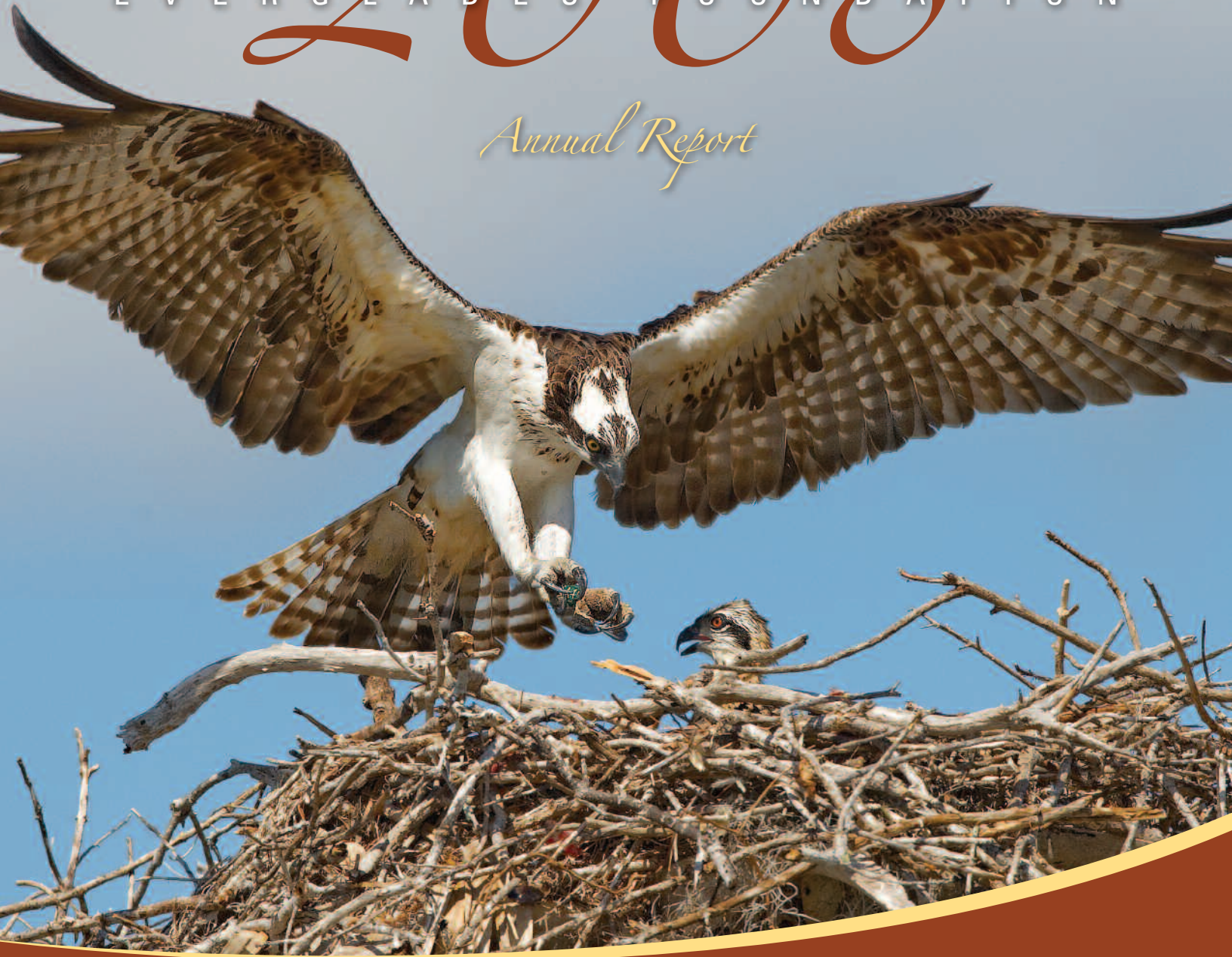


E V E R G L A D E S F O U N D A T I O N

2008

*Annual Report*



*One Mission. One Priority.  
Restoring America's Everglades.*



*Photo: Tranquil sunset by Robert R. Mindick  
Cover photo: Osprey and young by Filemon Lopez*

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of reeds and grasses. The overall mood is serene and natural.

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*“Until one is committed, there is hesitancy...  
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.”*

**W**hy are...

...the once pristine, crystal clear waters of Florida Bay in danger of becoming the color of pea green soup?

...hundreds of sick or dead fish washing up on Florida's shores?

...thousands of birds seemingly disappearing from the nesting habitat that has sustained their fledglings for millennia?

It all started with a quest to find answers to the questions asked above. What began with the Everglades Foundation in 1993 as a bold endeavor by a committed group of individuals who loved the outdoors and embraced the desire to preserve Florida Bay's recreational pursuits, became a full-fledged campaign to save a very special place that has captivated millions of people in the United States and around the world – America's Everglades.

In order to help stakeholders understand the intricacies of Everglades issues and create solutions to halt the decline of this fragile and delicate ecosystem where bass and tarpon, alligators and crocodiles

and spoonbills and turtles call home, this group of intrepid citizens created a team. This team had one singular focus and mission, restoration of America's Everglades. World-class scientists, a board of directors, public policy experts and communications strategists brainstormed in unison led by the late George Barley and current Foundation chairman, Paul Tudor Jones II.

The Foundation team, as well as the organization's board of directors has grown, and through the years, so has the complexity of Everglades restoration. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the federal-state partnership that will save this ecological treasure for future generations is projected to cost more than \$11 billion and take more than 30 years to complete.

The collective mindset of the Foundation does not allow the organization to be lulled into complacency by the long-term timeline associated with this ecosystem's restoration. The clock is ticking and everyone knows there is a sense of urgency. Clean water must flow to the Everglades in order to sustain the stunning variety of life there. Pre-approved 'shovel-ready' restoration projects that only require Federal funding, hold the promise of generating significant environmental benefits. The Foundation aggressively pursued funding for these projects in 2008 and its policy experts and supporters knocked on all the right doors of lawmakers who had the political will to aggressively fast-track funding efforts.





Photo: Canoeers by Robert R. Mindick

The Foundation implemented a comprehensive review of its needs and goals for 2008. This led to fundamental changes in the way its resources would be used to create the best opportunities for continued success.

Personnel changes were made. Kirk Fordham's leadership has been aptly demonstrated since coming on board as CEO in January 2008. Fordham has provided direction and shown the ability to leverage all conceivable resources using his vast network of contacts from his days in Washington, D.C., to raise the profile of the organization and its mission. A new vice president of development with decades of experience in nonprofit leadership and fundraising, Stanley Boynton, joined the team to raise funds for additional scientific research. Richard Gibbs, a communications professional with a corporate communications and agency background, spearheads a strategic public outreach effort to bolster the organization's ability to build awareness about the importance of Everglades restoration as well as expanding the Foundation's base of non-environmental stakeholders. G. Melodie Naja, Ph.D., a water quality scientist with impeccable credentials, joined the science team to lead research initiatives focusing on solutions that can address water pollution in the Everglades watershed.








