

# PYTHON HUNTRESS

A wildlife documentary starring professional python hunter Amy Siewe.



Amy abandoned her lucrative real estate career for a minimum-wage passion gig far from home—hunting for huge, invasive Burmese pythons eating up wildlife in the Florida Everglades. Now she's on a mission to protect the remaining mammals, birds and reptiles from these predators eating anything in their path.

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## AMY SIEWE vs. BURMESE PYTHON

Amy  
5' 4"  
120 lbs



Python  
14' 2"  
105 lbs.

## PYTHON FACTS

- The guesstimate of Burmese pythons slithering through south Florida is anywhere from 100,000 to 300,000. <sup>1</sup> Over 3 years, Amy has removed 289 invasive pythons in the region, leaving between 99,711 and 299,711 to go...
- Pythons in the wild live an average of 20-28 years. <sup>2</sup>
- To grow to 10 feet, the average individual python needs to eat more than 200 mammals, birds and reptiles.
- Since 2000 over 90% of the rabbits, fox, raccoons, possums and deer have disappeared from Everglades National Park, as these animals have no natural instinctive defense against pythons. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-many-burmese-pythons-inhabit-southern-florida?qt-news\\_science\\_products=0#qt-news\\_science\\_products](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-many-burmese-pythons-inhabit-southern-florida?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products)

<sup>2</sup> <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/burmese-rock-python>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/109/7/2418>

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There's a weird quiet now in the Everglades, and even the roadkill that was common on the highways of south Florida, is no more.



## HOW DID THE PROBLEM START?

Interest in exotic pythons exploded in the early 1980s. But snakes are not easy household pets and many of these beautiful creatures were dumped into the Everglades by their owners, and the snakes grew in size and appetite. The point of no return came in 1992, when Hurricane Andrew demolished a Burmese python breeding facility south of Miami, setting hundreds more pythons loose into the Everglades.<sup>4</sup>

## WHY NOT SEND THEM BACK?

Due to concerns of disease and mutations, Burmese pythons living in Florida cannot be repatriated to their native areas of Southeast Asia, where, ironically, they are becoming endangered, as they've long been hunted for their skins and captured live for international pet sales.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/burmese-python-invasion-florida-everglades>

<sup>5</sup> <https://iep.berkeley.edu/content/burmese-pythons-everglades>

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## AMY (THE TRANSPLANTED UPSTART) and DONNA KALIL (THE HOMETOWN DEFENDER)



### Donna Kalil

Amy is guided by the wise elder Donna Kalil.

Donna grew up in the Everglades and has lived through the devastation the pythons have caused.

From her, Amy learns to grapple with the constrictors—there is no python wrangling school!

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Amy slogs through mud, sawgrass, mangroves, cypress trees and swamps, in search of the elusive pythons.



She and her fellow hunters are the only predators the pythons have—the only thing trying to stop them.

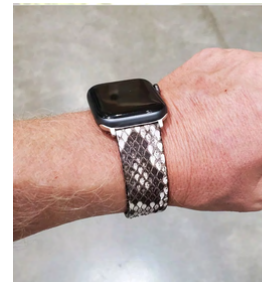
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## SNAKE MAKE-OVER

Amy is conflicted, trying to reconcile her love for serpents with having to euthanize them. She seeks ways to honour the snakes by finding a use for every part of them.



Amy taught herself how to skin a python (there are no “how-to” videos on YouTube), gets the skins tanned, and partners with a designer who makes luxe purses.

Amy also created her own line of leather products, including the only Florida Python Apple watchband in the world.

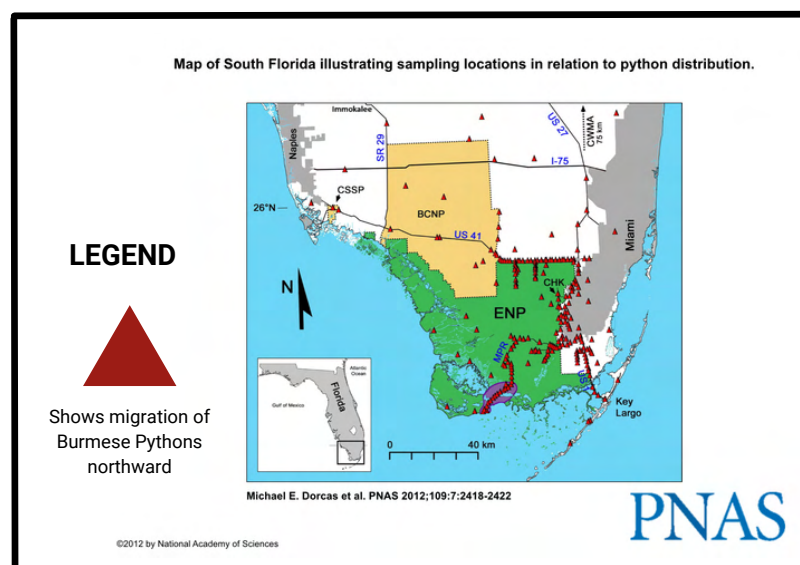
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## PYTHON PUNDIT

Amy wants to educate people about the havoc pythons have wreaked on the Everglades—and remind people the snakes are still multiplying like crazy.



