



NATURE



Press Contact:
Donald Lee, WNET.ORG
212.560.3005, LeeD@wnet.org

THIRTEEN's *Nature* investigates Everglades' serpent menace in *Invasion of the Giant Pythons*, February 21, 2010 on PBS

Nature Online (pbs.org/nature) features full-length streaming episodes and other amazing stories about reptiles.

Florida's Everglades National Park is one of America's last great wildlife refuges, home to unique and endangered animals and plants, as well as untold number of iconic alligators. However, the park has also become a dumping ground for nonnative species. There are possibly tens of thousands of Burmese pythons now living in the Everglades, some of which were intentionally released by pet owners, and others were unintentionally set free by storms when hurricanes hit Florida's animal warehouses. The Everglades are similar to their native Asian habitat, and the predatory snakes have moved in to their new home with a vengeance. They are thriving in the protected wilderness the park offers, disrupting its delicate ecosystem in the process. *Nature* follows scientists and snake hunters as they study the problem and try to find solutions to the growing crisis in *Invasion of the Giant Pythons* premiering Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). Academy Award-winning actor F. Murray Abraham narrates. *Invasion of the Giant Pythons* will be available for streaming on *Nature Online* (pbs.org/nature), along with more than 30 other full-length programs.

Nature is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

"This film is a sobering look at the impact on our vanishing wilderness caused by exotic pets gone awry," said Fred Kaufman, Series Executive Producer. "Not many pet owners are prepared

to care for their baby pythons once they double in size in one year. Just goes to show that these magnificent animals belong in the wild and not at home.”

The film takes viewers on a “snake patrol” set up to hunt down and capture members of the growing army of pythons. Audiences also meet scientists who are learning everything they can about the Everglades pythons, working on strategies to protect the park, its native residents, and surrounding habitats from the snakes. A python can grow to 250 pounds and stretch over 23 feet, making it powerful enough to strangle and eat an entire alligator. But they will eat almost any animal out there, no matter how big or small, from rodents to adult deer, bobcats, birds, and other snakes. Native species are hard pressed to compete. And a special effort is being made to keep pythons from reaching areas with endangered species.

To help in the fight against the invasive constrictors, and in an effort to curtail illegal release of pets in the wild in general, Miami Metro Zoo hosts a Pet Amnesty Day to collect and place unwanted exotic species in new homes. It may seem a small measure against such daunting task, but it gets the word out. Only time will tell what the future of pythons in the Everglades will be. Will they become the next top tourist attraction? The alligators may need to start watching their backs.

Visit **Nature Online** (pbs.org/nature) to watch previous programs and get updates about the series. Viewers can sound off about issues explored on **Nature**, take polls, and share animal photos with the **Nature** community.

Nature has won nearly 600 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees* and received two Emmy nominations for *Crash: A Tale of Two Species* and *White Falcon, White Wolf*.

Nature's Invasion of the Giant Pythons is a production of Image Impact Ltd and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG. Produced by Nigel Marven. **Nature** is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG for PBS. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for **Nature** is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. Additional support is provided by the nation's public television stations.

Nature Online (pbs.org/nature) is the award-winning web companion to the broadcast series and is spearheading **Nature's** distribution to new media platforms. At **Nature Online**, visitors can stream full episodes of **Nature** programs, watch behind-the-scenes video exclusives with filmmakers and producers (also available at iTunes), view program excerpts (also available on YouTube), and find fun interactive content, teacher lesson plans, and more. Join **Nature** on Facebook ([Facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature)) and follow the series on Twitter ([Twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature)) to keep up with the latest videos, photos, program alerts and more.

About WNET.ORG

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as [Worldfocus](#), [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Wide Angle](#), [Secrets of the Dead](#), [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#), [Visions](#), [Consuelo Mack WealthTrack](#), [Wild Chronicles](#), [Miffy and Friends](#), and [Cyberchase](#) to national and international audiences. Through its wide

range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information, visit www.wnet.org.

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