

*Florida Geographer* Readers:

At long last, we now have the latest issue of the *Florida Geographer*. This issue features two articles, four short “My Favorite Florida Place” essays, and a couple of book reviews. The first article, by Ernest Williams and Lucy Bunkley-Williams, wrestles with a subject that anyone who teaches World Geography will appreciate: how to best define “the Caribbean.” Their discussion ranges widely across time and space, reflecting serious (and occasionally humorous!) engagement with a treasure trove of sources. In addition to its significant bibliography, this piece concludes with a thoughtful and useful glossary of relevant terms. The second article, by a team from Jacksonville led by Caroline Howard, uses GIS and remotely sensed images to produce a series of maps tracing changes to the nearly 1,400-acre landscape (much of it undeveloped) that is the campus of the University of North Florida. In addition to highlighting dramatic land use changes since 1972, the paper contains a couple of fascinating “shifting images” that are almost like short videos. Check them out.

This issue also inches toward a model of additional writing that I hope to include in future issues. For example, not only does it have a couple of book reviews, it contains four short “My Favorite Florida Place” essays. All readers are invited to submit short (700 words) essays about particular Florida places. They could be parks, rural areas, portions of cities, or just an intersection/crossroad. Tell us what this place is like and what makes it special. In this issue, Lee Lines takes us through the sandhills of Wekiwa Springs State Park; William Ellis paddles through Tampa Bay’s mangrove swamps; Kevin Cresswell walks *and* paddles through southeast Florida’s John D. MacArthur Beach State Park; and Christopher Miller is our guide through west central Florida’s Withlacoochee River County Park. See what they have to say and consider writing your own short essay on a special Florida place.

Finally, in addition to traditional article manuscripts, I hope to publish more book reviews (let me know if there is a title you would like to read and review), and My Favorite Florida Place essays—I further hope we can attract and publish significant review articles on a range of systematic, theoretical, and methodological issues. Indeed, the article on defining the Caribbean in this issue is a fine example of such a review. These reviews need not focus on Florida, but if they identify at least a tangential relationship to the Sunshine State, that will work. Such essays will be helpful to students and established scholars who want to learn something about one of geography’s many subfields. Take care and enjoy.

Warm Regards,

Christopher F. Meindl, Editor