Other notable 2008 Foundation developments included the creation of a new strategic plan. The vision, mission and objectives that follow lay the cornerstone for how the organization will define success in the coming months and years.

**Vision:** The Everglades and the surrounding estuaries will be restored to a natural state, allowing for the flow of clean water, abundant wildlife, and providing a reliable source of water for the people of Florida.

**Mission:** The Everglades Foundation is dedicated to protecting and restoring one of the world's unique natural ecosystems, providing economic, recreational and life-sustaining benefits to the millions of people who depend on its future health. Through the advancement of scientifically sound and achievable solutions, the Foundation seeks to reverse the damage inflicted on the ecosystem and provide policymakers and the public with an honest and credible resource to help guide decision-making on complex restoration issues.

The Foundation serves as a leader in building consensus for action in support of this mission.

#### Objectives:

-  Ensure success of U.S. Sugar Corp. buyout and the development of a scientifically sound restoration plan
-  Build consensus to focus the efforts of the Foundation, its grantees and other Everglades stakeholders on a targeted set of priorities, positions and messages
-  Position the Foundation as the authoritative objective expert on Everglades issues with target audiences in Washington, D.C., Tallahassee and among the media
-  Educate public and key opinion leaders on the importance of Everglades restoration
-  Advocate to influence key decisions on federal, state and local levels to foster advancement of Everglades restoration initiatives
-  Litigate strategically to drive government action to protect and restore the Everglades
-  Engage donors in order to increase their number, retention, gifting and political support of our objectives.



# Chairman's Message

Paul Tudor Jones II

I love using sports metaphors to liven up a story. And, you can say with all certainty in 2008 that the Everglades Foundation had a compelling story to tell. There's a great analogy that works well to explain a landmark 2008 event that impacted Everglades restoration.

Allow me to recount a particular boxing match that demonstrates the Everglades Foundation's role in the race against time to save the River of Grass — the magical, life-nurturing, watery ecological treasure that has sustained itself despite being battered and bruised by the attacks of mankind — but now needs our help in order to survive and sustain the livelihoods and quality of life for generations to come. To understand how this tale unfolds, let's go to the squared circle...

Two fighters stride into the ring, one of them is a beloved, aging champion carrying the pride of an entire nation on his shoulders. The challenger is a brash, cocky young upstart with quick hands and silky smooth footwork. The young gladiator's eyes are on a

much bigger prize than the contest with his opponent today. He wants to defeat the people's champion and use his victory against him as a stepping stone to capture a world championship.

Things start out well for the up and comer, but then somewhere in the middle rounds, he gets tagged by a solid left hook, sending him reeling. His legs quiver; he shakes his head frantically to clear the cobwebs and blinks his eyes rapidly. His corner men and trainer scream and yell for him to hold on and run. He grapples with his opponent, smothering the onslaught of blows that could send him careening to the canvas and possibly dashing his opportunity to ascend to the throne. The bell rings. He now plods — flatfooted — back to

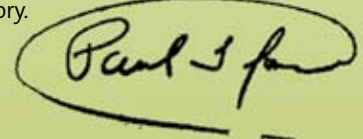
his corner and plops down on his stool as he tries to absorb the barrage of heated verbal advice from his team who pepper his eardrums incessantly with tactics he needs to employ to survive the fight.

How can his trainer save him from going down to defeat? His fighter's two-minute respite is almost over — the clock is ticking. The kid needs a chance to recover, catch his breath, get his legs back to dance and use his dazzling reflexes and ring savvy to emerge victorious. His opponent is now energized, riding an adrenaline wave seemingly channeled to him by the raucous spirits of his hometown fans and the old warrior knows something is wrong with his challenger. The youngster's options to recover in time with the remaining seconds he has left are slim and his trainer knows it. He probably got hit so hard he still sees rhinos dancing with hippos.

The bell for the next round is about to ring. But wait, his trainer spots a slight tear in the kid's glove. What if...? He doesn't hesitate. He quickly enlarges that minuscule tear in the glove and shows it to the referee who instructs the corner to fix the glove before resuming the contest. Those few precious moments of repair work gives his protégé a chance to regain his senses and he eventually emerges victorious via TKO in the next few rounds.

The possibility of acquiring U.S. Sugar Corp. land for Everglades restoration is the metaphorical "tear in the glove," the "what if...?" moment that unfolded in 2008. What happened during the course of the year demonstrated that the Foundation is creative, resourceful and flexible in advancing comprehensive, long-term ecosystem restoration benefits.

By being bold and seizing the opportunity, the Foundation's actions in devising a water storage plan that can accommodate U.S. Sugar Corp. land to sustain the Everglades parallel those taken by the veteran trainer who made a decisive, spur-of-the-moment action to give his fighter a chance to win. The Foundation had a similar opportunity in 2008. Everyone associated with this organization has taken a pledge to commit their energies to care for and protect this unique jewel and give it a chance to replenish and rejuvenate. For those of us who love this treasure trove of biodiversity, the events of 2008 charted a course for what we hope results in our interpretation of ... victory.



# A Conversation with

Paul Tudor Jones II, Chairman, Everglades Foundation



**Q.** How does the Everglades Foundation differentiate itself from other environmental organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring one of the world's last great places?

**PTJ** I think that question can best be answered by taking a look at our board, staff, supporters and partners. The Foundation practically assumes the role of a corporate consultancy in tackling environmental advocacy. You won't find us leading public protests or sit-ins or camping out in trees or lying down in front of bulldozers. As we did in 2008, we prefer to be as efficient as possible with the resources we have, such as capitalizing on the expertise of our exceptional science team and their ability to work in a multidisciplinary capacity, leveraging knowledge of the policy-making process and the relationships we have developed with a vast network of stakeholders already involved with other like-minded environmental organizations to help us reach our goals.

For example, the Foundation was able to demonstrate its out-of-the-box critical thinking and resourcefulness by actually partnering with a traditional nemesis — U.S. Sugar Corporation — to publicly promote the benefits of the proposed land acquisition needed for water storage and creation of filter marshes to help the Everglades.

**Q.** As Chairman of the Everglades Foundation, who do you think deserves the most credit for any successes in 2008 and is responsible for raising the profile of restoring the River of Grass?

**PTJ** 2008 demonstrated what can happen if a focused, committed group of individuals never loses sight of its goals and keeps plugging away. The result of that commitment means that the Foundation — staff, board members and supporters — can take pride in being recognized for all the hard work, proselytizing and pluckiness that have positioned the organization as a sought-after environmental leader framing the discourse on the importance of wetlands restoration and the significant impact of the pending U.S. Sugar Corp. land acquisition. I think that using U.S. Sugar land for restoration is the biggest game changer in Florida's history of ecosystem protection and restoration.





