

Here are the conservation items which most caught my attention this week...

The M-CORES toll roads / “Roads to Ruin” continue to be the most pressing immediate danger to Florida’s environment, native plant communities and wild animals. House and senate bills have finally been drafted which seek to repeal completely the law which established them. You can [click here and urge your state representatives to co-sponsor](#).

While there are other bills moving through the state that would scale back the “Roads to Ruin,” these are the bills that would repeal them entirely.

[Florida’s manatees are dying](#) at an alarming rate this winter. A major reason is sewage spills that plagued canals and rivers killing the sea grass beds they eat. A reminder that Florida’s native plants, and their protection, needs to occur above ground and below water.

Florida’s “butterfly whisperer” is opening a new butterfly conservancy and [native plant nursery](#) in Tampa.

Nestlé has received approval to pump almost 1 million gallons of water a day from around Ginnie Springs to sell as bottled water for the grand sum of... \$115. Read more about how [state officials give away our natural resources for pennies](#).

On Amelia Island, [the Dune Science Group](#) is working to protect and restore the dune ecosystem here through natural methods such as native plants and wind fences. The group is having a MAJOR native planting event on the dunes on the Island’s north end on March 20th. Conservation chair Chadd Charland is involved with the group and if you’d like more information about how to participate in the replanting event, contact him at: chaddscott@hotmail.com.

Chadd also co-hosts a podcast called “Welcome to Florida” with environmental reporter and best-selling author Craig Pittman. Craig has written books about conservation efforts to save the Florida panther and manatees. The podcast often focuses on conservation topics including [this recent episode about the Gulf of Mexico](#).