

ARCH CREEK TRUST

A NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION
1855 NE 135th Street
North Miami, FL 33181

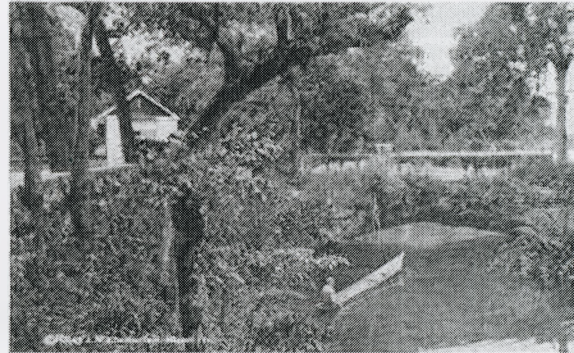
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March / April 2011



NATURE BUILT THIS BRIDGE ARCH CREEK MIAMI, FLA.

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REMINDER:

Arch Creek Trust Plant Sale



Saturday, April 2nd, 2011
Arch Creek Park
9am - 1pm



The Arch Creek Trust will be hosting a plant sale at Arch Creek Park featuring a variety of plants from natives to non-natives. Choose from beautiful flowering plants and/or butterfly and bird attracting plants. Come by and purchase a plant or two to beautify your yard and help support the Trust and Park at the same time. Arch Creek Park is located at 1855 NE 135th Street, North Miami, FL 33181

Mark Your Calendars:
Our next meeting will be
Saturday, April 16th,
2011 at 10:00am.

Membership Renewal:
By renewing your
membership now, you can
take it off your income tax
and it will be extended
through to December
2010.

\$15 Individual
\$25 Family (2+ at same
address)
\$300 Life



For more information feel free to
contact the park at
305-944-6111 or archcreek@miamidade.gov



ARCH CREEK TRUST NEWS

The Native Plant Society's annual Native Plant Day was very successful. It was a bright sunny day with a nice cool breeze, a perfect day to be enjoying a park. We had some caterpillars from the butterfly garden on display at the table. The children were fascinated by the monarch butterfly that emerged from its chrysalis about 10am. There were even ladybugs in the trees. And to top it off, a slice of key lime pie from Costco. We were able to purchase some native plants for our butterfly garden. In addition, we found some natives that were in our park many years ago but were crowded out from the lack of

sunlight. We will be planting those as soon as we get some rain to help them get established.

Native plant nurseries brought plants from as far away as Homestead. There were many booths manned by environmental organizations. The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets monthly way down in Pinecrest and the Broward Chapter meets in Ft. Lauderdale. For more information on the Dade Chapter of the Native Plant Society go to www.dade.fnpschapters.org.

Another plus was that many of the people attending the Native Plant Day event also visited the Arch Creek Trust booth and also visited Arch Creek trails and museum.

Spring Camp brought 27 campers into the park for the week. More than half in attendance were new to Camp Manatee and the park. Many with voiced desired to register for summer camp. Aimee Scott along with EcoAdventures was very pleased with the turn out.

A special thanks to those of you who have already paid your membership dues of \$15 or \$25 for the current year. As with any organization at this time, we understand that the financial situation is difficult for everyone and we appreciate your support.

We will also welcome any plant donations for our annual plant sale. You can drop them off by the shade house if you are in the area. Our customers like native plants, unusual plants and plants full of beautiful blossoms.

Last month I recommended PAVING PARADISE by Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite. This is what Carl Hiaasen wrote about. "This is an exhaustive, timely and devastating account of the destruction of Florida's wetlands, and the disgraceful collusion of government at all levels. It's an important book that should be read by every voter, every taxpayer, ever parent, every Floridian who cares about saving what's left of this precious place."

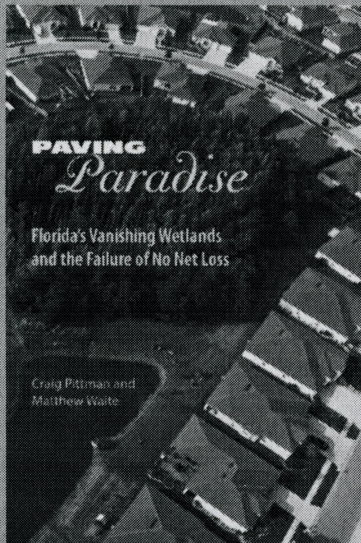
PAVING PARADISE: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss

This is the final book that is listed in the last newsletter. "This book portrays a landscape that has been compromised by greed, fear and incompetence."