Photo: Great Blue Heron in flight by Filemon Lopez

**Q.** What other developments can you identify in 2008 that highlight substantial progress for the Foundation's goals and objectives?

**PTJ** The Foundation and its supporters did a masterful job of briefing the incoming presidential administration on the key issues that need to be addressed with Everglades ecosystem restoration and getting those issues positioned as priorities. In addition, an important canal fill-in project known as the C-111 was put on track to improve water quality in Florida Bay. The initiative to improve Picayune Strand, an area in Southwest Florida also found new life in 2008. I would also add the hiring of Kirk Fordham as CEO of the Foundation to that list.

**Q.** What is Florida's most critical need to advance Everglades restoration?

**PTJ** Consensus. All the money and resources in the world will not make a difference unless there is a certain level of consensus throughout all echelons of government – from the small town halls in the most rural parts of the state impacted by restoration to county government offices in the gleaming, bustling cosmopolitan cities along the Southeast coast. Obviously the powerbrokers in Washington, D.C. and Tallahassee need to speak from the same hymn book as well as we are pushing an agenda that allows all to speak with one voice.

**Q.** Who does the Everglades Foundation need to thank?

**PTJ** Our "thank you" list is incredibly long, but at the top of the list is Florida Governor Charlie Crist. Anyone can write a plan or conduct a scientific study. In the grand scheme of things, that's relatively easy to do. The tough part is trying to get people to implement and sell that plan. Governor Crist had the vision to listen to a vast array of voices and then put himself out on a limb by making a bold proposal to purchase U.S. Sugar Corp. land for Everglades restoration. Leaders who truly understand the importance of being strategic always focus on the future and that is what Governor Crist has been able to demonstrate with his actions in support of Everglades restoration. The entire staff of the South Florida Water Management District and its leadership under executive director, Carol Wehle, should be commended for the organization's tireless efforts in soldiering ahead with this landmark proposal.

**Q.** You seem to be very big on return on investment. What's the return on investment for those who believe that supporting the Foundation is in the best interests of Everglades restoration?

**PTJ** The Foundation has 11 full-time professional staff, and an annual operating budget just under \$4 million per year. This is a modest amount to support an organization that works nonstop to reverse the damage from the historic course of failed Everglades policies and leverage vital land acquisition for ecosystem restoration valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. All this to improve an ecosystem that fuels an economy valued in the billions of dollars. Supporting the Everglades Foundation appears to be a sound investment.

# The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Everglades Foundation is comprised of individuals who represent diverse industries, interests and pursuits. However, all board members have one thing in common – a passion for the mission of the organization. In addition to being strategic thinkers and demonstrating a willingness and ability to commit time – as well as showing the capacity to leverage personal and professional contacts to further the goals of the Foundation – board members pull together the resources and team needed to see that the world’s largest ecosystem restoration project continues.

The Board funds all of the Foundation’s fundraising and administrative expenses which ensure that 100 percent of the organization’s donations go directly to Everglades restoration programming.

The Everglades Foundation provides opportunities for working board members to serve three-year terms to actively engage in governance, informed advocacy and fundraising to advance Everglades restoration. Several board members serve in different capacities on Foundation committees overseeing Development, Finance, Program, Litigation and Governance.



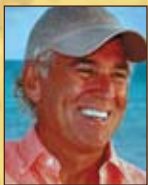
## Mary Barley

Mary Barley currently serves as Vice Chairperson of the Foundation. She is also President of The Everglades Trust and holds positions on the Executive, Development, Finance, Program and Investment committees.



## Joseph Zachary Duke III

Joseph Duke, president of Jacksonville-based Off Road Holdings, is an industrial designer and entrepreneur whose business life has involved various manufacturing activities as well as a partnership in an advertising agency. He currently serves on the Development and Governance committees.



## Jimmy Buffett

Singer, songwriter, author, producer – Buffett wears many hats and advocates tirelessly on behalf of preserving Florida’s natural resources and colorful heritage.



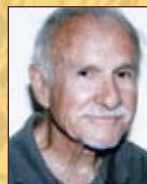
## Marshall Field, V

Marshall Field’s business commitments include serving as Chairman of the Board of The Field Corporation, Chief Executive Officer of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes and Chairman of The Old Mountain Company, Inc. Field chairs the Foundation’s Governance committee and holds positions on the Development and Investment committees.



## Robert F. “Tad” Carr III

Tad Carr is the former principal owner of Fiduciary Management Associates, established in 1980 in Chicago. He is a member of numerous boards, including the Children’s Memorial Hospital, Grant Healthcare Foundation, the Terra Foundation and the Art Institute of Chicago. He sits on the Development and Investment committees.



## Reid B. Hughes

Reid Hughes is past President of Hughes Oil Company and President of Edge Broadcasters and a real estate developer.

*\*Reid Hughes stepped down from board responsibilities following several years of dedicated service in June 2009.*



## Thomas Davidson

Thomas Davidson is currently principal owner and Chairman of Nutech Precision Metals, Ltd. Davidson is also Chairman of Azure Dynamics Inc., Quarry Hill Group, a director of MDC Partners Inc., TLC Vision Inc. and Occulogix Incorporated. He currently serves on the Development, Program and Governance committees.



**John P. Keller**

John P. Keller is chairman of the Keller Group, Inc., a privately held corporation specializing in iron and steel.



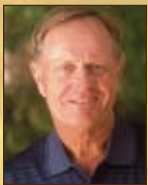
**Paul Tudor Jones II**

Paul Tudor Jones II serves as Chairman of the Everglades Foundation. He is founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Tudor Group of companies. Jones chairs the Investment, Executive and Development committees and serves on the Governance committee.



**Jon Mills**

Jon Mills is Dean Emeritus of the University of Florida Frederic G. Levin College of Law, where he also is a Professor of Law. Mills chairs the Litigation committee and serves on the Executive, Development and Governance committees.



**Jack Nicklaus**

Jack Nicklaus's golfing career has spanned five decades featuring more than a 100 professional tournament victories and record-setting number of major-championship titles. Nicklaus supports a number of charitable organizations.



**Robert Parks**

Robert Parks is partner in the law offices of Robert L. Parks, P.L., a leading commercial litigation firm. Parks serves on the Litigation committee.



**W. Douglas Pitts, Sr.**

W. Douglas Pitts is president and chairman of Courtelis Company, a Miami-based real estate development entity. Pitts is a member of the Executive committee, chairs the Finance committee and serves on the Program and Investment committees.



**Nathaniel P. Reed**

Nathaniel Reed currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Everglades Foundation. He is best known as the Chairman of the Commission on Florida's Environmental Future and an Everglades legend. Reed serves on the Executive, Program, Development and Litigation committees.



**William Riley**

In addition to being a corporate executive with the Old Lyme Corporation, William Riley is a writer and conservationist. He currently chairs the Program committee and serves on the Executive and Litigation committees.



