

## **Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve**

**Photo by CC Mattingly** 



## Agenda

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Annual Meeting - March 26, 2014 Interpretive Center

Welcome

Carolyn Babb, President

**Announcements** 

**Annual Report** 

Theresa Roake, Secretary

**Nominating Committee Report** 

These current board members are proposed for reelection for an additional term of two years:

Frank Murray, Treasurer
Theresa Roake, Secretary
Donna Cressman, Board Member
Terri Krass, Board Member
Jean Labriola Scholz, Board Member
Steve Tutko, Board Member

**Election** 

**General Membership** 

**Introduction of Board of Directors** 

**Carolyn Babb** 

Introduction of Ray Judah, Former Lee County Commissioner

### **Board of Directors**

Carolyn Babb President

Charles O'Connor Vice President

Theresa Roake Secretary

Frank Murray Treasurer

**Donna Cressman** 

Jeff Key

Terri Krass

Jean Labriola Scholz

Steve Tutko

Mary Rude, Lee County Parks and Recreation

## Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Staff

- Annisa Karim, Senior Supervisor
- Mary Rude, Supervisor
- Heather Gienapp, Senior Program Specialist
- Bob Repenning, Land Steward
- Andy Gurri, Maintenance Specialist

## President's Message

## Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Annual Meeting March 26, 2014

The years get better and better. Membership grows, donations increase and the Friends Corner Store shows an increase in profit of 20 percent. We are indeed a well balanced organization. All of this allowed us to provide financial support to the staff and the Slough of over \$22,000 in 2013. Add to that all of the hours that our members provide for so many activities and the Friends are shining stars.

The list of accomplishments gets better than the previous years which have been absolutely outstanding.

The Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau selected Friends as the winner of the Eco-innovation category of the 2013 Chrysalis Awards. I am so proud that our organization was selected and honored for our efforts for fostering growth and sustainability in Lee County.

There were different field trips planned and executed for Friends members this year to places like the Randell Research Center on Pine Island and the Conservancy of SW Florida in Naples. These learning experiences make us better volunteers and stewards in our mission to protect and preserve the Slough. Another 150 folks sloshed through the DEEP water of the Slough in August and September and others by the light of the full moon. We picked up garbage along the road. We watched butterflies emerge from the chrysalis that were constructed on plants in the center garden, tended and cared for by staff and volunteers.

## President's Message

#### cont'd

Take a look at our photo contest entries for this year. Again the judges were amazed at the talent and the beauty as shown by the entries from our visitors.

The Friends Corner volunteers have allowed us to have the store open all of the hours that the Interpretive Center is open. I appreciate the hard work and dedication so much. Some day that blasted computer will get a good report in this message. Again, however, the humans win and the computer may be replaced by now. Keep up the good work to all!

Frank Murray, the Friends Treasurer, keeps our books current and all of our reports, forms and money available 24/7. Not a penny comes or goes that he doesn't know where or why. His dedication, accuracy and knowledge are beyond belief and we can credit him with so much of our success.

The board members work hard and with equal dedication to the Friends. Members include a Golden Apple Award winner, three Florida Master Naturalists, a Florida Master Gardner, Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau volunteers, a research scientist, a world famous journalist and an environmental services company owner. It is an amazing group of folks. A great big thank you to all of them for the gigantic effort needed to make our organization a success.

Thank you to the Lee County Parks and Recreation staff and to Lee County for our continued successful partnership. It is strong and we all work together with the goal of promoting and preserving the Slough.

To Mary Rude, Heather Gienapp, Bob Repenning, Andy Gurri and Annisa Karim thank you for all you do for us and for the Slough. I value your friendship and your love of the Slough. I love you all!

Thank you to all of the Friends members. Your generosity and support allows us to continue in our efforts for the Slough. I can't wait to see what the new year brings and all that it holds for us. Bring it on!

Thank you my dear friends. See you in the Slough.