"As late as the 1940's Florida's landscape remained so inhospitable that it was the least populated state in the South. Air conditioning was a rarity. Mosquitoes swarmed everywhere. Farmers dammed creeks and streams and dug ditches to drain the wetlands. Loggers were clear-cutting entire cypress forests. Real estate entrepreneurs sent big dredging machines to scoop out the stuff on the bottom, pile it up, making wetlands dry lands."

"Then in the mid-1960's Walt Disney sent representatives to secretly buy up 27, 000 swampy acres in Orange and Osceola counties – a land mass twice the size of Manhattan that was 75% under water during the summer (which is why Disney acquired it for just \$5 million.) Floridians wiped out more of their wetlands than any other state – roughly by million acres."

"Ever since the Clean Water Act became law in 1972, America's wetlands were supposed to be protected from destruction. Yet somehow Americans kept on destroying its swamps. From the 1930's to the 1960's the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers played a crucial role in remodeling Florida, drying out wetlands in the name of flood control so the land could be exploited. The Corps not only straightened out the Kissimmee River, it built a giant berm around Lake Okeechobee that starves the Everglades of its traditional source of water. It created a maze of pumps and levees and canals through South Florida that still flushes an estimated one billion gallons of water



Paving Paradise – Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss
By Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite



Craig Pittman



Matthew Waite

a day out to sea at a time when Miami-Dade County's sprawl is starving for new water supplies. The result is a taxpayer-funded program that creates the illusion of environmental protection while doing little to stem the destruction of natural resources."

"In the 1970's South Florida was in the grip of a historic drought. At a Governor's conference on Water Management, a young state senator named Bob Graham produced a report that bluntly recommended, 'There should be no further draining of wetlands for any purpose. Wetlands are the most biologically productive of all lands.

"When wetlands are destroyed to make room for subdivisions and stores and limestone mines, we taxpayers wind up footing the bill. We pay for government-subsidized flood insurance for homes built in what use to be swamps. We pay for government to spend millions buying homes that are repeatedly inundated, just to tear them down. We pay to clean up the water pollution that the wetlands once filtered naturally. We pay to find new sources of water to replace the ones we've paved over. And right now we're paying for a government wetland protection program that doesn't work."

"In 2003 the National Wetlands inventory started an update to the Southwest Florida area. Everywhere they looked wetlands they had mapped 20 years ago were gone, wiped out by shopping centers, roads and schools. Cypress swamps had been replaced by expensive homes perched atop grass-covered mounds of fill. So many trucks were bringing in more dirt to fill even more wetlands that it was like watching a particularly depressing parade."

"Wetlands losses in Florida during the no-net loss era are undoubtedly much larger, perhaps as high as 100,000 acres total between 1990 and 2003. Vic Anderson who worked for the U.S. Corps for 30 years said the agency has been merely pretending to follow the no-net-loss policy, conning the public into thinking that wetlands were being saved when they weren't. "It's all just a big shell game. Who's kidding whom? The only conclusion you can draw is we're losing it on purpose."

"Although the phosphate miners have destroyed thousands of wetlands, they did it over three decades. Year in and year out, the greatest destroyer of wetlands in Florida is the stat itself-or rather, one agency, the Department of Transportation, commonly known as FDOT. It can condemn property and force owners to move. And every year It kills lots of wetlands. The FDOT doesn't just kill wetlands by paving them over. When a new road is built, then it going to open up corridors for potential growth," according to then Secretary Stutlar. In other words, development follows the roads, wiping out still more wetlands all along the route. Records show that the FDOT wiped out more than 1,000 acres of swamps, bays and marshes between 1997 and 2005.

The authors recommend a 12-step program toward making a more honest system.

