2019 ANNUAL REPORT
PROTECTING THE WATER YOU LOVE
2019 was a year full of challenges and victories for South Florida’s watershed. From sea-level rise and flooding to coral disease and sewage leaks – your Miami Waterkeeper team has had a busy year! Despite these challenges, our impact continued to grow in 2019.

Community Outreach - Our signature community education program “1,000 Eyes on the Water,” which trains the public to identify, document, and report pollution reached 350 individuals, or 700 eyes, across South Florida in 2019. We will be creating customized sessions in the upcoming year to target larger audiences with content that is ever evolving.

Research - 2019 was a banner year for our routine water quality monitoring program as well. In our water quality laboratory at Ransom Everglades School, we processed 446 samples and alerted the public 198 times when beach water quality failed to meet state standards.

We are pleased to report that our educational efforts continued to expand in 2019, with 22 Junior Ambassadors trained as the future environmental leaders of South Florida – in a time when our community needs it most.

Advocacy - This year also marked some great wins in our clean water advocacy. We continued our efforts to oppose the relicensing of Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant this year. We continue our efforts, this time in the federal courts, to ensure that this plant is operated with resiliency and drinking water protection in mind.

Each day, Miami Waterkeeper and our small, but mighty team works to protect South Florida’s waters. We couldn’t do it without you. Thank you for joining us and for investing in our water. Clean water is what makes Miami, Miami after all.

Sincerely,

Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D.
Executive Director & Waterkeeper
Miami Waterkeeper

Photo by Greg Clark
EXPANDING OUR REACH IN 2019

Miami Waterkeeper's outreach team is in our community on average 12 times a month educating and activating the public to help ensure a healthier Biscayne Bay. Our programs provide unique engagement opportunities across South Florida to further our mission for swimmable, drinkable, fishable water.
SUCCESS STORIES

INAUGURAL STATE OF THE WATER ADDRESS

Water is integral to South Florida’s health, economy, and culture. Recognizing this, we hosted our inaugural State of the Water address in January 2019. Joined by community leaders, elected officials, and supporters, our Waterkeeper, Dr. Rachel Silverstein, spoke to some of South Florida’s most pressing water problems and shed light on available solutions. Miami Waterkeeper will make the State of the Water Address an annual event with features from elected officials, local businesses, and stakeholder groups.

INVEST IN OUR WATER

Miami Waterkeeper mobilized a campaign around the 2019 Miami Dade County budget hearings asking Commissioners to “Invest in our water.” Specifically, the County’s Water and Sewer Department was proposing budget cuts in the wake of a 1.5 million gallon raw sewage spill near Oleta River State Park. With support from the Miami Foundation Community Grants Program, our campaign successfully changed the Water and Sewer budget which will result in increased investment in sewage infrastructure repair and replacement, as well as a call for heightened efforts to connect septic tanks to our County sewer system.

1000 EYES ON THE WATER

Our 1,000 Eyes on the Water program is a volunteer-based, community-led water patrol program designed to increase our ability to monitor the Bay and waterways of South Florida, and curb illicit pollution. We train participants to identify, document, and report pollution so they can help us protect our waterways. Our goal is to have 500 community members join our team, and to have 1,000 eyes watching out for our water. In 2019, we reached 350 individuals across Miami-Dade and Broward counties through 28 trainings in English and Spanish! Due to these trainings and our new water patrol team, we have been able to convene a rapid response to pollution across South Florida.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizers are nutrients for plants and grass, but when applied in excess, can lead to algae blooms and degraded water quality. To increase community awareness of this issue, we have developed a South Florida-specific urban fertilizer ordinance to address nutrient pollution, runoff, and best practices. Our multi-media educational campaign targeted property owners, municipalities, and businesses to increase awareness of the adverse effects of too many nutrients in our waterways. We reached more than 6,000 people through this effort in 2019 alone and look forward to continuing our educational and legislative effort in 2020.

