

President's Letter



Founded in 1969 by
Marjory Stoneman Douglas

7800 Red Road
Suite 215K
Miami, FL 33143

Phone: 305 669-0858
Fax: 305 669-4108
E-mail: eglades@bellsouth.net
Website: www.everglades.org

Board of Directors

David P. Reiner,
President
Juanita Greene,
First Vice President
Connie Washburn,
Second Vice President
Anna Gonzalez,
Secretary
Bianca Pilarte, Treasurer
Alan Farago
James Kushlan, Ph.D.
Janet Launcelott, Ph.D.
Cindy Lerner
Theodora Long
Karen Mashburn
Wayne Nelson
Terri Sabbag
Susan Wilson
Milda Vaivada
Herb Zebuth

In 1969, Marjory Stoneman Douglas founded Friends of the Everglades to awaken environmental opposition to a plan to build a massive jet port in the Everglades. The Everglades Jetport was conceived as the largest airport in the world and the South Florida base for a new fleet of Boeing supersonic transport aircraft. Opposition finally shuttered the project, but the environmental damage caused by even preliminary work left a permanent scar in the middle of the Everglades, and a nearly two mile long concrete runway to nowhere. It remains a constant reminder to us all that without vigilance and public reaction, such plans can and will continue to threaten this fragile ecosystem. Ms. Douglas passed away in 1998 at the respectable age of 108. This year Friends of the Everglades – as a legacy of the aptly described “Mother of the Everglades” - celebrates its 40th year.

During that time, with your support, we have continued to fight to raise public awareness, bend political will and seek enforcement of state and federal environmental laws. We have seen corporate interests ousted from the South Florida Water Management District governing board, bold initiatives to buy out major polluters in the agricultural areas, and federal courts lashing out at the Corps of Engineers for the slow pace of restoration. We also have seen independent studies and reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. EPA confirming our positions on continuing urban and agricultural pollution and the immediate threat it poses to the remaining Everglades – from the Kissimmee River Basin south, east and west and all the way down to Florida Bay. There is much work to be done.

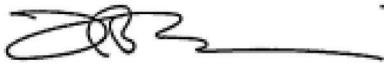
In honor of Marjory's work and legacy – and in recognition of 40 years of vigilance, I would like to ask all of you to send Friends a “birthday” card and special donation in memory of Ms. Douglas' commitment to protect and preserve this irreplaceable habitat. You are cordially invited to our annual Founder's Day celebration at Fairchild Tropical Garden on Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 2PM to 4PM.

Our special guest speaker this year is Jack E. Davis, author of *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*. That same day, Fairchild is hosting a special Everglades Day at the Garden, including special lectures and tours. Come early and make a day of it. We'd love to meet you! If you were able to make our third annual Glades-walk, we have other events on the horizon. As always, thank you for your continued support!

As required in the Articles and Bylaws for Friends of the Everglades, this shall serve as notice of the annual nominations for the Board of Directors:

David P. Reiner
Juanita Greene
Connie Washburn
Anna Gonzalez
Alan Farago
Sheila Parness Gaby, Ph.D.
Jim Kushlan, Ph.D.
Janet Launcelott, Ph.D.
Cindy Lerner
Theodora Long
Karen Mashburn
Wayne Nelson
Terri Sabbag
Susan Wilson
Milda Vaivada
Herb Zebuth

Thank you.



David P. Reiner, II

40th Annual Founder's Day Celebration
April 5, 2009, 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden