

Everglades Reporter

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Editor: Karen Mashburn

A Message from the President



David P. Reiner, II

Dear Members and Friends,
First, I want to thank all of you who have responded so far to our plea for aid for our environmental litigation fund. Your gifts, both great and small, will go a long way towards helping Friends keep up the fight for the Everglades and the entire South Florida ecosystem – a fight I truly believe we can win. We

still have a little ways to go before we meet our goal of \$30,000, but it has been a good start.

As follow up to our legal update (which is available on our website), here is the status of our three most important Federal cases:

Friends of the Everglades v. SFWMD, (S-2, S-3 Pump case) - the Federal Court challenge to the South Florida Water Management District's back pumping of polluted water into Lake Okeechobee. As of November 1, 2006, more than 7 months after the trial, we are still awaiting a decision from Federal Judge Cecelia Altonaga.

Miccosukee & Friends of the Everglades v. SFWMD, (S-9 Pump Case) - the Federal Court challenge to the South Florida Water Management District's pumping of polluted Broward County canal water into the Everglades. The Court has heard all the legal arguments, and is likely to set the matter for trial in the spring.

Friends of the Everglades v. U.S. EPA, (EFA Amendments case) and (Phosphorus case) - the Federal Court challenges to Florida's delay in forcing special interest compliance with the Clean Water Act in the Everglades. The Court has issued a trial order which should bring the issues to hearing next summer.

Two of the many questions members have asked over the years are: Why do we always seem to partner with the Miccosukee Tribe in our environmental litigation? And, why is it important for Friends to be involved in litigation when there are so many more well funded national organizations capable of waging this

type of litigation? The answers to both are very similar: Friends of the Everglades is the only locally based environmental organization solely dedicated to the protection and restoration of the entire Everglades ecosystem; and the Miccosukee Tribe has a cultural and religious connection to that same entire system. We have a common interest and goal.

Many environmental organizations in South Florida are focused on discrete parts of the Everglades, i.e. the National Parks; the wildlife refuges; the national preserves; the Caloosahatchee, St. Lucie or Kissimmee Rivers. Or they focus on specific endangered species, i.e. the Panther; the Cape Sable Sparrow; the Wood Stork or the Manatee. Often they have national or global agendas in which the Everglades often is lost. All of these areas and organizations deserve our support and attention. However, such a focused strategy pits different parts of the Everglades system against each other. Everglades advocacy, protection and restoration, like the ecosystem itself, needs to be balanced. We cannot manage the greater Everglades for the benefit of any single species or priority at the expense of the others – it will not survive. Those responsible for restoration cannot be allowed to just occasionally “grease the squeakiest wheel” while allowing the rest

of the system to deteriorate. Only by correcting the fundamental, system-wide problems - water quantity, quality and flow – can a balance be restored for the benefit of the entire system. Only then can we be assured that the discrete parts of the system, the flora, the fauna and the wildlife can successfully re-establish their niches.

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Do We Really Need the Everglades?

by Juanita Greene

As development continues to squeeze the Everglades, it is time to ask whether we in South Florida can live without this vast interior watershed. The answer is well, yes, probably. But residents would have to face much hotter summers, serious water shortages, crowding, congested traffic and all the other painful consequences of overgrowth.

The threat that Florida faces, heat waves like the one that wracked California this year, is not mere conjecture but backed by scientific research.

Consider the study on “The Impact of Anthropogenic Land-Cover Change on the Florida Peninsula Sea Breezes and Warm

Season Sensible

When the land surface is drained of water or natural vegetation, the result is less rain and a noted increase in daytime maximum temperature”.

Weather.” The authors are with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State

University, and NASA. The conclusion is that Florida faces “decreasing regional precipitation and increasing daytime maximum temperature.” The report adds: “These results could have important implications for water resource and land use management issues in South Florida, including efforts to restore and preserve the natural hydroclimate of the Everglades ecosystem.”

Changes in ground cover is what will bring on more heat. As wetlands and other natural areas become farms, suburbs and cities, more heat will rise from the surface, influencing the wind circulation, especially the sea breeze fronts. These fronts are driven by the difference in temperature between the land surface and the ocean. When the land surface is drained of water or natural vegetation, the result is less rain and a noted increase in daytime maximum temperature.

The South Florida study compared the natural land cover prior to 1900 with that of three periods in the 20th Century—July and August in 1973, 1989 and 1994. Information on the pre-1900 land cover was obtained tediously by studying old reports, maps and photographs, plus core samples of soil from locations all over South Florida, including the Everglades. The pollen found in these samples tell the condition of the areas hundreds and thousands of years ago.

The report noted that within the Everglades much of the natural saw grass plain and fresh water marshes and sloughs have been displaced by agriculture and other uses. In fact, half of the Everglades has been drained and developed. Hialeah once was Everglades. Weston is the most recent large suburb to intrude into the Everglades. South of Lake Okeechobee a half million acres of sugar cane grows in the drained and disappearing muck lands. Pressure on local government is very intense to break the boundaries of development so it can proceed farther into the Everglades. Thus the need to determine and consider this: How important is the remaining Everglades to the general public welfare?

