

Mining the Everglades

continued from cover...

Fortunately their pleas, along with the mining industry's efforts to preempt local government's ability to deny approval for new mines, were severely undercut by the facts presented through the Task Force process.

Although there was very strong opposition to this by the EAC partners and the Florida Association of Counties--the presentations of EAC Member **Frank Jackalone** of The Sierra Club Foundation, along with **Dr. Richard Weisskoff** and **Paul Schwiop**, the economics expert and lawyer for the environmental groups in the Hoeveler case were particularly relevant. Using the mining industry's own records and shareholder meeting transcripts, they proved that the Lake Belt ruling had not slowed the extraction of aggregate at all--and that the importance of mining to the overall economy of the state had been greatly exaggerated. Even the mining industry's economic expert admitted that when all of the public costs of road building and development are included, it cannot be definitely determined that mining has a significant positive impact on the state's economy.

The areas with potential conflicts between Everglades restoration and mining are in the Lake Belt region of Miami-Dade County; the Everglades Agricultural Area south of Lake Okeechobee; and, in eastern Charlotte, Lee, and Collier Counties.

Important consensus recommendations included: limiting encroachment of suburban sprawl near existing mines; requiring that the siting and permitting of mines be compatible with Florida's environment and communities; and, mandating that mines be sited, permitted, or expanded in locations that result in the least amount of additional environmental and community impacts.

The Task Force worked under a consensus process which resulted in a Final Report that included only Consensus Recommendations. The Final Report has now been submitted to the Legislature, and a bill is being prepared that would implement the consensus recommendations.

The Everglades Foundation is dedicated to a restored Everglades, creating relevant and creative solutions to complex restoration issues without burdening taxpayers

**U.S. SENATOR
GEORGE
VOINOVICH
Tours 'Glades**



Ohio Senator George Voinovich, the ranking Republican on the **U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**, toured Everglades National Park with Foundation Vice President Peg McPherson in February. Voinovich has been an ardent supporter of Everglades Restoration and is anxious to help keep restoration projects moving forward.



**AMY CAROL
WEBB
Rocks & Rolls
Everglades
Magnet**

AT SOUTH PLANTATION HIGH

Six hundred teenagers packed the auditorium of South Plantation High School for a December gift performance from the Everglades Foundation and **WORLD ARTS NOW** for students participating in Broward County's award-winning Environmental Science Magnet School.

Everglades Foundation staff annually contribute to the school's curricula which inspires students to explore and evaluate environmental challenges and concerns--from wildlife preservation, ecosystem restoration, and the preservation of the Everglades--to recycling, and energy conservation issues.

AMY CAROL WEBB is truly an authentic performance artist. Her innovative "edu-tainment" captivated the hearts and minds of the students using her dynamic voice; meaningful conservation-oriented lyrics; and, multi-media effects designed to include the audience in the act.

Not only did Webb receive a boisterous standing ovation, the Foundation received over 50 handwritten thank you notes from the students! In terms of productive and effective conservation outreach, they told us...

"The Everglades Foundation Rocks!"

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Everglades Foundation
**EVERGLADES
Action!**
MARCH 2008



**KIRK FORDHAM CHOSEN
AS NEW EVERGLADES
FOUNDATION CEO**



In January, Kirk Fordham, a top political strategist and Congressional staffer, began leading the Everglades Foundation as its new Chief Executive Officer.

"We are ecstatic that Fordham's depth of public policy experience and political skills will be put to work on behalf of the effort to protect and restore one of our nation's most unique environmental treasures," said Paul Tudor Jones, the Foundation's Chairman of the Board.

For fourteen years, Fordham served as a Chief of Staff and senior legislative staffer on Capitol Hill for three Members of Congress. In 2004, he was the architect of the successful fundraising effort for then HUD Secretary Mel Martinez's winning Senate campaign. Representative Robert Wexler (D-FL) said, "He'll have allies on both sides of the aisle when we push for a continued federal commitment to restore the Everglades."

After serving on Capitol Hill, he worked as the National Field Director for the DCI Group, directing public affairs campaigns for a wide range of private-sector clients. A native of Rochester, NY, he has lived in Washington, DC since 1989 and will now make Miami his home.

**South Florida Water Management District
WATER CONSERVATION
TASK FORCE**

Hosted by the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC), the District's Water Conservation Task Force is the stakeholder-driven process charged with developing a new comprehensive water conservation program for South Florida. To provide input and recommendations, the District's stakeholder group consists of 21 representatives from 13 interest groups from utilities to farmers--including the Foundation's **Peg McPherson**.

The stakeholder process is being conducted within the confines of the WRAC, and the recommendations provided by the stakeholder group will be presented to the WRAC for review and then to the Governing Board in April, which is **Water Conservation Month**.



