

FLORIDA'S SPRINGS- A PERSONAL JOURNEY

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This PowerPoint presentation and paper examines the history of Florida's iconic springs through the lenses of literature, science, and personal experiences. Examining the interaction between humans and springs throughout recorded history, it looks at the changing perceptions people have had about their connection to water in general and springs in particular. It also looks at the complicated nature of this relationship in a time period of a rapidly expanding Florida population combined with climate change and sea level rise. The use of historical pictures and photographs provide visual clues to how Florida's spring have changed over time and how humans have affected and exacerbated that change. Finally, it offers an example of how the use of a humanities centered approach can enrich and inform a discussion about Florida's water usually focused on science and technology.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Steven Noll is an instructional professor in the department of history at the University of Florida. His work examines Florida environmental history, especially the relationship of human activity to Florida's unique aquatic ecosystems. He has worked for over 20 years on the Ocklawaha River, the Cross Florida Barge Canal, and the continuing struggle over the removal of the Kirkpatrick (Rodman) Dam on the Ocklawaha.