## Friends 2013 Accomplishments

Direct Support to the Slough of \$22,526. for purchases including:

Magnet Spotting Board

New Signage

Protective Railings at viewing decks of all ponds

Garden Trellis

Water Faucet in Garden

Water Bottle Filler at Fountain

**Camp Scholarships and Supplies** 

**Bear Proof Garbage and Recycle Bin** 

Friends Field Trips including:
Bat Kayak Tour
Telegraph Creek Preserve
Archbold Biological Station
Bowditch Point Preserve

**Chrysalis Award from Lee County Visitors and Tourism Bureau** 

**Funding for Field Trip Buses and Teachers** 

**Invasive Plant Control – Financial and Physical** 

**Puppet Troupe** 

**Rock and Stroll Garden** 

**Photo Contest** 

Books, CDs, DVDs for Blake Cadkin Resource Library

Special Events Representation at Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival Burrowing Owl Festival Interpretive Center Anniversary

Photo by Jose Padilla-Lopez

## Friends 2013 Accomplishments cont'd

Gathering Speakers including:
Neil Wilkinson
Roger Clark
Robert Repenning
Rosie Emery

**Volunteer of the Year** 

Binoculars, scopes and tripods

**Friends Corner** 

**New Benches** 

**Butterfly Garden** 

**University of Georgia Students Support** 

**Five Year Anniversary of the Building Event** 

Complete 2013 Annual Report Available at www.sloughpreserve.org

**Photo by Carolyn Babb** 



#### FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE

7791 Penzance Boulevard Ft. Myers, Florida 33966

(239) 533-7557 www.sloughpreserve.org

March 15, 2014

#### **Advisory Board**

Jacquelin Cadkin

A & J Cadkin Foundation

Carolyn Delizia Swift Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A..

Dr. William Hammond
Florida Gulf Coast
Universit

Carol Newcomb-Jones

Wiley M. Parker, A.I.A. Parker/Mudgett/Smith Architects, Inc.

Joyce Sanders
Past President, Friends

#### **Board of Directors**

Carolyn Babb, President

Charles O'Connor Vice President

Theresa Roake, Secretary

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Donna Cressman

Jeff Key

Terri Krass

Jean Labriola Scholz

Stephen D. Tutko

#### Parks and Recreation Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor

Board of Directors Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Carolyn Babb, President

As detailed in the statement of income and expenses for 2013 and formal balance sheet as of Dec. 31, Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve continues to successfully accumulate financial resources to supplement programs and visitor facilities at the Slough and Interpretive Center, and provide substantial amounts of support. Key items for comparison:

Income received	2012	2013	change
Donations, gifts	13,337.96	26,326.07	97.4%
Membership revenue	11,250.00	11,325.01	0.7%
Friends Corner sales	16,784.20	18,790.30	12.0%
Spending			
Grants and support	14,224.77	22,508.88	58.2%
Admin. Costs	2,502.22	2,319.29	-7.3%

For broader context, in the six-plus years since the Interpretive Center opened, our membership organization has provided approximately \$124,000 in direct support of its goals: growing the number of opportunities for visitors to experience Six Mile, while maintaining and enhancing its environmental value.

In addition to financial records, your Treasurer prepares paperwork which includes a seven-page federal tax return (despite our organization's tax-exempt status), actively defends our compliance with filing laws, tracks complex Florida reporting requirements to maintain our charitable organization registration, coordinates our exemption from paying sales taxes and separately licensed to collect sales taxes from visitors to our store, a demanding schedule which now requires filing a state sales tax return monthly instead of twice a year.

Sincerely

Frank Murray, Treasurer

#### **Balance Sheet**

#### **ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Current Assets	
1050 · Bank of America accounts	
1050.1 · BoA Main Checking	11,170.86
1050.2 · BoA Savings MM	37,893.90
1050.3 · BoA Bookstore check	3,304.12
1050.41 · Time Deposit CD 8787 02/12/2015	10,000.00
1050.42 · Time Deposit CD 8826 11/14/2014	10,000.00
1050.43 · Time Deposit CD 8758 5/16/2014	10,000.50
1050.44 · Time Deposit CD 0113 7/29/2014	25,000.00
Total 1050 · Bank of America accounts	107,369.38
Total 1000 · Current Assets	107,369.38
Total Checking/Savings	107,369.38
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Other Current Assets	
1300.3 · Inventory on hand IC store	13,534.44
1300.4 · Cash on hand Bookstore	873.50
1300.5 · Cash on hand Treasurer	72.42
1300.6 · PayPal service	5.00
Total 1300 · Other Current Assets	14,485.36
Total Other Current Assets	14,485.36
Total Current Assets	121,854.74