Audubon of Florida's Jacqueline Weisblum leads a working group within the Task Force

**Mining & Roads
Impact Everglades
Restoration**

Foundation Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members Eric Draper of Audubon of Florida, and Richard Grosso of the Everglades Law Center, served on the state's Strategic Aggregates Review Task Force along with interests connected with transportation and the mining industry.

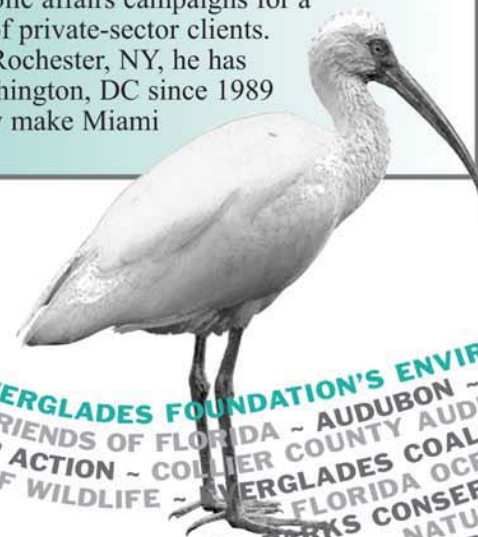
The apparent premise for organizing a state Strategic Aggregates Review hinged on Senior U.S. District Judge William Hoeveler 2007 ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to protect the environment when it approved permits allowing limestone miners to blast in the Lake Belt region. The industry feared this would create a shortage of the lime rock necessary for new construction and roads, and argued that the deficit created by the ruling would lead to an unmeetable demand that should call for reducing or eliminating regulatory safeguards.

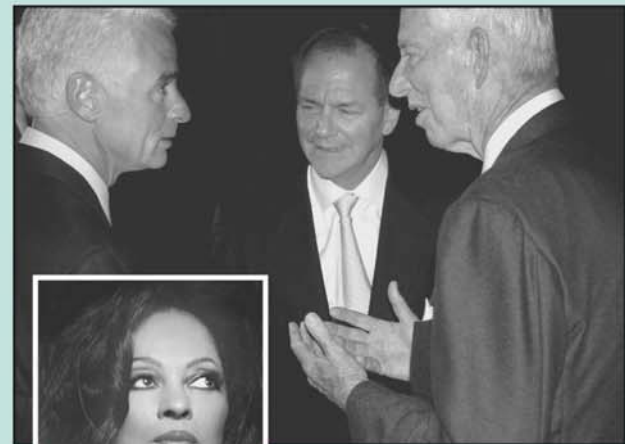
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THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC) PARTNERS INCLUDE:
1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA - AUDUBON OF FLORIDA - BONEFISH & TARPON UNLIMITED
CLEAN WATER ACTION - COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE - EVERGLADES COALITION - EVERGLADES LAW CENTER - EVERGLADES TRUST
FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL - RIVERS COALITION
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION - SIERRA CLUB
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WORLD WILDLIFE FUND





Foreverglades Benefit

THIRD ANNUAL

THE STAR-STudded EVENT AT MAR-A-LAGO IN PALM BEACH RAISED OVER \$2 MILLION FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION WHILE HONORING NATHANIEL REED ~ ONE OF THE MOST ARDENT AND LEGENDARY CHAMPIONS OF AMERICA'S RIVER OF GRASS . . .



Fin't no river wide enough...



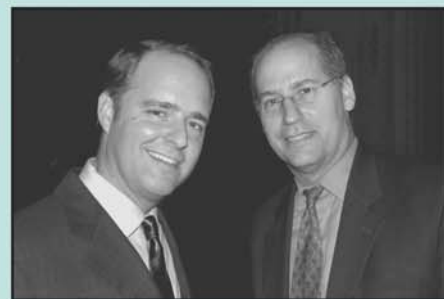
WITH THE ICONIC SONGSTRESS DIANA ROSS READY TO ROCK THE HOUSE--and more than 600 celebrities, elected officials, and Everglades enthusiasts celebrating the 16-county ecosystem--Everglades Foundation Chairman Paul Tudor Jones II praised **GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST** for his unwavering support of Florida's environment. Governor Crist admitted that he hoped his legacy would be "*Governor for the Everglades*," and praised the evening's honoree, **NATHANIEL REED**, as a personal role model for his more than fifty years in public service working to preserve and protect Florida's environment.

As host of the evening, tennis champion **CHRIS EVERT** served the guests with a video showcasing 2007 restoration accomplishments and spotlighting many of the challenges ahead for the environmental organizations within the Foundation's Environmental Advisory Council. **STAFF FROM AUDUBON, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, THE EVERGLADES LAW CENTER, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, AND OTHER NATIONAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION**, thanked the Foundation for its generous support and its role in guiding and coordinating the programming of over 20 environmental organizations working on Everglades restoration issues.

