Cynthia Barnett  
*Journalist, Writer*

Cynthia Barnett is a long-time journalist and author who has covered water issues from the Suwannee River to Singapore. She is described by the Boston Globe as “part journalist, part mom, part historian, and part optimist.” She is the author of three books on water. *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*, won the gold medal for best nonfiction in the Florida Book Awards and was named by The St. Petersburg Times as one of the top 10 books that every Floridian should read. *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America’s Water Crisis,* was named one of the top 10 science books of 2011 by The Boston Globe. Barnett’s latest book, *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History,* was longlisted for the National Book Award and named a “best book of the year” by NPR’s Science Friday, Kirkus Reviews, the Miami Herald, and others. She sees water as a unifying force that can bring Floridians together around our most-precious natural resource.

**Programs Available**

**Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida**

Water defines us as Floridians no matter where we live: Idyllic beaches surround us on three sides. Rivers flow for ten thousand miles through the peninsula. We’re blessed with nearly eight thousand lakes and a thousand more freshwater springs. Florida’s economy and lifestyle are built on a foundation of pure and plentiful water. Yet, the latest generation of Floridians has not inherited water as clean and abundant as their parents’. Barnett shows how one of the most water-rich states faces scarcity and quality woes – and how it doesn’t have to be way. With a shared ethic for water, Floridians come together to use less and pollute less. We live well with water today, in ways that jeopardize fresh, clean water for tomorrow.

**RAIN: A history for stormy times**

A natural and cultural tour of RAIN, from the torrents that filled the oceans four billion years ago to the modern story of climate change. A wellspring of life, rain also has a place in our stories, from the Roman rain god Jupiter Pluvius to the 2,203 miles of levees that attempt to straightjacket the Mississippi River. Armed with computer climate models looking forward, there is also much to learn from looking back. Too much and not enough, rain is an experience we share. Its history has much to tell us about coming together to live more ethically with water – and adapting to the stormy times ahead.

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