

# *News from the Everglades*

*A Weekly Update from Everglades Imagery*

March 6, 2005

## **The Experience**

This was a pretty relaxed week but I still feel like I got some stuff done. Also, it was a short week because of my delay due to the snowstorm in the northeast. Wednesday was a great afternoon as I spent time with a mother Anhinga and her four chicks at Anhinga Trail. These tiny chicks must be less than a week old and are very strange looking creatures. I will be returning to this nest at least once a week for the next few weeks in order to document their growth.

The rest of the week was spent at home battling a cold. By Saturday I felt much better and headed back out to try and photograph the landscape. After purchasing an 8' step ladder I headed up into the dwarf cypress forest and Pay-ha-okee region. After an hour or so of wrestling with my tripod I managed to lash it to the ladder providing a stable structure to mount my camera about 10' above the ground. This change in elevation allows me to actually have a middle ground in my landscape image. Instead of simply having a bush or tree in the foreground and something on the horizon with a big sky, I can actually have a foreground with a middle ground that allows the viewers eye to travel to the back of the image producing a much more appealing photograph. Because of this I am able to find more pleasing compositions as well as show more of the landscape. For these landscapes I am shooting large format film so won't have the images for a few weeks. However, when I get them developed and find a way to scan them I will post them or include them in my newsletter.

This week I am going to continue working with the landscape as well as try to photograph the Wood Storks as they begin nesting at Paurotis Pond. I also have started to get in touch with some of the scientists doing research down here so I hope to begin interacting with them in the near future.

## The Photos



*Anhinga with chicks – Anhinga Trail, Everglades National Park*

This is one of the many images I captured of this mother Anhinga and her four chicks. One of the challenges of photographing a nesting situation is that there are multiple birds and it is difficult to get all of them positioned correctly. In this image, I was thrilled to see all five heads and to have clear views of all of them. This is one of the few images that has all four chicks visible.



*Anhinga and chick – Anhinga Trail, Everglades National Park*

I love the way both the female Anhinga and the chick have their heads pointed straight up. Their eyes are visible and the image is tack sharp.



*Double-crested Cormorant – Anhinga Trail, Everglades National Park*

In my continued attempt to get an image that really shows off the cormorant's brilliant emerald eye I am working tighter and tighter. This is the best I have so far and am pretty thrilled with this image.



*Great Egret in Cypress – Anhinga Trail, Everglades National Park*

I have photographed Great Egrets in this tree several different times but usually they are sitting at the very top. Something about this one really grabs me. For some reason I like it more with the bird at the lower left rather than directly on top.

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