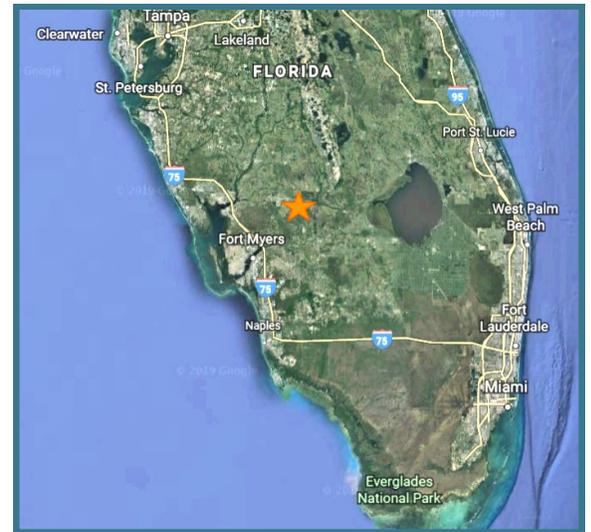
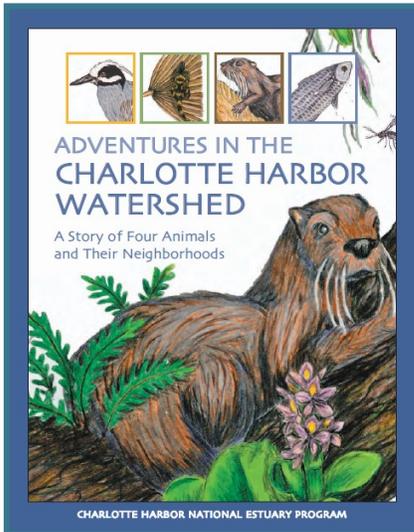


Watershed Adventures in Central and Southwest Florida

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Summary

Adventures in the Watershed, A Story of Four Animals and their Neighborhoods began as a 60-page book of fictional stories paired with short lessons about animals, plants, and habitats in the CHNEP watersheds. It was first published and distributed in 2008 by the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) to help children learn about the environment of Southwest Florida (focusing on estuaries, watersheds and water resource management). This book was created to incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with input from scientists and resource managers throughout the CHNEP area. In 2012, CHNEP expanded its educational resources to include a curriculum for teachers and a read-along video series.

In order to update and increase access to this educational resource, CHNEP has worked to expand the book even further by creating interactive online learning elements that are accessible to every teacher and student in the CHNEP area through smartphones, tablets, and computers. This update also included suggestions for 3rd and 4th grade level correlations to current Florida STEM standards for teachers to incorporate the lessons into their curriculum.

The new online content, *Watershed Adventures in Central and Southwest Florida*, is available on the CHNEP website through an easy to navigate Global Information Systems (GIS) 'StoryMap' that includes an interactive map, quizzes, games, and knowledge tests.

<https://www.chnep.org/online-learning-portal>

Location: CHNEP Area

Partners: Carol Mahler (author), Rachel Renne (Illustrator), and CHNEP Management Conference Members

Implemented: 2008-2019

Status: Completed

CHNEP Cost: \$10,000

Funding Source: Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee funds managed through West Coast Inland Navigation District

2019 CHNEP Plan Activity:

Public Education 1.1: Support programs, events, presentations, and educational content that focus on key messages communicated in readily understandable language related to protection and restoration of estuaries and watersheds.



Travel Down the Caloosahatchee

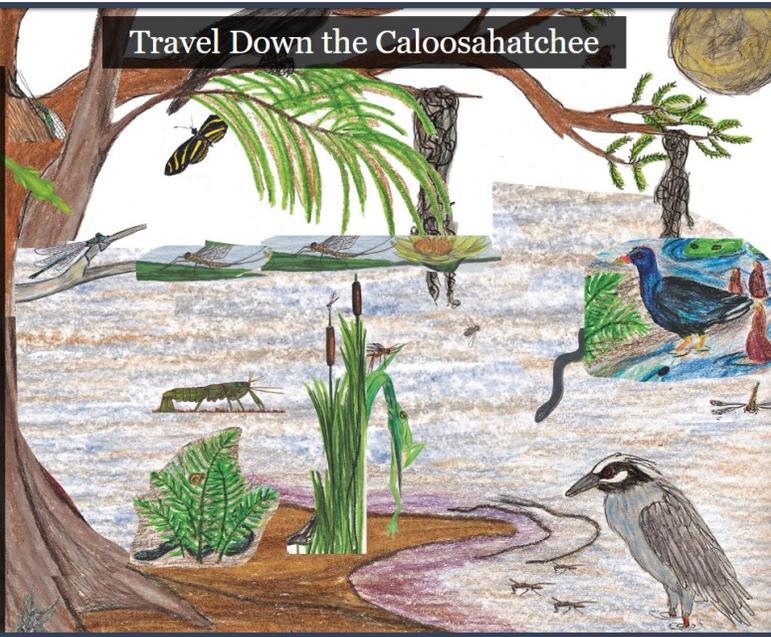
As Nick follows the Caloosahatchee waterway, he eats lots of critters. Yellow crown night herons forage by walking slowly on land, in shallow water, or by standing still in the hopes food will come to them.

They are called the "crab-eater" in some areas since their diet consists of many crustaceans such as crabs and crayfish.



Yellow crown night heron enjoying a crab.

They have also been seen enjoying mollusks, frogs, insects, and fish as well.



Anticipated Results and Benefits

Education:

This interactive system allows school districts, teachers, parents, non-traditional educators, and students to become more knowledgeable about their surrounding watersheds and more engaged in the natural environment in which they live. The interactive lesson plans will include quizzes, knowledge tests, and maps. The correlation of the lesson plans to Florida 3rd and 4th grade STEM standards will create a pathway for teachers to incorporate Watershed Adventures in Central and Southwest Florida into their lesson planning with ease.



Habitat and Species Protection:

Learning about the valuable ecosystems of Southwest Florida is the first step to its protection. This online resource will better inform the public by broadening the appeal and accessibility of this book, with the goal of reaching a larger audience. Providing students with environmental public awareness is crucial to future protection and restoration of the CHNEP area. The interactive *Watershed Adventures in Central and Southwest Florida* is hosted on www.CHNEP.org and is accessible to the public.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife