in ranch and conservation lands
- C) Pine Rocklands: Lifeboats in Peril • Egret Room**
- Pine rocklands, characterized by limestone outcroppings, slash pine overstories, and shrubby understories, support some of the most highly endemic and endangered species in South Florida. Pine rocklands are only found in the Bahamas and in limited locations in Florida, like the Miami Rock Ridge, Everglades, Florida Keys, and in Big Cypress. Sadly, more than 98% of pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade County has been destroyed and what fragmented sections remain are difficult to manage due to their proximity to urban areas and dependence on fire. Sea-level rise exacerbates these threats, especially in the Florida Keys and Everglades National Park. But there's good news! Significant portions of pine rocklands are protected in public lands, and restoration has proven successful. Efforts are underway by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify threats to pine rocklands and their species and conservation organizations and researchers are working to ensure that what remains of the pine rocklands is available for the plants and animals that depend on them.
- Moderator: George Gann, Institute for Regional Conservation
- Panelists: Janet Gil, Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program; Roger Hammer, Tropical Audubon Society; Jennifer Possley, Fairchild Botanical Garden; Al Sunshine, Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
- Plenary III** **Expanding the Dialogue for a Just and Equitable Path Forward • Plantation Ballroom**
- 3:00pm The Everglades restoration dialogue has been almost exclusively held between environmentalists, the sugar industry, and state and federal agencies; this has been to the exclusion of the voices most directly affected, on a daily basis, by the environment and politics in and around the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). If the Everglades is indeed for everyone, then we must include those other voices in the discourse as equal partners. The restoration of the Everglades can benefit all stakeholders but we must expand the dialogue immediately if we are to achieve Everglades restoration in an inclusive, just, equitable, and sustainable way.
- Moderator: Cris Costello, Sierra Club
- Panelists: Paul Carlisle, Glades County Administrator; Michael Frank, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Steve Messam, Leadership Development Specialist, Wisdom Chasers Enterprise LLC, Belle Glade; Cherise Maples, Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department; Antonio Tovar, PhD, Farmworker Association of Florida
- 5:30pm Reception in the Piano Foyer • Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida
- 7:00pm Dinner in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by the Everglades Foundation
- Presentation of the John V. Kabler Grassroots Organizing Award to Betty Osceola*
- Keynote Remarks: Congressman Brian Mast and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz

Saturday, January 13th

- 8:00am Breakfast in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by Audubon Florida
Special Guest Remarks: Former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham
- Plenary IV **Keeping the EAA Reservoir on Track: SB10 and Beyond • Plantation Ballroom**
9:00am The legislative process is often referred to as “sausage making” because it can be messy and difficult to watch. Implementation, however, is where the rubber truly meets the road, and since the passage of Senate Bill 10 in 2017, a robust network of organizations, agencies and policymakers have worked at a breakneck pace to deliver on the promise of an Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir that will store at least 240,000 acre-feet of water, provide relief harmful discharges to the Northern estuaries, and send clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay. Panelists will provide a progress report just days after the South Florida Water Management District submits its preliminary findings to the Florida Legislature and discuss a path forward to ensure a project is built and can deliver benefits.
- Moderator: Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
Panelists: Florida Senate President Joe Negron; Drew Bartett, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation
- Breakout II **A) South Florida Water Quality: What’s in Our Water? • Elliott Amphitheater**
10:30am Water is the thread that connects the entire Everglades ecosystem and sustains our environment and communities that depend on clean water for drinking and recreation. Everglades water quality has been under threat and degraded over years due to pollution runoff from agricultural and urban areas, hydrologic alterations and habitat destruction. Pollution control practices and Stormwater Treatment Areas have been implemented, as well as other regulatory practices to curb runoff and help restore waterbodies. Additionally, many aspects of water policy regulation have undergone significant changes over the past several years. But what progress has been made? Despite reductions in phosphorus in some areas, many parts of the Everglades, including coastal areas and Lake Okeechobee, continue to experience poor water quality, exemplified by harmful algae blooms, submerged aquatic vegetation die-offs, and other detrimental impacts to the environment and human health.
- Moderator: Rae Ann Wessel, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Panelists: Dr. Larry Brand, University of Miami; Marisa Carrozzo, Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Betty Osceola, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Dr. Stephen Davis, Everglades Foundation
- B) Everglades and Beyond: Threats to America’s Public Lands • Stuart Hall**
America’s public lands are under attack. Threats include removal of national monument status, weakened protections for marine ecosystems, attempts to dismantle the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, expansion of oil and gas exploration, and de-funding of critical agencies like the EPA. How can passionate advocates fight back? Local and national threats will be part of the discussion – because a threat to public lands anywhere is a threat to public lands everywhere.
- Moderator: Nicholas Lund, National Parks Conservation Association
Panelists: Alison Kelly, National Resources Defense Council; Laurie MacDonald, Defenders of Wildlife; Richard Ring, Former Superintendent of Everglades National Park and Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks; Chuck Rocha, Solidarity Strategies
- C) Up in Flames: Sugar Field Burning and the Dangers it Poses to the Everglades, its Residents, and the Future of the EAA • Egret Room**
The Everglades is more than national parks and refuges, rivers, estuaries and bays; it also encompasses close to 500,000 acres of land in and around the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) that is now planted in sugarcane. Every year, over the course of six months or more, fields are burned to prepare for harvesting. This outdated and unnecessary practice is inexpensive for growers, but costly to the affected communities and environment. Residents in and around the EAA are organizing to stop pre-harvest sugar field burning, which negatively impacts their water and air, quality of life, and the economic viability of their communities. Green harvesting, a more sustainable alternative, can offer new jobs and other economic opportunities to the region. The campaign to stop pre-harvest sugar burning brings restoration, public health, and economic justice advocates together to move the Glades toward the transition from the status quo of today to the restored Everglades of the future.
- Moderator: Alisa Coe, Earthjustice
Panelists: Patrick Ferguson, Sierra Club; Dr. J. William Louda; Florida Atlantic University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Environmental Sciences; Kina Phillips, Community Activist, South Bay, Florida
- 12:00pm Lunch in the Palm Pavilion • Hosted by National Parks Conservation Association
Keynote Remarks: Congressman and Former Florida Governor Charlie Crist
Presentation of the James D. Webb Public Service Award & Special Remarks by Florida Senate President Joe Negron

