

## Everglades Uprising

From Palm Beach County: The New Capital of Corruption  
as named by TIME Magazine!



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### Changing the Face of Everglades Corruption

There is a grassroots Everglades Uprising underway in response to the compromises of the Everglades Coalition. A direct action movement is growing in South Florida with the goal of empowering people to defend their home ecosystems and to pressure companies and government agencies to stop poisoning us with development, pollution and corruption.

While this publication is not officially sponsored by any organizations, two local grassroots environmental groups to check out are: Everglades Earth First! [www.evergladesearthfirst.org](http://www.evergladesearthfirst.org) and Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition [www.pbcec.blogspot.com](http://www.pbcec.blogspot.com)

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A Special "Guess Who?" to Their Corporate Sponsors, Past & Present:



**Florida  
Trend**

**Palm Beach Aggregates, Inc.**

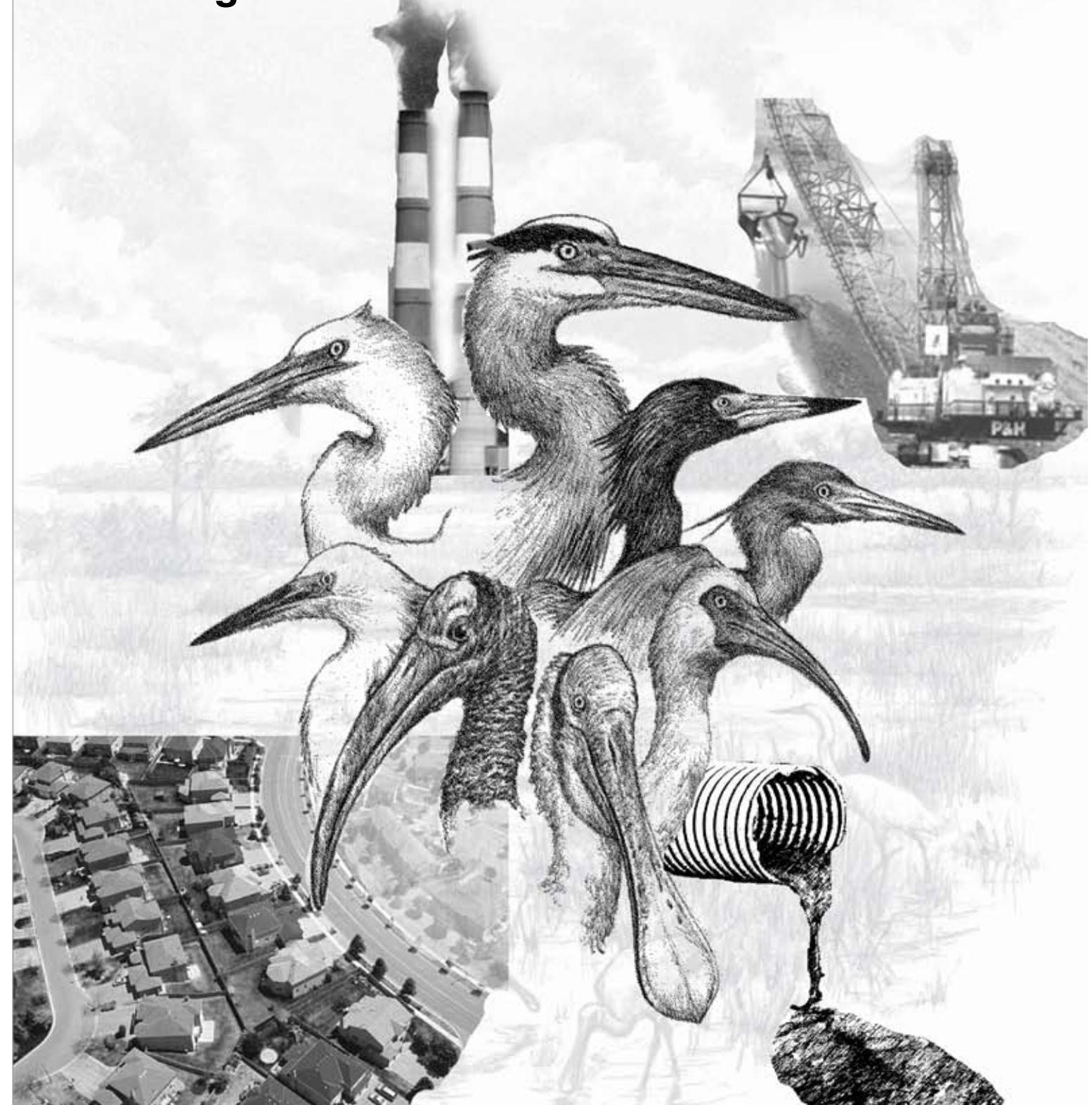


# EVERGLADES CORRUPTION

## 2010 CONSCIENCE CALL

January 7-18, 2010 • Palm Beach County, FL

**Who will answer  
To the changed face of the  
Everglades Coalition?**



# Conference Re-Schedule

## Thursday, January 7

7:30 am Join Everglades Earth First! (EEF!) in protesting a zoning change to accommodate the expansion of Scripps, which has become synonymous with corruption in Palm Beach County. Phase II of their corporate biotechnology research park is proposed on 800 acres of undeveloped pine flat woods known as the Briger Tract. This parcel of land, which is some of Palm Beach County's last wild space east of I-95, was purchased by the County as a gift to the pharmaceutical giants who fund Scripps. This public land should be kept as it is and improved for the rare habitat and sensitive species who currently reside there. Location: PGA Blvd. and Military Trail (near Palm Beach Gardens City Hall).

