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COMING TO PASS

Florida's Coastal Islands in a Gulf of Change

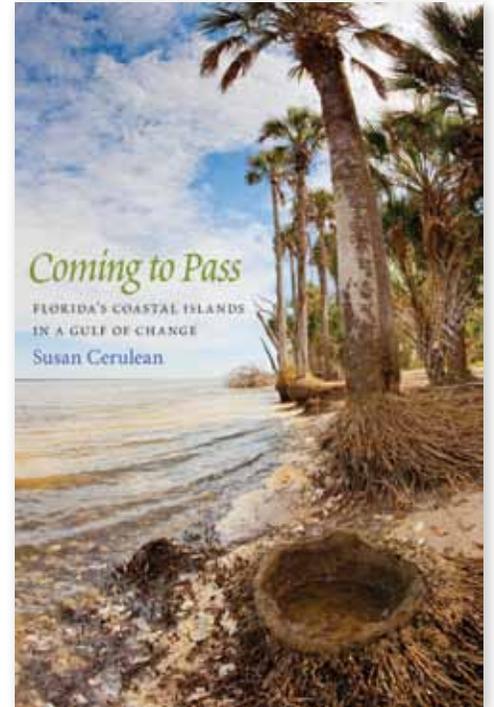
Susan Cerulean

A moving, personal look at a fragile landscape

"In *Coming to Pass*, Susan Cerulean shows us the Florida coastal system with passion and insight. But she also has a lovely presence on the page—the kind of which I never tire. It's easy to see why she so loves that landscape and seascape, because she brings them so alive."—Jan DeBlieu, author of *Wind: How the Flow of Air Has Shaped Life, Myth, and the Land*, winner of the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished natural history writing

"Sad, hopeful, earthly. Sue Cerulean's memories of sea and shore touch off a range of emotions. The eloquence of her words enthralls, and we should heed them. They belong to an unassailable voice that has long called for honoring life that gives us ours. Hers is the voice of our time and destiny."

—Jack E. Davis, author of *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*



Coming to Pass tells the story of a little-developed necklace of northern Gulf Coast islands. Both a field guide to a beloved and impermanent Florida landscape and a call for its protection, Susan Cerulean's memoir chronicles the uniquely beautiful coast as it once was, as it is now, and as it may be as the sea level rises.

For decades, Cerulean has kayaked, hiked, and counted birds on and around Dog, the St. Georges, and St. Vincent Islands with family and friends. She has collected scallops, snorkeled over a fallen lighthouse a mile offshore, and cast nets and fishing lines into cyclical runs of mullet and shrimp.

Like most people, she didn't know how the islands had come to be or understand the large-scale change coming to the coast. With her husband, oceanographer Jeff Chanton, she studied the genesis of the coast and its inextricable link to the Apalachicola River. She interviewed scientists as they tracked and tallied magnificent and dwindling sea turtles, snowy white beach mice, and endangered plants. Illustrated with images from prizewinning nature photographer David Moynahan, *Coming to Pass* is the culmination of Cerulean's explorations and a reflection of our spiritual relationship and responsibilities to the world that holds us.

SUSAN CERULEAN is a writer, naturalist, and activist based in Tallahassee, Florida. Her nature memoir *Tracking Desire: A Journey after Swallow-tailed Kites* (Georgia) was named an Editors' Choice title by *Audubon* magazine. Her many other books include *Unspoiled: Writers Speak for Florida's Coast*, coedited with Janisse Ray and A. James Wohlpart, and *Between Two Rivers: Stories from the Red Hills to the Gulf*, edited with Janisse Ray and Laura Newton. She is a founding member and former director of the Red Hills Writers Project and was named Environmental Educator of the Year by the Governor's Council for a Sustainable Florida.

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