#### TOTAL ASSETS \$121,854.74

#### **LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2001 · Liabilities	
2005 · State Sales Tax payable	349.89
Total 2001 · Liabilities	349.89
Total Other Current Liabilities	349.89
Total Current Liabilities	349.89
Total Liabilities	\$ 349.89
Equity	
3001 · Opening Bal Equity	13,983.57
3010 · Unrestrict (retained earnings)	88,671.01
Net Income	18,850.27
Total Equity	\$ <b>121,504.85</b>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$121,854.74

## Friends of Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Income & Expenses Summary January through December 2013

Income	
4000 · Revenue	
4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants	
4001.1 · InterpCtr, Preserve, Displays	7,741.87
4001.12 · Donations box Boardwalk	3,464.71
4001.13 · Donations Jar Interp Ctr	1,155.50
4001.2 · Donations In Memoriam	1,175.00
4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants - Other	7,925.73
<b>Total 4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants</b>	21,462.81
4001.5 · Program Revenue	
4001.51 · Photo Contests	934.59
4001.52 · Wet Walks spcl tours etc	2,896.67
4001.53 · Name stones project	625.00
4001.55 · Other programs	407.00
Total 4001.5 · Program Revenue	4,863.26
4003 · Membership revenue	
4003.1 · Membership, Student \$10	10.00
4003.2 · Membership, Individual \$20	1,075.01
4003.3 · Membership, Contributing \$50	2,350.00
4003.4 · Membership, Supporting \$100	3,120.00
4003.45 · Membership, Associate \$250	1,000.00
4003.5 · Membership, Sustaining \$500	1,500.00
4003.7 · Patron \$1000	2,000.00
4003 · Membership revenue - Other	270.00
Total 4003 · Membership revenue	11,325.01
4004 · Interest earned	182.86
4009 · Bookstore-Interpretive Center	
4009.01 ⋅ Bookstore sales	
4009.1 · Bookstore credit sales	10,298.24
4009.2 · Bookstore cash sales	9,601.95
4009.4 · Charges to Sales	
4009.81 · Fla Sales tax collected/paid	-1,136.94
4009.82 · Sales tax collection fee earned	27.05
Total 4009.4 · Charges to Sales	-1,109.89
Total 4009.01 · Bookstore sales	18,790.30
4009.5 · Bookstore Overhead	
4009.51 · Credit processing fees	-839.36
4009.52 ⋅ Insurance Bookstore	-1,116.63
4009.55 · Misc expenses	-158.89
4009.7 · Commissions on crafts	-29.99
4009.5 · Bookstore Overhead - Other	42.25
Total 4009.5 · Bookstore Overhead	-2,102.62
4009.6 · Purchases for resale	-11,375.71
4009.9 · Adjust inventory asset account	532.53
Total 4009 · Bookstore-Interpretive Center	5,844.50
Total 4000 · Revenue	43,678.44

**Total Income** 

## Friends of Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Income & Expenses Summary January through December 2013 cont'd

