

## Fakahatchee Strand Copeland, Florida

*Located on the western edge of Everglades National Park, Fakahatchee Strand is the largest strand swamp in the world. It is home to Florida panthers, American alligators, roseate spoonbills, and the largest diversity of native orchids and bromeliads in the United States. Among the strand's 47 native orchid species is the elusive—and critically endangered—ghost orchid.*



In 2015, The Acorn Group began working on an interpretive prospectus for exhibits and boardwalk improvements. Our work focused on creation of an interpretive framework of messages that embrace the goals the Friends of Fakahatchee and Florida State Parks have for both visitors and resources, and to establish specific recommendations for new interpretive media. Our work also required that we experience the swamp firsthand, intently studying the interpretive opportunities while working hard to avoid alligator holes and water moccasins.



Fakahatchee Strand Interpretive Center: Epiphytes  
Interpretive Wayside Design Concept - The Acorn Group - June 2015

The project site encompasses a new entrance, parking area, canal and canal bridge, interpretive pavilion and porch, boardwalks across the salt marsh and wet prairie, including an ADA-compliant elevated section and rain shelter, and loop trails.

For the open-air interpretive pavilion, we designed the interpretive kiosks, panels, and museum objects to be resilient enough to endure intense heat and humidity and portable enough to be moved quickly into a storage room in the event of a hurricane.



Fakahatchee Strand Interpretive Center: Exhibit Gallery View 2  
Interpretive: Lorraine Decker Concept - The Acorn Group - May 31, 2015



Corban Architecture/Planning/Sustainability