

Everglades Coalition
1985-2010

www.evergladescoalition.org



*The Changing Face
of Everglades Restoration*

Join us at Pine Jog!

for The Everglades: Nature's Classroom

Thursday, January 7, 2010

11:00 am - 3:15 pm

Florida Atlantic University's
Pine Jog Environmental Education Center
and Pine Jog Elementary School

6301 Summit Boulevard ■ West Palm Beach

*The entrance is on the north side of Summit Boulevard
between Jog Road and Military Trail.*

25th Anniversary Conference ■ January 7-10, 2010

The day includes a tour of Pine Jog Elementary School, a LEEDs-certified green school with 135-acre pond/pine flatlands habitat for field studies, featured in Time for Kids (April 2009).



During lunch, you will be treated to a performance by Recycled Rhythms, and a student photography and art work display.

The offsite Environmental Education plenary program of the Everglades Coalition Conference will include tours of the elementary



school, Florida's first gold-certified LEEDs school, and the Education Center's 135-acre pond/pine flatwoods "living laboratory;" a keynote address by Glenn Thomas; presentations of new teaching tools and curricula; and complimentary lunch. **There is no conference fee for this program but pre-registration is required.** Please e-mail Isabel Botero at boteroic@cdm.com or FAX to her at 561-689-9713 **before Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.** Include your name, address, affiliation, e-mail address, and a contact telephone number.

Keynote Speaker

Glenn Thomas, an engaging keynote speaker, has spent 38 years in public education, in roles ranging from classroom teacher to administrator. As the Assistant Dean of PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs at Florida Atlantic University, he's responsible for \$23 million annually in grants, state appropriations and donations.

He also serves as administrative head of the A.D. Henderson University School, the Slattery Preschool Center, the FAU High School, the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching and is CEO of the FAU-Treasure Coast University Schools. Innovative partnerships, trans/interdisciplinary curriculums, team instruction/learning, teacher development, he's ready to help you make it work. Every school, institution and learning opportunity can be "green," he assures.



Learn...

...how to integrate environmental education with required curricula

...about Miami's Fairchild Gardens Challenge

See...

...demonstrations of Everglades study aids available from Everglades National Park, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Science Museum, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and more!

Do...

...tour Florida's first LEED-certified "green" school, student hydroponic garden, surrounding 135-acre "living laboratory"

...network with colleagues

*...participate in the flotilla/welcome ceremony for the River of Grass Canoe Expedition (Jan. 2-7, 2010) at West Palm Beach's Grassy Waters Nature Preserve after the program**

*information about the flotilla and ceremony at Grassy Waters is available at www.artmarshall.org or call 561-805-8733

Program Moderator

Wendy Spielman is the K-12 Science Manager of Curriculum Development and School Improvement for the School District of Palm Beach County. She also served as the Secondary Science Program Planner, Elementary Science Specialist, and SECME District Coordinator for Palm Beach County. Prior to her work at the district level, Ms. Spielman taught science for 10 years at Lantana Middle School. She completed her undergraduate studies at Mary Washington College and earned her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at George Mason University. She is pleased to be a part of the Everglades Coalition. Ms. Spielman strongly believes in the value of educating students and the public about Everglades ecology and motivating them to take part in preserving this unique natural resource.



Panelists

Eric Gehring grew up far away from the Everglades, in Southern New Jersey. A naturalist at New Jersey's Great Swamp for many years before moving to Florida in 2007, he has served since then as the Director of Education for the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation's Everglades outreach efforts. Mr. Gehring brings the Everglades restoration message throughout South Florida to help children and families understand how important the Everglades are to our everyday lives. He has provided hands-on Everglades experiences for thousands of children and adults. He also leads the Foundation's Ambassadors of the Everglades program, which gives students the chance to participate in Everglades protection and restoration by planting native, wetland trees back into the Everglades.



Caroline Lewis is director of education at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Some 50,000 Miami-Dade high-school and middle-school students are now involved in the Fairchild Challenge, and Ms. Lewis is ready to expand the program of incentives and awards to the rest of South Florida. Challenge options include projects, contests and performances. Engaged students are compiling data on energy use, water, and tree canopies; composing songs and performing skits; creating school gardens; designing a variety of solar-powered devices. Ms. Lewis taught science for 22 years and served three years as principal of the Upper School at Ransom Everglades. She joined Fairchild in 2002 as education outreach coordinator and developed the creative, interdisciplinary Fairchild Challenge program to foster student interest in the environment.



Toni Westland has been a Federal Park Ranger and Environmental Education Specialist at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Sanibel Island since 2002. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ms. Westland is a 1998 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She worked for five years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Illinois, Georgia, and at Lake Okechobee in the Clewiston office. In her current position, she handles environmental education, website development, interpretation, outreach and media, brochures, and signage, and special events such as "Ding" Darling Days.



