

The Everglades Coalition

28th Annual Conference

January 10-12, 2013 • Biltmore Hotel • Coral Gables, FL



Cover art by Steve Left

America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future
Hosted by: The Everglades Foundation

program at a glance

Thursday, January 10th

1:00 pm–7:30 pm	Conference Check-In and On-Site Registration
4:00 pm–5:15 pm	Breakout Session A History and Introduction: The Journey to Restore America's Everglades <i>Moderator: Kathy Aterno, Clean Water Action</i>
6:00 pm–7:30 pm	Opening Reception

Friday, January 11th

7:00 am	Conference Check-In and On-Site Registration
7:45 am–8:40am	Breakfast with Speaker Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami-Dade County (invited)
8:45 am–10:00 am	Plenary Session I: Resolving Conflict: Forging Ahead with Restoration <i>Moderator: Nick Penniman, Everglades Foundation</i>
10:15 am–11:30 am	Plenary Session II: Wildlife Protection & Recovery: Is Everglades restoration meeting wildlife's needs? <i>Moderator: Laurie Macdonald, Defenders of Wildlife</i>
11:45 am–1:00 pm	Plenary Session III: United Front: Federal leadership to RESTORE America's Everglades <i>Moderator: Julie Hill-Gabriel, Audubon Florida</i>
1:15 pm–2:30 pm	Lunch with Speaker Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
2:45 pm	Field Trips Depart from Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables Reservations are required and space is limited. Additional registration fees may apply.
6:30 pm–7:30 pm	Reception
7:30 pm–9:30 pm	Dinner with Speakers Clarence Otis, Jr., CEO Darden Restaurants and Ken Salazar, Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior

Saturday, January 12th

7:45 am– 8:45 am	Breakfast with Speaker Ray Judah, former Lee County Commissioner
8:45 am–10:15 am	Plenary Session IV: Featuring a vignette from Florida Governor Rick Scott Water, Land and Money: Florida's Commitment to Everglades Restoration <i>Moderator: Eric Draper, Audubon Florida</i>
10:30 am–12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions B Heating Up: Everglades and Climate Change <i>Moderator: Mary Munson, Florida Conservation Alliance</i> Treading Lightly: Restored Public Lands & Recreation <i>Moderator: George Jones, Everglades Holiday Park</i> Making Seven50 a Blueprint for Environmental Prosperity <i>Moderator: Sara Fain, Everglades Law Center</i> Looking Upstream: Slime and Other Water Quality Threats to the Everglades <i>Moderator: Alisa Coe, Earthjustice</i>
12:15 pm– 2:15 pm	Lunch with Speaker Senator Bob Graham
2:30 pm–4:00 pm	Breakout Sessions C Water Supply Planning: What it means for Everglades Restoration & Ecosystem Protection <i>Moderator: Jane Graham, Audubon Florida</i> Wildlife Law and Implications for Water Management <i>Moderator: Jason Totoiu, Everglades Law Center</i> Unwanted Guests: Addressing the Invasive Exotics Challenge <i>Moderator: Sara Gonzalez-Rothi Kronenthal, National Wildlife Federation</i> Getting the Most out of Agricultural and Urban Best Management Practices to Improve Water Management and Save Money in the Northern Everglades <i>Moderator: Charles Lee, Audubon Florida</i>
4:15 pm–5:45 pm	Plenary Session V: Partnering for Progress: Reaping the Benefits of our Shared Investment <i>Moderator: Katy Sorenson, Tropical Audubon Society</i>
6:30 pm–9:00 pm	Dinner with Speakers U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart & U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (invited) Annual Awards Ceremony
9:00pm–10:00 pm	Musical Entertainment provided by "Me and My Animal Friends"

America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future

Thank you for joining us in lovely Coral Gables, Florida for the 2013 Everglades Coalition Conference—the largest annual forum for discourse on Everglades restoration and conservation. This year's conference is hosted by the Everglades Foundation.