#### Expense

F000 F	
5000 · Expenses	
5009 · Grants, etc. paid	
5009.1 · Displays and Slough	5,192.48
5009.2 · Interpretive Center support	
5009.23 · Scholarships Summer Camp	1,050.00
5009.25 · Summer Camp support (other)	508.94
5009.2 · Interpretive Center support - Other	7,512.15
<b>Total 5009.2 · Interpretive Center support</b>	9,071.09
5009.3 · Cadkin Fund Resource Purchases	342.49
5009.5 · Program Expenses	
5009.51 · Photo contest	66.47
5009.53 · Name Stones	1,290.00
5009.54 · Speakers honoraria	250.00
5009.55 · Wildlife Education	4,663.81
5009.56 · Invasive Plant control	240.00
5009.59 · Other program expenses	1,392.54
Total 5009.5 · Program Expenses	7,902.82
Total 5009 · Grants, etc. paid	22,508.88
5009.9 · Charges to Designated Accounts	0.00
5016 · Other Expenses	
5016.1 · Permits Taxes Fees	176.25
5016.2 · Office supplies	229.88
5016.3 · Postage	568.65
5016.4 · Printing, shipping	84.63
5016.5 · Insurance (Main org)	1,211.88
5016.6 · Maintenance & Misc	48.00
Total 5016 · Other Expenses	2,319.29
Total 5000 · Expenses	24,828.17
Total 0000 - Expenses	24,020.17
Total Expense	\$24,828.17
Not Ordinary Income	¢40 050 07
Net Ordinary Income	\$18,850.27
Net Income	\$18,850.27

## Membership

#### **Quarterly Update**

January	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Renewing	17	35	28	27	21
New	2	14 *	4	1	3
February					
Renewing	10	11	6	12	6
New	1	3	1	4	2
March					
Renewing	20	12	14	12	3**
New	1	4	5	6	3**
1st Quarter					
Renewing	47	58	48	51	30**
New	4	21	10	11	8**

<sup>\*\*</sup> as of 3/9/14

#### **Annual Membership Snapshot**

Annual Membership Snapshot	As of 3/6/11	As of 3/24/12	As of 3/24/13	As of 3/9/14
Lifetime	3	3	3	3
Honorary	6	5	11	13
Donor	4	7	8	8
Guest	9	3	0	8
Patron \$1000	5	4	2	3
Sustaining \$500	1	6	6	6
Corporate Sponsor \$500	0	0	1	0
Associate \$250	2	3	4	4
Supporting \$100	39	37	36	41
Contributing \$50	49	54	59	54
Individual \$20	80	80	76	78
Student \$10	3	4	3	1
Inactive 2+ years	21	4	2	2
Total Membership	222	210	211	221

## Communications

Connections – Friends newsletter was published four times in 2013, 250 copies each edition in January, April, July and October of 2013.

Contributors included Mary Rude, Heather Gienapp, Bob Repenning, Mary Murray, Frank Murray, Jean Scholz, Charles O'Connor, Janet Bunch, Dotty Brown, Theresa Roake, Terri Krass, Steve Tutko, Jeff Key, Jeff Montgomery, Arnie Rosen and Carolyn Babb, editor and Bruce Bunch, copy editor.

Friends utilizes copy equipment at Terry Park in Fort Myers at the Lee County Parks and Recreation Offices to produce the newsletter. It is printed, folded, stamped and addressed by volunteers.

Email communication is used for messages and information to the membership for meetings and events and other information. An email listing of membership is maintained for this purpose.

Events and meetings are publicized in local newspapers including the News Press, the Naples Daily News, the Florida River Weekly and the Daniels Corridor publication.

**Photo by Chuck Pavlick** 

## **Education**

#### **Slough Summer Camp Scholarships 2013**

Fourteen scholarships were awarded to local youngsters. A good time was had by all. In addition, Friends provided many of the supplies for camp.

#### **School Field Trips 2013**

**Lexington Middle School** 8<sup>th</sup> grade science students spent a couple of days at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve on field trips with Education Chair Charles O'Connor.

60 students learned about the importance of Florida's wetlands, native plants and animals, water conservation, and enjoyed a wet-walk through the watery heart of a beautiful cypress forest. The participants studied the slough ecosystem online, and submitted a completed worksheet and a short essay explaining why they wanted to attend.

The trail is closed to the general public, but has been used educationally for over 40 years, safely walked by many thousands of students and adults. Charles has led over 180 long trail wetwalk trips. *Friends* provided funding for the buses and substitute teachers.

