



# FIELDREPORT

Sun Coast Region | Winter 2017



## Fighting to Protect Big Cypress From Oil Development

**I**t sounds unbelievable, but a private oil and gas company received the go-head from the National Park Service to start massive tests for oil and gas deposits under Big Cypress National Preserve, threatening the wilderness values of the preserve and at least nine endangered species. When it's completed, the project will leave a physical footprint on more than 360 square miles, an area larger than Shenandoah National Park. However, NPCA and our partners are fighting as hard as we can.

In July, NPCA joined a coalition of groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Center for Biological Diversity, Earthworks, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and South Florida Wildlands Association to sue the National Park Service for their incomplete environmental review of this massive project. Our coalition worked to get the Park Service to reject this plan from its earliest stages, but they approved it with the minimum required environmental review. That cannot stand.

The impacts of this oil and gas testing will be dramatic. The company is

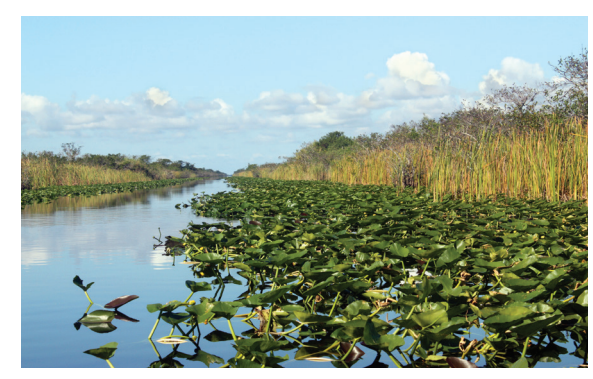
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## NOW OR NEVERGLADES Storage, Treatment, and Flow in the Everglades

**A**merica's Everglades was once a free-flowing "River of Grass" that began at the meandering Kissimmee River, deposited into Lake Okeechobee and then cascaded slowly down to Florida Bay and the area that is now Everglades National Park. Over years, development and agriculture intruded into the original Everglades and stifled the flow of water vital for the health of this unique, abundant ecosystem. NPCA and our partners in the Everglades community are working to restore some of that natural flow.

One integral component of the plan to restore the Everglades is storage, treatment and flow of water south of Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Capturing excess lake water, cleaning it up, and flowing it south to Everglades National Park is the best way to ensure the southern end of the ecosystem receives sufficient clean, freshwater to sustain the wetlands and aquatic habitat that are invaluable to the ecology and economy of south Florida. Sending water south will reduce the damaging discharges to the east and west to the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie estuary, which in 2016 resulted in guacamole-like algae covering beaches and closing access for residents and visitors even on Independence Day.

Much of the land south of Lake Okeechobee is used for agricultural production. NPCA supports the proposal by Florida Senator Joe Negron to purchase 60,000 acres of land in the EAA for a reservoir. This area represents only a portion of farmland and will allow most agricultural production to



continue while using a strategically located parcel adjacent to existing water flow infrastructure to store and treat water that is desperately needed for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

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**Top:** Great Egret in Everglades National Park ©Nadezda Murmakova | Dreamstime.com **Above:** Everglades National Park ©Alita Xander | Dreamstime.com



# FIELD REPORT

Winter 2016-2017

Florida, Louisiana, Coastal Mississippi and Alabama, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S LETTER BY JOHN ADORNATO III



The long-awaited centennial of the National Park Service proved to be a true celebration of our country's scenic beauty and history, and all the places where the two intersect. Of course there were birthday cakes and parties. However, there were also landmark opportunities to continue to tell the story of America and protect what we hold dearest to us as a nation. President Obama utilized the Antiquities Act to designate new parks across the country. This year he dedicated the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, DC to commemorate the battle for women's suffrage and equal rights by protecting the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, once the home of Alice Paul and the headquarters for the National Woman's Party. Another effort to honor the fight for equal rights was the President's designation of the Stonewall National Monument in New York City (*see back page*)—the first national park site dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, honoring the men and women who, in 1969, stood up for their equal rights.