1. No more "no net loss." Mitigation cannot replace what is lost when wetlands are destroyed.
2. Stop the Enron-like accounting tricks like preserving a wetland and count it as a new acreage.
3. Emphasize restoration.
4. Institute a pay-as-you-go system. Congress should put the cost of a federal permit on a sliding scale based on the size of the impact to wetlands.
5. Set a deadline for the Corps. The penalty for late permit arrival should be a full refund of the fee.
6. Tell the public what is happening. Currently the Corps makes all of its decisions in secret. The wetland information should be on the web and stay there even after a permit has been approved.
7. Map the swamps. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Wetlands Inventory should share

- information on a publicly available web site about Florida's remaining swamps, bogs and marshes exist and analyze losses.
8. Find the tipping point. There is a line that must not be crossed, a line beyond which too many Florida's wetlands will have been destroyed, and with their destruction, our water supplies ruined, our flood protections gone, and commercially viable wildlife like fish and shrimp vanished.
 9. Save the priority areas. Once maps are in hand, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Community Affairs should work with the Corps, EPA and FEMA to identify the wetland areas that should never be destroyed and develop strategies to protect them.
 10. Consider the Canadian variation. Give Landowners an incentive to leave wetlands alone and tax breaks for property that keeps its marshes and swamps in natural state.
 11. Put a price on failure and dishonesty. Where there is not consequence for failure or dishonesty, there is no incentive to do things right.
 12. Give more people the power to say no. In addition to EPA having veto power, FEMA should have the power to shoot down wetland permits, too

"Remember, wetland protection affects more than just our quality of life and our survival on the planet. As taxpayers, we're footing the multi-million-dollar bill for this program. Shouldn't we get what we're paying for?"

ON EARTH - SPRING 2011

From the ON EARTH magazine – Spring 2011 edition, article titled Thirsty Nation. It states the problem and solution with Florida's water resource. "Problem: Salt Water Intrusion - More people depend on groundwater in Florida, than in any other state, and with the population continue to expand rapidly, demands on the state's aquifers will continue to grow. While aquifers farther inland are drawn down by excess withdrawal (potentially causing wells to run dry), Florida faces a different problem. When groundwater is withdrawn faster than it is recharged by rainwater from above, saltwater begins to seep in, fouling wells and furthering limiting the supply of fresh water. Coastal populations, especially in South Florida, are particularly vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. Solution: Recycling – Florida's future depends on a diverse package of efficiency measures. As of 2006, wastewater recycling had already replaced 663 million gallons of potable water usage. Additional reuse of treated wastewater to water lawn and golf courses, cool power plants and irrigate crops will reduce demands on the potable water supplies. And relatively small projects can have big effects: one gold course in Miami Beach replaced its grass with a species that tolerates brackish water; irrigating primarily from brackish pond on the golf course saves more than 23 million gallons a year."

PARK NEWS

April is a great month for raising awareness on environmental issues. Earth Day is Friday, April 22nd and Arbor Day is the following Friday, April 29th. The community can get involved a number of ways this month to show Mother Nature we care. As always individuals can come out and volunteer at Arch Creek on the 2nd Saturday (April 9th) for the monthly Eco-Action Day. If that doesn't fit into your schedule Miami-Dade County – Dept. of Environmental Resource Management will be hosting their annual Baynanza event on



Saturday, April 16th at multiple sites around the county. The closest locations are Haulover and East Greynolds. If volunteering isn't your cup of tea and you are more interested in celebrating our wonderful planet you can check out Crandon Park's annual EarthFest event on Sunday, April 17th. The event is a blast, live music, workshops, organic and natural food vendors.

Summer Camp registration is now open. Space is limited, so don't wait until the last minute to register your camper(s). Summer Camp will be held at Greynolds Park.

Please visit the Park's blog page for frequent updates. You can access the blog page at www.archcreek.wordpress.com.



UPCOMING DATES - April - May - June

Eco Action Day

Dates: 2nd Saturday of the month (Apr. 9, May 14 & Jun. 11)

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Connect with nature and get down and dirty at one of our monthly volunteer days! Join our naturalists in restoring Arch Creek Park and its natural areas. Projects include removing weeds or invasive exotic vegetation, planting, mulching, and picking up garbage. Bring your work gloves and small hand tools. Wear closed-toe shoes. Sunscreen, long-sleeve shirt, long pants, water, hats and sunglasses are highly recommended.