## Sunday, January 10

12:00pm Trip to north end of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, leaving from the visitors center after lunch. Visit the newly established public access to STA 1E in the shadow of FPL's West County Energy Center construction site, new pipeline along the L-8 canal which feeds Grassy Waters Preserve and the Loxahatchee River and more.

5:00 pm Earth First! Journal issue release party and potluck, followed by a film showing of Cracker Crazy: Invisible Histories of the Sunshine State at 6:30pm Location: Night Heron Grassroots Activist Center, 1307 Central Terrace, Lake Worth, phone: (561) 249-2071

## Monday, January 11

7:00 pm Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition monthly meeting. On the agenda: Stopping FPL on all fronts (Turkey Point, Loxahatchee and Riviera Beach), Stopping development and protecting public access on the Intercoastal Waterway, Getting DEP Southeast District Director Jack Long fired, environmental racism in Lake Worth, plastic bags, Scripps, climate change and more... Location: Friends Quaker Meeting House 823 North A Street, Lake Worth

8:00 pm Everglades Uprising benefit concert for EEF!, featuring Valerie C. Wisecracker, Grant Peeples, Viva la Vox, Everymen... \$5 donation, 21 and up Location: Propaganda, 6 South J Street, Lake Worth

## Thursday, January 14

7:00 pm Palm Beach Gardens will be voting on the Scripps Phase II zoning change. This is a quasi-judicial hearing, some come to testify, and be prepared to stay a while, it could be a long night! Location: City Hall: 10500 N. Military Tr., Palm Beach Gardens

## Monday, January 18

6:00 pm Community Meeting on FPL and environmental racism at Riviera Beach power plant, which is on of the dirtiest in the state, operating outside the Clean Air Act, poisoning and polluting Palm Beach County Location: Newcomb Hall 180 East 13th Street Riviera Beach

## The Environmental Cost of Corruption

We all know that serious damage is being done to the Everglades and that we are risking billions of public dollars and decades of work spent on false solutions in a restoration process driven by greed, politics and industrial interests. Restoring the Everglades watershed does not require corporate bailouts, political favors or massive engineering contracts. First, it requires a courage and passion which has been in short supply at these conferences lately. Next, it demands a commitment to confronting political corruption, which the Everglades Coalition has yet to take a stance on. This commitment must go beyond silent applause at the imprisonment of politicians and start to trace tainted decisions in order to reverse the damage done to the greatest extent possible, holding all pay-to-play participants accountable, including the so-called 'environmental' groups.

## Understanding the Environmental-Industrial Complex

Environmental restoration has been exploited by industry to use public resources for furthering corporate profits. While the Environmental-Industrial Complex can be seen around the world (especially with the recent growth of a Carbon market), no one ecosystem on the planet represents this sad phenomenon more than the Everglades.

In the most glaring examples, rock mining and energy companies have sponsored the Everglades Coalition Conference in effort to lobby for their business interests at the expense of the environment and quality of life in South Florida. As a result, bureaucrats make empty speeches and false promises about restoration; the Everglades advocates sitting next to you take industry donations to remain silent or even to speak on industry's behalf to gain favor with companies' pet elected officials.

## Are We Asleep at the Green Wheel?

Over the last three years, Florida Power and Light (FPL) and Palm Beach Aggregates (PBA) have been hard at work, with the help of Palm Beach County Commissioners, turning the functional headwaters of the southern Everglades region into an industrial nightmare. After building one of Florida's largest rock mines, PBA proceeded to sell land to FPL for the largest fossil fuel power plant in the entire U.S. Billions of dollars and dozens of political approvals later, Palm Beach County earned the title of 'Corruption Capital of Florida' as a near-majority of County elected officials landed in Federal prison on charges of Honest Service Fraud. Despite the concealed details of the plea deals, we know the indictments of Commissioners Tony Masilotti, Warren Newell and Mary McMarty connected them all directly or indirectly to both PBA and FPL. But these projects had dozens of other agencies to assist in approval: Land Use and Zoning boards, SFWMD, U.S. Army Corps, DEP, PSC, Governor's Cabinet, to name a few. Along with them came 'non-profit' advocates including the obvious Chambers of Commerce as well as groups like Audubon of Florida and this year's Coalition hosts, the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation.

Thus, the first Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project was completed in the northeast Everglades, ensuring that the Loxahatchee Basin would never again resemble anything close to natural Everglades wetlands. While PBA bragged about using rock mines for CERP storage water, County and State agencies permitted the massive FPL power plant at these reservoir's banks. Outside of this immediate travesty in western Palm Beach County, other environmental threats have surfaced with the stamp of 'environmental' approval: From NRDC, Florida Wildlife Federation and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy signing off on a massive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Indiantown to the Sierra Club (which had historically taken a strong stance against compromising the Everglades) endorsing drilling for fossil fuel expansion, presumably including not only Alaska, the Rockies, upstate NY, but on and off shore South Florida as well.

Conventional politicians and environmentalists have let us down; they have been tainted and poisoned by industry, as our ecosystems have, almost beyond recovery. Its time for a new force in the Everglades, a voice from the grassroots... Will you join us?

## Join the Everglades Uprising!

No more corruption in defense of greed and empire; No more compromise in defense of our swamps, coasts and our threatened communities!