Saturday, January 13th

Breakout III A) Conservation Funding for the Future • Egret Room

1:30pm What role does conservation land acquisition play in greater Everglades restoration? How have state land acquisition programs such as Florida Forever contributed to ecosystem restoration throughout the greater Everglades? What is the best way to ensure Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Amendment 1 funds are being utilized and distributed in such a way as to support the intent of Amendment 1 while simultaneously helping reach Everglades restoration goals? Will Congress and the Land and Water Conservation Fund continue to play a role in the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge? Experts in conservation land protection, funding and Everglades restoration will discuss these questions and the important implications for the future of the River of Grass.

Moderator: Frank Jackalone, Sierra Club

Panelists: Bill Miller, Everglades Headwaters national Wildlife Refuge; Alik Moncrief, Florida Conservation Voters; Julie Morris, National Wildlife Refuge Association; Jim Strickland, Florida Conservation Group and Owner of Strickland Ranch; Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida

B) River Warriors: Impact and Significance of the Indian River Lagoon Grassroots Movement • Elliott Amphitheater

The lost summers of 2013 and 2016 along the St. Lucie estuary and the Indian River Lagoon have been the crucible in which the “send water south” campaign and the passage of Senate Bill 10 by the Florida Legislature in 2017 were stoked. Grassroots forces in the community impacted by harmful Lake Okeechobee discharges year after year were mobilized — passionate and strong. Community groups, private citizens, business owners, health professionals, teachers, parents, and students were involved, all committed to finding a solution to the water crisis that has plagued our greatest shared resource — our water. Come hear the stories of the “River Warriors” in the hometown that called them each to action.

Moderator: Maggy Hurchalla, River Warrior and Everglades Coalition Hall of Fame Member

Panelists: Marty Baum, Indian Riverkeeper; Michael Connor, Fishing Guide; Kenny Hinkle, Activist and Videographer; Gayle Ryan, Activist; Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Former Mayor of the Town of Sewall’s Point, River Kidz Volunteer Administrator, Blogger, and Member of the Florida Constitution Revision Commission

C) Landscape Connections: A Path to Species Survival in the Greater Everglades • Stuart Hall

In a Greater Everglades region that is shrinking every day due to human encroachment and climate change, maintaining and restoring habitat and connections will provide plants and animals the space they need to survive. “Umbrella species” such as the Florida panther and other wide-ranging mammals are the path-finders through often squeezed and altered habitats. Functioning habitat connections with underpasses provided for the panther have yielded great benefit for many other types of wildlife species. New efforts are underway to identify remaining pathways that are at risk for future loss from human encroachment and climate change, existing critical needs for improvements, and in engaging the public in these issues.