Fee: FREE Reservations are required. Call (305) 944-6111 for more information.

Campfire Program

Dates: 3rd Friday of the month (Apr. 15, May 20 & Jun. 17)

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Ease the stress of your workweek with our classic campfire program. Join our naturalist around the campfire for a night full of campfire games, stories and don't forget marshmallow roasting.

Fee: \$6/participant. Reservations are required. Call (305) 944-6111 for more information.

Night Hike

Dates: 4th Friday of the month (Apr. 22, May 27 & Jun. 24)

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Venture into the beautiful Tropical Hardwood Hammock with a naturalist guide and discover the marvelous nocturnal life of the park at dusk. Experience the sights and sounds of eastern screech owls, raccoons, night time spiders and much more.

Fee: \$6/participant. Reservations are required. Call (305) 944-6111 for more information.

Jr. Naturalist Program

Dates: 3rd Saturday of the month (Apr. 16, May 21 & Jun. 18)

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Join Arch Creek Park's Junior Naturalist program! This program consists of six different themes based on the parks tropical hardwood hammock with topics ranging from birds and plants to historical facts and more. Children will participate in nature identification, games and arts & crafts to reinforce topics discussed. Children must be accompanied by an adult. At the completion of all six themes the children will be awarded certificates declaring them Arch Creek Junior Naturalists!

Fee: \$6/participant. Reservations are required. Call (305) 944-6111 for more information.

Nature Trail Tours

Dates: Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Join us on this naturalist guided tour through a tropical hardwood hammock where you will find an assortment of interesting plants and animals native to

South Florida and come learn about Arch Creek's role in the early history of North Miami.

Fee: \$3/participant. Reservations are required. Call (305) 944-6111 for more information.

Oleta River Canoe Trip

Dates: 2nd Sunday of the month & 4th Saturday of the month

Time: 10:00am – 12:30pm

The beauty of the Oleta River has drawn man to its shore for centuries. As early as 500 B.C., the river was home to Tequesta Indians who camped along its shore and was part of the route used by Federal Troops in the 2nd Seminole War to travel south from Loxahatchee. The river linked the Seminole Indians living in the Everglades to Biscayne Bay. Relive the river's historic past with park naturalists as you explore this natural haven for wading birds, osprey, fish and the endangered West Indian Manatee.

Fee: \$28/participant. Reservations are required. Call (305) 365-3018 for more information.

Summer Camp

Camp Manatee - Ages: 6 - 11 years

Dates: June 13th – August 19th

Times: Camp – 9:30am – 3:30pm

Drop-off – 7:30am – 9:30am and Pick-up – 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Boys and girls will have fun exploring the South Florida environment through a variety of fun and exciting activities in a safe park environment ranging from nature hikes on wooded trails, canoeing (10 years & older), swimming (guarded pools), playing interactive nature games, arts and crafts, field trips to local park preserves, Zoo Miami, Monkey Jungle, Crandon Park, Shark Valley in Everglades National Park and more. Hands-on nature studies focusing on various environmental themes change weekly. Campers will enjoy their camp experience as they develop a special awareness and appreciation for nature and make new friends.

Location: Greynolds Park - Boathouse. (17530 West Dixie Hwy)

Fee: \$100 per session or \$34 per day

Plus \$12 annual registration fee (Additional fees for fieldtrip)

Camp Kingfisher – Ages: 12 - 16 years

Dates: June 13th – August 19th

Times: Camp – 9:30am – 3:30pm

Drop-off – 7:30am – 9:30am and Pick-up – 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Camp Kingfisher offers unique adventures to teens 12-16 years who are enthusiastic about being in the natural world and want to explore nature through a variety of fun outdoor activities such as canoeing, paddle boarding, snorkeling, swamp tromps, overnight camp-outs and citizen science projects designed to help care for the environment. Fieldtrips range from the Northern Everglades to the upper Florida Keys and may require additional costs. Participants must be able to pass a mandatory swim test. Location:

Greynolds Park - Boathouse. (17530 West Dixie Hwy)

Fee: \$100 per session or \$34 per day

Plus \$12 annual registration fee (Additional fees for fieldtrip)

Arch Creek Trust, INC.
1855 N.E. 135th Street
North Miami, FL 33181

