



#### ENGAGING EVERGLADES ALLIES ON

# THE ROAD TO **RESTORATION**

The Everglades Foundation kicked off its "Road to Restoration" campaign in July 2023 with a series of events in key locations. Chief Executive Officer Eric Eikenberg led the journey, visiting Everglades allies in Islamorada, where Founding Director Mary Barley and Chief Science Officer Dr. Steve Davis joined the contingent.

The team also traveled to Stuart, where Florida Oceanographic Society and Mark Perry hosted a roundtable discussion on conditions in Martin County and the St. Lucie estuary. The visit marked 10 years after the Foundation rallied support during the algae-causing lake discharges that caused the infamous "lost summer" of 2013. Among the supporters at the gathering were Board Member Mike Sole, Florida Marine Industry Association, River Kidz, local realtors, and other partners reaffirming support for the EAA Reservoir and sending clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay.

A roundtable discussion in Fort Myers brought together allies from Lee and Collier counties, who addressed Hurricane Ian recovery, localized algae outbreaks, and Lake Okeechobee's water level of 15 feet at the time. The dialogue was both passionate and strategic with unanimous support for rallying local communities to support completing Everglades projects by 2030.

Participants in each roundtable were asked to join the Foundation in requesting \$425 million in federal funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 2024 budget to fund the third phase of the EAA Reservoir project, the construction of the Reservoir's embankment.









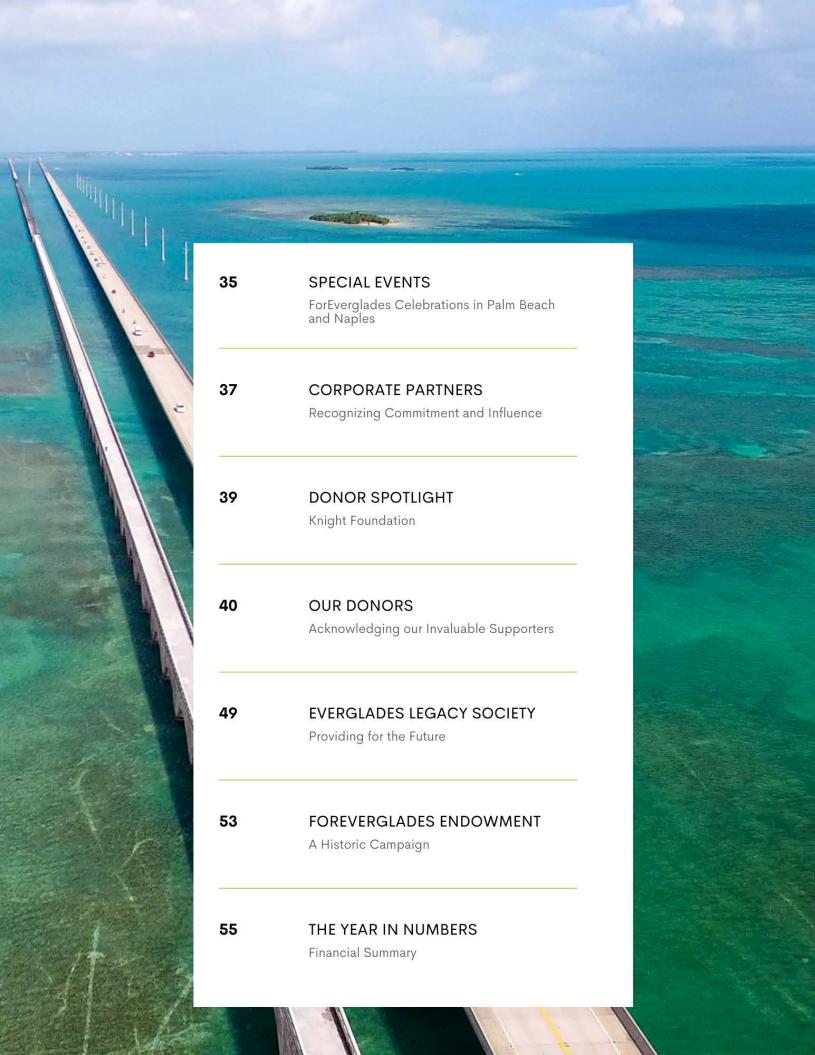


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COMMUNICATIONS
Conveying our Mission



## From Our Chairman

As the Foundation entered its fourth decade, we are proud to reflect on how far this organization has come. We have achieved enormous success in our mission to restore and protect America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and education, and our organizational strengths will enable even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Thanks to the generosity and kind support of donors, we will bolster and amplify those achievements. You have sustained us through our first 30 years, and we look forward to building on our rewarding relationship in the years ahead.



Carlos de la Cruz, Jr. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### In Memoriam

## THE HONORABLE **DANIEL ROBERT GRAHAM**

NOVEMBER 9, 1936 - APRIL 16, 2024 BY ERIC EIKENBERG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Bob Graham was one of those larger-than-life figures whose death brought the Everglades world to a standstill.

He was a giant: Florida's Governor from 1979 to 1987, and U.S. Senator from 1987 until 2005. His memorials spanned the entire peninsula, from the restored Kissimmee River to the Picayune Strand to the Everglades he loved.

In the late 1970s, two brothers from Baltimore managed to convince naïve investors into purchasing building lots in the Picayune Strand wetland - land that in truth should have been sold by the gallon.

Graham managed to halt the planned subdivision by purchasing back the acreage, negotiating with the dozens of purchasers to make them whole.

The preserved Picayune Strand wetland ultimately enabled the free flow of water through eastern Collier County to the Ten Thousand Islands, and was one of the first Everglades restoration projects following President Clinton's signing of CERP in 2000.

Like Superman, Graham changed the course of mighty rivers - specifically, the Kissimmee River. A poorly planned project in the 1960s had turned the once-meandering Kissimmee into a straight chute of water gushing directly into Lake Okeechobee. It destroyed the fish and bird habitat that made the Kissimmee a treasured spot for anglers and birders, and removed all

the natural means of purifying the water of nutrients and agricultural waste.

Today, thanks to Governor Graham's leadership, the Kissimmee has been restored to its original winding path. Grasses again help clean the water, birds and fish have begun to return, and the Kissimmee is once again becoming a beloved fishery.