TURKEY POINT

Last year marked an unprecedented milestone for nuclear energy -- the first subsequent license renewal was issued to Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant located in Homestead, Florida. This license renewal would allow the nuclear units to operate until the 2050s -- giving the reactors an operating life of 80 years and soon making them the oldest reactors in the entire world. These reactors are already the hottest operating reactors in the United States and they are the only reactors worldwide to rely on a cooling canal system rather than cooling towers. In fact, the 1970s-era reactors’ failing cooling system is actively contaminating our groundwater aquifer. Throughout 2019, Miami Waterkeeper - in partnership with Natural Resources Defense Council and Friends of the Earth - has been moving forward with a legal challenge before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission arguing that FPL has not adequately considered protected species, sea level rise, or ongoing groundwater contamination from the cooling canal system. In fact, we traveled up to Washington D.C. in September 2019 for oral arguments before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Despite our best efforts, FPL received its license for continued operation in December 2019. We will continue our work to hold FPL accountable through additional legal advocacy in 2020.
We were on the road speaking to diverse audiences 102 times throughout the year.

Backed by over 900 volunteers at 29 service events.

Staffed by a full-time team of 6.

Graduated 22 Junior Ambassadors.

Delivered multiple public comments at 14 public meetings advocating for various clean water actions.

Helped restore natural habitat across 24 acres.

Submitted 25 public documents advocating for policy change.

Conducted 446 in-house water quality tests.
Since 2018, Miami Waterkeeper has been a Perez Family Foundation grantee in the social and economic impact category. With the support of the Foundation, Miami Waterkeeper launched our “1,000 Eyes on the Water” program, which has now reached close to 500 individuals in both English and Spanish language programming. While building this program, we have been learning a lot about the needs and challenges of our community. Our mission is to make Miami beaches and waterways cleaner, safer, and more accessible. This work is crucial, and we are grateful for the support of organizations like the Perez Family Foundation, Facebook, and Hydro Flask.

Facebook

This year, Miami Waterkeeper had the privilege of partnering with Facebook and their Miami office. Facebook’s generous $30,000 in-kind contribution support a strategic marketing campaign to further Miami Waterkeeper’s mission. Throughout this collaboration, Miami Waterkeeper expanded our online reach by 46%.

Hydroflask Parks for All

Hydro Flask’s Parks for All program is dedicated to supporting organizations that build, maintain, restore, and provide better access to parks. Parks for All supported our work to improve access to Miami’s public beaches and waterways through water quality monitoring and volunteer events. Hydro Flask’s support made 20 public volunteer events possible and resulted in over 550 pounds of trash collected from our public beaches.

The Jorge M. Perez Family Foundation

Since 2018, Miami Waterkeeper has been a Perez Family Foundation grantee in the social and economic impact category. With the support of the Foundation, Miami Waterkeeper launched our “1,000 Eyes on the Water” program, which has now reached close to 500 individuals in both English and Spanish language programming. We look forward to greatly expanding our impact with the Perez Family Foundation in 2020 as we build out Spanish language access and digital platform for this program.

AL & Jane Nahmad Family Foundation

Miami Waterkeeper received support from the AL & Jane Nahmad Family Foundation to expand our Junior Ambassador program in 2019. Thanks to the Nahmad Family Foundation, our students, representing schools across Miami Dade County, were able to experience in-water training through a snorkeling trip. For many this was a first-time experience! The Foundation’s support makes hands-on experiences accessible to our youth environmental education efforts.

A Florida native, Lauren Brown Hornor has loved water ever since she was a little girl, hunting for shells on the beaches of Marco Island and Miami Beach. Lauren has led an instrumental career in clean water protection. She has provided legal support and guidance to Waterkeeper organizations across the country while working as an attorney with Waterkeeper Alliance in New York. Lauren served as the Executive Director and Riverkeeper at Fraser Riverkeeper for ten years in Vancouver, BC, which she helped launch in 2007. Lauren is now building a movement of people working for swimmable, drinkable fishable water with Swim Drink Fish Canada. At Miami Waterkeeper, Lauren has led the development of the organization from our humble beginnings to a true force to be reckoned with. Lauren’s leadership has overseen our organization’s growth from a single Waterkeeper to a full-time team of six. She has guided our organization through complex litigation decisions and supported us through our growing pains. Lauren has ended her tenure as Board President, but remains an active member of the Board of Directors. Miami Waterkeeper is incredibly grateful to Lauren for her trail-blazing leadership, wisdom, and support over the past decade. Without Lauren, Miami Waterkeeper would not have existed - and for that, we are forever grateful.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LAUREN BROWN HORNOR