**Stuart D. Strahl, Ph.D.**

Dr. Strahl currently is President/CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society and Director of the Brookfield Zoo. Strahl serves on the Executive, Development, Finance and Program committees.



**Jim Swann**

Jim Swann is currently Chairman of the Board for Eckerd Youth Alternatives. He currently serves on the Finance committee.

*\*Jim Swann stepped down from board responsibilities following several years of dedicated service in June 2009.*



**Harvey Wasserman**

Harvey Wasserman is an author and senior editor at the Columbus Free Press. He currently serves on the Program committee.



**Karl Y. Wickstrom**

Karl Wickstrom is founder/editor-in-chief of Florida Sportsman magazine.

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS: Ben Cohen, Philippe Cousteau, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Michael O'Keefe, Bonnie Raitt**

# Advisory Committee

The Everglades Foundation Advisory Committee consists of local ambassadors who take a leadership role in facilitating the expansion of the organization's regional and advocacy network through social engagement and grass roots awareness opportunities. The Advisory Committee involves individuals who can lend their expertise to address a wide range of issues from communications and fundraising to board development and coalition building.



## **Barbara Carr**

Barbara Carr is co-chair of the Everglades Foundation Advisory Committee. Carr has extensive leadership experience in non-profit organizations including serving as the Executive Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden.



## **Judy Keller**

Judy Keller is co-chair of the Everglades Foundation Advisory Committee and has considerable experience in effectively organizing and spurring committees into action in the non-profit sector including work at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Lincoln Park Zoological Society.





# The Science Department

Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and the Everglades region



Good science that steers sound policy... that is the bedrock on which the Everglades Foundation was built. The founders of the organization knew that without sound scientific research, the discourse on Everglades restoration would devolve into wildly speculative and unsubstantiated personal opinions about “what is right” that would not significantly advance its cause.

To effectively address the need for unbiased, let-the-data-speak-for-itself science, it was necessary to assemble a dedicated, world-class science team whose work could stand up to peer review. There is clear evidence that the Foundation’s science deftly parried the efforts of high-powered company consultants, lobbyists and communications professionals retained to stymie the landmark U.S. Sugar Corp. land acquisition.

The collaborative research conducted in 2008 by the Everglades Foundation’s team featuring experts in hydrology, engineering, ecology, water quality and geographic information systems is the benchmark by which all other wetlands restoration research projects will be measured.

On June 24, 2008, dialogue about the possibilities of Everglades restoration changed forever. The probability of acquiring land within the Everglades Agricultural Area for Everglades restoration resulted in a significant paradigm shift for those on the environmental frontlines.

The question of “What if...?” became, “What now...?” and scientists from the Everglades Foundation moved forward aggressively to pull together all the relevant information to present to a host of stakeholders regarding the need and use of U.S. Sugar Corp. land to save the River of Grass.





Timing, distribution, quantity and quality became a mantra that was echoed over and over again in discussions about water storage and water treatment with fellow scientists, engineers, politicians, academicians and members of the media.

The Foundation flexed its scientific muscle and capably addressed matters ranging from pollution and the impacts of Lake Okeechobee discharges into critical estuaries to water storage footprints and filtering marsh configurations.

An economic consultant was retained to provide analysis of yields of sugar cane, citrus and winter crops to understand the financial dynamics of U.S. Sugar Corp. operations. This made it easier to determine what could be considered as a realistic purchase price for the company’s assets and property. Detailed land usage maps helped explain the best land configurations and the agreements necessary to secure the property needed for Everglades restoration.

The proposed sale triggered an entirely new conversation about wetlands ecosystem restoration. The Foundation’s science department’s team became “go-to” experts and provided an opportunity to impart credibility and build consensus within the scientific community on a sometimes emotionally charged issue.

The work of the science department demonstrated that U.S. Sugar land acquisition benefits would:

-  **Re-establish seasonal hydro-patterns – the wet and dry seasons that are necessary for the ecological health of the Everglades.**
-  **Increase water storage to reduce harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to coastal rivers and estuaries (Including the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee).**
-  **Improve the options for water treatment and delivery of cleaner, less phosphorus polluted water into the Everglades system**
-  **Restore water flows in the Everglades to rehydrate wetlands and decrease damages caused to Florida Bay and estuaries.**

Agencies that worked closely with and sought out the expertise of the Everglades Foundation’s science team included the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of the Interior.





Photo: Curious rabbit by Filemon Lopez

# Internship and Fellowship Program

Where will the scientific leaders of tomorrow come from and how can they support the Foundation's Science Department's efforts to uncover solutions to help move Everglades restoration forward?

Student scientists in the Everglades Foundation's Internship and Fellowship program bring unbridled energy, commitment and enthusiasm to the execution of their assignments. Working in collaboration with and counseled by experienced scientists or engineers provides these nascent eco-warriors a one-of-a-kind opportunity to contribute to projects that have impacts far beyond the classroom.

At the 2008 ForEverglades benefit held at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, several generous attendees contributed to the science scholarship auction item. After appraising scholarship applications and proposals from students at some of the top Florida research institutions and across the country, the Foundation's science department selected four highly qualified applicants for the 2009 fellowship program.



# Fellowship Focus...

## Gregory Koch

### Project: Florida Coastal Everglades Long-Term Ecological Research

From a high school aquarium job in his hometown of Reading, Pa., to management of ecology stations along a remote mangrove river in Everglades National Park, fellowship recipient Gregory Koch has always been drawn to how water behaves.

"Most people don't realize how much goes on, even in the small aquariums they have in their homes or offices," notes the Florida International University doctoral student. The behavior of water facilitates things such as carbon

transport and nitrogen cycling - biogeochemistry basics that play a major role in the complex ecology of the Everglades.

The Taylor River, a key system of mangrove estuaries in the southern Everglades, has become the research epicenter for Koch, one of the first people to install automated monitoring stations on the site to track how the river transports CO<sub>2</sub> or, as he puts it, "how it breathes."

Using ten-minute interval measurements of wind, temperature, light and oxygen, from a location only seen by most people from Google Earth, Koch detects the river's response to Florida's pattern of wet and dry seasons and, in turn, forecasts how it will react to the restoration of natural water flow in other areas of the Everglades.

Besides exciting contacts made with other Everglades scientists, Koch is most grateful for an opportunity to conduct "fieldwork in one of the most beautiful areas of the world."

## Xin Wang

### Project: Tree Island Habitats

Although it was the "mysteriousness of tree islands" that led Ph.D. candidate Xin Wang (Biological Sciences, University of Miami) to her research topic, she will tell you the study of tree islands, even in a "wildlife paradise," is not for the faint of heart. Dropped in by helicopter or arriving via airboat, armed with machete and mosquito repellent, exploring the ecological eccentricities in this remotest part of the Everglades is anything but another day in the lab.

