

## About Craig Pittman

Craig Pittman is a native Floridian. Born in Pensacola, he graduated from Troy State University in Alabama, where his muckraking work for the student paper prompted an agitated dean to label him "the most destructive force on campus." Since then he has covered a variety of newspaper beats and quite a few natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires and the Florida Legislature. Since 1998, he has covered environmental issues for Florida's largest newspaper, the Tampa Bay Times. He



has won the Waldo Proffitt Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in Florida four times, and twice won the top investigative reporting award from the Society of Environmental Journalists. Stories he has written for Sarasota magazine have won three first-place awards from the Florida Magazine Association. He's the co-author, with Matthew Waite, of *Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss*, (2009), which won the Stetson Kennedy Award from the Florida Historical Society. His second book was *Manatee Insanity: Inside the War Over Florida's Most Famous Endangered Species* (2010), which the Florida Humanities Council named one of 21 "essential" books for Floridians. His latest book *The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid*, was just published. His latest book, *Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*, will hit stores in July 2016.