Allyson Gantt is the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Everglades National Park, where she has worked as a ranger for 14 years. Eight of those years have been with the Everglades Environmental Education Program. Her presentation will focus on "Don't Let It Loose," which deals with the impact of non-native species and comes in an interactive CD. The park's suite of materials for teachers and naturalists also includes "Everglades ABCs" for K-3 and "The Journey of Wayne Drop" for fourth graders studying the Everglades watershed. Student day trips and camping trips can be arranged. Teachers can also borrow a media library of CDs and DVDs and a "traveling trunk" of materials to teach about the Miccosukee



Indian tribe. Originally from New Jersey, Ms. Gantt received her BA degree in biology and Spanish from Rutgers University. She enjoys canoeing, kayaking, camping and traveling around the world.

Panelists (continued)

Erica Robbins is an outreach program specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As the Corps prepares to restore 55,000 acres of Florida panther habitat in the Picayune Strand near Naples, she is now introducing a suite of classroom materials about the endangered animals. Ms. Robbins says she got “fired up” about the animals a few years ago at an Everglades Coalition Conference. She earned her BS and MS degrees at Florida State University, spent seven years teaching science in middle schools, and was an environmental specialist with Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection before joining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Jackie Stone, third grade teacher at Avocado Elementary School in Homestead, has taught for 36 years in Miami Dade County Public Schools. As a fifth grade teacher for many years, she used Everglades National Park as nature’s classroom. Her students slogged through cypress forest, hiked across pinelands, squeezed periphyton, stood in the sawgrass prairie to hear the sound of silence and camped at Loop Road and awakened to spectacular sunrises. “One year as we were hiking through the pinelands, one of my fifth graders said, ‘This is the best day of my life.’ Can a teacher ask for more?” As part of her curriculum, students kept an Everglades booklet for their daily notes, handouts and pictures. Ms. Stone says the Everglades National Park’s *Activity Guide for Teachers* was an invaluable resource. Ms. Stone grew up in Chicago but “feels like a native” of Florida and was recently featured in the book *Everglades Forever - Restoring America’s Wetland*.

Dr. Rachel Docekal, Deputy Director of the South Florida Science Museum, will be discussing a new “Anytime, Anywhere Science” Everglades module developed for fourth and fifth graders. In partnership with the Palm Beach County School District, the museum has produced five curriculum-based modules and a virtual field trip for electronic delivery; all of the museum’s programs align with the Sunshine State Standards. Dr. Docekal received her Ed.D. in organizational leadership from Nova Southeastern University, her MBA in marketing from the University of Pittsburgh, and her undergraduate degree from Chatham College. She directs all aspects of the museum’s educational programming, exhibits and institutional advancement efforts.



A lana Edwards has been training educators since 1999, traveling South Florida to hold workshops on the tested and popular curricula “The Great Water Odyssey,” for grades 3-5, and “Everglades: An American Treasure,” for middle and high-school students. She is the education and training coordinator at FAU’s Florida Center for Environmental Studies and project manager of the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum on the university’s Jupiter campus. Her personal passion is butterflies, and she co-founded of the Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. She is an active member of the Imperiled Butterflies of



Florida Workgroup of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and occasionally gives public lectures about local butterfly fauna. She began her career as a Spanish teacher and earned her BA and MS degree in environmental science from Florida Atlantic University.



Fred J. Barch, Pine Jog Elementary School Principal, began his career teaching science at Spanish River Community High School in Boca Raton. He was the Science Supervisor for Palm Beach County School District, overseeing (and inspiring) some 700 science teachers when he jumped at the opportunity to plan and lead Florida’s first LEED-certified Green School and develop a curriculum integrating science, math, reading, social studies and the arts. More than 65 percent of the students are eligible for free lunches, yet the school is a 5-Star School, A-rated, and a finalist in the state competition for the Governor’s “Serve to Preserve” Green School Award. In 2002, Mr. Barch won the Governor’s Award for Public Education for developing “The Storm of ‘28” curriculum. He has also been acclaimed for the “Everglades, An American Treasure” curriculum funded by the South Florida Water

Management District, and an HIV/AIDS curriculum funded by the Centers for Disease Control. He also organized a distance learning Wetlands Research Program that involves students and teachers in Israel and South Florida.



For more information about the **25th Anniversary Everglades Coalition Annual Conference (Jan. 7-10, 2010)** and to register, please visit evergladescoalition.org.



Host Organization



561-805-TREE [8733]
www.artmarshall.org

Education Program Partners

- Ann Norton Sculpture Garden
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Atlantic University/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center
- Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- Pine Jog Elementary School
- Palm Beach County Cultural Council
- Palm Beach County School District
- South Florida Science Museum

Education Committee

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- Alyce Culpepper
- Jody Gleason
- Stephen Horowitz
- Alyx Kellington
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