

***Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve***  
***Florida Department of Environmental Protection***  
***Management Profile***  
***Gary D. Lytton***  
***Environmental Administrator***



Gary Lytton has served as Director of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, Florida since 1990. He is responsible for administration and supervision of the 110,000-acre Reserve, working with over thirty on-site employees involved in research, education, and coastal stewardship. Current priority efforts at the Reserve include watershed restoration, technical training for local officials and research and monitoring. Lytton also serves as the state's Regional Administrator for Aquatic Preserves in Southwest Florida, supervising field offices and staff in Tampa Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay.

Lytton received his academic training in Biology and Marine Science at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, and at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he was involved in field and laboratory studies investigating the effects of thermal effluents on fish populations in Tampa Bay.

Lytton has been the recipient of a number of prestigious environmental awards, including NOAA's First Annual Award for Excellence in Estuarine Reserve Management in 1992, Florida's Resource Manager of the Year Award in 1993, and the Nature Conservancy's Conservation Colleague Award in 1994. On Earth Day 2000, Vice President Al Gore honored Lytton as one of the nation's "Environmental Heroes." In 2004, President George Bush and Governor Jeb Bush visited the Reserve and recognized the work of Lytton and staff during a national address.

Lytton has also served as President of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, a national non-profit organization representing the interests of managers and staff at twenty-seven National Research Reserves across the country. He is a graduate of Leadership Collier Class of 2003.

A Naples resident since 1986, Lytton has two daughters.

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**Areas of Interest/Experience:**

Watershed Management and Restoration  
Integrated Coastal Management  
Land Acquisition  
Technical Training/Education  
Native Biodiversity

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***"Providing a basis for informed coastal decisions by communities  
in Southwest Florida through research, education and coastal stewardship"***

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