Just getting there - along winding marsh trails often submerged by more than three feet of water - can be one of the hardest steps in identifying the link between tree island water levels and phosphorus sources or zeroing in on the private lives of their plant communities. Often blocked by fallen trees, the primitive trails leading to the tree island habitats sometimes yield unsettling surprises, such as "a face-off with an island gator."

Balancing field adventures with cutting edge lab techniques - isotope and Geographic Information Systems analysis - Wang is assembling a toolbox of long-term monitoring techniques that will serve as critical guideposts for the Everglades tree island restoration project.

The fellowship has opened the young environmental scientist's eyes to the differences between the northern Everglades and Everglades National Park. "Now that I understand the Everglades more, everything I see is somehow a link to my study.....everything becomes more interesting."



From left to right: Jennifer Romanowich; Gregory Koch; Rosanna Rivero, GIS Scientist, Everglades Foundation; Xin Wang; Shradha Prabhulkar.

## Jennifer Romanowich

### Seagrass Meadow Project

The self-proclaimed product of "too many childhood nature films," Ph.D. candidate Jennifer Romanowich (Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia) boats and often scuba dives to many of her field sites, the lush seagrass meadows that make up one of the treasure troves of biodiversity that are the Florida Everglades.

Once there, she employs high-powered Performing Particle Image Technology, a pet pursuit attempted by few scientists to date, in order to laser-illuminate the hydro particles surrounding the seagrass blades. Threatened by the effects of climate change and sea level rise, multiple seagrass species are also photographed by Romanowich. These photographs of seagrass species, as well as their habits, are translated into high-resolution velocity data through cutting-edge instrumentation. The final informational snapshot will tell how seagrass meadows impact nutrient and sediment movement in the Everglades water flow - and how best to preserve them.

Although "swimming with whales seemed exciting," recalls Romanowich of her early ocean adoration, "a career conserving the ocean is even better." She counts among her role models the many women encountered along the way, math, biology, ecology and oceanography mentors, who encouraged her career dream of a life in the sciences.

Like most Everglades Foundation fellows, the future teaching and research scientist sees the Everglades in a whole new light. "Instead of a distant land of mangroves and alligators, the Everglades has come to life."

## Shradha Prabhulkar

The fascination with nano-engineering predated Ph.D. candidate Shradha Prabhulkar's (Biomedical Engineering, Florida International University) first visit to the Everglades. But an FIU graduate field trip took her a big step further. The boat side notion of employing nano sensors, which are "used everywhere in our world today," as lab-on-chip detectors of various water pollutants - like heavy metals and phosphates - has become a key component of the Everglades research restoration project.

From the FIU "cleanroom," where the graduate research assistant micro fabricates magnetic nanoparticles specific to certain pollutants, the resulting portable sensors undergo field-testing on Everglades water samples. By developing a portable, low-cost sensor in a lab-on-chip format, notes Prabhulkar, "we hope to gain an overall understanding of the chemistry of the Everglades waterways."

The small size and scope of nano-engineered sensors in water-quality measurement, says the bioanalytical chemist, make them versatile tools for water-quality measurement, from spot analysis of surface water and sediments to the monitoring of wastewater treatment and bioreactors. For Prabhulkar, who envisions a career in environmental research, the perfect nano future would be a continued partnership with the Everglades Foundation "in making a better, more user-friendly sensor and a better environment."

# 2007 Everglades Internship and Fellowship participants

It was not until 2008 that many of the 2007 Everglades Foundation Internship and Fellowship participants were able to compile the data and process outcomes of their research. Here are their thoughts and musings that best captured their experiences.

## Jay Munyon

AA & AS Biology '03, Rend Lake College, BS Biological Sciences '06, Southern Illinois University

Currently: Master's candidate, Biological Sciences, Florida International University

**EF Project: Influence of periphyton on carbon sequestration in Everglades marshes**

Academic Goal: Ph.D. Environmental Policy

Career Goal: Environmental conservation policy maker

*"I consider communicating the conservation message a core part of the research itself. Because many of the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA's) affected by urban and agricultural runoff are also prime duck hunting grounds, I was able to chat with local hunters and explain what a valuable tool the STA's are in Everglades conservation. I guess that makes me part phosphorus tracker and part policy maker."*

## Melissa Martin

Ph.D. Soil and Water Science '09, University of Florida,

Currently: Post-doctoral associate, Department of Soil and Water Science, University of Florida

**EF Project: Research on alteration of nutrient cycling after invasion and management of exotic plants**

Goal: Natural Resource Management

*"Early in my Ph.D. project – ecosystem consequences of the invasion and management of Melaleuca quinquenervia – and three weeks after my first sampling, the Great Basal wildfire burned 8,000 hectares in southwest Florida – all my field sites. I had to revise the project methodology to include effects of the fire and then re-sample the burned sites. The Everglades Foundation supported this work, enabling me to complete my Ph.D. on schedule in three years – despite the disruption of the fire."*

## Clifton Ruehl

BS Biology '00, Trinity University

MS Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences '04, Texas A&M University

Currently: Ph.D. candidate Biology, Aquatic Ecology Lab, Florida International University,

**EF Project: Research Apple Snails as indicators of Everglades' health**

Goal: University professor

*"Working in the Everglades has given me an appreciation for how drastically the ecosystem can change between seasons – and how important the timing of water delivery is to its preservation. My study of seasonal nutrient changes, showing the eco-link between nutrient enrichment and agricultural/urban runoff, will supplement data for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Collaboration with scientists outside my field and enhancing my dissertation were big benefits of the Everglades Fellowship, bringing me a step closer to my goal of becoming a university professor."*

## Roberto Koenke

Graduate student, Marine Affairs and Policy, University of Miami

**Project: Internship / Environmental Issues at Florida Bay**

Goal: Marine policymaker

*"I was honored to work as an Everglades Foundation intern during the summer of 2008. My work focused on coordination of a forum among Florida Bay stakeholder groups – Everglades National Park (ENP) and Biscayne National Park officials, as well as Audubon of Florida and National Parks Conservation Association employees – to discuss a range of issues facing the Bay and to make policy recommendations for ENP management regimes. It was a challenging experience that brought together in a professional environment my ongoing education in the field of marine policy."*

## Heather Gimbel

Foundation intern

University of Miami Law School student

Conducted research on the Foundation's education and outreach opportunities.

# Advocacy and Grants

Being an advocate for Everglades restoration is so much more than writing form letters to legislators and showing up at public meetings to make a statement. The leadership needed to really orchestrate a change in policy, secure funding or pass a new law takes teamwork and perseverance, as well as wearing out some good old fashioned shoe leather in federal, state, county and municipal halls of government.

The ability to build a strong coalition creates the nucleus that allows advocacy to become easier to organize and execute. The Everglades Foundation forms collaborative partnerships with like-minded organizations to share information and brainstorm on strategies to bring cohesiveness, consistency and the ability to speak with one voice to challenge the status quo. This was evident in 2008 as positive results from several key Everglades restoration initiatives demonstrated the power of collaboration.