As I returned to Tufts University for my 20th college reunion last May, I recalled one of my favorite professors, Dr. Norton Nickerson, who taught my environmental sciences class. In that class environmental activists told us about the amazing northern country of Maine, the declining timber industry, and the idea of a national park. They even handed out NPS-style "North Woods" brochures. Those decades of activism came to pass on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service—and the 100th anniversary of the designation of Acadia National Park just down the road—when President Obama created the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (the final name chosen instead of "North Woods"). (*See back page.*) Due to the foresight of one strong-willed, dedicated woman, Roxanne Quimby, and her foundation,

Elliotsville Plantation, Inc., almost 90,000 acres and the largest endowment ever of \$40 million for the operations of the park were donated to NPS! The North Woods park has been realized.

Closer to home in the Sun Coast region, we capitalized on the celebratory year. Jacqueline Crucet, with NPCA for over 8 years, curated a long-overdue exhibit of NPS artifacts at the Coral Gables museum—where we held a number of events. NPCA's efforts to engage youth and veterans blossomed this year with participation from everyone in our office and a new set of student partners. We continue our fight to ensure the highest level of protection for Biscayne National Park through the marine reserve and thwarting the negative impacts of FPL's power plant. The restoration of America's Everglades continues, too, with the celebration of the next bridge for Tamiami Trail on Earth Day and the actual groundbreaking planned for 2017. Congress did get some work done this year with the passage of the Water Resources Development Act—or Water Bill—that authorized the Central Everglades Project. In conjunction with Tamiami Trail bridges, this project provides the critical infrastructure needed to send more water south to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. The next lynchpin will be storage, treatment and conveyance in the Everglades Agricultural Area—2017 will be a telltale year with a proposed legislative approach to advancing the critical land purchase.

Thank you for your continued commitment to NPCA. We will be in constant contact, especially to get your thoughts on NPCA's own centennial in 2019 and our celebration of a second century of efforts to protect and preserve America's national parks for you and the next generation!

**Above:** Adornato and family making memories in their national park ©John Adornato III | NPCA



## CONNECTING TO THE PAST Focused on the Future

Once NPCA Sun Coast Regional Legal Fellows Jared Siegel and Rachael Kamlet understood the beauty and fragility of Biscayne National Park, they were compelled to share what they knew with their fellow students in the Environmental Law Society of Nova Southeastern University. NPCA staff Jacqueline Crucet presented at the college and collaborated with this student group on a snorkel trip of Biscayne National Park that featured coral habitat and two shipwrecks along the park's Maritime Heritage Trail. More than 15 students were awed by the chance to see sea turtles, reef fish and other marine wildlife that make their home in this urban park. These students also came away with a solid understanding of the pressures on the park—from overfishing, to threats from the expansion of a nuclear power plant, and a lack of freshwater from the Everglades ecosystem—and NPCA's efforts to preserve this treasured marine area.

These students were also captivated by the story of the Jones family, pioneer African-Americans whose land ultimately helped create Biscayne National Park. Building off the work of prior students and advocates, the Environmental Law Society celebrated Lancelot Jones Day by partnering with NPCA community partner Mahogany Youth and held a day of fishing and barbecue in Miami. This event raised awareness of the extraordinary efforts of ordinary people in the protection of America's most beautiful places.

In addition, NPCA held an advocacy workshop in the gateway city of Homestead for more than 30 young advocates. Several workshop participants then met with staff from Senator Nelson's office to discuss the importance of a marine reserve in Biscayne National Park.

**Below:** Nurse Shark in Biscayne National Park  
©Rachael Kamlet



## 2016 Festivities

NPCA joined centennial festivities by hosting over 100 activities, events and projects to celebrate and restore our national parks. Volunteers with NPCA made a big impact throughout 2016 recording over 45,000 hours of service, valued at over \$1 million. Volunteers planted over 150,000 trees and native plants, cleared tens of thousands of pounds of debris from seashores, and took more than 50,000 actions to tell their elected officials to support national parks. NPCA also engaged 150 decision-makers—local and state elected officials, members of Congress and White House administration officials—in our events and projects.

NPCA focused its NPS centennial year efforts on the next generation of national park advocates. Through our civic voice lessons, NPCA engaged 300 young people in advocacy and brought 300 youth to Biscayne National Park for snorkeling, fishing, and training on how to become a park advocate. NPCA also inspired over 15,000 youth to participate in citizen science through BioBlitz events in Texas, Washington, D.C. and Delaware.