Save the Date!

**Friends' Annual Event will be held
Sunday, March 11, 2007
at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables**

David Reiner, President's Message

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As a founding member of the Everglades Coalition, Friends of the Everglades is committed to working with all environmental groups dedicated to Everglades restoration. Though we may disagree from time to time on the proper strategy to reach that goal, the goal remains the same: Restoration – the rebalancing of the greater Everglades ecosystem.



Don't Miss This Exhibit at the Library

An exhibit entitled *The Everglades Invade the City* has been created by Edwin Villasmil and Elba Martinez. It is on display at the West Dade Regional Library, 9445 Coral Way, Miami. See it through Feb. 28. Imaginative drawings by Villasmil and Martinez evoke the delicate and vulnerable ecosystem of the Everglades, especially as urban development eats up more land.

The artists show giant gators moving among swamps crammed next to towering apartments, and a forest of plumbing pipes that echo tangled mangrove roots. Aspiring to the style of a graphic novel, this installation has drawings and sculpture. Don't miss it! For more information call: (305) 553-1134.

Email Alert Network

Please email us so we can add your name to our Email Alert Network. This will be used only to alert you to information that cannot wait for our regular communications.



Hold the Line

Update on the Urban Development Boundary (UDB)
by *Connie Washburn and Karen Mashburn*

Last spring Friends was part of a coalition to HOLD THE LINE. This coalition is a grassroots group of over 140 environmental and citizen groups. They worked hard to protect the Urban Development Boundary. The UDB is a line at the western edge of the current Everglades which has protected and limited growth and development further west into our precious Everglades. In the end, nine out of ten proposals that would have developed the sensitive land west of the boundary were either withdrawn or voted down. With the encouragement of the coalition, and the State of Florida recommending against it, and the state water managers warning against additional water usage, the County Commissioners listened to the people, the state of Florida, and the water shortage warnings, rather than the special interests of large corporations.

Commissioner Katy Sorenson, honored by Friends with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Environmental Award at our Annual Event, March 2006, voted 'no' on every proposal to expand into the Everglades. Hers was the only no vote to the Hialeah project. Hold the Line continues to be an active coalition, gearing up for the expansion proposals coming our way in the future. Visit online at: <http://www.udbline.com/organizations.htm>

Young Friends Featured in *Appleseed Magazine*

by *Connie Washburn*

Appleseed Magazine is a wonderful children's magazine circulated worldwide. The February 2007 edition will focus on the Florida Everglades. There will be an article on the numerous contributions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas - and how she founded Friends of the Everglades. The founding of Young Friends of the Everglades (YF), with pictures, drawings and poems from Young Friends' founding members is the subject of another article.

Our website, www.everglades.org is given several times and we're expecting lots of visits from children and their parents worldwide. Connie Washburn, founder of YF acted as consulting editor for this special edition of the magazine. She is thrilled that children worldwide will have the opportunity to learn about the Everglades, and Marjory and Young Friends. The February edition of *Appleseed Magazine* will be terrific public relations for the 'Glades and Friends.

Experience the Everglades

Join our First Annual Walk/Bike-a-thon in
the Everglades at Shark Valley!

Save the date

Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.

Walk 3.1 miles (5K) or bike the 14-mile
beautiful trail. To register call our office at
305 669-0858.

This event will be a wonderful opportunity to raise money for Friends, experience the Everglades and meet other members of Friends. **We need volunteers to help with the event.** Please call and join us. Come on out to the Everglades!

James A. Kushlan Joins the Board of Friends of the Everglades

James A. Kushlan is a biologist, writer, and educator. He earned his doctorate from the University of Miami, has received



James A. Kushlan

honorary doctorates from Thiel College and John Cabot University and has held positions as research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, senior science advisor to the U.S. Geological Survey, director of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, professor and chair of biology at The University of Mississippi, professor of biology at Texas A&M University, Commerce, and research biologist for U.S. National Park Service in Everglades National Park.

He serves on the Boards of the American Ornithologists' Union, John Cabot University, Bird Conservation Alliance, North American Bird Conservation Initiative U.S. Committee, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, American Bird Conservancy, Biscayne Nature Center and Tropical Audubon Society.

Dr. Kushlan's expertise is in the biology and conservation of wetlands and waterbirds. He has published over 200 papers and several books including, *The Herons* (Oxford 2005), *Waterbird Conservation for the Americas* (2002), *Heron Conservation* (Academic Press 2000), *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World* (Academic Press 1988), and *Herons Handbook* (1986). He has been president of the American Ornithologists Union and the Waterbird Society, chair of the Heron Specialist Group, a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, and has received the distinguished faculty award from Texas A&M University, the Lindahl Award for Lifetime Achievement in Waterbird Conservation from the Waterbird Society. Dr. Kushlan lives in Key Biscayne, Florida and Annapolis, Maryland.

Our Thanks to the Donors to our Legal Fund

Many, many thanks to those who responded to our special appeal for funds to continue and complete our current cases. For an update on this litigation, see the President's letter on page one.

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