



EVERGLADES *Action!*

Everglades Action! is our quarterly newsletter providing articles of interest to Foundation stakeholders about restoration developments, water management issues and other ecosystem activities associated with America's Everglades ~ **Winter 2010**

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Construction Begins on Long-Awaited Tamiami Trail Bridge

Imagine if you will, having to survive with 30 percent less air than you normally need to breathe, or having to make ends meet on 30 percent less salary? Think about the repercussions and challenges you face to cope with these predicaments. A 30 percent reduction is exactly what Everglades National Park has survived on for several decades – 30 percent less water flow – which makes it virtually impossible for the Park to sustain its ecological health in the longer term as well as a variety of species that inhabit this fascinating ecosystem.

That's about to change. On December 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Department of the Interior came together and broke ground on a one-mile bridge that is a critical first step to improve conditions in Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

"The Tamiami Trail bridge groundbreaking was a particularly special event as Everglades advocates heard first-hand from U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar talk about the renewed federal commitment to Everglades restoration," said Kirk Fordham, CEO, Everglades Foundation.

This project is the first step in providing benefits to Everglades National Park including the restoration of natural water flow, re-establishment of a wildlife travel corridor and improving conditions for fish reproduction and wading-bird nesting.

Tamiami Trail acts as a dam that restricts water flow through the Everglades. Scientific studies have demonstrated that there are

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PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Officials break ground on the long awaited One-Mile Bridge Project on the Tamiami Trail. Left to right: Michael Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Ricardo Cummings, Florida Area Vice-President of Business Development, Kiewit Southern Co.; Dan Kimball, Superintendent, Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks; Gary Guzy, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Environmental Quality; Eric Buermann, Chair, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board



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benefits associated with raising the roadway to allow additional freshwater to flow through Everglades National Park and into Florida Bay while maintaining vehicular traffic flow between Naples and Miami.

"We would certainly like to make attendance at groundbreaking events on Everglades restoration projects a habit," Fordham added. "Hundreds of jobs will be created by other projects soon scheduled for ground-breaking including

the Picayune Strand Restoration Project in Southwest Florida and the C-111 N. Spreader Canal Project to benefit Florida Bay. These projects will all generate long-term benefits for the Everglades ecosystem." ■



Left: Thomas Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Right: Ken Salazar, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Interior; Raachel Todd, Miss Florida 2009; and Dan Kimball, Superintendent, Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks, celebrate the Bridge groundbreaking.

A Visit to the New Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

By Richard Gibbs

Maybe it was seeing my daughter crawl into the cross-section display of a gator hole. Or her insistence on experiencing the "night sounds of the Everglades" exhibit "just one more time." Perhaps sitting in the front row seats on the virtual airboat ride convinced me how a thoroughly enjoyable excursion to the grand opening of the new Arthur R. Marshall National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center will help shape the lifetime memories of her first Everglades experience.

The grand opening of the \$1 million state-of-the-art exhibit provided a colorful history of the refuge, a 221-square-mile, tear-drop-shaped marsh that is the northernmost remnant of the Everglades. It also had more activities to keep a four-year-old occupied for three hours than you can imagine.

Exhibit features include a history of the government's Everglades restoration effort and a tribute to Arthur R. Marshall, the champion of the Everglades who died in 1985 and whose "Marshall Plan" inspired one of the modern goals of restoration: re-establishing the flow of water from Lake Okeechobee south through the great marsh.

A few fast facts about the Refuge:

- * There are 23 species of mammals known to inhabit the Refuge including deer, squirrels, raccoons, bobcats and armadillos.



Children enjoy the exhibits such as the gator hole display at the new Visitor Center.

- * The northern portion of the Refuge is characterized by thousands of tree islands that range from less than one acre to more than 300 acres.
- * The Refuge is in the Atlantic Flyway, one of the primary migration routes for bird species that breed in temperate North America and winter in the tropics of the Caribbean and South America.

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A Different Kind of Winter Wonderland: Sawgrass, Slough Slog and Spoonbills

If the term “slough (pronounced ‘slew’) slog” is not part of your wintertime vernacular, it should be.

A Slough Slog offers Everglades visitors a first-hand, hip-deep, wade-through-the-water experience of fragile wetland habitats in Everglades National Park. As waters recede over the next few months and the animals flock to the slough, visitors can see turtles, great blue herons and alligators.

Park rangers take visitors through different habitats to a cypress dome – a curved area of trees that becomes an oasis for many different animals including fish, alligators and birds.

The months of December through May offer the perfect time to explore Everglades National Park.