Finally, NPCA was a key part of the Yellowstone National Park centennial event in Gardiner, Montana that recognized the completion of phase one of the Gardiner Gateway Project. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Montana Governor Steve Bullock, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead and a number of partner organizations spoke at the joyous event on Founder's Day, August 25.

## NPCA Regional Council Adventures



NPCA's Sun Coast Regional Council made a big splash for our spring 2016 meeting in Key West and park expedition at Dry Tortugas National Park. Park Rangers Kelly Clark and John Fuechsel provided our group with a warm welcome and an outstanding tour of Fort Jefferson, among the largest coastal masonry forts in

the 19th century. In addition to introducing our group to the cultural resources and incredible stories of Fort Jefferson, rangers provided our group with a guided snorkel tour in the warm sub-tropical waters of the park. All came away with a much better understanding of this little-visited national park that was first designated a monument

in 1935 then re-designated as a national park in 1992. We thank all regional council members who participated and look forward to working on many national park protection issues with you all in the new year.

**Above** SCRO Regional Council at Dry Tortugas National Park ©Cara Capp | NPCA



# Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Hot Water

**T**urkey Point Nuclear Power Plant, located on the shores of Biscayne National Park, is threatening the health of our environment. Owned and operated by Florida Power & Light (FPL), the plant's current operations and future expansion could drastically affect Biscayne National Park. Due to South Florida's porous limestone geology, water from a system of unlined cooling canals seeps into the underlying Biscayne Aquifer and into surface water connected to Biscayne National Park, threatening park resources and the drinking water supply for millions of South Floridians.

Turkey Point's cooling canals act like a giant radiator, gradually cooling water from the plant while concentrating salt and other contaminants at the bottom of the canals. The water, including approximately 600,000 pounds of salt a day, eventually moves into the underlying Biscayne Aquifer, the sole drinking water supply for three million people. The contamination of this aquifer by hypersaline, radioactive water laden with unknown constituents poses an undeniable threat to our drinking water supply.

Unfortunately, the contamination is spreading. Water from the cooling canals was detected in surface waters connected to Biscayne National Park with levels of radioactive tritium (a tracer) 200 times higher than normal and elevated levels of sodium, ammonia, and phosphorous. Adding excess nutrients into Biscayne Bay could disrupt its ecology and cause toxic algal blooms, leading to seagrass die-offs and fish kills. To reduce cooling canal salinity, FPL dumped billions of gallons of fresh surface water into the canals, pushing the contaminated water further into the aquifer. The surface water used, however, is critical to the future restoration of Biscayne National Park.

FPL is responsible for Turkey Point and must come up with a sustainable solution

Adding excess nutrients into Biscayne Bay could disrupt its ecology and cause toxic algal blooms, leading to seagrass die-offs and fish kills.



that includes the construction of cooling towers. We need additional science and monitoring to determine the full extent of the damage. Finally, state agencies should issue a moratorium on FPL's use of fresh surface water needed for ecological restoration. FPL must be held accountable and prevent future contamination of one of America's most prized national parks.

## Radioactive Roadblock at Turkey Point

Despite the widespread, negative impacts of the plant's current operations, FPL proposes to expand Turkey Point by adding two new nuclear reactors, making it one of the largest nuclear facilities in the country. Operating the new reactors could compound existing problems, as wastewater from the new reactors that will be injected underground could migrate up and contaminate our water supply. This proposed expansion threatens our national parks, endangers wildlife, Everglades restoration and the health of South Florida's drinking water.

To protect our national parks, NPCA is challenging this risky plan. Along with other organizations and individuals, NPCA intervened in the federal licensing proceedings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), contending that the expansion plan fails to comply with federal environmental laws. After nearly six years of advocacy, legal engagement, and outreach, our case remains alive.

Recently, FPL sought an expedited ruling to allow them to use injection wells to dispose of polluted wastewater deep underground. In light of compelling arguments from NPCA legal team, the ASLB denied FPL's motion. While the ASLB hasn't yet ruled on the feasibility of the wells, the case is ongoing and will move to an "evidentiary hearing" to determine whether FPL's plans to dispose their wastewater underground could contaminate the drinking water aquifer. While the decision

to hold an evidentiary hearing isn't unprecedented, it is exceedingly rare, underscoring the strength of NPCA arguments and representing a major step forward! If we are successful, we have the opportunity to ensure that FPL re-evaluates its proposal and strengthens environmental safeguards that will better protect our water resources.

