



Fountaingrass has been seen colonizing the margins of natural areas such as the Palm Beach County-owned Yamato Scrub in Boca Raton, FL. Photo by Steve Woodmansee.

phenotypic plasticity (Williams et. al., 1995). This allows it to have an extremely broad ecological amplitude, giving it the ability to invade a large number of different community types in Hawaii. The good news is that it is believed to have relatively little cold tolerance (Simpson & Bashaw, 1969).

Management of fountaingrass in Hawaii has consisted of hand pulling plants and removing inflorescences from the site. Follow-up treatments are required because of the persistent seed bank (Tunison, 1992). Biological control was considered unfeasible by Tunison (1992). Even if control agents

could be found, they could very likely be harmful to a valuable forage grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*). In order to prevent the spread of fountaingrass in Florida, it is necessary to eradicate existing small populations and eliminate the use of fertile selections in the landscape trade. The "Rubrum," "Cupreum," and "Atrosanguineum" cultivars are essentially sterile (Simpson & Bashaw, 1969) and seem to present no threat to natural areas at this date. *Keith Bradley is a Researcher with the Institute for Regional Conservation in Miami, FL.*

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opinion



Clyde Butcher:

KNEE-DEEP IN THE BIG PICTURE

By Tom Fuicigna

"I make my photos big, so that you can't see them..." A strange quote perhaps from a man who has made his mark in the visual media. But, of course, there's more to the quote "...you have to experience them." Butcher reminds us that we don't really see in an arc of 180 degrees. We only capture bits and pieces at a time, and then assemble a mental collage - the big picture.

Clyde Butcher was a keynote speaker at this year's EPPC/Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) joint conference. He shared the story of his evolution into a premier naturescape photographer. Clyde's life has been a journey that has carried him from an education in structural architecture in the 1960s on the California coast, to his present home

"There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept."

-Ansel Adams

and photo gallery in the heart of South Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve.

Clyde and his photographer wife, Niki were first drawn to Florida as boaters seeking tropical shores and easy access to the Caribbean. "I thought Florida was all beaches and Disney World." He did not find the state particularly photogenic. "When I first came to Florida, I didn't see anything to photograph." Little did he know he would spend a significant portion of his life standing knee-deep in muck, waiting for the perfect light over a sawgrass marsh. As Clyde discovered during his early forays, there is a lot more to Florida than meets the tourist brochures.

Ansel Adams was one of Clyde's early influ-

ences. Clyde and Niki first met Adams at his newly-opened gallery in Rocky Mountains National Park in 1961. It wasn't until 1985 that Clyde realized how uniquely suited Florida's landscapes are to black and white presentation. His photos of the state's natural areas have become timeless and pow-

Are you experienced? Anyone seeking inspiration-under-glass should visit the South Florida Water Management District's headquarters on Gun Club Road in West Palm Beach. The District houses an impressive collection of Clyde's works, framed and ready to be experienced. And, of course, it's easy to find the Butchers' Big Cypress Gallery by taking Tamiami Trail to Ochopee, where you may find Clyde and Niki "minding the store."

erful reminders of the treasure that is Florida. Clyde's photographs have no doubt inspired many Florida visitors and residents who may have never seen or known of the existence of some of the vistas and details he captures.

Clyde's talk left me with a lasting impression central to the goals of EPPC and FNPS. You don't need to be a scientist, a wildlands manager or a politician to be involved in Florida's future. You just need to think about

things, to care. Perhaps we can all be inspired by the moon framed in the sky by a twisted cypress, a cloud roaring overhead, or the way water flows past a blade of sawgrass. We can all step back, look at the big picture, and then step back in, ready to act as a part of it.

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The Grand Dame of the Everglades



MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS
1890 -1998

When Marjory Stoneman Douglas was only fourteen years old, Napoleon Bonaparte Broward was campaigning for governor of Florida. His platform centered on the Everglades, and he began accusing the railroad barons of "draining the people and not the swamp." His most famous phrase, "Water will run down hill!", always received standing ovations during his campaign speeches, as he explained how, if elected, he would "knock a hole in the wall of coral (the Miami Rock Ridge), and let a body of water obey a natural law and seek the level of the sea . . ." He profited politically from the widespread discontent and sentiment of the times and was elected in 1905. During the first year as governor, Broward ordered the first dredges to start their slow, grinding trek through the sawgrass and change the Everglades forever.

It wasn't until the 1920s that the formation of Everglades National Park was being proposed. A long struggle was to ensue between Floridians who cherished this watery piece of Florida's natural heritage and those who thought that any diminishment of Florida's growth was bad for business. Then along came Ernest Coe, a Coconut Grove landscape architect, who took on the creation of Everglades National Park with a vengeance. Marjory Stoneman Douglas once wrote, "Gentle-mannered, soft-voiced, and mild,