The son of a sugarcane and dairy farmer, Graham envisioned a restored Everglades and authored the ambitious, multi-billion dollar "Save the Everglades" program – the forerunner of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in 1983.

His gentle manner and skillful consensus-building helped forge agreements between the wildly competing interests of agriculture and environmentalists, making possible the grand compromises contained in CERP in 2000.

Although he ran for President in the 2004 election, it wasn't meant to be; he was forced to withdraw from the race after heart surgery, and retired from the Senate soon thereafter.

He was a true friend of The Everglades Foundation, and I will always cherish the phone calls, meetings, and letters he shared with me over the years. He embodied selfless public service, and had a deep love for the Everglades.

It was a privilege to know him, and Florida is fortunate to have been blessed with his service.

# THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

The Everglades Foundation is committed to the restoration and protection of America's Everglades. Founded in 1993 by two outdoor enthusiasts — Paul Tudor Jones II and the late George Barley — The Everglades Foundation works tirelessly to bring people together and provide a powerful bipartisan voice for Everglades restoration. Our organization advocates for science-based solutions while educating the public about the vital importance of the Everglades ecosystem.

The Foundation's team includes renowned scientists, experienced educators, policy experts, and professionals in communications, human resources, finance, and fundraising. By coupling this breadth of expertise with a passion for restoration, The Everglades Foundation is the leading organization in the effort to restore and protect America's Everglades. Your support is vital to our pursuit of completing the world's largest ecosystem restoration project.

# SCIENCE

#### NAVIGATING THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

"At The Everglades Foundation, science drives restoration. It is the bedrock upon which our organization was built. It steers Everglades restoration in the right direction. The road to restoration is one of many miles and many chapters, but with sound science guiding us, we see a restored Everglades on the horizon."

- Dr. Steve Davis, Chief Science Officer

#### LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING **MANUAL (LOSOM)**

Our scientists shaped the final Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) that will send 46 billion more gallons of clean freshwater to the Everglades each year, while cutting the discharge of polluted water to both coasts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implemented this new plan in the summer of 2024.

#### **BISCAYNE BAY SOUTHEASTERN EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION** (BBSEER) PROJECT

We continued to drive Everglades restoration by ensuring maximal environmental benefit in the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project, which will encompass Miami-Dade County and cost more than \$1 billion. Our in-house Ph.D. hydrologist and water quality scientist have been working directly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District to model the impacts of the project on coastal wetland resilience and coastal health around Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay.



# SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

The Everglades Foundation's prestigious ForEverglades Research Enhancement Grants support graduate students pursuing innovative scientific and economic research to advance restoration and protect America's Everglades.

Over the 16 years of the program, more than \$2 million has been awarded to more than 100 graduate students, most of them pursuing doctoral degrees. Awardees have gone on to pursue scientific careers as professors and researchers in universities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.



Kinsey Blumenthal Florida International University





Sofia Costa Florida International University



Marcel Bozas Florida International University



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



**Emily** Kintzele University Of Florida





# FOREVERGLADES GRADUATE **RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The 12-month grants fund research-related expenses for full-time graduate students pursuing cutting-edge

The ForEverglades Research Enhancement Grant program is a joint project between The Everglades Foundation and its partners and supporters, including Florida International University, The Patrick P. Lee Foundation, VoLo Foundation, Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund, the Green Family Foundation, and The Woodbury Foundation.



**Paige** Kleindl Florida International University





Carlos Pulido Florida International University





Shanna Stinau Florida International University





William Sample Florida International University





reviewed scientific publications that will help drive Everglades restoration or aid in its management and

protection.

 We partnered with Winrock Solutions and worked with a NASA-funded team called BlueFlux to understand the benefits of Everglades restoration and quantify carbon sequestration in coastal mangroves around Everglades National Park.

 We collaborated with Dr. Miles Medina to develop an artificial intelligence model to forecast red tide in response to Lake Okeechobee discharges to the Caloosahatchee River. The results of this work were recently published in the journal, Harmful Algae.

Science Insider 2024

"Our family is proud to support the legacy of The Everglades Foundation's leadership in science research, and the influence it provides to restore and protect this important ecosystem for Florida."

- Verena Cushman









# SCIENCE-BASED **ADVOCACY**

THE EAA RESERVOIR PROJECT

Our Chairman of the Board Carlos de la Cruz, Jr., and CEO Eric Eikenberg on January 24, 2024 joined Governor Ron DeSantis, U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Shannon Estenoz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel James Booth, South Florida Water Management District Chair Chauncey Goss, and more than 250 others to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Stormwater Treatment Area (STA). Eikenberg exclaimed, "Seeing the water blast through the pump station and into the canal was proof that, with science, advocacy and tenacity, we are achieving progress!"

The filter marsh is an essential water quality feature to the \$3.5 billion EAA Reservoir project that has been 23 years in the making. It is the first key component in the Foundation's efforts to restore the flow of clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay and cut polluted Lake Okeechobee discharges to Florida's east and west coasts.

"We were delighted to share this momentous day with the bipartisan state and federal representation onsite in the EAA, as well as our environmental and conservation partners," said Eikenberg. "Seven years ago, the idea of a southern reservoir was simply a hope and a prayer. But with the leadership of the Foundation – and working with state leaders like former Senate President Joe Negron, realtors, small business owners, fishing guides and boat manufacturers – we were able to rally folks in support of the EAA Reservoir."

"Seeing the water blast through the pump station and into the canal was proof that, with science, advocacy, and tenacity, we are achieving progress!"

- Eric Eikenberg, Chief Executive Officer



The 2023-2024 advocacy season will be remembered for the milestones that were reached. Just a decade ago, they seemed beyond our reach, but thanks to significant funding, we are realizing our goals.

Perhaps no development will eventually be considered more significant in 2024 than adoption of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM), the regulatory schedule that dictates how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the water level in Lake Okeechobee. The Everglades Foundation and our allies advocated relentlessly for adoption of LOSOM, which will, for the first time, prioritize the water needs of the Everglades and other users, rather than the demands of a handful of special interests.

The Everglades also received vital funding when President Biden signed into law \$425 million for Everglades restoration as part of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation, a victory for The Everglades Foundation and for the Florida Congressional delegation, which fought as one to secure the funding.