**Above:** Snorkelers explore a shipwreck in Biscayne National Park ©NPCA



# Renewed Threats to Biscayne Marine Reserve

**B**iscayne National Park is truly a natural wonder—our country's largest marine national park (95% of the park is water) and home to part of the third largest barrier reef tract in the world. Unfortunately, over the past few decades the park experienced a dramatic decline in native fish populations and in the health of its fragile coral reef ecosystem. Few of Biscayne's corals remain alive and many reef fish populations are being harvested at unsustainable levels—indeed, some fish populations are on the verge of collapse. Last summer, the National Park Service (NPS) decided to take action to conserve the park's imperiled marine resources. After more than 15 years of scientific analysis, public input (of 43,000 pieces of correspondence received, 90 percent were in support of a marine reserve), and coordination with the State of Florida, NPS announced plans to create a no-fishing marine reserve to protect the park's coral reef ecosystem.

The marine reserve in Biscayne is small—just 6 % of the park—but will have a big impact and still allow recreational fishing throughout 94% of the park. Marine reserves are based on science and protect reef fish and corals, reducing harm from overfishing,



derelict fishing gear, boat groundings and anchors. Moreover, a marine reserve in Biscayne will benefit the local economy, improving local fishing and diving opportunities. However, special interests, such as the fishing and boating industry, remain opposed to a marine reserve in Biscayne, despite strong public and scientific support.

In 2015 and 2016, Congress introduced a slew of legislation in an effort to block the marine reserve. These bills would have a wide-ranging effect not only on Biscayne, but on national parks around the country and would hinder the Park Service from upholding its legal duty under the 1916 Organic Act to protect and preserve America's national parks. NPCA is leading the charge to block these bad bills and allow the Park Service to safeguard national park resources for the benefit of all Americans.

In order to move forward with the marine reserve, NPS must undertake a rulemaking process that involves scientific and economic analyses and additional opportunities for public comment. NPCA is strongly urging NPS to expedite rulemaking and implement the marine reserve as soon as possible. The creation of a marine reserve in Biscayne National Park is vital to the future health and sustainability of the park's imperiled coral reef ecosystem and NPCA will continue our efforts to ensure that Biscayne's resources remain protected for both current and future generations.

**Above:** Snorkelers on Elkhorn Reef Biscayne National Park ©NPCA **Below:** infographic ©NPCA

### A MARINE RESERVE FOR BISCAYNE?

National Park to Protect Coral Reefs, Bringing More Fish Back to Florida

Biscayne National Park is hiding a serious problem under its crystal waters and the Park Service is proposing a marine reserve to fix it. An international destination for boaters, divers and fishing enthusiasts, and a prime draw for locals, Biscayne has been stressed by over-fishing, over-use, pollution and warming seas for decades, and the park's renowned coral reefs continue to decline.

A new marine reserve would limit fishing, anchoring and the extraction of resources within a small portion of the park's most fragile and important coral reefs to help them recover. In time, the move would help improve the health of the park's coral reefs and bring back more fish to South Florida increasing fish size, diversity and abundance.

**95%** of the park is water, and only **6%** included within the **marine reserve.**

### MORE BOATS, MORE TECHNOLOGY = FEWER FISH

The number of recreational vessels in southern Florida grew by about **757%** from 1964-2014.

Technology has quadrupled the efficiency of recreational anglers, and that's decimated local stocks of fish: For every **20 fish caught in 1964** **1 fish is caught today**.

### PROTECTING OUR PARKS

"If someone were chopping down Redwood trees or giant Sequoias in our national parks, there would be a public outcry. The same should be true here in Biscayne, where our iconic coral reefs and marine life are on the verge of collapse."

-- Caroline McLaughlin  
NPCA's Biscayne Program Analyst

### TREASURE UNDER THE SEA

More than **500,000** visitors that come to Biscayne National Park for fishing, diving, snorkeling and boating support nearly **460 jobs** and contribute **\$45 million** to the local economy.

