Issue 53 is now ready for your inspection. It features two traditional research articles, a couple of book reviews, and three My Favorite Florida Place essays. Before discussing these, you should know that I am most grateful for the otherwise thankless work of peer reviewers, who will remain nameless in order to preserve the integrity of the process. Thank you for your service! I am also indebted to Florida Atlantic University’s Cindy Shaw, who painstakingly turns text and images into an attractive and easily accessible issue of the *Florida Geographer*. Finally, USF Florida Studies Program graduate student Kylie Culver deserves much credit for her work on this issue as well.

The first research article, by Ray Oldakowski, Shelley Grant, Kristin Haycock (all at Jacksonville University), delves into law enforcement and juvenile justice. Specifically, these authors consider the spatial variability of arrests, civil citations, and post-diversion arrest programs with juvenile offenders in Florida. In short, there are no clear cut geographic or demographic patterns that explain why some regions arrest a larger percentage of young offenders vs. issuing more civil citations or making more use of post-arrest diversion programs.

The second article, by Kelly McKenna, Rebecca Johns, and Barnali Dixon (all at the St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida), examines pros and cons of informal environmental education (EE) efforts aimed at adults at selected nature preserves and non-governmental organizations in Pinellas County. They found that such informal EE efforts did not motivate people to change their behavior or actively engage in environmental problem solving. These results suggest that it will take much more than passive engagement with environmental issues in order to get people to take action to better care for the environment.

You will also find three My Favorite Florida Place essays. Read Marilyn Polson’s observations of St. Pete’s Upham Beach. She combines nostalgia with commentary over coastal processes that repeatedly wash away the beach, only to be replaced by imported sand that clearly does feel like the sand did in the middle twentieth century. Michael Salisbury’s favorite place is Paynes Prairie’s La Chua Trail. Clearly, he wrote this essay when water levels were low enough to reach the observation tower toward the interior of Paynes Prairie. I took students on a field trip to south Gainesville in early December 2022—and water levels were too high for us to reach the tower. That and the gigantic alligator basking on the edge of the trail’s entrance! Finally, Rebecca Johns writes about the park along south St. Petersburg’s Lake Maggiore, quoting Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings from her 1942 book about Cross Creek: “I do not understand how anyone can live without one small place of enchantment to turn to.” Lake Maggiore is barely three miles south of downtown St. Pete,
but as Johns reminds us “Here one can rest in the shade of old oaks dripping with Spanish moss, in the company of Snowy Egrets and Great Blue Herons.” Read the rest of her account in this issue, and after you do, send me a 700-word essay (include a photo or two) on YOUR favorite Florida place!

This issue concludes with reviews of a couple of books, both dealing with natural hazards in Florida. As you continue with your reading, let me know if you encounter a book you would like to review. Reviews of almost any volume related to the Florida experience would be most welcome—but so would reviews of books dealing with themes and methods of interest to geographers. Finally, feel free to ask about the possibility of preparing significant review articles. If you cannot get your review published in *Progress in Human Geography* or *Progress in Physical Geography*, reach out to me. I’m not hard to find: cmeindl@usf.edu

Warm Regards,
Christopher F. Meindl, Editor