



Urban Resiliency Symposium:

The Rights of Nature

Thurs. March 22 – Fri. March 23, 2018

Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus

Room 7128 (*unless otherwise specified*)

Thursday, March 22

- 8:25 – 9:40 am **James Wildman (Animal Rights Foundation)**, 101 Reasons to Go Vegan
- 9:50 – 11:05 am **Fernando Bretos (Frost Science Museum)**, Conservation at Frost Science:
Celebrating 10 Years of Coastal Habitat Restoration
- 3:30 – 5:00 pm **Climbing PoeTree** – Honors College Colloquium (not open to the public)

Friday, March 23

- 9:00 – 9:50 am **Saira Fida (Debris Free Oceans)**, Plastic Pollution and DFO's Solution
- 10:00 – 10:50 am **Jennifer Veilleux (FIU School of International and Public Affairs)**,
Water Rights as Human Rights
- 11:00 – 11:50 am **Matthew Schwartz (South Florida Wildlands Association)**, The Florida Panther and the
Future of Wildlife in South Florida
- 12:30 – 2:30 pm **Council of All Beings** (Limited space; RSVP required to awalker1@mdc.edu)

* Speaker Bios on next page

James Wildman is the Humane Educator for the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida. Since 2007, James has given over a thousand presentations at over a hundred different schools and universities in South Florida, teaching respect and compassion for animals and the environments we share. His "101 Reasons to Go Vegan" video has been translated into 18 languages and has over 4,000,000 views total on YouTube. 101 Reasons to Go Vegan is a humorous and honest look at diet and culture that highlights the benefits of a plant-based diet for our health, the environment, and the welfare of animals.

Fernando Bretos is director of MUVE (Museum Volunteers for the Environment), a volunteer-based habitat restoration project at Frost Science Museum, which empowers South Florida residents to restore urban coastal ecosystems. A marine biologist, Bretos conducts research and has led international research expeditions throughout the Caribbean, including Cuba, where he has worked for 18 years studying coral reef health and a population of nesting green sea turtles. Prior to Frost Science, Bretos served as research scientist at Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies and managed the Caribbean Biodiversity Program at the Ocean Conservancy.

Saira Fida is Debris Free Ocean's program lead for sustainability and consulting services. Born and raised in Clearwater, Florida, Saira enjoys Florida's natural beauty and seeks to protect it. Saira incorporates sustainability into her daily life and her passion is to educate the community on how the transition from convenience living to making sustainable choices can be seamless and effortless.

Jennifer Veilleux is a post-doctoral associate and geographer focused on the water security of international rivers. In addition to scholarship, Veilleux uses maps, infographics, photography, and satellite imagery through social media to highlight spatial relationships of environmental justice and human rights issues as relates to water.

Matthew Schwartz began his environmental career with the Sierra Club where he served as a volunteer outings leader, conservation chairperson, and a member of several national committees overseeing wilderness and endangered wildlife. Matthew co-founded the South Florida Wildlands Association (SFWA) in 2010 to be able to devote full-time work to the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the Greater Everglades. He serves as the organization's executive director. Matthew's work on numerous environmental campaigns is frequently cited in newspapers, radio, and television as well as on social media. He has master's degrees in psychology and sociology and credits a broad background in the social sciences for his understanding of how humans, wildlife and the natural environment interact.

Climbing PoeTree is an award-winning duo that has infused our movements for justice with healing and imagination, inspiring thousands through multimedia theater, dual-voice spoken word, visual art, sustainable touring, and community organizing. Co-creators Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman are cultural architects committed to reframing the story through multi-voice spoken word, hip hop, world music, and multimedia theater that translate deep research around the most pressing issues of our time into stunning artistry that catalyzes their audiences to activate the transformation they wish to cultivate within themselves and their communities. Alixa and Naima have independently organized 30 national and international tours, taking their work from South Africa to Cuba, the UK to Mexico, and throughout the U.S. including 11,000 miles toured on a bus converted to run on recycled vegetable oil. Climbing PoeTree has been experienced at diverse venues from the Brooklyn Academy of Music to the United Nations, Harvard University to Rikers Island Prison, and they have been featured alongside powerhouses such as Alice Walker, Danny Glover, Alicia Keys, Erykah Badu, Naomi Klein, Angela Davis, and many more.