



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2016

Media contact: Pat Kuehn, APR, CPRC
Community Information Specialist
386-822-5062, ext. 12934

Craig Pittman to speak at author luncheon April 8



Author and journalist Craig Pittman will be the keynote speaker at the 36th annual author luncheon at noon Friday, April 8, at the Halifax River Yacht Club, 331 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Friends of the Daytona Beach Library.

Pittman has been an environmental reporter for the Tampa Bay Times since 1998 and has won the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in Florida four times. A series of stories he co-wrote with Matthew Waite won the top investigative reporting award in 2006 and 2007 from the Society of Environmental Journalists.

He also has written three books – “Paving Paradise: Florida’s Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss,” “Manatee Insanity: Inside the War over Florida’s Most Famous Endangered Species,” and “The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World’s Most Beautiful Orchid.”

His fourth book, “Oh Florida! How America’s Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country,” will be published in July.

During his talk, Pittman will focus on “The Scent of Scandal.” The orchid at the center of the scandal is *Phragmepedium Kovachii*, hailed as the most significant orchid find in a century when it was discovered in Peru in 2002. The collision between scientists and smugglers led to criminal charges and tremendous turmoil. Pittman shines a spotlight on flaws in the international treaties governing trade in endangered wildlife. He shows how people can become so obsessed with beauty, profit and fame that they will ignore everything – including the law.

A book signing will follow the luncheon, and books will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased by April 2. They are available at the Daytona Beach Regional Library’s reference desk, 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. For more information call 386-257-6036, ext. 16264.

Learn more about the Friends of the Library at www.daytonabeachfol.org.

- 30 -

www.volusia.org

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL

JASON P. DAVIS
COUNTY CHAIR

PAT PATTERSON
DISTRICT 1, VICE CHAIR

JOYCE M. CUSACK
AT-LARGE

JOSHUA WAGNER
DISTRICT 2

DEBORAH DENYS
DISTRICT 3

DOUG DANIELS
DISTRICT 4

DR. FRED LOWRY
DISTRICT 5