Moderator: Nancy Payton, Florida Wildlife Federation

Panelists: Amber Crooks, Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife; Jaclyn Lopez, Center for Biological Diversity; Dan Smith, PhD, University of Central Florida; Larry Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Plenary V Triple Threat: Florida Policy on Water, Growth, and Conservation Funding • Elliott Amphitheater

3:00pm The past several years have seen drastic changes to the environmental policy landscape in Florida, including a complete overhaul of growth management policy, groundbreaking and contentious changes to water quality standards and water resources legislation, and the successful passage of Amendment 1 in 2014 that has faced both successes and obstacles in implementation. Florida is continuing to encounter massive population growth, water quality degradation, and conservation land funding shortfalls. This panel will explore these three topics with the goal of offering some specific policy solutions for tackling growth, water quality, and conservation funding. All three topics will be explored in more depth in associated breakout sessions.

Moderator: Richard Grosso, Shepard Broad College of Law, Nova Southeastern University

Panelists: David Guest, environmental attorney; Thomas Hawkins, 1000 Friends of Florida
Alik Moncrief, Florida Conservation Voters

6:30pm Dinner in the Plantation Ballroom • Hosted by Sierra Club

Keynote Remarks: Carl Hiaasen

Sunday, January 14th

Oyster Restoration in the Estuary Adventure, 9:00am—12:00pm

Explore the Indian River Lagoon on this fun, educational, and restoration-based adventure! Meet at Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center (0.3 miles from hotel) for short classroom briefing, then walk the nature trail to the Indian River Lagoon. Help bag oyster shell, visit the oyster hatchery, see aquaculture and larvae under microscope, take bagged shell along mangrove shoreline to River Cove site and help deploy oyster reefs. Walk back to the Coastal Center for a behind-the-scenes seagrass tour. Wear appropriate wading shoes. Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center is located at 890 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996.

S-80 Discharges, South Fork River Kayak Adventure , 9:00am—1:00pm

Join us for a guided kayaking trip. Meet at the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center (0.3 miles from hotel) for van ride to the S-80 St. Lucie Lock and Dam Structure. After a brief explanation of Lake Okeechobee discharges, travel to South River Outfitters for the kayak launch, with a group paddle down the beautiful South Fork of the St. Lucie River. Dress appropriately, you may get wet! Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center is located at 890 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996.

Beach Walk & Living Reef Adventure, 9:00am—12:00pm

Meet at the Martin County Bathtub Reef Beach Park (2.5 miles from hotel) for orientation of beach/dune and reef habitats, education about the largest living Sabellariid Worm reef in the U.S., the Anastasia rock outcroppings, corals and plants associated with the reef, dunes and shoreline dynamics, and more. Participants are welcome to bring swim/snorkel gear to venture out after the program. Martin County Bathtub Reef Beach Park is located at 1585 SE MacArthur Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996.

Pre-registration is required for field trips and space may be limited. Your nonrefundable \$10 registration fee holds your spot.

All field trips are organized and generously supported by Florida Oceanographic Society.

Future EVCO Events

Everglades Action Day — January 23, 2018

Tallahassee, FL • info@evergladescoalition.org to learn more!

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See you next year for the 34th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

January 10 — 13, 2019 at the Hilton Key Largo

Hosted by the Everglades Foundation



Artwork by Stephen Left

Next Generation

The Everglades Coalition is proud to offer scholarships to passionate students from across the country who are joining us to learn about the science, policy, and advocacy of Everglades restoration. These women and men come from a variety of professional interests and educational pursuits including marine biology, education, environmental policy, law, and more. We celebrate the participation of students from the following schools:

Columbia University • New York
Florida Atlantic University • Boca Raton
Florida Gulf Coast University • Fort Myers
Florida International University • Miami
Florida State University • Tallahassee
Middlebury Institute • California

Nova Southeastern University • Fort Lauderdale
Suncoast Community High School • Riviera Beach
University of Central Florida • Orlando
University of Florida • Gainesville
University of South Florida • Tampa

Registration and meal support for the scholarship program generously provided by the Everglades Trust

Lodging for scholarship students generously funded by the National Parks Conservation Association

