

**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting - March 22, 2010
Interpretive Center**

Welcome

Carolyn Babb, President

Announcements

Annual Report

Nancy Johnson, Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

Dr. R. Charles O'Connor, Vice President

The following appointed board member is proposed for election as a new board member for a term of two years:

Molly Meadows

The current board member is proposed for re-election for an additional term of two years:

Frank Murray

The following members are proposed for election for a term of two years:

Joyce Sanders

Steve Tutko

Jean Scholz

The following board member is retiring:

Mary Murray

Election

General Membership

Introduction of Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb

Presentation to Mary Murray

Introduction of Bob Repenning, Coordinator of Land Stewardship, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Board of Directors

March 23, 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes by Nancy Johnson

- I.** Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Joyce Sanders
Everyone was welcomed
- II.** Nancy Johnson read financial reports from 2008 Annual Meeting and current meeting. Also stated minutes and reports would appear on the website when available.
- III.** Charles O'Connor read names of nominees for Board; Joyce asked for approval of nominees, Janet Bunch made motion, Jan Cornell seconded. Open for discussion – none made.
Introduction of Board Members by Joyce Sanders.
- IV.** Presentation was made to Joyce for years of dedication to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve and all her endeavors to bring to fruition the Interpretive Center with the help of community involvement, volunteers, Andy, Mary, Heather and Bob from Lee County Parks.
- V.** Lisa Ostberg from Friend of Florida Panther Refuge made her presentation.

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting 2010

Message from President of Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
To all of the Friends,

The Friends organization has certainly come a long way in the last decade. From a group of volunteers determined to provide a fantastic educational location at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve to an even more determined group of volunteers and like minded citizens supporting and working for the same goal! We are even more determined in the light of the difficult economy of the country and our area in southwest Florida. Even though times are tough economically, the preservation of the natural resource we all love, the Slough, is still a number one priority.

Highlight of this year was the Interpretive Center officially designated as a "green" building by the US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) on April 24, 2009. It is the first LEED certified new public building construction in Lee and Collier Counties. This was one of the original goals of the original Charter members of the Friends.

It has been a busy year for our treasury! Friends' treasurer, Frank Murray, has provided a detail of the actual funding amounts but here are a few highlights.

The Friends organization funded the replacement of the large interpretive displays along the boardwalk trail. The two map displays at the amphitheater were replaced and the self guided Green Building tour were all funded by donations and memberships of the Friends. The replacement of the displays at Pop Ash Pond is in the planning stage and will be completed in 2010.

Funds from the Blake Cadkin Memorial Fund are being used to continually augment the resource room. Great books and DVDS are being purchased as the staff at the Slough identifies the needs. The Friends funded new binoculars for use on the guided tours. Funded with the Blake Cadkin Memorial Fund are items that are used in the summer camps at the Slough. The Friends provided funding for purchase of microphones for the use of the volunteer guides on the boardwalk.

Friends helped to finance the construction of the great blue heron picnic pavilion. It was finished and signage has been erected for it. This was part of the overall Interpretive Center plan. It is a piece of functional art to replace the condemned picnic shelter at the parking lot. It has triggered many discussions about recycling of materials along with the natural beauty of a heron.

As the staff identifies needs at the Interpretive Center and on the boardwalk, the Board of Directors responds with each and every resource that is available to us from the members of Friends and the donors at the Slough. We can do nothing without that support!

The Friends Corner shop has been a challenge that the volunteers have stepped up to meet. Workers are at the register when the Interpretive Center is open. Sales are growing as we determine what the folks would like to have as a memento of the Slough or what books the visitors need to enhance their visit.

This year saw the beginning of the annual Photo Contest at the Slough. It turned out great! We received over 150 photos from 36 entrants. The winners were announced in February 2010. The second annual contest will start this fall. Please keep that in mind as you snap those photos on your visits to the Slough. I look forward to the next event!

Thank you from my heart for this past year as the President of the Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve organization. Thank you to all of the Board of Directors for their hard work and devotion to our goals and objectives. Especially thank you to the members of this great organization. With you all things are possible.

Carolyn Babb
President
Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Annual Meeting 2010
Communications
Carolyn Babb, Editor

In 2009 there were four six page issues of *Connections* that were developed, printed and mailed.

Winter, 2009
Spring, 2009
Summer, 2009
Fall, 2009

Distribution of each issue averaged 200 copies in the mail and the link by email is now up to 38 recipients.