Restoring the Everglades ecosystem is an enormous and exciting challenge that calls upon us to innovate, find common ground and collaborate at a scale never before tried. Our success here will become a blueprint for ecosystem restoration around the world, but more importantly, it will keep a promise to future generations who deserve a healthy economy and environment.

The theme of our 28th Annual Conference, "America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future," seeks to remind us of the incredible opportunity we have to create history, right past mistakes, and provide a better future to those who follow. This past year has been one of enormous momentum and progress. Now, we gather to sustain and accelerate the pace going forward.

This year is especially important as the inaugural first Annual Everglades Day, designated last year by our state legislature. Let's make it a landmark year! Welcome to the 28th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference!



Dawn Shirreffs
National Co-Chair
National Parks Conservation Association



Jennifer Hecker
State Co-Chair
Conservancy of Southwest Florida

The Everglades Coalition

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 57 conservation, environmental, and civic organizations dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee, through the Water Conservation Areas, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and Everglades National Park, out to Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys. Through consensus the Everglades Coalition is dedicated to:

- Advocating for the restoration, protection and enhancement of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem;
- Supporting and providing education and public understanding regarding all aspects of the Everglades ecosystem;
- Supporting research in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Everglades;
- Facilitating the coordination of information resources, strategies and efforts among Everglades Coalition member organizations.

Everglades Coalition Member Organizations:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 Friends of Florida • Arthur R. Marshall Foundation • Audubon of Florida • Audubon Society of the Everglades • Audubon Society of Southwest Florida • Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/Riverwatch • Clean Water Action • Clean Water Network • Collier County Audubon Society • Conservancy of Southwest Florida • Defenders of Wildlife • Ding Darling Wildlife Society • Earthjustice • Environment Florida • The Environmental Coalition • Everglades Coordinating Council • Everglades Foundation • Everglades Law Center • Florida Conservation Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Defenders of the Environment • Florida Keys Environmental Fund • The Florida Native Plant Society • Florida Oceanographic Society • Florida Sierra Club • Florida Wildlife Federation • Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge • Friends of the Everglades • Hendry-Glades Audubon Society • Izaak Walton League of America • Izaak Walton League Florida Division • Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter • Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter • Last Stand • League of Women Voters of Florida • Loxahatchee River Coalition • Martin County Conservation Alliance • National Audubon Society • National Parks Conservation Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Wildlife Federation • National Wildlife Refuge Association • Natural Resources Defense Council • The Ocean Conservancy • The Pegasus Foundation • Reef Relief • Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation • Save It Now, Glades! • Snook Foundation • Sierra Club • Sierra Club Broward Group • Sierra Club Calusa Group • Sierra Club Central Florida Group • Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group • Sierra Club Miami Group • South Florida Audubon Society • Tropical Audubon Society • The Urban Environment League • World Wildlife Fund |
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Saw Grass Roots

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In Kind Donations:

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Thursday, January 10th

1:00 pm-7:30 pm: Conference Check-In and On-Site Registration
Valencia Room

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm: Breakout Session A
Flagler Room

History and Introduction: The Journey to Restore America's Everglades

This introductory session gives a history of the journey to restore America's Everglades with an emphasis on three key focus areas: ecology, policy, and advocacy. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the projects and processes that have brought us to where we are today and what is planned for the future, followed by ample time for questions and discussion. Everglades enthusiasts of all levels are welcome, from beginner to expert.

Moderator: Kathy Aterno, Clean Water Action

Panelists: Mary Barley, Everglades Trust and Everglades Foundation; Sarah Bellmund, Biscayne National Park; Representative Patrick Rooney, Florida House of Representatives.

