

THE BALANCING POINT

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www.equinoxdocumentaries.org

winter solstice 2011

Year In Review

Here we are again, the end of the year is rushing in on us and we haven't even sent one holiday card out yet! So let us start by thanking you all for supporting another productive year at Equinox.

A few highlights this year: We finished a contract video for the Lake County Water Authority called, *The Clear Choice*

— *NuRF: The Nutrient Reduction Facility*. It is now posted on their website and ours. We were also able to actually see the fruits of our



*sunset at Cedar Key
(photo by Bob Giguere)*

labor by seeing the Carr Cabin in the Ocala National Forest restored.

Spurred on by our award-winning documentary about the cabin, the Friends of the Carr Cabin have directed a restoration using vernacular "Cracker" style building methods. The result is a structure that preserves the fundamental

cabin style, evoking a time and place that was inspiration to several generations of the Carrs. Of course, there are many more memories



from 2011, none of which would have been possible without the support of our many friends.

2012 promises to be every bit as inspiring. We are releasing a short film on the turtles of the Wekiva River that speaks to the ways in which history, nature and art are woven into the larger story of the turtle. And we are deep into the development of a new education initiative called *Equinox Online Adventures*. The initial pilot program, which should roll out for
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Equinox partners with the Center for Earth Jurisprudence on new film

Equinox Documentaries is excited to announce our partnership with the Center for Earth Jurisprudence (CEJ) on a new short film that will identify Florida's unique natural systems and explain how an

Earth Jurisprudence approach, including recognition of the rights of nature, can help realize their true sustainability.

Images that inspire will connect with words that educate, giving a brief overview of CEJ and its current work to shift social and legal paradigms. We hope to show rather than tell the origins of our human responsibility to care for and protect the long term health and well-being of Earth's places and inhabitants, with a special focus on Florida.

The film will connect the practical concerns of contemporary science and law with the larger context of history and the restorative power of Florida's natural places. By pairing the power of images with

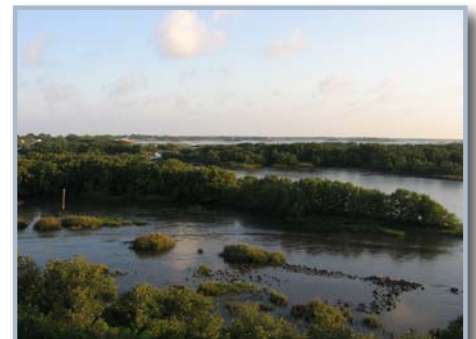


eloquent words—including those of philosopher Thomas Berry—the film will evoke not only a sense of place, but an appreciation for the glory of Florida's

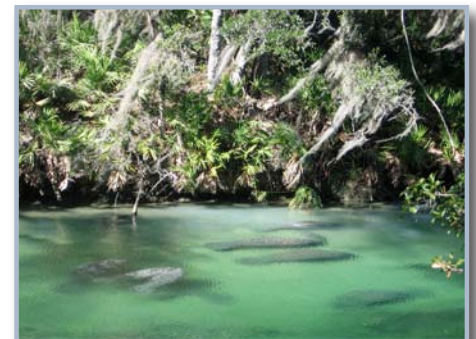
diverse landscape.

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence was established to advance legal principles, laws and governance that reflect a transformative Earth-centered perspective and support the well-being of all members of the Earth community. For more information, visit their website at www.earthjuris.org.

We are partnering with CEJ on the fundraising stage of this process. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our website (www.equinoxdocumentaries.org) or send your tax-deductible contribution to Equinox Documentaries, 1503 Robin Rd., Orlando, FL 32803.



low tide at Cedar Key



*manatees at Blue Spring
(photos by Bob Giguere)*

Alligator Princess update

The production of the documentary *Alligator Princess of America's Nile*, has progressed to a "rough cut" of 2.5 hours



(photo by Kirk Marsh)

and is now headed for a final cut. Equinox is serving as the Executive Producer on this compelling film, which chronicles the 500+ mile solo paddle of Michelle Thatcher on the main stem and tributaries of the St. Johns River.

With the help of television and film executive Henry Maldonado, the rough cut will be transformed into a final version approximately 90 minutes long. It will be entered into state and national film festivals to showcase its potential for broadcast, and will also be marketed to international cable markets specializing in its theme. Thatcher,

who shot most of the high definition footage herself while on the river and camping along the shores, has included several character-driven vignettes from her eco-adventure experiences.

The film has been scripted by Equinox co-founder and author Bill Belleville, and the original musical score is being written by classical composer and musician Daniel Flick. Scott Whitney, at Whitney Media Productions of Sanford, has edited the many hours of footage to the script, working closely with Thatcher over the last year. Whitney, a 20 year veteran of the industry, is a



cypress remnants in Rodman Lake (photo by Bill Belleville)

former director and partner at Bright Circle and has worked for the PBS affiliate WMFE-TV.

The film showcases the wild and breathtaking beauty of the St. Johns, its springs, creeks, marshes and swamps, and takes an engaging and personalized approach to one woman's

quest to search for the wilderness and singularity that still remains outside the "tame" boundaries of modern Florida. Thatcher is also the first person to paddle the entire river system by herself. At Equinox, we're very excited about its festival and market potential.



Thatcher with gator companion during filming of Alligator Princess



Thatcher paddling through Jacksonville during filming of Alligator Princess

(Year, continued from page 1) the 2012-2013 school year, is initially targeted at teachers. Resources will be made available to help them custom design educational materials in natural history, science and literature. We are very excited to make 2012 a banner year for environmental education!

As in the past, our success is directly related to your good will. Economic times may be

rough, but we still need your help in keeping nature-related education moving forward. Like many 501c3s, we are continually being exposed to shrinking revenue streams. Please take the time now to make a pledge for 2011 and keep the education of our natural resources a prime objective for you and Equinox in the coming year.

If you're pledge comes before December 31, 2011, you can still

receive a donation credit on your 2011 taxes. And if you're looking to "trim" your collection of valuable items (cars, boats, trailers, etc.), a donation of those items to Equinox will also serve as a tax deductible donation for 2011 taxes. We promise to utilize the value of those items for our 2012 initiatives.

Again, thank you and Happy Holidays from all of us at Equinox Documentaries.