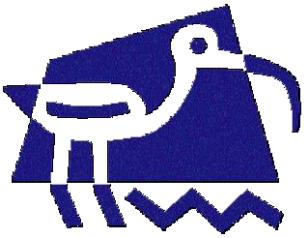
Contributors include Mary Rude, Supervisor Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, Bob Repenning, Land Steward, Heather Gienapp, Senior Program Specialist, Mary Murray, Membership Chairperson, Frank Murray, Treasurer, Charles O'Connor, Education Chairperson, Dotty Brown, Steve Tutko, Bill Sanders, Joyce Sanders, Janet Bunch, Special Events Chairperson, Alouise Skehan Pyle, Flo Kornman and Lee County Parks and Recreation staff.

It was necessary to start the actual printing of the first issue of 2010 by the Friends. Lee County is still providing the facility and funding half of the cost, but the Friends organization is now responsible for the printing. Heather Gienapp, Senior Program Specialist at the Slough is helping me through this learning process.

Heather was the main provider for the publicity of the Photo Contest at the Slough. She posted all of the fliers at the Slough as well as sent the information to numerous newspapers and magazines.

Mary Murray, Membership Chairperson, provided the updated mailing listing and labels used to mail and send the newsletters and email messages to members.

Email messages were sent to members as reminders of meetings and events.



FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE

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www.sloughpreserve.org

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
Cadkin Foundation

Carolyn Delizia Swift

*Henderson, Franklin, Starnes
& Holt, P.A.*

Dr. William Hammond
*Florida Gulf Coast
University*

Wiley M. Parker, A.I.A.
*Parker/Mudgett/Smith
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Carol Newcomb-Jones

Kitson & Partners, LLC

Stephen D. Tutko
Babcock Ranch

Joyce Sanders
Past President

Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb, President

Charles O'Connor Vice
President

Nancy Johnson, Secretary

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Jeff Key

Molly Meadows

Mary Murray

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor

March 10, 2010

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009

Friends' financial picture changed somewhat in 2009 as the organization's Mission transformed from helping to build and Inaugurate the Interpretive Center, to its present role of supporting actual operations, furnishing Boardwalk and Interpretive Center displays, supporting the Cadkin Resource Center for volunteers, and operating Friends Corner bookstore.

In this difficult financial year, total revenue was \$24,876.14, down from \$41,040 the year before. Increased membership revenue and Donations Box support remained strong. Bookstore operations produced net income of \$4,277.36.

Financing required for the Center in 2009 and Friends expenses declined from \$47,489 in 2008 to \$21,158.64. Friends had many opportunities to supplement needs of the Interpretive Center even as Lee County tightened its belt.

Friends produced an overall surplus of \$3,717.50 for 2009. A summary of the year's income and expenses and a Balance Sheet as of Jan. 1, 2010, are on following pages. Our assets at year-end were \$67,604 cash on hand and \$14,138 in store inventory waiting for visitors to buy it.

Update: While our Fiscal Year coincides with the calendar year, so far in 2010 our net income exceeds expenses by \$1,200.

During 2009 your Treasurer also prepared an updated reference book for public inspection in the Interpretive Center, including copies of filed Income Tax returns and IRS approval letters, along with state and corporate information required of tax-exempt organizations such as ours. As always, the Treasurer files with the Board Secretary current and detailed Income & Expense reports and Balance sheets.

Submitted by Frank Murray, Treasurer

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.
Registration Number CH13822 Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FRIENDS OF SIX-MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE INCORPORATED

Treasurer Report for the Board

For Year 2009 (Submitted March 10, 2010)

| | Quarter end | Quarter end | Quarter end | Quarter end | Year to date |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 3/31/2009 | 6/30/2009 | 9/30/2009 | 12/31/2009 | 12/31/2009 |
| Donations TOTAL | 6,116.95 | 1,639.50 | 333.50 | 1,689.45 | 9,779.40 |
| Member Dues | 2,100.00 | 2,010.00 | 2,660.00 | 3,040.00 | 9,810.00 |
| Interest earned | 32.45 | 110.10 | 158.51 | 141.10 | 442.16 |
| Special Events | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 567.22 | 567.22 |
| Bookstore Net | 5,188.92 | 367.25 | -213.67 | -1,065.14 | 4,277.36 |
| Total revenue | 13,438.32 | 4,126.85 | 2,938.34 | 4,372.63 | 24,876.14 |
| Program Support | 5,511.90 | 7,017.65 | 3,076.50 | 3,091.25 | 18,697.30 |
| Other expenses | 1,559.35 | 131.41 | 482.03 | 288.55 | 2,461.34 |
| Total expenses | 7,071.25 | 7,149.06 | 3,558.53 | 3,379.80 | 21,158.64 |
| Friends Operating revenue | 6,367.07 | -3,022.21 | -620.19 | 992.83 | 3,717.50 |

