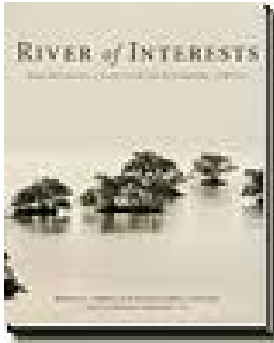


December 2012



River of Interests: Water Management in South Florida and the Everglades, 1948-2010, by Matthew C. Godfrey and Theodore Catton, Historians.

In 1948 Congress answered the outcry of Florida residents for both flood protection and a more reliable drinking water supply by authorizing the Central and Southern Flood Control Project, otherwise known as the C&SF Project. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction on one of the nation's largest infrastructure projects.

While the project served its intended purposes far better than ever anticipated, it also caused extensive damage to the naturally occurring ecosystems of south Florida, including the Everglades ecosystem located within and beyond Everglades National Park.

"River of Interests: Water Management in South Florida and the Everglades, 1948-2010," is a history of the construction of the C&SF Project and the project's unintended impacts on the environment, and the evolution of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

From the Cover:

"In July 2004, the authors of this history arrived in South Florida, ready to research water management in the region since 1948. For the next several days, we traveled through large cities on the southeastern Florida coast, such as West Palm Beach and Miami, intrigued by the massive buildings and thronging crowds demarcating the area. At other times, we traversed agricultural fields lined by canals and levees—regions dominated by sugarcane and its producers. Perhaps influenced by popular culture depictions, we concluded that both of these areas constituted the real South Florida."

"Our perceptions changed on a muggy, hot day when we arrived at the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, a remnant of the historical Everglades located just west of Naples, Florida. There, we spent several hours engulfed in an entirely different world, one characterized by sawgrass flooded by three-inch deep pools of water, custard apple trees, pileated woodpeckers, alligators, deer, lizards, and the continual buzz of insects. For 20 minutes we were drenched in a thunderstorm that disgorged heavy sheets of rain from black clouds, causing an eerie silence to envelop the swamp. After the storm passed, the swamp came to life once more, resulting in a cacophony of frogs, birds, and insects. Truly, we commented to each other, *this* was South Florida."

Want to know more about "*River of Interests* (QH 105 .F6G63 2012)?" Stop by the Mobile District Technical Library, Room 1013.