



# FROGG

## Friends of the River of Grass Greenway

Volume I Issue 3

FROGG, P O Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139

February 2010

website: [www.evergladesrogg.org](http://www.evergladesrogg.org)

email: [evergladesrogg@hotmail.com](mailto:evergladesrogg@hotmail.com)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Happenings Along the Trail

##### February 13-14

Clyde Butcher's Muck About  
[www.clydebutcher.com](http://www.clydebutcher.com) or  
phone 239-695-2428

"Jammin' in the Hammock"  
Collier Seminole State Park  
Blue Grass Festival  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org) or  
phone 239-394-3397

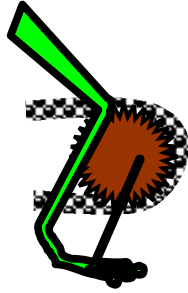
##### February 23-26

Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
Festival, Museum of the  
Everglades, Everglades City  
[www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org)  
or phone 239-695-0008

##### February 27

Friends of Fakahatchee  
Discovery Series "Safari"  
[www.friendsoffakahatchee.org](http://www.friendsoffakahatchee.org)  
or phone 239-695-2905

Save the  
Florida Panther Month  
March 6 – 20  
[www.floridapanther.org](http://www.floridapanther.org)



everglades ride  
march 20, 2010

stay-n-play in the everglades

[www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

**the ride:** not a single hill, but a great stretch of road in the wilds of the everglades, with few stop signs, no chasing dogs, and warm temps in mid-March. Courses for all riders: 8, 16, 23, 50, 62, 82 miles

**the vibe:** cycling, nature, local kitsch  
lots of activities for cyclists before/after and during ride for the "others" (non-cyclists): kayak, boardwalks, swamp-buggy rides, fishing, hiking, airboats, museums, arts-and-craft show, campfire Friday night at **Camellia St Grill**

**the kudos:** • for the benefit of FROGG and for the benefit of Reach Out Everglades, everglades city community helping neighbors in need  
[www.reachouteverglades.org](http://www.reachouteverglades.org)

**the location:** McLeod Park in the center of everglades city  
40 miles south of Immokalee, 60 miles west of Krome Ave and 30 miles east of Naples

**the extras:** rest stops along the route, SAG vehicle support, maps and lunch by Havana Café !



register at [active.com](http://active.com)  
join FROGG at [active.com](http://active.com)  
[www.evergladesrogg.org](http://www.evergladesrogg.org) for links & info

**More stay-n-play information on Page 4**

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## Adventure Cycling Executive Director visits Florida

On Friday, January 15, Executive Director Jim Sayer gave a presentation in Ft. Myers with an



update on bicycling in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. He talked about the new paved route opening this Spring: the Sierra

Cascades from Washington State to Mexico, as well as other interesting Adventure Cycling Routes. Maureen Bonness and Patty Huff attended and were given the opportunity to discuss the River of Grass Greenway with Jim after his talk. Maureen is an Adventure Cycling lifetime member and had been corresponding with Jim about ROGG so he was familiar (he actually drove along the Tamiami Trail between Miami and Naples to view for himself the proposed greenway).

## Exotic Pythons in the Everglades

Dennis Giardina reported that this 14-foot long African Python (new species in our area) was found just east of Krome Ave and south of US 41 during a survey on January 12. Nester Yglesias with the South Florida Water Management District took this photo. The python weighed in at 138.8 lbs.



## Kayaking along the Trail

Not only does US 41 offer wonderful views for biking, there are also rivers flowing along the Tamiami Trail that are great places to take a boat. Just out of Chokoloskee, south of Everglades City, are the Ten Thousand Islands. Several kayak operators offer exceptional trips. Everglades Area Tours has this to say about what they have to offer:

“Our most popular eco-adventure, the Boat Assisted Kayak ECO Tour combines the best of a boat tour, a kayak tour and a walking tour in single great experience. The tour begins a very comfortable transport boat that brings you into the Park' core and very near to the wildlife. We then "slow" down the tour using very stable, very comfortable kayaks to get you very close to the wildlife. They are very silent and unobtrusive to the wildlife allowing you to get closer to the wildlife than by any other means. Finally we explore the tidal zone of a remote island beach. A beach few can ever get to. Expect excellent shelling here! Imagine paddling next to manatees and dolphins.”

## ROGG tops \$1 million in Grants

In December, the FDOT included the two ROGG-west projects in their funding program. These were awarded through their regional Transportation Enhancement grants. The two projects are:

-- Feasibility (PD&E) study for the 15.8 miles of pathway between CR 92 to SR 29 (intersection to Everglades City) is programmed for 2011/12! (est. \$800,000) will be starting soon – next summer !

-- Design of 2.3 miles of pathway between 6L-Farm Rd and CR 92 (near Collier-Seminole State Park) is programmed for fiscal year 2014/15. (est. \$165,000)

Application for these grants was submitted by Naples Pathways Coalition and National Park Service, with Collier County Transportation as sponsor. The studies will be conducted by FDOT.