Membership Committee Report

Annual Meeting

March 22, 2010

2009 Membership Activity (January – December)

32 New Members

108 Renewing Members

2010 Activity Jan-Feb

3 New Members

27 Renewing Members

Membership Snapshot

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| | |
| Total Membership | 213 |
| Lifetime | 3 |
| Honorary | 11 |
| Donor | 3 |
| Patron \$1000 | 2 |
| Associate \$500 | 3 |
| Supporting \$100 | 45 |
| Contributing \$50 | 40 |
| Individual \$20 | 78 |
| Student \$10 | 2 |
| Corporate | 10 |
| Inactive Indiv 2+ years | 16 |
| Inactive Corp 2+ years | 0 |

Membership renewals have remained steady in spite of the economy.

In fact, members are renewing at higher levels to sustain the activities and programs of the Slough.

More new members joined in 2009 than in the past two years!!

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Annual Education Committee Report

3-22-10

The Friends sponsored a series of expert speakers for our membership meetings, and the December Desert Fest.

December: Heather Gienapp, Six Mile Cypress Slough Program Specialist, outlined the many green aspects of the Interpretive Center.

January: Dr. John Cassani, Asst. Director of Lee County Hyacinth Control, presented a fascinating talk about exotic plants and animals in our area.

February: Cheryl Black, a professor at Edison College explained her work with sharks and the impact that human activities are having on shark populations.

March: Robert Repenning is the land stewardship coordinator for the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. He will be discussing the efforts that go into the challenges of managing the natural system we love, the Slough.

Last summer, Charles O'Connor led several slough wet walks which were very well attended by local citizens. This was the first wet walk for most of the participants, and the enthusiasm was palpable.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Representing Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, Friends participated in a number of environmental events during the past calendar year.

Adopt-A-Road activities are held the third Saturday of each month, and has been ably chaired by Andrea and Dick Houle. Volunteers gather for 2 hours of litter clean-up along Six Mile Cypress Parkway from our front entrance south one mile. The DOT provides vests, litter grabbers, and plastic bags and reports are filed monthly with them.

Discovery Days at Manatee Park on January 24 was extremely well attended, due to the cold weather and the huge numbers of manatees in the park. Barbara Catineau, Janet Bunch, Kris Nelson, Yvonne Rogers, and Betty Willis fielded questions and provided information from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

February 28, 2009, Friends, in partnership with the Southwest Florida Symphony, had a table display at the Celebration Family Church from 6:30 – 9 p.m. for the Symphony's Nature's Wonders-themed concert. This was a small event and probably not a recurring one. Janet Bunch answered visitors' questions and provided information about the Slough.

March 28, 2009, our display appeared at the annual CREW Wildflower Festival. This event, from 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., is a big one, and is well-attended, mainly by adults who participate in the guided hikes. Many other exhibitors participate as well, and Carol Hampton, Janet Bunch, and Carla Palmer were there to represent the Slough.

FGCU hosted an Earth Day celebration on April 4 in which Friends participated. It was sparsely attended, mainly because it had only been advertised on campus. Janet Bunch handled the table display from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Sierra Club hosted their Earth Day celebration at Koreshan State Park on April 25, and Friends greeted many visitors at one of the largest events in the county. Janet Bunch, Barbara Catineau, Carol Hampton and Mary Murray answered questions and introduced many people to the beauties of the Slough from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

November 21 found the Friends once again participating in the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival in Port Charlotte. This is the largest event in Charlotte County, and from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Janet Bunch was able to invite many visitors who were unfamiliar with the Slough to come by for a visit. The Friends provided a t-shirt, ball cap and tote bag to the silent auction. In return, we received a Charlotte Harbor Estuary tote bag!

In total, Friends representatives donated 146.5 volunteer hours in preparing for, participating in and concluding all of the Special Events for 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Bunch, Special Events coordinator