6:00 pm-7:30 pm: Opening Reception
Alhambra Ballroom Hosted by: *Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation*

7:30pm: Dinner on your own

Friday, January 11th

7:00 am: Conference Check-In and On-Site Registration
Valencia Room

7:45 am-8:40 am Breakfast

Alhambra Ballroom Hosted by: *Florida Oceanographic Society*
Speaker: Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami-Dade County (invited)

8:45 am- 10:00 am Plenary Session I: Resolving Conflict: Forging Ahead with Restoration

Granada Ballroom The year 2012 will stand out as a hallmark year for Everglades restoration as a result of two remarkable events. The state and federal governments reached an agreement that will move us past a water quality stalemate that has spanned decades. Likewise, restoration planning has taken a giant step forward with the initiation of the expedited planning effort called the Central Everglades Planning Project. These collaborative efforts between state and federal governments on these measures have opened the potential for unprecedented progress. This panel will explore mechanisms to seize the new opportunities presented in order to expeditiously restore America's Everglades using sound policy and science.

Moderator: Nick Penniman, Everglades Foundation

Panelists: Terrence "Rock" Salt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Robert Twilley, Louisiana State University; Melissa Meeker, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board; Representative Gayle Harrell, Florida House of Representatives.

10:15 am-11:30 am: Plenary Session II: Wildlife Protection & Recovery: Is Everglades restoration meeting wildlife's needs?

Granada Ballroom Wildlife and Everglades Restoration experts discuss the necessarily "hydro-centric" plans for restoring the Everglades. What opportunities are there for achieving both water *and* wildlife habitat benefits? How do we assure wildlife conservation and recovery needs are being met, and what role does land acquisition play, both traditional and non-traditional? Speakers and panelists will explore a restoration approach guided by the health of wildlife and biological diversity, including imperiled and indicator species.

Moderator: Laurie Macdonald, Defenders of Wildlife

Panelists: Senator Jack Latvala, Florida Senate; Dr. Stuart Pimm, Duke University; Dr. Frank Mazzotti, University of Florida; Larry Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Nick Wiley, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation.

11:45 am-1:00 pm: Plenary Session III: United Front: Federal leadership to RESTORE America's Everglades
Granada Ballroom Strong bipartisan commitment to restoring America's Everglades has advanced much of the restoration progress and is creating new opportunities. Over the last four years, the federal government has invested \$1.5 billion in Everglades projects and initiatives and has broken ground on construction projects to restore water flow and essential habitat. The experts on this panel will identify and discuss new opportunities to advance key restoration projects over the coming years and deliver on the promise of restoring America's Everglades.

Moderator: Julie Hill-Gabriel, Audubon Florida

Panelists: Rachel Jacobsen, U.S. Department of Interior; Sarah Barmeyer, National Parks Conservation Association; Jason Weller, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1:15 pm-2:30 pm: Lunch

Alhambra Ballroom Hosted by: *National Wildlife Federation*
Speaker: Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

2:45 pm: Field Trips Depart from Biltmore Hotel Coral Gables

Tamiami Trail

Visit Tamiami Trail Bridge project site to view progress on the one-mile bridge construction—a key first step in removing barriers to sheet flow. Enjoy a wet-walk along the northern boundary of Everglades National Park. Learn more about the Tamiami Trail Next Steps plan, which calls for an additional 5.5 miles of bridging further west along the trail.

Biscayne Bay

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP project will help redistribute water to almost 10,000 acres of wetlands, tidal creeks and shoreline. Participants will explore the Biscayne Bay estuary in a pontoon boat and see the beauty of this project area first-hand.

Urban Oasis

Visit Coral Gables' public green spaces which provide critical step-stone habitat for migratory birds during both the spring and fall. Participants will travel to a nearby park to see how good planning can help defragment cities and help improve quality of life for people and wildlife.

6:30 pm-7:30 pm: Reception
Southwest Terrace Hosted by: *Arthur R. Marshall Foundation*

7:30 pm-9:30 pm: Dinner
Alhambra Ballroom Hosted by: *National Parks Conservation Association*
Speaker: Clarence Otis, Jr., CEO Darden Restaurants and Ken Salazar, Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior.