Additionally, the President's budget request for fiscal year 2025 was even higher, seeking \$444 million to be dedicated to restoring America's Everglades.



In Tallahassee, following the recommendation of Governor DeSantis, the Florida Legislature set aside an additional \$740 million for Everglades restoration, including \$664 million for projects identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

As always, along with the dollars has come enormous progress on the ground. In April, we celebrated the ribbon cutting of a nearly 8-mile long seepage wall to keep freshwater in Everglades National Park while protecting adjacent private property from flooding. This project is an essential component of ensuring both Everglades National Park and Florida Bay receive the freshwater they need, thereby nourishing vital habitats and protecting the economies that depend on them.



We celebrated the ribbon cutting of a nearly 8-mile long seepage wall to keep freshwater in Everglades National Park while protecting adjacent private property.

In the summer of 2024, the South Florida Water Management District broke ground on the first phase of the **Western Everglades Restoration Project**, which will improve the distribution of water in the Western Everglades in the hope of reducing wildfires and restoring low nutrient conditions.

Additionally, the state of Florida completed its portion of the **Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir**, the 6,500-acre stormwater treatment area that will clean water coming out of the reservoir so that it can safely be sent south into the Everglades and Florida Bay.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is constructing the reservoir itself, and has awarded all of their major construction contracts for the projects, including the multi-billion dollar embankment contract.

We are eagerly awaiting congressional action on the **Water Resources Development Act** of 2024, which includes language supporting the authorization of the Western Everglades Restoration Project, and a 200,000 acre-feet reservoir to be built north of Lake Okeechobee.

# EVERGLADES ENGAGEMENT

We are proud of the work of the Everglades Advisory Council, a consortium of organizations including Audubon Florida, National Wildlife Federation, Everglades Law Center, Florida Oceanographic Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Tropical Audubon Society. These groups communicate and coordinate with additional partners to monitor developments on Everglades restoration and to leverage respective expertise and insight.





## **WOMEN IN** CONSERVATION

Our Women in Conservation event in 2024 focused on technology and innovations advancing conservation. More than 60 attendees heard from former NASA astronaut Nicole Stott, Bianca Cassouto of The Everglades Foundation's education team, and Rachel Shanker from Manatee Lagoon in Palm Beach. Their discussion included new ideas for Everglades education, and the importance of tracking manatees. This annual event continues to be a success in engaging diverse audiences in Everglades restoration.



## **JOHN MARSHALL EVERGLADES SYMPOSIUM**

"My brother, John, became a dedicated protector of the Everglades, following in the footsteps of our Uncle Art. It is gratifying to see their shared passion infused in the next generation through the John Marshall Everglades Internship and the John Marshall Everglades Symposium. These programs are key to developing the champions who will sustain our natural world and this remarkable ecosystem."

- Jeanne Anne Marshall-Moore

The Everglades Foundation's 7th annual John Marshall Everglades Symposium focused on how the world's largest ecosystem restoration plan will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Keynote speaker Kevin Cunniff, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, was joined by panelists Dr. Meenakshi Chabba, Ecosystem and Resilience Scientist for The Everglades Foundation; Jim Murley, Chief Resiliency Officer in Miami-Dade County; Dr. Tiffany Troxler, Director at Florida International University Sea Level Solutions Center, and Dr. Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency at South Florida Water Management District. Michael Williams, news anchor for WPTV-5 in West Palm Beach, served as moderator.



# EVERGLADES EDUCATION

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF IMPACT

"It is so important to grow up in Florida understanding the impact of the Everglades and the state's natural resources, which support our wildlife and the livelihoods of many. Educating and empowering the next generation, including our young daughters, to protect Florida's water is an incredibly important investment in our collective future."



Billy and Alexis Joel The Joel Foundation





#### WRITTEN BY TEACHERS FOR TEACHERS

The Everglades Literacy Program is STEM-based and offers the world's only free, comprehensive PreK-12 Everglades curriculum. The Everglades Foundation's team of educators annually trains a growing network of teachers to utilize the program's multilingual lessons, which are aligned with state standards and integrated across subjects. To encourage real-life learning about Florida's iconic natural resource, teachers are equipped with free classroom toolkits that provide hands-on materials for students.

Everglades literacy fosters an informed citizenry that understands the significance of the Everglades and is equipped to seek science-based solutions that recognize the one-of-a-kind ecosystem's impact on Florida's freshwater, wildlife, economy, and future resilience.



# 10 YEARS OF EVERGLADES LITERACY IMPACT



Over the course of 10 years, the Education team has trained more than 7,000 teachers in 30 school districts across the state. In the 2023-24 school year alone, the team broke several records.

Over 79 Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings 1,313 participating teachers from 16 different counties and more than 350 different schools or organizations.

7 Outdoor professional development sessions with 91 participating teachers from 8 different counties.

More than 3,500 students and families attended classroom presentations and Families ForEverglades virtual events.

The Everglades Literacy Program was recognized as a local sustainability education champion at a Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board Meeting.

This last year we awarded 22 schools mini-grant funding. This funding can be used for field experiences or environmental passion projects for students in the K-12 Everglades Champion Schools Program.

Designated over 122 Champion Schools this decade.





#### **EVERGLADES** ECOQUEST



The first free online learning platform with educational games about the Everglades, *Everglades EcoQuest* is designed to teach students about the Everglades' unique habitats, plants and animals, and ecosystem restoration. Powered by FPL, the digital learning tool rewards young users with motivational badges and

takes them on **epic adventures** through the watershed, where they encounter largemouth bass, American alligators, and Florida manatees in their pursuit of knowledge.



# EVERGLADES CHAMPION SCHOOLS

The K-12 Everglades Champion Schools
Program recognizes schools in Florida that
demonstrate exceptional Everglades literacy
efforts and initiatives. An Everglades Champion
School participates in professional development,
integrates Everglades literacy through lesson
plans, projects, and field experiences, and
develops a culture of Everglades stewardship in
its community. Champion School teachers can
apply for mini-grants to help fund immersive field
experiences and Everglades literacy efforts that
encourage students to explore the natural world.