**It's 9:30 on a Friday morning.** Cups of coffee and tea are being consumed by more than 40 different representatives from more than a dozen environmental organizations across Florida as well as Washington, D.C., as they dial a familiar conference-call number.

The host for these weekly conference calls is the Everglades Foundation. The organization's role is to facilitate action plans that engage partner organizations as members of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and ensure follow-through on environmental proceedings, legal concerns and legislative priorities that impact — or have the potential to affect Everglades restoration.

It is during these consensus-building, epiphany-generating conference call sessions that game plans are scripted for the week ahead, strategies are formulated and differences of opinion are openly discussed. The Everglades Foundation is able to create clear channels of communication and bring a diverse group of organizations and interests to the table to speak in unison on issues related to ecosystem restoration. Having a unified voice helps EAC members with the communication of messages to the media and lawmakers on a variety of major issues.

In addition, the Everglades Foundation hosts major EAC meetings three times a year to brainstorm in-person and develop short-term and long-range plans to advance Everglades restoration.



# 2008 Success Stories and Advocacy Efforts

U.S. Sugar Corp. Land Purchase – The Environmental Advisory Council spent the majority of its group efforts supporting and advocating for the proposed purchase of more than 180,000 acres of land by the state of Florida for Everglades restoration during the course of the year. The contract for the sale of this property was approved by the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board in December 2008.

State Government Action – The EAC contributed to the successful passage of Senate Bill 1552 Everglades Restoration Bonds. The bill extended by 10 years the authority to use the sale of up to \$100 million in bonds to generate funds for Everglades restoration.





## The Environmental Advisory Council and the Everglades

Foundation worked to defeat several bills that would have given the development community an opportunity to force the state to establish a single standard for mining, local development and environmental laws and erode a higher standard of protections established by local communities. If these bills succeeded, they could have jeopardized restoration efforts.

The Everglades Foundation and the Environmental Advisory Council are actively engaged in speaking for those who have no voice – at least no human voice – on the restoration issue. Even though the Foundation fights to protect and restore the conditions that make it possible for 67 endangered species to sustain themselves in this wondrous, but threatened wetlands ecosystem, there is yet a larger audience that stands to benefit from ongoing restoration projects.

This audience has a voice, but its audience members are largely oblivious to the Foundation’s advocacy that could benefit their everyday quality of life and businesses. The beneficiaries are the more than 7 million people who live in the 16-county Everglades watershed. By trying to advance Everglades restoration, the Everglades Foundation has become a de facto advocate for promoting the sustainability of the region’s water supply, the very same water supply that nurtures life in the River of Grass and recharges critical water resources for human needs.

Everglades Foundation scientists and policy experts have given countless hours of testimony and made dozens of presentations in support of restoration initiatives. In 2008, Foundation representatives contributed time to support a number of critical issues that included developments other than the U.S. Sugar Corp. land purchase such as:

- Providing testimony to prevent development beyond Miami-Dade County’s Urban Development Boundary
- Taking part in Miami-Dade County’s Climate Change Mitigation Task Force
- Providing testimony related to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District projects including the C-111 Canal
- Briefings with the U.S. Department of the Interior
- Participating on panel discussions in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference
- Participating as a Sustainable Florida delegate at the Water Congress in Orlando
- Being involved in the Everglades Coalition presentations on Green Engineering, the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Northern Everglades
- Participating in the National Council Review of Everglades Science
- Providing expertise to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council – Restoration Impacts on the Keys

Additional events supported by the expertise of Everglades Foundation representatives on restoration activities included those of the following organizations:

- Tampa Aquarium
- Funder’s Network
- World Bank Environmental Division

Throughout the year, the Everglades Foundation diligently worked with the Environmental Advisory Council to communicate its concern via a public outreach campaign seeking support from water managers on the U.S. Sugar Corp. land purchase, federal funding for Everglades projects, comments on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Year-Round Landscape Irrigation rules and many other initiatives.

# *There is Strength in Numbers*

For the Everglades Foundation, the very action of proffering grants is symbolic of the collaborative approach now employed to find holistic, system-wide solutions to address Everglades restoration. A Foundation grant cements a healthy working relationship. Partners all agree to dedicate the necessary resources, personnel and talents to attack the complexity of restoration in a manner that best works for them...and provides the greatest results. They do this by maximizing their respective organizations' inherent strengths and executing strategies that yield measurable outcomes.

Foundation grantees become members of the Everglades Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), an amalgamation of national, regional, local and international groups that strategize collectively on the best way to support stated goals. Providing expertise in subject areas ranging from birds and fish to parks and water, each group delivers value-added benefits to Foundation programming activities, complementing the strengths of the organization.

The following analysis provides just a fraction of the results generated by the more than \$1.29 million in Everglades Foundation grant monies provided to EAC members last year, showing that collaboration on key issues in 2008 proved successful:



**1000 Friends of Florida** **\$75,000**

Helped initiate three mining permit challenges within the Everglades Agricultural Area; launched a public outreach initiative to educate citizens about the pros and cons of Palm Beach County's "inland port" and impact on Everglades Agricultural Area

**Audubon of Florida** **\$420,000**

Facilitated the South Florida Water Management District's adoption of a "Water Reservation" to protect necessary flows to the restored Kissimmee River; spearheaded the Florida Forever coalition efforts to successfully extend "Florida Forever" for ten years, resulting in the reservation of funds or buying conservation easements on ranches in the Lake Okeechobee watershed

**Clean Water Action** **\$67,000**

Organized a grassroots campaign that mobilized thousands of people to support holding the line on the Miami-Dade Urban Development Boundary

**Collier County Audubon Society** **\$37,500**

Enabled greater protection of Florida panther habitat in Southwest Florida; changed rock mining policies in Lee County to benefit wetlands

**Conservancy of Southwest Florida** **\$36,000**

Helped with the crafting, advocating and successful adoption of a storm water ordinance by City of Naples that requires property owners to improve storm water treatment which helps control runoff pollution levels

**Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area** **\$25,000**

Implemented invasive species management program that controls population of invasive non-native bird species

**Defenders of Wildlife** **\$25,000**

Secured additional funds to retrofit dangerous roads to protect wildlife and habitat; helped place a full-time transportation planner in a position at the Big Cypress National Preserve to work on transportation issues affecting the preserve and its wildlife

**Everglades Law Center** **\$175,000**

Secured the withdrawal of a development project and wastewater treatment plant on the shores of Lake Okeechobee in Martin County; convinced the state of Florida to formally object to moving Miami-Dade County's "Urban Development Boundary" westward, which would have allowed for the development of two proposed urban real estate projects closer to the Everglades

**National Parks Conservation Association** **\$133,000**

Spearheaded community efforts that led to revision of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP); led advocacy efforts of a diverse team to advance the Tamiami Trail bridge project that is needed to provide critical water flow to Everglades National Park

**Natural Resources Defense Council** **\$10,000**

Secured the role of a leading Congressional watchdog providing guidance to key members of Congress on CERP implementation issues to keep plan on track

**The Sierra Club** **\$150,000**

Helped lay the foundation for the survival of the Florida panther and other endangered and threatened species by building support for a panther corridor west of Lake Okeechobee, stretching from central Florida south to Big Cypress National Preserve

**Tropical Audubon Society** **\$20,000**

Facilitated the support and advocacy provided the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team to track progress on year-round water conservation plans and scientific progress on battling salt-water intrusion

**World Wildlife Fund** **\$125,000**

Helped secure an agreement to get funding and approvals for the C-111 phase 1 project design, a drainage canal in-fill that will provide restoration benefits to the southern Everglades ecosystem.