Saturday, January 12th

7:45 am- 8:45 am: Breakfast
Alhambra Ballroom Hosted by: *Sierra Club*
Speaker: Ray Judah, former Lee County Commissioner

8:45 am-10:15 am: Plenary Session IV: Water, Land and Money: Florida's Commitment to Everglades Restoration.
Granada Ballroom Featuring a vignette from Florida Governor Rick Scott
State leaders will present their views on the state's responsibility for the Everglades and discuss current challenges and opportunities. Everglades restoration has always been a joint state and federal project. The state of Florida controls water policy, provides funds to buy land, and has a singular responsibility for Everglades water quality. What is the future of the state's commitment to the Everglades?

Moderator: Eric Draper, Audubon Florida

Panelists: Hershel Vineyard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Melissa Meeker, South Florida Water Management District; Senator Joe Negron, Florida Senate; Representative Seth McKeel, Florida House of Representatives (invited); Representative Steve Crisafulli, Florida House of Representatives (invited).

10:30 am-12:00 pm: Breakout Sessions B

Prado Room

Heating Up: Everglades and Climate Change

Climate change is affecting South Florida arguably more seriously than any other region in the country. Coastal flooding, habitat disruption and saltwater intrusion into aquifers are some of the symptoms. This workshop will address the harmful effects on the Everglades, how restoration plans are factoring in these effects, and adaptation measures being pursued throughout the Everglades ecosystem. It will also cover how policymakers should support a clean energy agenda in order to reduce future harm from greenhouse gas emissions.

Moderator: Mary Munson, Florida Conservation Alliance

Panelists: Ernie Barnett, South Florida Water Management District; Susan Glickman, Florida Conservation Alliance Institute; Mayor Kristin Jacobs, Broward County Board of Commissioners; Kerin Bolter, Florida Atlantic University.

Aragon Room

Treading Lightly: Restored Public Lands & Recreation

A very delicate balance is required to manage and restore public lands for environmental benefit while sustaining robust recreational access. This session will focus on the role of recreational stakeholders in Everglades conservation, identify the benefits of ecosystem restoration on sporting and recreational activities, and explore challenges inherent to achieving the multifarious goals in Everglades restoration and recreational use.

Moderator: George Jones, Everglades Holiday Park

Panelists: Al Ovies, South Florida Anglers for Everglades Restoration; Greg Knecht, The Nature Conservancy; Matthew Schwartz, South Florida Wildlands Association; Terry Gibson, Florida Sportsman Communications Network (invited).

Granada Ballroom

Making Seven50 a Blueprint for Environmental Prosperity

Since Florida's Growth Management Act was gutted by the legislature in 2011, the need for strong local and regional leadership on land use planning and environmental protection is critical. This panel will look at how local and regional government land use plans, including Seven50, the Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan, can help establish guidelines and directives on how and where we develop over the next few decades to protect our water and natural resources.

Moderator: Sara Fain, Everglades Law Center

Panelists: Victor Dover, Dover, Kohl, & Associates; Commissioner Dennis Moss, Miami-Dade County Commission; Grace Johns, Hazen and Sawyer; Mark Woerner, Miami Dade County Planning; James Murley, South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Marbella Room

Looking Upstream: Slime and Other Water Quality Threats to the Everglades

Numerous water quality regulatory changes are currently afoot, including implementation of designated use changes, new numeric nutrient standards, changes in dissolved oxygen and fish consumption water quality standards, and a new state-wide mercury total maximum load. These changes represent a tug of war between incentivizing treatment, incentivizing prevention, and even allowing polluters to evade the problem. The outcome of these policy changes will ultimately determine whether polluters help pick up a share of the cost by utilizing better source controls and preventing water quality impairment, or whether taxpayers will end up having to pay the full costs of clean-up or accept continued degradation. Panelists will explore several of these current water quality policy hot topics and talk about their potential implication on Everglades Restoration.

Moderator: Alisa Coe, Earthjustice

Panelists: Gwen Keyes Fleming, US Environmental Protection Agency (invited); Jennifer Hecker, Conservancy of Southwest Florida; David Guest, Earthjustice; Larry Fink, Waterwise Consulting, LLC.