Award Winners

Florida Senate President Joe Negron • James D. Webb Public Service Award

Florida Senate President Joe Negron saw a sincere need in his community, researched the best solution, and championed a plan to success. Faced with the ongoing environmental, economic, and public health crisis of Lake Okeechobee discharges inundating the St. Lucie River, and simultaneous crises in the Caloosahatchee River and the Everglades because of Florida's broken water system, Sen. Negron set out to find a solution. His plan to fast-track a project to store and treat water south of Lake Okeechobee had powerful opposition. Many fellow legislators did not initially share his vision or understand the path forward to bring the needed project into fruition. But Sen. Negron charted out a path to success — explaining the need, winning over the support of powerful allies, making negotiations when necessary, relying on sound science, and never wavering in his commitment to pass legislation to create a future better than what we have today. Passage of Senate Bill 10 to fast-track the EAA Reservoir planning was a pivotal moment for our state. Few public servants have shown such strong commitment, or achieved such high level of success, on an issue that is absolutely critical to the health of the Everglades. For his vision, his hard work, and his commitment to Florida's water, the Everglades Coalition is proud and grateful to honor Senator Negron as outstanding public servant of the year.

Betty Osceola • John V. Kabler Grassroots Organizing Award

Betty Osceola, a member of the Miccosukee Tribe, has been a persistent advocate for the Everglades for decades, fighting development threats, water quality issues, and expansion of oil drilling in sensitive habitat. Betty has been an inspiration to many advocates in and outside the Tribe. Most recently she was the leading and inspiring role in the fight to stop the "River of Grass Greenway" proposal for a 76-mile long, 14-ft wide paved pathway that would destroyed wetlands and other critical habitat from Naples to Miami. As part of this fight, Betty led rallies, protests, email campaigns and even three walks, some which took nearly a week to walk 70+ miles along Tamiami Trail. Her inspiration led to a large grassroots effort that culminated with having both Collier County and Miami-Dade County withdraw their support for the project.

Celeste De Palma • George M. Barley Conservationist of the Year Award

As the Everglades Policy Associate for Audubon Florida, Celeste helps protect many iconic habitats throughout the Greater Everglades. When alerted to the threats facing the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, including the potential to lose National Wildlife Refuge status and associated environmental protections, Celeste sprang into action. She contacted every environmental group working on Everglades issues and convened an ongoing dialogue between NGOs and passionate individuals to brainstorm, network, and strategize the best way to help the Refuge and its inhabitants. Celeste laid out the facts, the possibilities and goals. Together, the groups involved generated over 60,000 letters, emails, and phone calls to Governor Scott urging him to step in ensure the continued health of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and the critical state-federal partnership it represents in the larger world of Everglades restoration.

Conference Sponsors

Host



Okeechobee



Kissimmee Prairie



Payhayokee



Lisa H. Peterfreund
Merrill G. and Emita E.
Hastings Foundation

Sawgrass Roots

Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) • Audubon Society of Southwest Florida

Bullsugar Alliance • Center for Biological Diversity • Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Environment Florida • Everglades Law Center • Florida Native Plant Society

Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Martin County Conservation Alliance • Ocean Research & Conservation Association

Reef Relief • Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group • Snook and Gamefish Foundation

Everglades for Everyone

In the spirit of “Everglades for Everyone,” the Everglades Coalition invites conference participants to make connections that will help advance our shared goals for the health of America’s Everglades through 2018 and beyond. Use this BINGO board to help jumpstart conversations and meet new friends and colleagues. As a bonus, earn a FREE DRINK on Saturday night!

Someone local to the St. Lucie Estuary <hr/> Name	State Agency Staff <hr/> Name	Boat Captain / Fishing Guide <hr/> Name	Someone attending from Tallahassee <hr/> Name	Artist <hr/> Name
Someone attending their 1st EVCO conference <hr/> Name	Someone who has attended at least 20 EVCO conferences <hr/> Name	Teacher <hr/> Name	Scientist <hr/> Name	Someone from the Florida Keys <hr/> Name
Farmer <hr/> Name	Registration Volunteer <hr/> Name	* FREE SPACE * <i>Someone who loves the Everglades!</i>	Tribal Member <hr/> Name	Someone attending from out of state <hr/> Name
Local Government Official or Staff <hr/> Name	Scholarship Student <hr/> Name	Someone local to the Caloosahatchee <hr/> Name	Someone who enjoys hunting <hr/> Name	Someone who enjoys birding <hr/> Name
Federal Agency Staff <hr/> Name	Attorney <hr/> Name	Someone who lives in the Glades <hr/> Name	Someone certified to scuba dive <hr/> Name	Member of EVCO Board of Directors <hr/> Name

Redeem your winning BINGO board for a free drink at dinner on Saturday, January 13th.

To win: complete one vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row with a unique name per square.

Good for beer, wine, or soda on us!