### IT'S WORKED BEFORE

Five years after the creation of a marine reserve in the Dry Tortugas, just 70 miles from Key West, researchers saw significant increases in the size and abundance of once overfished species, such as black and red grouper and mutton snapper.



## Centennial Celebration

**M**ore than 500 people celebrated their national parks on Founders Day, August 25th, at the National Park Service centennial exhibition in Coral Gables, Florida. The exhibition featured objects from the museum collection of the National Park Service, the largest museum collection in the world, and focused on south Florida's four national parks: Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks, and Big Cypress National Preserve. Curated by NPCA's Jacqueline Crucet, the exhibition tells the story of each park's creation and the important role of an active citizenry in national park protection.



## CARA CAPP

### MEET THE STAFF

**Q: What is your job?**

**A:** I work to ensure that the beautiful and iconic Everglades ecosystem is safe-guarded for future generations. Everglades National Park is a treasure that should be experienced by every American. It's the only place on earth where alligators and crocodiles cohabitate! The landscape of the Everglades region is wild, diverse wondrous—and also in need of our advocacy to protect and restore the iconic “River of Grass.”

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**Q: What is the best part of your work?**

**A:** Seeing how people light up when they talk about national parks! People from all walks of life have had amazing adventures hiking, fishing, swimming, camping, and enjoying the Everglades and all of our amazing parks. Everyone has a story to share. Hearing the diverse reasons people give to get engaged as park advocates reminds me of why this work is so important.

**Left:** NPS Centennial Celebration, Coral Gables Museum ©Coral Gables Museum **Right:** Cara Capp Everglades Restoration Program Manager on airboat Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge ©Jacqueline Crucet | NPCA



**Q: What is your favorite national park?**

**A:** Of course my heart is in the Everglades, but I also love Yosemite! My husband and I had an incredible adventure hiking Mist Trail and having a close encounter with a black bear in the valley.



Big Cypress National Preserve has been designated an International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) International Dark Sky Place. Big Cypress National Preserve has one of the last protected night skies where visitors can still enjoy the splendor of the Milky Way and see a night-sky strewn with thousands of stars with only the naked eye.

## Fighting to Protect Big Cypress From Oil Development

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proposing to use 30-ton trucks driving on a massive grid pattern through areas of the preserve where no vehicle has ever driven. A previous test of the trucks in the preserve totally failed; the trucks got stuck in mud and damaged trees. The movement of these trucks, and the attendant crews with pickup trucks and off-road vehicles, will also likely harm the preserve's endangered species. The critically endangered Florida panther will be forced to flee, possibly into the territory of other cats or across busy roads. The impacts on other federally listed species found within the project area, including the Snail

Kite, Florida Bonneted-bat, Wood Stork and Gopher Tortoise, are uncertain and need further study.

More information is critical to identify possible alternatives to this invasive testing. There may be other technologies available that can allow the private mineral rights owners to gain the data they need without creating hundreds of miles of new trails through the Big Cypress wilderness. Very few other options were considered by NPS; the agency did not try to purchase the mineral rights from the current owners, a solution they have previously attempted. While it may be expensive, this strategy is the only one

that will permanently protect the preserve and its wildlife.

NPCA and our coalition retain high hopes for our lawsuit. The groups filed claims relating both to the Park Service's failure to do a complete environmental review as required under the National Environmental Policy Act and to the lack of consultation between NPS and the US Fish & Wildlife Service about endangered species as required under the Endangered Species Act. NPCA feels strongly that the facts are on our side, and that our legal team has put us in the best possible position to protect Big Cypress from this invasion of oil and gas interests.

**Above:** Burns Lake, Big Cypress National Preserve ©Aaron Umpierre



# PROGRESS FOR AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

## Bridging Tamiami Trail

**O**n Earth Day 2016, NPCA joined federal and state partners to celebrate progress on a critical restoration project that will deliver much-needed freshwater to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Tamiami Trail is a roadway that runs across the state, connecting Tampa to Miami and acting as a dam that restricts the historic north-south flow of water in the iconic “River of Grass” of the Greater Everglades. For years, NPCA advocated for the bridging of Tamiami Trail, which will allow water to once again flow through the ecosystem. The first mile of bridging is already complete, and the next 2.6 miles of bridging is now underway!

