

THE BALANCING POINT

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TURTLES ARE BACK!

Funding is continuing at a slow pace, however, work on this short film has been anything *but* slow. Shooting is almost complete and post-production is about to begin on our next short film, *Turtles of the Wekiva River*. As an indicator species capable of giving us some insight to the health of the Wekiva River system, turtles are also the first iconic image that recreational users of the river usually see and talk about.

Turtles, commonly seen sunning themselves on logs on the river, are

a barometer species of river health, says herpetologist Eric Munscher, "because they eat a lot of things, and get eaten by a lot of things."

Turtles that are being counted include the peninsula cooter, Florida red-bellied cooter, Florida soft shell, snapping turtle, and loggerhead musk turtle, among others. To date, some 4,504 turtles have been tagged.

Equinox's short film highlights a 12-year-old study to identify and count turtles along the river in order to gain



a better understanding of the health of the population and the river itself. Check out the teaser video and some of the production stills on our [website](#).



Underwater videographer Tom Postel films scientist as he captures a Florida cooter for tagging (Photo: Bob Giguere)

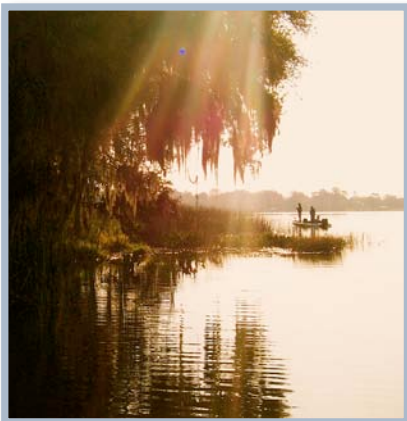


Bob Giguere and safety diver Jef Frank prepare to gather some underwater footage for turtles of the Wekiva River (Photo: Bill Belleville)



Bob underwater in the lagoon at Wekiwa Springs State Park on a dark, rainy day. Hard to believe it's 10:00 am. (Photo: Bill Belleville)

CLEAR CHOICES



Early morning fishermen at the mouth of Lake Beauclair take advantage of cleaner water flowing from NuRF through Lake Beauclair. This photo was taken on the last day of filming in February, 2011. (Photo: Bill Belleville)

damaging trends in water quality. In doing so, it can also help them reconnect with an historic, lake-enriched landscape, re-populated with native plants and wildlife.

Work is nearing completion on a 10-minute video for the Lake County Water Authority called *Clear Choices: NuRF, Nutrient Reduction Facility*. The project is in the final phases of post-production and will be delivered to the Lake County Water Authority in the next few weeks. Their intent is to use it for educational purposes.

The Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) will help restore the health of the Harris Chain of Lakes and downstream waters by removing nutrients from water flowing from Lake Apopka. This LCWA project is a unique showcase that can help students and adult citizens understand how technology can reverse harmful and economically

IMW ENDS NATIONAL RUN

In Marjorie's Wake has successfully ended its 2-year national run on PBS. In that time, the program was seen by 44% of the top 25 markets in the United States with a potential audience of over 95 million viewers! From Florida markets, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Detroit to west coast viewers in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the epic journey of Marjorie, Dessie, Leslie and Jennifer has meandered far beyond the boundaries of the St. Johns River. Through their shared experiences, these adventurous women have helped define the "sense of place" that lives in all of us.



On behalf of Equinox Documentaries and 95 million viewers nationwide, we thank you.

PAHAYOKEE EVENT UPDATE

Almost 200 people attended the innovative performance of Pahayokeye: A Plea for Life at its Florida premiere at the Friday Musicale in Jacksonville on March 3. Powerful and moving, the opera celebrated the sounds and the soul of the Florida Everglades. And thanks to the generosity of its producers, proceeds from the event benefited Equinox!

The poetic lyrics were scripted by Jacksonville attorney Jim Miller, who has come to know the Glades intimately through his life. Miller's poetry was scored by Jacksonville musician Jack Tamul. The "song cycle" Tamul

created — representing the life cycle of the Glades — was performed by operatic baritone John Boehr. Piano accompaniment was provided by Boehr's father, David, with musical support from the recorded ambient sounds of the gators, birds and frogs of the Glades itself.

Equinox co-founder and nature writer Bill Belleville introduced the program, comparing Miller's absorbing lyrics to the zen poetry of Gary Snyder.

Many thanks to Jim Miller and to Equinox Board member and Jacksonville attorney Teri Sopp who facilitated the production.

IMW SCREENING

In Marjorie's Wake was screened in the Festival of the Moving Image at Hillsborough Community College on Saturday, March 26. Equinox co-founder Bill Belleville introduced the film and provided some background on our work.

Afterwards, Bill shared an exhibit table of Equinox materials with Gainesville artist Margaret Ross Tolbert who distributed and signed her new award-winning art book about Florida springs, *AQUIFERious*.

ALLIGATOR PRINCESS UPDATE

The script for the full-length documentary, *Alligator Princess of America's Nile*, has been completed and the film is now coming to life via post-production editing and musical scoring.

After the four-minute trailer of the film was previewed at the recent "Festival of the Moving Image" in Ybor City in March, the festival director invited producer-director Michelle Thatcher to screen the entire film at the Performing Arts Center of Hillsborough Community College when it's completed.

Alligator Princess is the story of Thatcher's solo paddle across almost 500 miles of river, stream and flowing swamp of the St. Johns River. It captures

crisp images of nature — as well as of those river dwellers whose lives have been shaped by it. The final film will tell the story of a unique personal journey richly embroidered by the natural rhythms of people and place — of a Florida few tourists and even residents ever see.

Thatcher shot most of the 100-plus hours of high definition video herself. Scott Whitney is editing the footage while Daniel Flick is composing the original music, and Bill Belleville has scripted the story. Equinox functions as the co-executive producer and accepts funding through its 501.c.3 status for the film.



Alligator Princess is in post-production, assembling hours of stunning HD footage along the St. Johns River. Here Michelle paddles above Silver Spring in Ocala, FL with the world-famous glass-bottomed boats as her backdrop. (Photo: Bill Belleville)

CARR CABIN REBIRTH

Our short film on the need to restore places with eco-cultural values such as the Carr Family Cabin in Umatilla has helped to raise funds and realize the dream of recapturing an important scene in Florida's environmental history. (If you haven't seen the film, it can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#)!).

The restoration of the Carr Family Cabin is making great progress. As you can see in these before and after photos, restoration work has resulted in an authentic remake of the cabin. The porch structure is all that is left to refurbish the original structure. At the same time, discussions are ongoing on how to make the best use of the site as an interpretive and educational tool in the future. We'll keep you posted!



(Photos: Ray Willis)

NEW FROM BILL BELLEVILLE

Salvaging the Real Florida: Lost & Found in the State of Dreams is the latest non-fiction title by Equinox co-founder Bill Belleville. Published by University Press of Florida, this collection of narrative essays that take place throughout Florida explores and celebrates the singular nature of our peninsular state.

Much of *Salvaging* dovetails with the Equinox mission; one essay describes an outing with Belleville and co-founder Bob Giguere to the "Yearling Trail" in the Ocala National Forest during the filming of our PBS documentary, *In Marjorie's Wake*.