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is a deep, clear blue. In the foreground, there are several tall, branching coral structures with a vibrant orange-red color. The background shows more coral and some smaller fish swimming in the distance.

# Litigation

The Foundation makes the most effective use of every resource to maximize results to protect the Everglades and ensure that ecosystem restoration has an opportunity to progress in the best of all possible environments.

Litigation is sometimes used to effectuate change and challenge entities – from private companies to governments – to ensure that the Everglades stands a fighting chance when government agencies fail to carry out the laws passed to restore and protect this ecological treasure.

We do not enter the courtroom by ourselves. Instead we collaborate with partners, carefully plan, qualify and review every consideration before pursuing a legal alternative and only take cases that meet certain criteria. As with all of its activities, the Foundation seeks partnerships in legal cases and rarely funds a legal proceeding in its entirety.

Our litigation committee is chaired by a pre-eminent legal scholar, Jon Mills, the former dean of the University of Florida Frederic G. Levin College of Law. Through his leadership and counsel, the Foundation supported several cases that were determined to pose serious threats to Everglades restoration.

In some instances, legal action can yield the best return on investment if used in a pre-emptive fashion.

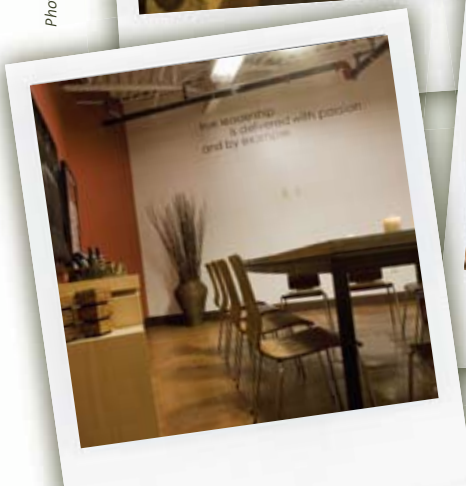
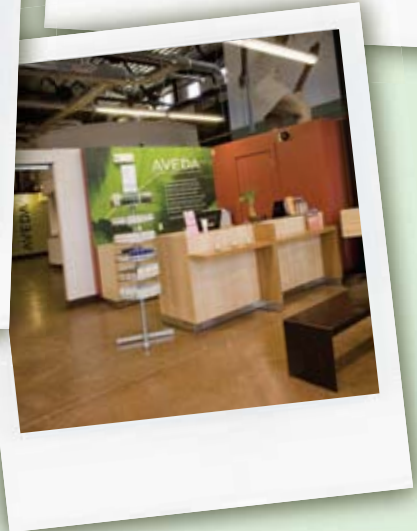
One such case that came to a close in 2008 as a result of collaboration with a partner was a hugely successful campaign to prevent the creation of a 2,000-acre city on the edge of the Everglades' ecologically sensitive eastern fringes in Palm Beach County. Our proposed alternative was to promote the preferred location of a world-class biotech campus on a university campus on a more easterly situated urban infill locale instead. The case was settled. Thanks to timely legal measures, there are now safeguards being put in place to improve the planning process on future projects like this. In addition, a proposal has been put forth by County officials to use the site where the project was first planned to incorporate water management facilities and rural home sites on the edge of the Everglades. This is considered a significant win.

# Corporate Supporters

Aveda™, the Art and Science of Pure Flower and Plant Essences™, and The Salon People, the St. Petersburg-based, sole distributor of Aveda products in Florida, became valued supporters of the Everglades Foundation in 2008. Aveda was founded in 1978 with the goal of providing beauty industry professionals with high performance, botanically based products that would be better for service providers and their guests, as well as for the planet.

The Aveda Institute South Florida celebrated the launch of “the greenest beauty school ever created” in October 2008 with the grand opening of its Green Globes-certified \$9 million facility in Davie, Fla. – every aspect of which was thoughtfully considered and built to high environmental standards. One of the most prominent features of the facility is the onsite FOREVERGLADES garden exhibit which features a re-created Everglades habitat with indigenous plants and information about the Florida Everglades prepared by the Everglades Foundation.

Shortly thereafter, Aveda/The Salon People announced that they had entered into an Earth Month partnership with the Everglades Foundation. As clean water is a central ingredient in Aveda’s full line of professional hair care, skin care, makeup, Pure-Fume™, and lifestyle products, Aveda and its distributor network sought out organizations that worked on water quality and conservation issues as the cornerstone of an Earth Month awareness and fundraising campaign.



Photos courtesy of Aveda/The Salon People

# Financial Statement

For the year ended December 31, 2008.

The Everglades Foundation raised more than \$3 million in fiscal year 2008. This is a result of generous and welcomed support from a number of sources including donors, contributions of board members, grants, corporations and other individuals and institutions. These financial commitments are investments that will allow the Foundation to expand its staff and provide more resources toward the work of restoring the River of Grass.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Contributions	\$1,845,315		\$1,845,315
Interest and dividend income	\$42,069		\$42,069
Net realized/unrealized gains (losses)	(\$5,508)		(\$5,508)
Special events	\$2,148,787	\$61,500	\$2,210,287
Less: Direct costs	(\$889,138)		(\$889,138)
	\$1,259,649		\$1,321,149
Net assets released from temporary restrictions	\$61,500	(\$61,500)	
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$3,203,025</b>		<b>\$3,203,025</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services	\$2,779,435		\$2,779,435
Fundraising	\$427,394		\$427,394
Management and general	\$419,952		\$419,952
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$3,626,781</b>		<b>\$3,626,781</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$423,756)</b>		<b>(\$423,756)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING</b>	<b>\$1,915,942</b>		<b>\$1,915,942</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - ENDING</b>	<b>\$1,492,186</b>		<b>\$1,492,186</b>



*Photo: Kayaker taking prize photo of the day by Robert R. Mindick*

# Foundation Staff

As steady progress towards America's Everglades restoration continues, the Foundation's Board of Directors has strived to build upon a dedicated and committed team of world-class scientists, governmental policy, communications and fundraising professionals to implement and advance a bold plan to save an ecological wonder for generations to come.