**CHAMPION SCHOOLS PROGRAM STATS 2023-24** 

30,200+ students impacted annually

34

schools achieving champion status for the first time

69 K-5 schools

16 6-12 schools

17<sub>counties</sub>

#### **CHALLENGE COIN**

The Everglades Challenge Coin is a meaningful component of our Everglades Literacy Program. Each year, we invite K-12 students in Florida to submit designs for the coin. More than 650 students submitted designs this year, and the winning design is featured on coins presented to **Everglades Champion Schools and distinguished** individuals in our community.



Florida Box Turtle by Robin Solms from Terra Environmental **Research Institute** 

#### **HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS**

The 2023-24 school year of our High School Leadership Committee was marked by a series of in-person initiatives and events in their local schools and communities, showcasing their dedication and passion towards restoring and protecting the Everglades. They also collaborated with local experts and organizations to enhance their knowledge, amplify concerns and solutions proposed by youth voices, and to gain valuable insights about the complexities and challenges involved in Everglades restoration.





#### **FAMILIES FOREVERGLADES**

A series of free, virtual presentations for students, parents, grandparents, and community members is offered each year to spark dinner conversations about

> the Everglades and encourage family exploration. Experts in mangroves, crocodiles, endangered species, invasive species, and other subjects cover fun and informative topics.

#### **EVERGLADES TEACHER SYMPOSIUM**

A free symposium caps each school year, providing teachers the opportunity to participate in professional development sessions, share best practices, and network. Our Everglades Teacher Symposium in 2023 drew 189 educators from 16 counties and 93 schools and organizations who collectively focused on "The Power of Water."







#### **TEACHER TRAININGS**

Our free, in-person teacher trainings over the course of each year offer educators a turnkey PreK-12 curriculum that engages students with real-life learning about the largest subtropical wetland ecosystem in the U.S. Our Education team trains and supports teachers to integrate the curriculum into their coursework and provides classrooms with free hands-on lesson materials.

"Over the past six years, the Community Foundation of Broward has proudly invested nearly \$170,000 in the Everglades Literacy Program. The Champion School program has been a standout, training thousands of teachers who are now inspiring their students to understand and protect the Everglades. It's been incredibly rewarding to see this partnership foster a generation that values this vital ecosystem and is committed to its preservation."

> Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, Ph.D. President/CEO | Community Foundation of Broward

# OF THE WATER

Inspires A Career In Conservation Education

Lauren Liberty has been teaching for 16 years at Jensen Beach Elementary School, a Gold-level Everglades Champion School.









#### What inspired you to enter the field of education?

My mom was a teacher, and I was fortunate to see her excitement for her craft, and the impressions she left on her students. I knew I wanted to have a career that made a true impact on others like she did. I grew up on the water and spent my childhood diving, surfing, sailing, and exploring anything and everything I could in and around the water. I was fortunate to have family and friends who were passionate about the environment, and that translated to my direction in education, specifically in science. At the heart of my work, I am most passionate about conservation education. I am currently in my 16th year at Jensen Beach Elementary serving as the K-5 Science Lab teacher and Science Instructional Coach. Prior to this, I was teaching 5th-grade Math and Science at the school.

How did you first become aware of The Everglades Foundation's Everglades Literacy Program? I attended a teacher training held by The Everglades Foundation, and was introduced to the rich and engaging curriculum designed by the Everglades Literacy Program team. To this day, I tell other teachers how that training is the best I have attended in my history as an educator. I left that day so inspired and excited to share the content with my students.



#### How has the program benefited you, as an educator?

As a resident of Martin County, I and many of our school's families and staff have been impacted by the beauty of the Greater Everglades, as well as the negative effects of the manmade damage to the ecosystem. We've experienced the algae blooms in our own St. Lucie River, and see the habitat loss due to development. The Everglades literacy curriculum has given me a valuable tool to help my students understand this ecosystem, appreciate the incredible wildlife, and help them understand the importance of restoring and protecting the Everglades.

#### And how has the program benefited your students?

Our students have become Everglades experts. Each year, when I introduce their grade-level lessons, they are so excited to learn the next level of content about the Everglades. They are more aware of the habitats around them, and have gained an appreciation for the Everglades that leads them toward a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

#### What have your students found most appealing about the program?

The Everglades curriculum has a variety of lessons that are hands-on and engaging. Any of the lessons involving movement, sorting, or role-playing are exciting and often eye-opening for our students. They can see the natural and altered flows of water through the Everglades, and you can see that "a-ha" moment about the significant impacts made when the watershed was altered. I often tell our students they could grow up to be part of the teams working to restore the Everglades.

#### What would you tell teachers who have not yet become involved in the program?

The Everglades literacy curriculum is a must for our students. The lessons are perfectly aligned with our science standards; they're engaging and exciting, and most importantly, inspire our students to become environmental stewards. The content carries over to their families, too, and helps educate the community about the importance of the Everglades ecosystem.

#### What would you attribute to your school achieving Champion School status?

Our school is located in Jensen Beach, nestled near the Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. We are home to a beautiful mixture of Everglades habitats, including mangrove swamps, pinelands, sawgrass marshes, and more. Our staff, students, and community are passionate about conservation and protecting our environment. Our school has a history of efforts to be green and environmentally conscious. We were a FAU Green School of Excellence for years, and recently became a Green Flag Eco School. We have worked with the Everglades literacy curriculum for several years, and made our first attempt at achieving Everglades Champion School status three years ago. We began as a Bronze-level school, and were designated Gold-level the last two years.

## Anything you would like to add about the program, or about the Everglades ecosystem and its importance to Florida?

The Everglades literacy curriculum is an incredible asset. I have been extremely fortunate to include the topics in the Science Lab, so our students have had Everglades instruction from kindergarten to 5th grade. Helping students understand the vast importance of the Everglades prepares them to be responsible citizens who care about our environment. The Everglades ecosystem is like no other on the planet, and we are so fortunate to have it right in our backyard. We need to do all we can to protect and preserve it for future generations.



#### JOHN MARSHALL EVERGLADES

# RIERNSHIP

The Everglades Foundation's nationally recognized internship program aims to create career-building opportunities for students, and retain home-grown talent for the region's STEM workforce pipeline.

During the 10-week summer program, the interns visited major Everglades restoration sites, interacted with scientists from The Everglades Foundation, policy experts, and other environmental professionals. The internship enabled them to understand the complexities of Everglades restoration while completing a capstone research project.