## *Riding Janes Scenic*

by Patricia Huff



On a recent Saturday in January, the warm weather had finally returned to South Florida and my husband and I were fortunate enough to have our friend Diana Cronin visiting from the state of Washington. She has been our riding "buddy" since 2000 when we first

rode across the United States from Everglades City to Astoria, Oregon. Diana had been a guide for Adventure Cycling in the 1980's and just loves to ride. In 2000 she took the train from Seattle to Eugene where we met her at the station. She carried her bike with her and we were soon off across the Cascades along the Smith River to Reedsport (finished just under 100 miles that day) to reach the coast. It was raining but we didn't care; we had made it to the Pacific coast! Diana continued on our journey with us north along the coastal route, leaving us to catch a train back as we finished in Astoria. In 2002 we shipped our bikes to her island home near Port Townsend and she again rode off with us through the coastal island, over the North Cascades and into the Washington valleys to Soap Lake where her husband came to pick her up. We continued back on our own route through the States, ending in Jacksonville.

So we were thrilled to have Diana back with us for a short 43-mile round trip from our home in Everglades City up through the Fakahatchee Strand and back. In the last 18 months, Diana has gone through a separation from her husband, the death of her beloved father who died of brain cancer, and her own battle with breast cancer and treatments of chemotherapy and radiation. All through her treatments she continued to ride her bike (even rode 30 miles once for a doctor's appointment). She has been an inspiration to us and said her

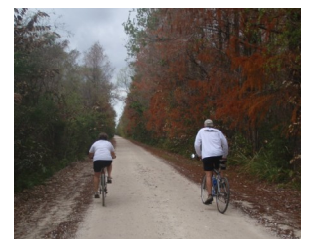
bicycling is what kept her healthy, both mentally and physically during the past 18 months. She says she is the happiest on her bike, and I agree. After biking for hours at a time through some incredible countryside, I feel as if I have rejuvenated my mind, my body and my spirit. All of us who bike know that feeling, but Diana's courage and joy for life has kept me going when things get tough.

Getting back to our ride to Janes Scenic, it was an absolutely perfect day (a little breezy but my husband kindly stayed in the front of us when we headed back into a 15-mph headwind). The cold spell had turned all the cypress trees to a dark golden brown and the red maples reminded me of my past Tennessee autumn days. Riding up along the nice shoulder on SR29, we were able to view the wildlife in the canal, lots of birds and a few alligators. Then we had the road (mostly) to ourselves riding through the Fakahatchee on Janes Scenic Drive. The potholes the first half mile or so are a little annoying but with our hybrid bikes (with suspension), it was very manageable. Then the road smoothes out and it is heaven. It was in the high 60's and low 70's so the temperature was great; there was some cloud cover so we didn't get



too hot. After about 14 miles from Everglades City, we went off road through Gate K12 to have a picnic beside the 1957 "Fakahatchee

Hilton" cabin with its lake full of alligators. There were campers at the site (friends of the cabin's owner); Miami firefighters who didn't mind a few cyclists sharing their space for lunch. The cabin is two miles in from the main drive so it was a nice to experience some off road. After going north for another four or five miles, we turned around and biked back to Gate K2 where we stopped to take a small hike along some boardwalks into the swamp. So, as you ride along the Tamiami Trail, remember the side roads and you'll know what it's like to experience the River of Grass.



# everglades bicycle ride march 20

## stay-n-play

**10% discount for FROGG members  
on accommodations March 19-21**

**\*\* limited space -- reserve NOW\*\***  
see [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org) for contact info

Captains Table Lodge & Villas  
Everglades City Motel  
Everglades Isle Motor Coach Resort  
Glades Haven Cabins & RV Park  
Outdoor Resorts of Chokoloskee  
Outdoor Resorts of America  
Parkway Motel  
Port-of-the-Islands Resort & Marina  
River Wilderness  
Rod & Gun Club

*Everglades City is the primo place for  
guided kayak, fishing, and airboat rides.  
Stay tuned to [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org) for  
info about discounts provided by local  
restaurants and boating adventures  
during this event.*

Everglades City  
is also the  
primo place for  
discovering the  
Everglades on  
your own feet or  
boat or wheels



**Panther Refuge**  
**“Save the Panther Day”**  
**Open House**

The Panther is an Umbrella Species; when we protect the Panther, we protect all our neighbors! Credit: Steve Carbol

Many FREE events at the Panther Refuge during the morning of March 20. (Panther Refuge trailhead is located at I-75 and Hwy 29, and is a rest-stop on the Everglades Ride.) The Panther event co-occurs with the Everglades Ride. Non-cycling friends/family can partake of all events; cyclists will be limited by schedule (to be determined). Free events include swamp buggy ride, nature talk, guided plant ID hike, public trail walk, guided bird watching hike, and orchid swamp walk. Space is limited. Sign up by calling 239-353-8442 x 229 on March 9-19.

