

BISCAYNE BIOBLITZ BIOS

The following is a sample of the scientists and naturalists participating in the Biscayne BioBlitz.

Dr. Sylvia Earle: *Oceanographer and a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence*

Earle has led more than 60 expeditions and logged more than 6,000 hours underwater, including leading the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970 and setting a record for solo diving to a depth of 1,000 meters. Her research concerns marine ecosystems with special reference to exploration, as well as the development and use of new technologies to access the deep sea and other remote environments. She has authored more than 175 publications, including her September 2009 book, "The World Is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One."

Prof. Stuart Pimm: *Doris Duke Professor of Conservation Ecology, Duke University*

Watching species fade into extinction in Hawaii in the 1970s motivated Pimm to become a conservation biologist. Today he is a leading expert on endangered species conservation, biodiversity, species extinction and habitat loss. Current work includes studies of endangered species and ecosystem restoration in the Florida Everglades, elephant conservation in South Africa and setting priorities for protected areas in the Atlantic Coast forest of Brazil (one of the world's "hot spots" for threatened species).

Dr. Nancy Knowlton: *Sant Chair of Marine Science, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution*

Knowlton's research focuses on the ecology and evolution of coral reef organisms. Her analyses have led to the now widespread recognition that estimates of marine diversity are probably too low by a factor of 10. She is also an adjunct professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, where she founded the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation.

Dr. Diego Lirman: *Professor of Marine Biology and Fisheries, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami*

Lirman's research emphasis is on the disturbance ecology of coastal ecosystem. Presently he is focused on developing a better understanding of the potential effects of changes in hydrology, water quality and exploitation levels on benthic communities of Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Neil Losin: *Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California Los Angeles; National Geographic Young Explorer Grantee*

A birder for many years, Losin is now focusing on lizards for his Ph.D. dissertation. Specifically, he is studying territorial interactions between two lizard species, the Cuban Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) and Puerto Rican Crested Anole (*Anolis cristatellus*), in South Florida. Neither species is native to Florida, but both have been introduced and become established in the Miami area. Losin is also an award-winning photographer and uses photography to communicate science.

Dr. Gary Hevel: *Entomologist and Public Information Officer, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution*

In addition to being the public information contact at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Hevel has joined and led insect-collecting trips to 24 countries and territories and has had several insect species named after him. His latest research effort has been a four-year survey of insects in his backyard, totaling an estimated 4,000 different species.

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Bert Frost: *Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science (NRSS) for the National Park Service (NPS)*

In addition to Frost's work for NRSS, he serves as chief scientist for the NPS and has programmatic responsibility for all aspects of the natural resource and science programs throughout the service. This includes programs in air resources, soundscapes, night skies, geologic resources, climate change, social science, environmental compliance, resource damage assessment and restoration, biological resources, water resources and the NPS inventory and monitoring program.

Gary E. Davis: *U. S. National Park Service, Ret.; Environmental Consultant and President of GEDavis & Associates*

Davis currently heads GEDavis & Associates in analyzing, clarifying and communicating complex environmental information. Recent clients include the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the National Parks Conservation Association. Previously, Davis worked in research and management for the U. S. National Park Service in Virgin Islands, Everglades, Dry Tortugas, Biscayne and Channel Islands national parks, directed a field station for the U. S. Geological Survey, and held adjunct and associate faculty positions at the University of California, Davis. His federal career culminated as chief ocean scientist for the National Park Service. Davis has authored more than 200 scientific and popular articles and has given hundreds of illustrated lectures describing nature and his discoveries as an aquanaut and ocean scientist.

Mark Lewis: *Superintendent, Biscayne National Park*

Lewis manages the 173,000-acre Biscayne National Park, which is approximately 22 miles long by 14 miles wide. The park consists of two-thirds of Biscayne Bay as well as the string of islands separating the Bay from the Atlantic, and the northernmost 20 miles of the Florida Keys reef tract. Previously, Lewis served four years as superintendent of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park in Alabama.

Dr. John Francis: *Biologist and National Geographic's Vice President for Research, Conservation and Exploration*

Francis started his career as a behavior ecologist studying seals and sea lions. A grant from the National Geographic Society and a film on his research led to the beginning of his career in wildlife filmmaking at National Geographic Television. Today Francis directs research funding through the National Geographic's Committee for Research and Exploration, Conservation Trust and Expeditions Council, and promotes these three groups' efforts worldwide.

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