A Florida native, Lauren Brown Hornor has loved water ever since she was a little girl, hunting for shells on the beaches of Marco Island and Miami Beach. Lauren has led an instrumental career in clean water protection. She has provided legal support and guidance to Waterkeeper organizations across the country while working as an attorney with Waterkeeper Alliance in New York. Lauren served as the Executive Director and Riverkeeper at Fraser Riverkeeper for ten years in Vancouver, BC, which she helped launch in 2007. Lauren is now building a movement of people working for swimmable, drinkable fishable water with Swim Drink Fish Canada. At Miami Waterkeeper, Lauren has led the development of the organization from our humble beginnings to a true force to be reckoned with. Lauren’s leadership has overseen our organization’s growth from a single Waterkeeper to a full-time team of six. She has guided our organization through complex litigation decisions and supported us through our growing pains. Lauren has ended her tenure as Board President, but remains an active member of the Board of Directors. Miami Waterkeeper is incredibly grateful to Lauren for her trail-blazing leadership, wisdom, and support over the past decade. Without Lauren, Miami Waterkeeper would not have existed - and for that, we are forever grateful.
**STAFF**
Rachel Silverstein - Executive Director & Waterkeeper
Kelly Cox - General Counsel
Laura Chalbonsai - Program Director
Kayla Hauge - Digital Marketing Specialist
Dana Tricarico* - Outreach Coordinator
Andrew Carter* - Research Director
Collin Schnadweiler - Outreach Coordinator
Emily Hernandez* - Operations Assistant
Carla Lovinsky - Office Manager
Elizabeth Kelly - Research Coordinator

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Our Board of Directors works primarily to guide the strategic direction and operations of Miami Waterkeeper.

Lauren Brown Hormor
Greg Clark
H Weitz
Philip Kushlan
Amy Clement

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Our Board of Trustees works to build Miami Waterkeeper’s capacity through marketing and fundraising.

David Schwedel
Maria Schwedel
Marcelo Fernandes
Richard Shellow
Angel Reyes
Judd Rosen
Gunther Grineberg
Kenneth Broad
Wirth Munroe
Michael Lasz
Roger Baumann
Cindy Lerner
Caroline Szjaman
Jill Reiter
Kevin Dalal

**INTERNS**
Kristen Ranges - Legal Intern
Kenya Rothstein - Legal Intern
Nicole Sedran - Programs Intern
Kristin Butler - Operations Intern
Maria Briz - Programs Intern
Monique Paul - Policy Intern
Gabe Thompson - Water Quality Intern
Roberto Fernandez - Programs Intern

**PARTNERS**
Our partners support the work we do, making our programs and campaigns possible.

- The Paul & Maxine Frohring Foundation
- The Miami Foundation
- The Key Biscayne Community Foundation
- NOAA Habitat Focus Area Program
- The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
- The Jorge M. Perez Family Foundation at the Miami Foundation
- TUUCI
- The Fine and Greenwald Foundation
- The Al & Jane Nahmad Family Foundation
- The Bloom Foundation
- Patagonia
- Hyrdoflask – Parks for All
- EveryMundo
- Coconut Grove Village Council
- Grove Properties
- Comcast
- Google
- AirBnB
- Facebook
- City of Miami Department of Parks and Recreation
- Miami-Dade County
- Zoo Miami
- FedEx
- New Belgium Brewing
- MCO Environmental Inc.
- Charity Services Center, PA
- Unisess Marine Group
- Amazon Smile
- Sahate Yoga
- P.E.O. Chapter K
- Garden Club of South Miami
- Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
- Goldman Sachs
- Cogans 505
- Nu Wave Swim
- Garden Title Corp.
- Bast Amron
- PeriSolutions
- HSBC
- Piano Slam
- Baptist Health South Florida
- Temple Beth Am
- Microsoft
- Miami-Dade College
- Ransom Everglades School
- University of Miami
- Cloud39
- Alliance Bernstein
- Lilly Pulitzer
We are a proud member of the Waterkeeper Alliance - the largest and fastest growing nonprofit solely focused on clean water - made up of over 350 Waterkeeper organizations and affiliates protecting more than 2.5 million square miles of rivers, lakes, and coastal waterways on 6 continents.