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JANUARY 20, 2024 AT THE EMERSON CENTER 1590 27th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES











Dr. Craig N. Huegel, Director, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, owner and operator of Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers, and teaches biology at St. Petersburg College. Former faculty member, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida where he cofounded the Cooperative Urban Wildlife Extension Program. Author of *Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes, Native Wildflower and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes, and Naïve Plant landscaping for Florida Wildlife*. Uses central Florida landscapes as laboratories to evaluate native plants and grows a wide variety of species (mostly wildflowers) that are not commonly propagated elsewhere.

Betty Osceola, Enrolled Member of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Utilizes her upbringing in the Greater Everglades and the indigenous traditional ecological knowledge of Miccosukee and Seminole people in their connection to the environment to educate and advocate for environmental conservation. Airboat Captain and owns and operates Buffalo Tiger Airboat Tours utilizing her experience to educate the public about the Miccosukee and Everglades ecosystem. Serves on the Miccosukee Tribe's Everglades Advisory Committee. Received the John V. Kabler Grassroots Organizing Award during the January 2018 Everglades Coalition annual summit. Featured in the 2023 film, *Path of the Panther*.

Dr. Basil Iannone, Assoc. Professor School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida. Affiliated with the Center for Land Use Efficiency, the Program for Resource Efficient Communities, and the School of Natural Resources and Environment. His work is to inform the design, construction, and management of urban and residential landscapes that support greater levels of native biodiversity and ecological functioning. Brings together plant ecologists, soil scientists, entomologists, biogeochemists, wildlife ecologists, landscape architects, horticultural scientists, turfgrass scientists, social scientists, engineers, and economists. Works closely with Extension faculty and practitioners interested in adopting more sustainable landscaping practices, including municipalities, homeowners, land developers, planners, landscape architects, plant nurseries, and green industry professionals.

Maya Dutta, Ecosystem restorer working to spread understanding on the key role of biodiversity in shaping the climate and the water, carbon, nutrient and energy cycles we rely on. Passionate about climate change adaptation and mitigation and the ways that community-led ecosystem restoration can fight global climate change. Works on project management, research, outreach, education and advocacy efforts at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate. Focused on biodiversity and access to nature and ecological connection in urban areas, motivating her work on Miyawaki Forests. These fast growing and resilient mini-forests offer environmental benefits, including cooling urban heat islands, establishing wildlife corridors, building soil health, sequestering carbon, creating pollinator habitats, etc. Shares information on the Miyawaki methodology, examples of its implementation, and opportunities to scale this work and advance regenerative practices and environmental justice in cities and communities worldwide. A 2022 SUGi Fellow, Forestmaker, a TED speaker, and worked with Bio4Climate to plant the first Miyawaki Forests in the Northeast US in 2021 and 2022.

Dr. Jaret C. Daniels, Curator at the Florida Museum of Natural History's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity and Professor, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida. Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Specializes in insect ecology and conservation with a focus on at-risk butterflies and native insect pollinators. Works on varied landscapes from wild lands, roadsides, and suburban yards in an effort to develop best insect conservation and management practices. Authored many books on butterflies, insects, wildflowers, native plants, and wildlife landscaping including *Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Butterflies of Florida Field Guide, Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees & Butterflies: Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees & Butterflies: Southeast, Wildflowers of Florida Field Guide.*



Dr. Reed Noss, President, Florida Institute for Conservation Science and Chief Science Advisor for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute and Science Advisor for the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation Planning. Formerly Provost's Distinguished Research Professor of Biology at the University of Central Florida. Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from the University of Florida. Served as Editor-in-Chief of *Conservation Biology*, President of the Society for Conservation Biology, Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Research include landscape/ regional conservation planning; fire ecology; ecosystem conservation and restoration; road ecology; and vulnerability of species and ecosystems to climate change. Over 360 publications, including eight books the most recent are *Forgotten Grasslands of the South: Natural History and Conservation and Fire Ecology of Florida and the Southeastern Coastal Plain*. Currently focused on landscape conservation history and rewilding in Florida.