With a generous grant from The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, the internship expanded to include students from Miami Dade College, Broward College, Palm Beach College, and Florida Memorial University.



#### MATHEUS DIVANTOQUE AMAYA Miami Dade College

Matheus researched the functional trait analyses of muhly grass and seagrass to support habitat creation for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. He aspires to be part of an organization that raises awareness about environmental protection.



#### KAYLIN BELTRAN Florida International University

Kaylin's research was a comparative study of phosphate variants on Cladium jamaicense rhizosphere interactions. She is a Biology major also now interning at Zoo Miami to gain experience with exotics and animal behavior. She plans to pursue a master's in Biology.



#### **BROOKE DEKLE University of Florida**

Brooke focused her research on investigating the age, growth, and body condition of grunts in the Florida Keys and Florida Bay. As an undergraduate, she gained experience in the field through shark tagging, fishing charters, and underwater diversity surveys.



#### ANDREINA ZULUAGA PEREZ Miami Dade College

Andreina's research centered on invasive plant species in Miami-Dade County's hardwood hammock. After graduation, she plans to extend her studies with a focus on either Zoology or Environmental Studies.

# THE ART OF COMMUNICATIONS



The Everglades Foundation's communications team handles a breadth of marketing and branding work, including messaging, engaging with media, and educating the general public. The team spearheads all print, digital, and video production in support of the organization. Every facet of their work is to communicate the vital importance of the Foundation's mission to restore and protect America's Everglades.

"In the ongoing film and video tradition established by our family over generations in Florida, we applaud The Everglades Foundation for its creative use of communications to educate and inspire people to restore and protect one of the state's greatest natural resources - our fabulous Everglades!"

Randi Wolfson Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation



## THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION **IN THE NEWS** ARTBURST **JUPITER** Orlando Sentinel **SunSentinel** "Wild Hearts" to Debut at Lighthouse ArtCente A FLIGHT OVER THE FLORIDA REVEALS SCARS AND HOPE MIAMITODAY Hiami Herald RESIDENT Explore America's Everglades



## **CELEBRATING** HISPANIC HERITAGE

We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by sharing new Spanish content on our social channels, including videos explaining how water from the Everglades reaches consumers' homes, how the Everglades recharges the Biscayne Aquifer, and why we consider mangroves "the superheroes of the seashore." Additionally, we shared in Spanish some of the functions of Everglades wetlands, like wildlife habitat, flood protection, and carbon sequestration.

We also organized an event themed, "Our Water Comes from the Everglades," with the participation and support of Knight Foundation and the Jorge M. Perez Family Foundation. The event brought together Hispanic leaders, business executives, scientists, artists, and representatives from the consulates of several Latin American countries and binational chambers of commerce.

FROM ACROSS THE WATERSHED

The Everglades Foundation's Communications team produced Everglades Stories. This series of 20 short videos showcases the diverse ways in which people connect with the Everglades, personally and professionally.

Through Everglades Stories, viewers embark on a visual journey, exploring the rich tapestry of experiences and perspectives from a variety of Floridians. Each video provides a unique glimpse into the lives of individuals who have been profoundly influenced by the Everglades ecosystem. From a fishing guide to a scientist, from a photographer to a park ranger, the stories represent a broad cross-section of voices that exemplify the interconnectedness between people and the Everglades.

The initiative's webpage features an interactive map of Florida, allowing visitors to click on different regions and delve into the narratives shared by the featured individuals.

The videos also were shared across various social media channels, allowing for broad engagement and awareness of the importance of the Everglades ecosystem.



Scan to view Everglades Stories





TRIBAL SECRETARY

MICCOSUKTE

















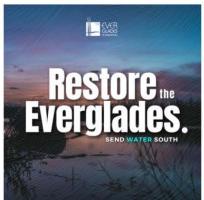
#### **SEND WATER SOUTH** PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Communications team launched a large-scale campaign to educate the public about the vital Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir. Entitled "Send Water South," the series of radio, digital, and social media ads were supplemented by TV streaming ads on select channels in South Florida's east and west coast communities.

The campaign focused on the harmful impacts of Lake Okeechobee's polluted water being discharged to the east and west coast estuaries, and the devastating impact on local communities. It emphasized that the water instead should be cleaned and sent south to the Everglades and Florida Bay.









# FOCUS 2030 A MAP TO GUIDE US ON THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

To successfully traverse the Road to Restoration, you need a reliable map. After a great deal of listening to our partners, donors, and staff, and with extensive input from our Board, we created that map - a strategic plan titled, "Focus 2030." It is a bold and ambitious plan to build upon our accomplishments and to address the challenges and opportunities for America's Everglades.

There are 12 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects underway that are estimated to be constructed within a decade - including the critical Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir. We must secure approximately \$5.3 billion in state and federal funding to ensure completion.

Focus 2030 is our roadmap to secure the resources needed to face these challenges, and to restore and protect America's Everglades in perpetuity. The plan reaffirms our commitment to our core pillars of science, advocacy, and education, and will enable us to significantly bolster them.

Focus 2030 was funded by the generosity of donors. We extend special appreciation to Crawford Taylor Foundation and Boston Consulting Group for making it possible.

Through the steadfast support of generous patrons and partners, The Everglades Foundation will bring the vision of Focus 2030 to reality.



#### THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR RESTORATION



Thanks to YOU, The Everglades Foundation continues to be the preeminent voice for restoring America's Everglades.

This year, the efforts of our Science and Advocacy teams enabled us to advance critical Everglades restoration projects; among them, the dedication of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Seepage Barrier Wall Project. The underground wall removes a decades-long roadblock to Everglades restoration and, following completion of road-raising along Tamiami Trail in 2026, will make Everglades National Park "restoration-ready" for additional flows of clean freshwater brought by the EAA Reservoir and other CEPP components to the north.

Progress such as this happened, in part, because our Science team continues to drive such work, while our Advocacy team continues to translate support for Everglades restoration into solid legislative and regulatory wins in Washington and Tallahassee.

Our economists have calculated that investment in Everglades restoration supports \$309 billion annually in economic activity from industries dependent on water and ecosystems in the Everglades. More than 3 million jobs are supported by Everglades restoration, as is \$2.7 trillion in real estate value in the 16 counties of the Everglades watershed.

