



**GEORGE LAKIS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# GEORGE LAKIS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Quality Framed Art & Photography

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## The River of Grass

In this catalogue, you will find captivating, original images taken throughout the different areas of the Florida Everglades. Few places in the world are as biologically rich as the Everglades ecosystem. Nearly 45 species of mammals, including about 10 marine forms, frequent the Everglades and related bays, sounds, coastal estuaries and offshore waters. Hundreds of species of fish and thousands of species of marine, estuarine, and freshwater invertebrates live in the waters of this ecosystem. More than 50 kinds of reptiles, including the legendary alligator, lend truth to the perception that the Everglades is home to an array of wildlife.

Nearly 20 species of salamanders, frogs and toads live in or near alligator holes, sloughs and marshes in the watershed. Iguanas and a wide array of colorful butterflies also make their home in the Everglades. Aside from insect species – which number in the thousands – perhaps no other animals represent the area’s biological diversity and wealth better than birds. Almost 350 species of birds, both temperate and tropical, have been recorded.

Plants also compose much of the Everglades. In Southern Florida, temperate and subtropical zones merge to form one of the largest and most complex ecosystems in North America. The Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades ecosystem is composed of more than a dozen plant communities, hundreds of distinctive habitats, and thousands of ecological niches, all of which fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

Unfortunately, the Everglades and its inhabitants have suffered as more and more people and businesses have moved closer. As recently as 1870, when only a few hundred people lived along the coast of Southeastern Florida, an estimated 2 million wading birds inhabited the Everglades. During the last century, many more people have moved to the area, and this vibrant Florida ecosystem has been altered to accommodate their needs. The Everglades area has shrunk, and many of the bird-species numbers are so reduced that they are threatened.

Roughly 50 percent of the historic Everglades wetland area has been lost to human use and development. Loss of this wetland area significantly reduces biological diversity and rates of survival for vertebrate species that require large areas. Snail kites and panthers have become increasingly stressed by the fragmentation and loss of their habitat, as have wading-birds whose populations have dropped to under 10 percent of their former sizes.

It is important to promote awareness of the Florida Everglades and the need to conserve and protect this “River of Grass”. Not only will the photography in this catalogue add beauty to any facility, but also provide a glimpse of beautiful flowers, regal birds, timeless reptiles, and the still waters of a landscape that many people never see. Studies have also shown that original artistic photos of nature, like these, can be healing to those who see them. Exposure to nature, even for several minutes, can have a significant impact on stress relief in a person.

Purchasing photos from Media Services guarantees a high-quality product at a price far below market value. With studies already showing possible savings on heavy drugs, shorter hospital stays, and higher rate of employee retention due to the presence of nature photos, this is also a cost-effective step to enhance your facility.

Source:

Everglades: An American Treasure 2007-2008 Edition. Copyright © 2006, The School District of Palm Beach County, South Florida Water Management District and Palm Beach Newspapers, Inc.

The Everglades is a place, a marsh, a region, a watershed, an ecosystem. It is the mirrored glint of sunlight on shallow water that is moving slowly, below a great sweep of sawgrass, toward the sea.

The Everglades is a “river of grass.”

Source:

Everglades: An American Treasure 2007-2008 Edition. Copyright © 2006, The School District of Palm Beach County, South Florida Water Management District and Palm Beach Newspapers, Inc.







# Everglades National Park

Landscapes





# Everglades National Park

Landscapes







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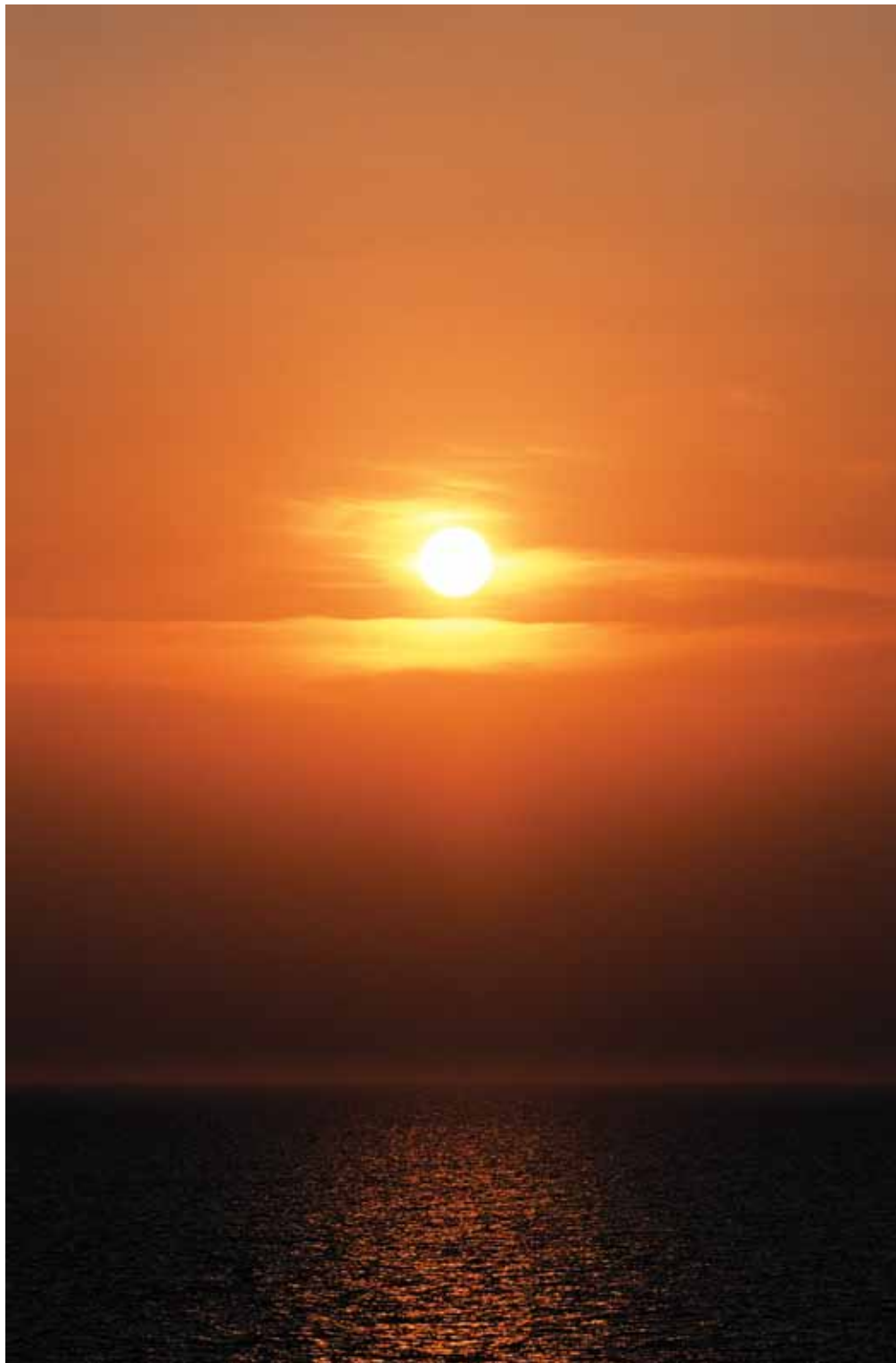


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# Everglades National Park

Younglings





# Everglades National Park

Younglings





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Custom orders & photo shoot requests are welcome.