If climate change creates similar environments outside of Florida, pythons could crawl northward to other states. This diagram shows the spread of Burmese pythons from the 1990s into the 2010s.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences ) February 14, 2012

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## AMY—A SOCIAL MEDIA SENSATION

- Amy's first YouTube hit, of her catching aggressive Lake Erie water snakes, has close to 4 million views:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PGLKTSqoMQ>
- Her YouTube Channel has 4.85K subscribers (and growing)
- She has 2,000+ followers on Instagram (and growing)
- Her website URL is [www.pythonhuntress.com](http://www.pythonhuntress.com)



Amy hates the reality show depictions of “cowboy” python hunters—she says they’re spreading misinformation and false stories that she wants to correct.

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## MARKET COMPARISONS

### Shows about the Glades and Snakes

\*Note: These series, and previous similar shows, generally feature only men. The episodes garner between 1.2 million to 5.5 million viewers.

**Guardians of the Glades** – Discovery, Reality TV series, [2019 - 2021], 42-min. eps., IMDB 7 [premiere episode 9.1] Features Dusty “The Wildman” Crum & his team on a mission to save the Florida Everglades from pythons. Season Two added Brittany Borges, a petite blond beauty, whose appeal is comparable to our own Python Huntress.

**Swamp People** – History Channel, Realty TV series, 12 seasons to date [2010 - ], 213 episodes, IMDB 6.3. Features alligator hunters in Louisiana. The series premiere garnered 3.1 million viewers, with the final episode of season 2 drawing 5.5 million viewers.

The spin-off, **Swamp People: Serpent Invasion**, currently has over 1 million viewers per episode. **Python Gamble**, Episode 6 of this series, aired on January 15, 2021 to 1.232 million viewers. <sup>7</sup>

## AUDIENCE TARGET

Based on the above shows, the film has co-viewing audience appeal for people 25-54 who enjoy watching a ballsy woman pursue her passion for minimum wage - proving it's never too late to follow your dream. Our Python Huntress' show is particularly geared to increase audiences by bringing these new viewers to the fold:

- **Women | girls** – inspired to see a woman in a physical and challenging job.
- **Nature lovers**—viewers get to experience people actively working to hold back damage to the unique Florida ecosystem.
- **Family** – learn about how an invasive species has harmed an environment and how people are working to keep it at bay.
- **Action enthusiasts**—wrestling a snake 3 times your height and double your body weight isn't for the faint of heart!

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<sup>7</sup> Source: <https://programminginsider.com/thursday-ratings-walker-series-opener-leads-the-cw-to-its-most-watched-thursday-anchor-position-in-3-years/>

# PYTHON HUNTRESS

## TEAM

**WRITER | PRODUCER | EDITOR – Joan Prowse**



Joan Prowse is a documentary maker with three decades of experience. She founded CineFocus Canada and has created more than 25 hours of primetime arts, biography, and social issue documentaries. Notable credits include the international documentary hit *Beauty and the Beach*, and the Juno-nominated *Buffy Sainte-Marie: A Multimedia Life*. Joan produced and directed the biography series *Lucky Breaks* for A&E's Biography Channel, and produced 28 profiles of celebrated Canadians for Global's *Northern Lights* series. Her TV series *Green Heroes* was a Rockie Award nominee at the Banff World Television Festival, airing on TVO from 2010-2019. Joan's credits also include programming for Discovery, PBS, CBC, Radio-Canada, TLC, and APTN, and CHUM Television. Joan is committed to the environment—she currently holds a membership in the Clean50 alumni and Al Gore's Climate Reality Corp. and was a board member of the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival from 2010-2017. She is a member of the Writers Guild of Canada, Banff Spark's Women's Accelerator Program, and is part of the Canadian delegation in the spotlight at the Australian International Documentary Conference.

**WRITER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER – Kate Yorga**



Kate Yorga is a writer/director who won the Corus | National Screen Institute (NSI) Fearless Female Director Award for her dramatic short film *When It Is Dark*, a meditation on love and the afterlife that involved live-action, animation, green screen and shooting underwater. She has written and directed short films and music videos, and shadowed on two CBC series, observing veteran directors Eleanore Lindo on *Heartland* and Louis Choquette on *This Life*. Her extensive background in film/TV includes work as a First A.D. and producer, and as a production manager on documentary films. She briefly pursued acting by learning scene study, method acting and Second City improv—the latter a huge asset for storytelling one-upping her 30 first-cousins in the badlands of southern Saskatchewan. Kate has a journalism diploma and wrote extensively for various trade publications and national consumer magazines. She recently completed a series of brain-exploding professional film/TV-writing workshops with L.A. instructor Corey Mandell. Kate is developing a web series, dramatic feature film, documentary feature and a TV pilot. She is currently writing scripts for a Toronto production company's true crime podcast.

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