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## *New Team Members... First Impressions.*

“What struck me about the commitment of the team at the Everglades Foundation was something that I realized during the interview process... everyone here has unbridled passion and a sincere belief in the cause. There could be many opportunities in the corporate sector or the lucrative field of consulting that several individuals now working here could pursue. The thing that attracts us is the opportunity to save one of the last great places on earth and be part of something that is transformational.”

~ Richard Gibbs, Senior Director of Communications

“I have long looked for an environmental group that took a new and refreshing look at the problems and solutions. While I have been involved in the environmental movement for many years, both in the U.S. and Latin America, I did not see creative thinking emerging. When I got to know the Everglades Foundation, however, I was impressed by the scope, the approach and the focus. The organization, both board and staff, was clearly approaching the work with a new paradigm, and that was very appealing.”

~ Stanley Boynton, Vice President of Development

“The health of the Everglades definitely presents fascinating complexities as well as many unique questions and challenges for someone with my background. However, confronting these types of challenges is something I have been seeking my entire life. I realize that entire civilizations can rise and fall based upon the availability of fresh water. Florida's well-being is dependent on the probability of restoring what is left of America's Everglades, the largest science project of its kind in the world. In the Everglades Foundation, I found a team of completely dedicated individuals who think like I do - and act with conviction. This is exciting - and so, here I am!”

~ G. Melodie Naja, Ph. D., Water Quality Scientist

# For Everglades Benefit

Feb. 15, 2008



The stars seemed to align at the third annual ForEverglades Benefit at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. At the Foundation's largest single fundraiser of the year, two iconic figures emanated radiance and style for what proved to be a night to remember. Multi-platinum album recording star and Motown queen, Diana Ross, created the perfect atmosphere to help attendees honor Everglades legend and Everglades Foundation Vice-Chair, Nathaniel Reed.



Florida Governor Charlie Crist and world-renowned tennis player, Chris Evert, were featured as members of a program who commemorated Reed with "The Everglades Legend Award" for his pioneering environmental work and his refusal to "accept no for an answer" when speaking with those who possess the power to help.

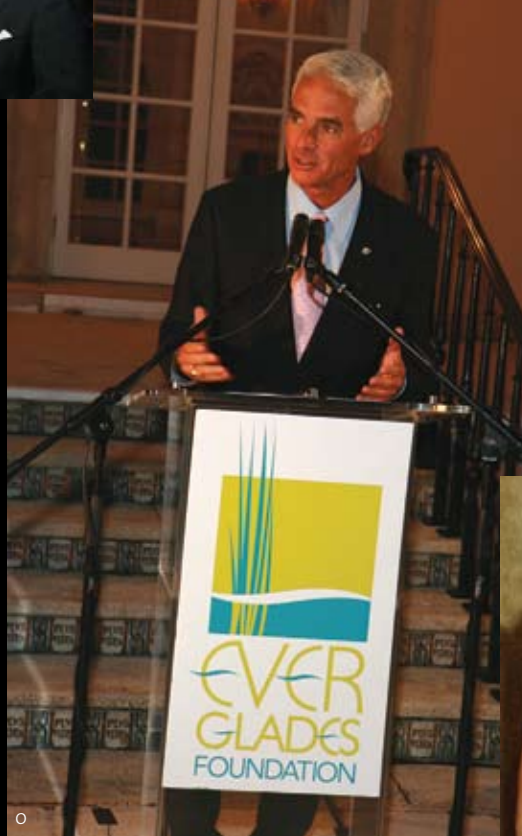


About 600 guests enjoyed an evening that showcased an auction, dinner, dancing and a stellar musical performance by Diana Ross that raised roughly \$1.5 million. Funding from the Benefit created the opportunity to launch the Foundation's new Washington environmental policy fellowship for the best and brightest graduate students to serve as scientific advisors in key congressional offices. The new initiative is designed to educate and motivate Congress about the importance and benefits of keeping the world's largest ecosystem restoration project moving in the right direction – forward!



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# Everglades Foundation 2008 Donors Distribution



EF Donors Total Contribution by State (\$) Year: 2008

- Less than 5,000
- 5,001 – 10,000
- 10,001 – 50,000
- 50,001 – 250,000
- More than 250,000



Source: Everglades Foundation 2009, ESRI  
Author: Rosanna Rivero, April 2009

# One Mission. One Priority. Restoring America's Everglades.

In many ways, the Everglades Foundation confronts its mission of restoring America's Everglades with the zeal and commitment of an Olympic athlete preparing for a single-event competition. Being intensely focused, well-prepared and open to collaboration enables the organization to channel its energies and resources effectively, because all eyes are zeroed in on one priority.

That's what sets this organization apart and why it needs support from individuals who realize what it's like to have a singular focus and mission. Our efforts to achieve restoration begin with you...with your help we can:



Photo: Fisherman courtesy of Lee County VCB/www.FortMyersSanibel.com

- Sponsor scientific research and analysis so lawmakers and citizens can make smart decisions on policy and actions.
- Provide grants to other organizations so their professionals can help save the Everglades.
- Partner to form coalitions, share information, set priorities, devise strategies, and provide leadership to unite and strengthen the voices for Everglades restoration.
- Monitor local, state and federal policies and programs affecting residents and the Everglades ecosystem.
- Share the truth about the threats that face the entire Everglades system by educating the public and private sectors.
- Stand up — both in public and in court, if necessary — for the interests of those who value the Everglades and this natural treasure that belongs to us all.

**The Everglades can be saved.** We have outstanding scientists and engineers who can undo much of the damage man has caused. Nature is resilient. The natural flow of water and cycle of life in the Everglades can recover. But it takes all of us — together — to truly make a difference and move Everglades restoration forward.

Your support is needed and valued:

- Stay current through our publications, ask about getting involved in our advisory committee and share your beliefs with friends and lawmakers,
- Introduce the Foundation to a corporation or other potential funding organizations with legitimate concerns about water-related environmental issues,
- Give generously, mail the Everglades Foundation a check, use your credit card, give on-line or donate stocks or bonds,
- Leave a legacy by donating part of your estate through a planned gift,
- Make a contribution in honor of a family member or friend as an enduring tribute in their honor,
- Attend the ForEverglades Benefit in Palm Beach in February 2010, and bring a group of friends.



Photo: Kayakers courtesy of Lee County VCB/www.FortMyersSanibel.com

For more information on how you can help the Everglades Foundation, visit us online at [www.evergladesfoundation.org](http://www.evergladesfoundation.org) or contact the Office of Development at (305) 251-0001, #225.



Photo: Roseate Spoonbill takes to the air by Filemon Lopez

## YES, I would like to support Restoration Science at the Everglades Foundation!

*Every penny of your gift goes directly to Everglades restoration.*

The Foundation's Board of Directors funds 100% of its administrative and fund raising expenses!



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The Everglades Foundation would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance in the production of this annual report:

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- ~ Robert R. Mindick
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*Photo: Big Cypress Marsh courtesy of John Brady, Everglades Gallery, Naples, Fla.*