Everglades Foundation Chairman **PAUL TUDOR JONES II** and Everglades Trust Chairwoman **MARY L. BARLEY** presented the evening's honoree Nathaniel Reed with "*The Everglades Legend Award*" for his pioneering environmental work and his refusal to "accept no for an answer" when addressing the needs of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Reed thanked Jones not only for his financial support of the cause--but also for the vision and energy Jones has given to his role of chairing the Foundation. Reed also praised the elected officials in attendance including **U.S. SENATOR BILL NELSON**; incoming **FLORIDA SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER** (Palm Beach & Broward); **FLORIDA SENATORS NAN RICH** (Broward & Miami-Dade) and **BURT SAUNDERS** (Lee & Collier); and, **STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN GELBER** (Miami-Dade).

Reed reminded guests that the restoration is a "Moral Imperative" and asked the Governor to: *"...set the waters flow. It can if you believe it is possible."*



Opposite page from the top . . .

- 1 Governor Charlie Crist, Paul Tudor Jones II, and honoree Nathaniel Reed;
- 2 The legendary Diana Ross;
- 3 Melania and Donald Trump with Grace Nelson and U.S. Senator Bill Nelson;
- 4 Florida Senate President-Elect Jeff Atwater and Everglades Coalition Executive Director Susan Kennedy
- 5 Golf Champion Greg Norman and Tennis Legend Chris Evert;
- 6 Music Executive Tommy Mottola, Sonia Jones, and Recording Artist Thalia;
- 7 The Reed Family--Alita and Nat Reed, Lia Reed, and Adrian & Michelle Reed

This page from the top . . .

- 8 US Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett between Everglades National Park Superintendent Dan Kimball and his wife, Kit Kimball
- 9 SFWMD Governing Board Member Shannon Estenoz and George LeMieux
- 10 Governor Crist and FL Oceanographic Society Executive Director Mark Perry
- 11 Everglades Foundation CEO Kirk Fordham and State Representative Dan Gelber

FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EXPANDS AT 2008 FOREVERGLADES BENEFIT



The Benefit Auction raised more than \$160,000 for Environmental Policy Fellowships that will provide an opportunity for the best and the brightest environmental experts to serve as **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS IN KEY CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES**. The program is planned to help educate and inspire Congress to move restoration efforts forward.

FIRST LAUNCHED AT THE 2007 FOREVERGLADES BENEFIT, THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION'S INTERNSHIP & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ALSO RECEIVED RESOUNDING SUPPORT AT THE 2008 BENEFIT.

The **Everglades Foundation Internships** are available in a range of topics related to Everglades restoration. Interns have the opportunity to work side-by-side with an experienced scientist, engineer, or planner on a variety of topics, including field investigations in hydrology and biology, scientific/technical analysis related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and Everglades restoration policy and advocacy.

The **Everglades Foundation Fellowship Program** is also available for advanced research in support of the restoration. Graduate students actively pursuing innovative methods in natural resources management, advances in the understanding of Everglades' physical, chemical or biological processes, or research in economic, legal, political, or

2007-08 Foundation Intern and Fellowship Recipients

JAY MUNJON is a Master's student at Florida International University's Department of Biological Sciences, and is working with Professor Evelyn Gaiser to research the influence of periphyton on carbon dioxide sequestration in Everglades marshes.

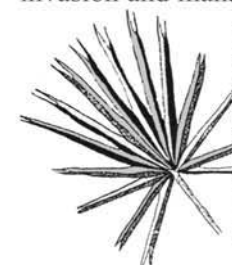


CLIFTON RUEHL is a Ph.D. candidate at Florida International University's Aquatic Ecology Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences. Ruehl is working with Professor Joel Trexler to research Apple Snails using an integrative approach to understanding top-down and bottom-up processes limiting snail populations in the Everglades.

PAMELA SULLIVAN is a Ph.D. student at Florida International University's Earth Science Department and a student of Professor Rene Price. Sullivan's research involves the physical and geochemical investigation of groundwater-surface interactions in tree islands of the Everglades.

Foundation Intern **MEHRNOOSH MAHMOUDI** is a Master's student in Florida International University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering working with Professor Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm. Her internship at the Foundation involved digitizing and processing data from historic maps and navigational charts of Lake Okeechobee as part of a geospatial analysis of changes in the Lake.

Not pictured, **MELISSA MARTIN** is a Ph.D. candidate at an interdisciplinary program at the University of Florida, working with Professor Ramesh Reddy, from the Department of Soil and Water Science. Martin is part of the **National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT)** program which trains scientists and engineers to address the global questions of the future. Her research is on alteration of nutrient cycling after the invasion and management of exotic plants.



TO VIEW ALL OF THE PICTURES FROM THE 2008 FOREVERGLADES BENEFIT, ALONG WITH THE VIDEO AND SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS, VISIT: www.evergladesfoundation.org