Your generous support also has made possible the ongoing work of our Education team, which this year marked its 10th anniversary. Our team of educators has now trained more than 7.000 teachers in 30 counties, impacting the lives of 250,000 students.

Our ongoing momentum and the wealth of work yet to be done inspired us to shape "Focus 2030," our strategic plan and roadmap for restoration activities through the end of this decade.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you again for your ongoing generosity and support of The Everglades Foundation.

Sincerely,



Eric Eikenberg Chief Executive Officer



The 11th annual ForEverglades Naples benefit brought together 320 supporters to celebrate ongoing successes in The Everglades Foundation's "Road to Restoration."

Ellin Goetz, Vice Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, kicked off the evening commending the generosity of the event's supporters "who cherish America's Everglades and want to protect it for decades to come," adding, "And we won't stop now!"

"What's at stake is a national treasure, just like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite," said CEO Eric Eikenberg. "This is America's Everglades. Together, you and I will save it, and pass it on to the next generation. I am proud to stand alongside you. Long live our Everglades!"

The keynote presentation was delivered by nature photographer and videographer Luca Martinez, whose mesmerizing photos and cinematic videos in the Everglades reinforced the purpose behind the annual benefit: To ensure the restoration and perpetual protection of the national treasure that is America's Everglades.

Generously supporting the event were Presenting Sponsor Hoffman Family of Companies, Legacy Sponsor Naples Beach Club, and Supporting Sponsors Barron Collier, Jr. Foundation, Hart Howerton, Gulfshore Life, Northern Trust, Naples Global Advisors, John R. Wood Properties. Leading the planning and orchestration of the event were Co-Chairs Ellin Goetz and Valerie Boyd Gargiulo, together with the Host Committee.

"We are proud to join The Everglades Foundation as the Presenting Sponsor of the ForEverglades Naples benefit to advance their mission to restore and protect this important and unique ecosystem. Clean water impacts us all, and we'll continue to support the fight for a restored Everglades to ensure clean and abundant water for a thriving economy now, and for future generations."

- Dave & Jerri Hoffmann

# EVERGLADE

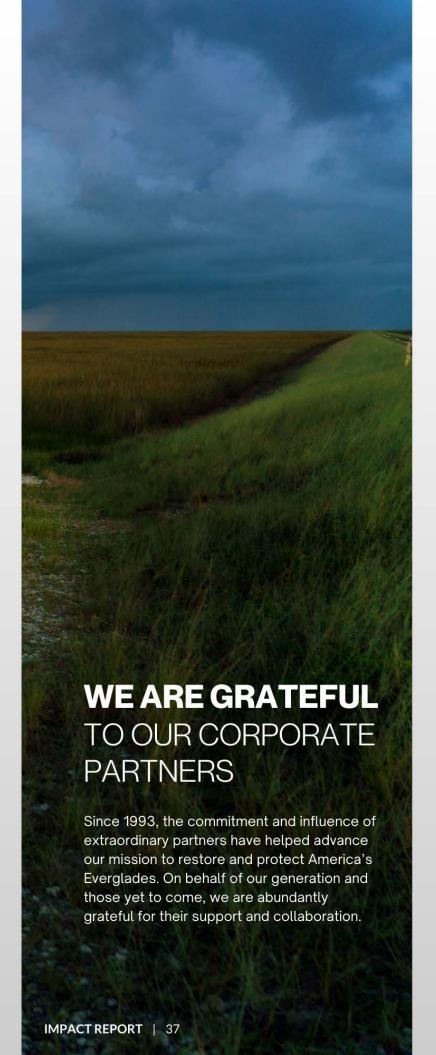


"Our destination is in sight," said Foundation CEO Eric Eikenberg. "We will be the generation that, by the end of this decade, reconnects Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, and saves our east and west coast estuaries from harmful discharges of polluted lake water."

Eikenberg also praised the Foundation's Everglades Literacy Program - the world's only free, comprehensive PreK-12 Everglades curriculum – which this year marks its 10th year of educating and inspiring tomorrow's conservation stewards. "There are now 200,000 of these young advocates, and counting. They will protect what we are fighting so hard to restore."

The evening was highlighted by headliner artist, country superstar and former Hootie & The Blowfish frontman Darius Rucker. Zac Brown Band vocalist Caroline Jones and singer-songwriter Mac McAnally engaged guests in a poignant toast to the late Jimmy Buffett, who joined the Board of The Everglades Foundation in 2005 and was an active member until only a few months before his passing in 2023.

The sold-out event chaired by Sonia and Paul Tudor Jones II and Sue and Beau Wrigley attracted 650 supporters of Everglades restoration. Generous sponsors of the event included The Breakers, Chilton Trust, Christie's, Panache Events, Shades of Green, and VoLo Foundation.



**AMERANT**\*\*































### NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS SUPPORT **EVERGLADES EDUCATION**



Two new Corporate Partners demonstrated their interest in supporting the conservation stewards of tomorrow by making generous donations to The **Everglades Foundation's Everglades Literacy** Program.





Genesis Gives, the corporate social responsibility initiative from Genesis Motor America and the Genesis Inspiration Foundation, donated \$10,000 with a ceremonious check presentation marking the opening of its new location in Central Florida. The Everglades Foundation's VP of Education Jennifer Diaz gratefully accepted the check.

"By offering an interactive, engaging, and free platform for teachers and students to explore the wonders of the Everglades, we're sowing the seeds of environmental awareness and stewardship in the hearts of our students," Diaz said. "This is a vital step towards building a future where our children become advocates for the Everglades and, in turn, ensure the longevity of this natural treasure."

The Foundation's education program also benefited from the generosity of new Corporate Partner First Horizon Corporation, whose foundation donated \$10,000 with a check presentation at The Everglades Foundation's headquarters in Palmetto Bay, FL. The donation was part of First Horizon's "Grants for Good" program, which supports organizations making an impact in arts & culture, education & leadership, environmental sustainability, financial literacy, and health & human services.