For those with eagle eyes, one of the most enjoyable activities is bird watching, where you can see everything from herons and anhingas to cormorants and eagles.

There are biking and hiking trails, boat tours and guided bird watching walks available to Park visitors on weekdays at 10am. Starting December 19, those who arrive at the Ernest Coe Visitor Center in

Homestead, can tour a newly decommissioned Nike missile site known as HM69.

Those who want to camp can drive their RVs or pitch their tents at the Long Pine Key campground, six miles from the Coe Visitor Center or at the Flamingo campground near the Flamingo Visitor Center on the shores of Florida Bay.

Nightly fees are \$16 per site at either campground. Reservations are not accepted except for group camping at Long Pine. But at Flamingo, reservations are accepted and strongly recommended.

“While everyone else in Northern climes is bundling up to stay warm, South Florida and the Everglades have just cooled down enough where outdoor experiences are ideal,” said Mark Kraus, COO, Everglades Foundation. “Everglades National Park offers more than 1.5 million acres and there is something for everyone to enjoy.”

At the Royal Palm Visitor Center, there are two trails to follow: The Anhinga Trail, which winds through two habitats –



PHOTO CREDIT: FILEMON LOPEZ

grassland prairie and a freshwater slough; and the Gumbo Limbo Trail, which showcases a hardwood hammock with Gumbo Limbo and Poisonwood trees.

The park is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, although the visitor centers – Coe, Shark Valley, Flamingo and Gulf Coast – have their own hours. The general admission fee is \$10 per vehicle.

To learn more about taking a slough slog, participating in guided walks or enjoying park service boat tours, visit www.nps.ever; (305) 242-7700 ■



PHOTO CREDIT: EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

A Park ranger gives visitors an orientation before taking them on a guided tour on the Anhinga Trail.

IN MEMORIAM: Robert F. “Tad” Carr III



A few weeks ago, one of the Everglades Foundation’s finest board members, Robert “Tad” Carr, passed away at Naples Community Hospital.

Tad was incredibly proud of his family and a strong supporter of the Foundation’s mission. His wife, Barbara, had recently taken up the challenge to co-chair the Everglades Foundation’s Advisory Committee. He continuously made time to talk about the Everglades, the Foundation and his friends on the board.

The Foundation staff and board of directors have lost a very good friend and colleague. We will long remember and honor Tad’s life.

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For tomorrow...

For a great celebration to support
America's Everglades Restoration.

Musical Guest:

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composer, singer, actor and
environmentalist, Sting

Honorary Chair:

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Friday, February 12, 2010,
The Breakers, Palm Beach

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Nicholas Penniman and David Lawrence Join Everglades Foundation Board



Nicholas G. Penniman IV, a resident of Naples, Fla., and former publisher of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, has joined the Everglades Foundation board.

Penniman has been deeply involved in environmental advocacy work; he is past chair of American Rivers in Washington, D.C., and as immediate past board chair of The Conservancy of Southwest Florida in Naples. He is past chairman of the Washington University

Interdisciplinary Environmental Law Clinic, past chairman of Forest Park Forever, served a four-year term as a member of the Collier County Environmental Advisory Council and is a registered Florida Master Naturalist.

Penniman is a graduate of Princeton University (Religion), and did graduate work at the Wharton Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania (Finance) and at Washington University in St. Louis where he received an M.A. in American Culture Studies in 1999.

Penniman and his wife, Linda, have two children and five grandchildren.



David Lawrence, Jr., is the former publisher of The Miami Herald. Lawrence, a longtime resident of South Florida, has an extensive background in civic and social engagement. In addition to his position on the Everglades Foundation board, he currently serves as president of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation and "University Scholar for Early Childhood Development and Readiness," at the University of Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist named him to the Children's Cabinet in 2007. In 2002, he led the campaign for The Children's Trust, a dedicated source of early intervention care funding for children in Miami-Dade County.

Lawrence is also a board member of the Foundation for Child Development in New York and the Executive Advisory Board for the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. In addition, he is a board member and former chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

He and his wife Roberta, a master's graduate in social work from Barry University in Miami, live in Coral Gables and have three daughters, two sons and four grandchildren. His many honors include: "Humanitarian of the Year," from both the American Red Cross and the Beacon Council; "Family of the Year," from Family Counseling Services; "Father of the Year," by the South Florida Father's Day Council and the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Advocacy Award.



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The Everglades Foundation is dedicated to ensuring a restored Everglades by creating relevant and creative solutions to complex restoration issues.

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