

The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

Palmetto



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



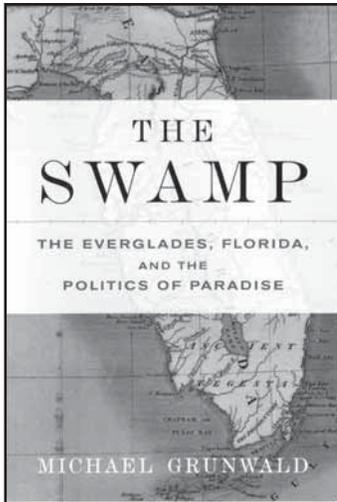
Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



The Swamp

The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise

By Michael Grunwald

Reviewed by Joan Bausch

Michael Grunwald's excellent volume is the perfect primer for anyone interested in how the Everglades has been brought to the brink of disaster and for those who hope ardently for its renaissance.

The Swamp lives up to its subtitle – *The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*. Grunwald begins literally, at the bottom of Florida – exploring the basic geology underlying the Everglades, “the first 300 million years – abridged.” He then examines a key feature of the Everglades environment – water and its majestic slowness as it transits the terrain, quoting an early

explorer – “A raindrop that fell in its headwaters in central Florida could have taken an entire year to dribble down its estuaries at the tip of the peninsula.”

By portraying the shenanigans behind the effort to drain the swamp and make it “useful for society,” Grunwald chronicles the mixture of visionaries and rascals who mingled and contested to finish the swamp once and for all, and the naturalists and unlikely heroes who finally turned the tide toward restoration.

An award winning journalist for the Washington Post, Grunwald began investigating the Everglades story because of his interest in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which he calls “dysfunctional.” His exhaustive collection of sources for each of the 18 chapters are listed in a section of annotated notes at the back of the book, and are evidence of the level of detail he brings to the story.

Over one hundred years of mismanagement of the water that ought to flow south to Florida Bay has yielded a seriously crippled Everglades. Its heart is still intact, but for how long? What action is needed to ensure that the Everglades is restored to the best it can be today? That remains to be seen, since politics continues to play an important role in decision making. The story doesn't end with the close of Michael Grunwald's book, and visionaries and rascals still struggle over the fate of the Everglades.

Carl Hiassen puts it this way – “*The Swamp* is the best thing I've read about the Everglades. The story of what's happened to this haunted and magical wilderness has the epic ingredients of a great novel – greed, betrayal, carnage and valor – and Michael Grunwald has beautifully captured it all for history.” 🌿

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Editorial Content

We welcome articles on native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for guidelines, deadlines and other information.

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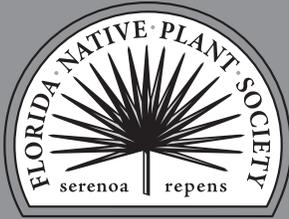
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The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society

is to conserve, preserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Official definition of native plant:

For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.



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