### **KNIGHT FOUNDATION COMMITS** TO EVERGLADES RESTORATION \$3 MILLION GRANT



The Everglades Foundation is grateful for the inspiring \$3 million, multi-year grant from Knight Foundation. This visionary grant will help The Everglades Foundation harness the power of new digital technology to better translate our Science team's research and storytelling in the areas of Everglades restoration and resiliency. This new, cutting-edge approach will aid our Advocacy and Education programs while helping the public-at-large understand how Everglades restoration is Miami's most powerful tool in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

In addition to protecting drinking water wells from saltwater instrusion, a restored Everglades will bolster coastal mangroves that provide a storm buffer for urban communities and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

While all South Floridians benefit from Everglades restoration, Miami is a city uniquely vulnerable to rising sea levels and climate change due to its geographical location and porous limestone foundation. Flooding events have quadrupled over the past three decades. Knight's support aims to ensure that South Florida residents are wellinformed and actively involved in creating solutions that make the city more resilient.

Knight Foundation's investment in The Everglades Foundation reflects its commitment to harnessing technology in ways that help people shape their community.

## **OUR DONORS**

"The mission of The Everglades Foundation is essential to the future of Florida, and we are proud to support their programs to ensure the next generation of Floridians are able to enjoy all the Everglades provides." - Max & Jim Farrell

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"When we moved to South Florida almost four years ago, we wanted to get involved in our community. Given the significant risk climate change poses, we thought The Everglades Foundation would be an amazing way to be involved and try to help make a difference."

#### - Sonny Kalsi

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"We believe that Everglades restoration is vital for the future of Florida. Not only does restoration have a strong impact on our economy, wildlife, and real estate, but it also affects our health, our recreation and the overall quality of our lives. We support The Everglades Foundation in an effort to expand awareness of the issue and trust that others will take the opportunity to truly be part of the solution. There is nothing like this national treasure, and what we have enjoyed and experienced from it is something we want for our children, their children and their grandchildren—on into perpetuity."

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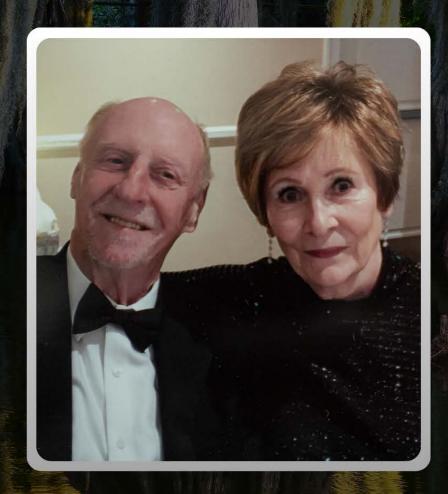
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July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

### THE EVERGLADES **LEGACY SOCIETY**

We thank our generous supporters who have chosen to continue their legacies through The Everglades Foundation.



Please contact Julie Rosenfeld irosenfeld@EvergladesFoundation.org and explore options for creating your lasting Everglades legacy. EvergladesLegacy.org

#### A Gift of Life Insurance Celebrates a Life

After a career providing parts and power to the first free turbine engines, Harold Foote continues to propel Everglades restoration forward through his generous support. He and his VSO (very significant other), Joanne Conley, want to ensure that The Everglades Foundation's "engines" always have the power needed to protect this vital ecosystem, and they are achieving this goal by being the first donors to name the Foundation as the beneficiary of a generous life insurance policy. Foote began his career working in the test cells for production turbine engines for helicopters, a job that took him to Vietnam, training mechanics, pilots and crew on the use and maintenance of the first turbine helicopters. Upon his return to the U.S., he was presented with the opportunity to purchase cases of unopened parts for the engines, and Transupport was born.

Now retired from the company, Harold and Joanne spend their time in Bonita Springs, Florida, keeping up with news of their combined seven children, 15 grandchildren and 13+ great-grandchildren.

A supporter of The Everglades Foundation since 2006, Foote approached the Foundation to help provide for the long-term future of Everglades preservation. Through his life insurance policy, he will establish the Sheryl Cryan Foote Endowed Fund in memory of his wife. Foote chose to honor The Everglades Foundation with this future gift to the endowment, noting, "The Everglades Foundation gets the work done. Science is a big part of this effort, bringing good data to accomplish the task. A charity that gets things done!"

#### An Eye for Design and Preservation Leads to Everglades Legacy Gift

Ruth and Leonard Perfido traveled the world and built careers that recognized the power of iconic environments. Now retired in Key Largo, they made sure that one of Florida's most important natural environments has a place in their estate plans.

Leonard built his career in New York and Pittsburgh as an architect with a specialty in adaptive reuse and revitalization of historic buildings, helping to restore blighted neighborhoods as vibrant community destinations. Ruth pursued a career as a commercial real estate attorney, traveling between Pittsburgh and New York City.

Over their 50-year marriage, they have curated a collection of extraordinary decorative arts, housewares and furniture from the 1930s and 1940s, when industrial designers collaborated with industrial manufacturing companies on the creation of household goods to meet the economics of the Depression years. Turning this same eye for distinctive design and creative adaptation to South Florida, the Perfidos have become advocates for the restoration and protection of America's Everglades.

Their generous bequest ensuring perpetual protection for the Everglades recognizes the ecosystem's functional beauty as the freshwater source for South Florida.

"There is so much to learn about and see in the Everglades - the plants, animals and birds sustained by the flow of clean water to Florida Bay," says Ruth Perfido, a graduate of Coral Gables High School. "Without the Everglades to provide our water, we couldn't exist here in South Florida."





# WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts from generous supporters benefit The Everglades Foundation's Science, Advocacy, and Education programs, as well as our communications and engagement efforts throughout South Florida and the nation. We welcome your support of our promising programs through a variety of ways to give.



### Monthly, Annual, or Multi-Year Giving

A gift by check, credit card, money order, or wire transfer can be made as a monthly or annual payment, or a multi-year gift outlined in a pledge agreement.

#### Gift of Stock or Mutual Fund

Appreciated stocks can be transferred directly. You may also contribute through an IRA charitable rollover.

### **Planned Giving**

A bequest can be made through your will or trust.

### Other Deferred Giving

Beneficiary designations from life insurance or retirement plans can be made by updating your beneficiary designation form with the policyholder or by making an outright gift of a new policy.

