

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

The Swamp, The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise.

Michael Grunwald, Simon & Schuster, NY, 2006.

Chapter One, Grassy Water

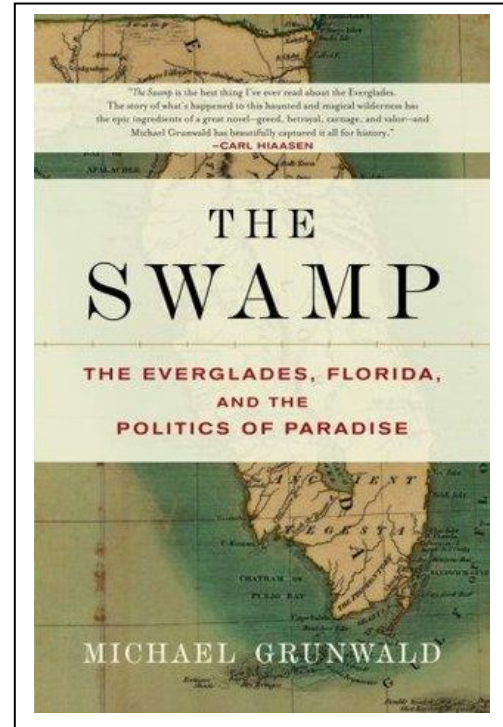
"The First 300 Million Years (Abridged)", p14.

"The Everglades showed up...around the time the Egyptians started building the pyramids.

- "The story of how the Everglades formed stretches back a bit further. It began with a bang about 300 million years ago, after the fish but before the birds, with the cataclysmic shifts of tectonic plates that crunched the planet's major landforms into a single supercontinent called Pangaea."
- "About 100 million years later, plates shifted again, Pangaea split up again and North America dragged away a finger-shaped chunk of North Africa. That hijacked appendage became the foundation of the Florida peninsula, the Florida Platform..."
- "South Florida has been especially quiet: It was inundated in the Jurassic Period and spent most of the next 150 million years as a sea floor."
- "South Florida finally emerged from the ocean during the ice ages, when the polar glaciers expanded and retreated, exposing and reflooding the peninsula while man was evolving from *homo erectus* to *homo sapien*."
- "It was only during the last interglacial melt, about 100,000 years ago, that high seas deposited the Biscayne Aquifer. The same high seas left behind the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. It now supports Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach."
- "In the last ice age, low seas exposed the entire Florida Platform, as well as the land bridge across the Bering Straight that the Paleoindians crossed to North America 12,000 years ago. Those hunter-gatherers journeyed down and across the continent to discover a supersized Florida, twice as wide as it appears today. It was cooler and dryer, with fewer lakes and rivers."
- "It was only about 5,000 years ago – after prehistoric man was already writing, making pottery, smelting copper and brewing beer – that seas approached current levels and modern climate conditions prevailed."

A great read describing the pre-history of Florida. Even better when paired with *Some Kind of Paradise, A Chronicle of Man and the Land in Florida* by Mark Derr. *The Swamp* link:

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Swamp/Michael-Grunwald/9780743251075>



Michael Grunwald, a *Time* senior correspondent, has won the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Worth Bingham Award for investigative reporting, and many other prizes. *The Washington Post* called the first book, *The Swamp*, "a brilliant work of research and reportage." He lives in Florida. Photo Credit: David Whitman

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