12:15 pm- 2:15 pm

Alhambra Ballroom

Lunch

Hosted by: Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Speaker: Senator Bob Graham

2:30 pm- 4:00 pm:

Prado Room

Breakout Sessions C

Water Supply Planning: What it means for Everglades Restoration & Ecosystem Protection

This year, South Florida's water supply and resources plan for the next 20 years is undergoing its 5 year update. Learn about the connection of water supply planning and protecting water for Everglades ecosystems. Speakers include water supply experts from the South Florida Water Management District, a representative from the National Park Service, Miami-Dade County, and environmental groups engaged in the process.

Moderator: Jane Graham, Audubon Florida

Panelists: Terrie Bates, South Florida Water Management District; Doug Yoder, Miami- Dade Water and Sewer; Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center; Honey Rand, EcoSmart PR; Dr. Jerome Lorenz, Audubon Florida.

Aragon Room

Wildlife Law and Implications for Water Management

Every day endangered species are impacted by a variety of water related issues including wetland loss, consumptive uses, the alteration of natural flow regimes, water pollution, and sea level rise. A team of law school professors, legal practitioners, and policy experts assembled recently to prepare a "white paper" to examine these issues, provide case studies, and offer recommendations to improve the manner in which the needs of endangered species are considered in water management decisions. This breakout session will serve as a roundtable discussion of the white paper's findings with its authors.

Moderator: Jason Totoiu, Everglades Law Center

Panelists: Richard Grosso, Nova Southeastern University; Paul Boudreaux, Stetson University; Richard Haymann, University of Florida; Mike Senatore, Defenders of Wildlife; Laurie Macdonald, Defenders of Wildlife.

Marbella Room

Unwanted Guests: Addressing the invasive exotics challenge

The Burmese Python is often considered the "poster snake" for the challenges posed by invasive exotic species in the Everglades. But the favorable conditions that made the ecosystem so hospitable to an abundance of native plants and animals has also attracted numerous invasive exotic species that abound in a setting where they have no natural predators. This panel will address the following questions: What are some of the most severe invasive exotic plant and animal species challenges in the Everglades? What are the solutions being considered?

Moderator: Sara Gonzalez-Rothi Kronenthal, National Wildlife Federation

Panelists: Kris Serbesoff-King, The Nature Conservancy (invited); Skip Snow, Everglades National Park (invited); Dr. Christina Romagosa, Auburn University; Kimberly Vitek, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Granada Ballroom

Getting the Most out of Agricultural and Urban Best Management Practices to Improve Water Management and Save Money in the Northern Everglades

Two years from now, Lake Okeechobee's water quality goal for phosphorus is supposed to be met, by law. Today, we are very far from meeting these goals. Learn about agricultural practices that can help stem the influx of pollution into the Lake, and innovative programs that incentivize progress. Hear from agricultural experts from agencies, NGOs, and farmers to understand how we can clean up our treasured ecosystems in the most cost effective way.

Moderator: Charles Lee, Audubon Florida

Panelists: Rich Budell, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Ernie Barnett, South Florida Water Management District; Linda McCarthy, Lykes Brothers, Inc.; Dr. Paul Gray, Audubon Florida; George Van Houtven, Research Triangle Institute (invited).

4:15 pm-5:45 pm:

Granada Ballroom

Plenary Session V: Partnering for Progress: Reaping the Benefits of our Shared Investment

We've come a long way, baby! This session will highlight the progress that has been made so far including multiple groundbreakings, landmark partnerships and collaborations, and the creation of over 10,000 jobs. While we clearly have much more to do to ensure a sustainable future for south Florida's water supply and economy, this panel will explore lessons learned, identify opportunities for key partnerships, and look for improvements on past accomplishments.