### - FOR MORE INFORMATION -

#### CONTACT JODI FARRELL, VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

305-331-3361 or JFarrell@EvergladesFoundation.org

If you include The Everglades Foundation in your plans, please use our legal name and Federal Tax ID Number.

Legal name: The Everglades Foundation, Inc. 18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157 Federal Tax ID Number: 59-3228899

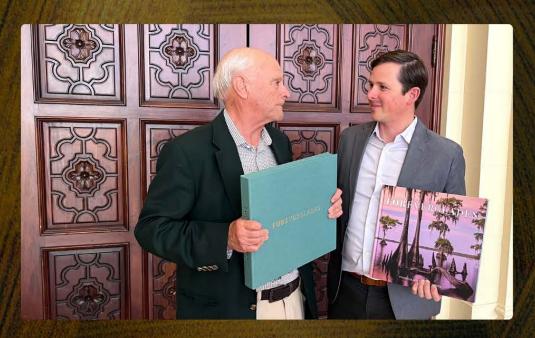
### FOREVERGLADES® FIRST ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

MAKING HISTORY BY ENSURING EVERGLADES PROTECTION FOREVER

Through The Everglades Foundation's leadership, the world's largest ecosystem restoration project will be a model for the rest of the globe. As we continue to aggressively push restoration to completion, we also need to pivot to protection because threats to the Everglades – both manmade and natural - will always exist.

That's what inspired our Foundation's \$75 million endowment campaign to augment our annual fundraising program, ensure the long-term sustainability of America's Everglades for future generations, and protect it in perpetuity. It's about the importance of the ecosystem to the most populous region of the state.

Thanks to a tremendous philanthropic response in the first two years of the three-year campaign, by the end of June 2024, The Everglades Foundation raised more than \$64 million in endowment pledges and gifts, marking a significant step toward our goal to raise \$75 million.



The limited-edition ForEverglades photography book — with more than 100 photographs by Mac Stone, Board Member of The Everglades Foundation and National Geographic photographer — was published in 2024 as a gesture of gratitude for major endowment donors.

Learn more about our campaign to leave a magnificent legacy at EvergladesFoundation.org/endowment

## We gratefully recognize the following donors for their pioneering endowment support.

The Lew and Dawn Allyn Family Fund Endowment The Ashken Family Charitable Foundation Mrs. George M. Barley, Jr. Diana Barrett and Bob Vila The Batchelor Foundation Karen H. Bechtel and William M. Osborne Ranlet S. Bell and Frank Bell, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bohannon Harrison and Nancy Buck Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation Chris and Marguerite Buckley Ann M. Calder and Donald G. Calder Barbara Whitney Carr Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coletti The William Cox Family **Endowment Fund** Crawford Taylor Foundation Tom Davidson, Sr. Carlos and Claudia de la Cruz, Jr. Nancy J. De Lisi Susanne and Douglas D. Durst Jennifer and Joe Duke **Enterprise Mobility Foundation** Jamee Field † Marshall Field V Marshall Field VI Harold R. Foote/Sheryl Cryan Foote **Endowed Fund** Gabelli Funds Danielle and David Ganek Abby and Lloyd Gerry Ellin Goetz and Michael Watkins Chae and Gregory Haile John R. and Donna S. Hall Endowment for Education and Science Rex and Béryl Hamilton Edward Hamm, Jr. Harding Family Foundation Stephanie and John Harris Julia and John A. Hilton, Jr Hostetler / Wrigley Foundation Lou and Joan Jacobs Sonia and Paul Jones Jamee Field Kane and Michael Kane

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List reflects donors as of June 30, 2024

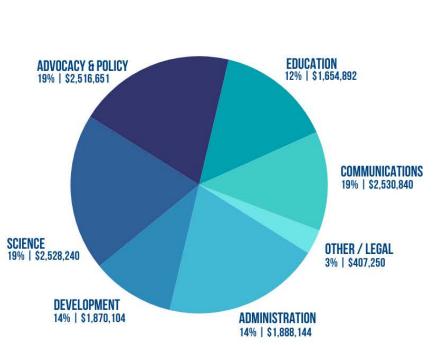
"Those who have generously contributed to our endowment campaign will leave a magnificent legacy a legacy of protection – and the assurance that there will always be passionate people armed with state-of-the-art scientific data, fully dedicated to ensuring the survival and sustainability of America's beloved Everglades for generations to come."

- Marshall Field V **Endowment Campaign Chairman** 

### THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### PROGRAMMATIC SPENDING



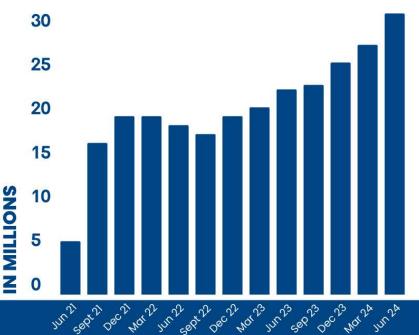
WITHOUT DONOR WITH DONOR TOTAL RESTRICTIONS \$10,322,296 \$3,326,516 \$13,648,811 REVENUE \$3,819,154 **EVENT REVENUE** \$3,819,154 NET OF EXPENSES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: \$7.186.557

**BEGINNING** \$43,152,384

**ENDING** \$50.338.941

**ENDOWMENT**GROWTH



### THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

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### THE EVERGLADES HANDBOOK **UNDERSTANDING THE ECOSYSTEM**

The fifth edition is packed with science-based insights about the Everglades, including how drastically it has changed. Considered essential reading for anyone trying to understand the history, diversity, and challenges faced in restoring this unique ecosystem, the fifth edition of the bestseller presents new information and updates. It also includes a new chapter, 'Everglades Chemistry – A Primer,' along with an expanded and updated section about Everglades restoration. This year, longtime author Dr. Thomas Lodge was joined by new co-author Dr. Steve Davis, Chief Science Officer with The Everglades Foundation.

> "It's an honor to be associated with a book that has served as the base of Everglades knowledge for nearly 30 years. As a graduate student, I referred to the first edition of The Everglades Handbook while beginning my research in the Everglades in 1995. Working with Dr. Lodge and having my name on the fifth edition of The Everglades Handbook rank among the most rewarding experiences of my professional career."

> > Dr. Steve Davis. Co-Author

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