Photo by Jason Boeckman

## Education cont'd

#### **Summer Public Wet Walks 2013**

Friends Education Chair Charles O'Connor led ten trips along the wetwalk trail, which is usually closed to the public, and the walkers offered very favorable comments at the conclusion. Folks really enjoyed the beauty of the trail and learning about the uniqueness of the ecology. Quite a few were repeat participants, and many joined through word of mouth.

#### **Speakers for 2013**

January – **Neil Wilkinson**, FGCU – *Reconnecting Children with Nature* 

February – Roger Clark, First Lee County Land Steward, Ecosystem Services and the Economic Value of Conservation Lands

March -Bob Repenning, Six Mile Cypress Slough and Lakes Park, Land Stewardship Coordinator, Annual State of the Slough Address.

April -Rosie Emery, WGCU singer/songwriter, environmental educator and television producer. For twenty years she has focused on writing songs for children about animals and nature imparting the understanding of how all of life is interconnected.

## **Special Events**

#### **Special Events 2013**

Janet Bunch, Special Events Chairperson made sure the Slough was represented at the following events in 2013:

Burrowing Owl Festival
Wings Over Water at Harnes Marsh
Interpretive Center Anniversary
Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival

#### **Friends Field Trips 2013**

Janet Bunch, Carolyn Babb and Mary Murray organized field trips for Friends members in 2013. These trips are very popular and typically had the maximum number of participants. This is an excellent way for our members to gain more knowledge of the flora and fauna in our natural places to play. Places we visited this year included:

**Bat Kayak Tour** 

**Telegraph Creek Preserve** 

**Archbold Biological Station** 

**Bowditch Point** 

**Alva Scrub Preserve** 

**Prairie Creek Preserve** 

**Conservancy of Southwest Florida** 

Photo by Cayce Jehaini

## Advocacy

Our mission as Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve continues to be the commitment to preserving, protecting and promoting our wonderful friend the Slough.

In 2013, we continued to monitor the status of Conservation 20/20 funding. We continue to be concerned about the future of this important program.

Photo by Bob Repenning

## Website

Currently, the website at

www.sloughpreserve.org features our events and some brief information on the Preserve. Our Webmaster is in the process of updating and redesigning our website page by page. In addition, it would be nice to have integration with our social media. If you have an interest in helping out in this area or have any suggestions, please contact Jeff Key at (239) 822 6087.

Photo by Krystle DiNicola

## Friends Corner Store



**TOTAL SALES FOR 2013** 

\$18,790

**PROFIT** 

\$ 5,844

**INVENTORY VALUE** 

\$13,500

#### 25 VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work. Best volunteers anywhere!

# Rock and Stroll Garden – March 2014

The Rock and Stroll Garden was created in the spring of 2013 as a fund raising project to support the Friends educational programs and materials. The project also provided an opportunity to make improvements to the center parking lot garden. To date there are 14 engraved stones that have been placed in the garden and there is room for many more. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.

In addition to the stones in the garden, we have added a beautiful steel arch and a new sign that explains our goals. New plants have been added to attract butterflies and other wildlife by Master Gardner Donna Cressman. More opportunities for volunteer gardeners are planned for the future. Several new picnic tables will soon be in place for the public to enjoy along with the existing benches. In April, we plan to unveil a spectacular surprise addition – so stay tuned!

Terri Krass, Board Member

# Minutes of Annual Meeting March 27, 2013

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Board of Directors March 27, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Carolyn Babb

Everyone was welcomed and Carolyn Babb read her message and presented reports from 2012.

Carolyn Babb, Jeff Key and Charles O'Connor were re-elected for an additional term of two years.

Carolyn Babb made introduction of Board of Directors.

Bob Repenning, Land Steward for Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve presented "The State of the Slough"

# Board Election – Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee proposes the re-election of the following Board Members for an additional term of two years:

Frank Murray, Treasurer
Theresa Roake, Secretary
Donna Cressman, Board Member
Terri Krass, Board Member
Jean Labriola Scholz, Board Member
Steve Tutko, Board Member

Additional nominations from the Floor may be submitted at this time.