Moderator: Katy Sorenson, Tropical Audubon Society

Panelists: Monica Woll, Florida Bay Outfitters; Matt Lindsey, Mather Economics; Senator Anitere Flores, Florida Senate (invited); Joseph Capra, CAPTEC Engineering, Inc.(invited).

6:30 pm-9:00 pm:

Country Club Ballroom

Annual Awards Dinner

Hosted by: Everglades Foundation

Speaker: Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (invited)
Annual Awards Presentation

9:00pm-10:00 pm

Country Club Ballroom

Musical Entertainment provided by "Me and My Animal Friends"

Award Winners

Hall of Fame Award

E. Thom Rumberger

Thom Rumberger spent his career in the trenches, championing Everglades restoration. Often referred to as the “Defender of the Everglades,” Thom was the lead counsel for The Everglades Foundation, Inc. since 1989. A committed environmentalist, Mr. Rumberger was a leading figure in the effort to save the endangered Florida manatee. In the late 1980s, he worked to implement some of the first manatee protection laws. To this end, he represented such organizations as Save the Manatees, The Everglades Foundation, Inc., The Everglades Trust, Inc., and Save Our Everglades. He was Chairman and General Counsel of The Everglades Trust and former General Counsel of The Everglades Foundation. He was instrumental in the passage of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, two constitutional amendments, and in obtaining several billion dollars in funding from the federal government and the State of Florida for Everglades restoration. Last year, the Everglades lost a true hero, but Thom’s legacy will inspire us to stay committed to restoring this natural treasure and to rise to every new challenge.

George M. Barley Conservationist of the Year Award

Cynthia Barnett

Cynthia Barnett’s work is a model for conservationists in Florida and has been an inspiration for Everglades advocates. Her groundbreaking newly released book, “Blue Revolution,” articulates the idea of a water ethic and builds off of her previous conservation work including her 2007 novel “Mirage”. Part investigative journalism, part environmental history, Barnett’s messaging has truly changed the environmental movement in Florida and inspired people to talk about what it means to be smart about water conservation—not just for the sake of conserving, but for our planet, community, and Everglades habitat.

James D. Webb Public Service Award

Senator Bill Nelson

Senator Nelson has consistently been the most vocal supporter and Everglades leader in Congress. He has been an ambassador for America’s Everglades, advocating for the Everglades in any available forum and recruiting new supporters from across the United States. This year, Senator Nelson’s efforts were critical to passage of the RESTORE Act to direct Clean Water Act penalties to the five Gulf Coast states and he worked tirelessly to ensure that Florida and the Everglades could benefit from this legislation. In 2012, Senator Nelson also took the bold move of filing the Everglades for the Next Generation Act, which would authorize planned restoration projects and for the first time, provide a programmatic authorization. This action was the first seeking to confront head-on Congress’ failure to authorize any new CERP projects since 2007, which is becoming Everglades restoration’s greatest challenge. Senator Nelson also deserves recognition for his consistent advocacy for federal funding for Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Interior Everglades projects such as CERP and Tamiami Trail bridging. The Senator also championed the banning of invasive exotic species like the Burmese python. Overall, it is hard to identify another individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Everglades in so many ways.

John V. Kabler Award

Margaret England

Margaret England is not only the president of Hendry Glades Audubon, but also an officer for Caloosahatchee Riverwatch and Florida Trails Association Fisheating Creek Subchapter. She has worked closely with the South Florida Water Management District to allow birding trips to STA 5 for years now. Ms. England has also, almost single-handedly, provided programming for the Hendry Glades Audubon Society monthly meetings, all very educational, relevant and professional quality presentations. Ms. England also organizes the Big O Birding Festival every year, the spring and fall migratory counts, and the Christmas bird counts for Hendry and Glades counties. She makes alliances with local entities such as ranchers, county commissioners, eco-tour operators, museums, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Having grown up in the Sanibel Lighthouse and other places within Southwest Florida, Ms. England has tremendous local institutional memory and is known amongst many as “Hendry and Glades counties’ secret weapon.”



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