Over the years, development reduced the historic footprint of the Everglades by 50 percent and the water flow by over 70 percent. Florida Bay, over 800 square miles between the mainland and the Florida Keys, suffered due to a lack of freshwater flow. Bridging Tamiami Trail is one important piece of the restoration puzzle to ensure this valuable and unique ecosystem can receive the water

The first mile of bridging is already complete, and the next 2.6 miles of bridging is now underway!

flow it needs to sustain healthy ecological conditions. Florida Bay, nearly entirely contained within Everglades National Park, is a treasure that must be protected and restored for future generations of park visitors who will swim and fish its waters.

NPCA proudly sponsored the celebration of this important restoration effort, and joined U. S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army Jo-Ellen Darcy, the National Park Service, the State of Florida, and many of our allies in the Everglades community to acknowledge the great work that has gone into the realization of this restoration plan. What better way to celebrate Earth Day than by making progress on restoration of Everglades National Park!



## Now or Neverglades

continued from page 1

Senator Negron is advancing his plan for the upcoming 2017 Florida legislative session and will need the support of Everglades advocates to succeed. NPCA stands with a coalition of organizations and individuals who know that now is the time to act! By signing the “Now or Neverglades” Declaration you, too, can stand with the Everglades and show your support for buying land in the EAA for restoration. Visit [gladesdeclaration.org](http://gladesdeclaration.org) to learn more.

**Above:** Baby American Alligator in Everglades National Park ©Rinus Baak | Dreamstime.com



**Above:** NPCA Mission Continues veteran volunteers reconstruct camping platforms for school groups at Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. ©Jacqueline Cruet | NPCA **Right:** NPCA Adaptive Aquatics volunteers monitor bronze trail markers along the Maritime Heritage Trail in Biscayne National Park ©Serena Branagan/NPCA.

**FIND YOUR VOICE** Speak up for National Parks



## National Parks and Service

**A**merica's national parks require upkeep. Trails need to be cleared, buildings need repair, and roads and boardwalks need replacement. Our national parks have projects and equipment but little manpower and funding to see these projects through. NPCA is identifying and organizing service projects with National Park Service staff and community veterans groups to help address some of these projects and to improve the visitor experience at our national parks. In the Sun Coast, these projects specifically help to address maintenance and deferred maintenance projects at Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks while providing young veterans an introduction to their national parks, an opportunity to continue to serve their communities and a way to gain valuable job skills in the process.

NPCA is currently working with two veteran groups: The Mission Continues, with whom NPCA focused on maintenance issues in both Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks; and Adaptive Aquatics, focused on monitoring and raising awareness of the Maritime Heritage Trail in Biscayne National Park. NPCA is proud to work with our veteran community and have their voices join NPCA's one million members and supporters in calling for national park protection and preservation.





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us to learn about and enjoy your national parks!

**National Park Centennial Exhibition Present - January 8, 2017**  
**Coral Gables, FL**

*This Land is Your Land: A Second Century for America's National Parks* explores the National Park Service's museum collection in South Florida. Exhibition is sponsored by NPCA.



**Above:** "This Land Is Your Land: A Second Century for America's National Parks" on view through January 8th at the Coral Gables Museum. ©Marcel Lecours.

**32nd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference**  
**January 5-8, 2017**  
**Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort**  
**Fort Myers, FL**

**NPCA Board and Council Trip**  
**February 9-12, 2017 • New Orleans, LA**

**Palm Beach Speaker Series**  
**Date: TBD**

**NPCA Joint Regional Council Meeting and Park Excursion**  
**March 23-26, 2017 • Jacksonville, FL**

**NPCA's 36th Annual "Salute to the Parks" Awards Gala**  
**April 4-6, 2017 • Washington, D.C.**

**5th Annual Everglades Action Day**  
**April 5, 2017 • Tallahassee, FL**

*For more information on these events, Contact [suncoast@npca.org](mailto:suncoast@npca.org)*

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## NPCA Welcomes Two New National Monuments



**Stonewall National Monument, New York ©NPCA**



**Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, Maine ©Dennis Welsh**