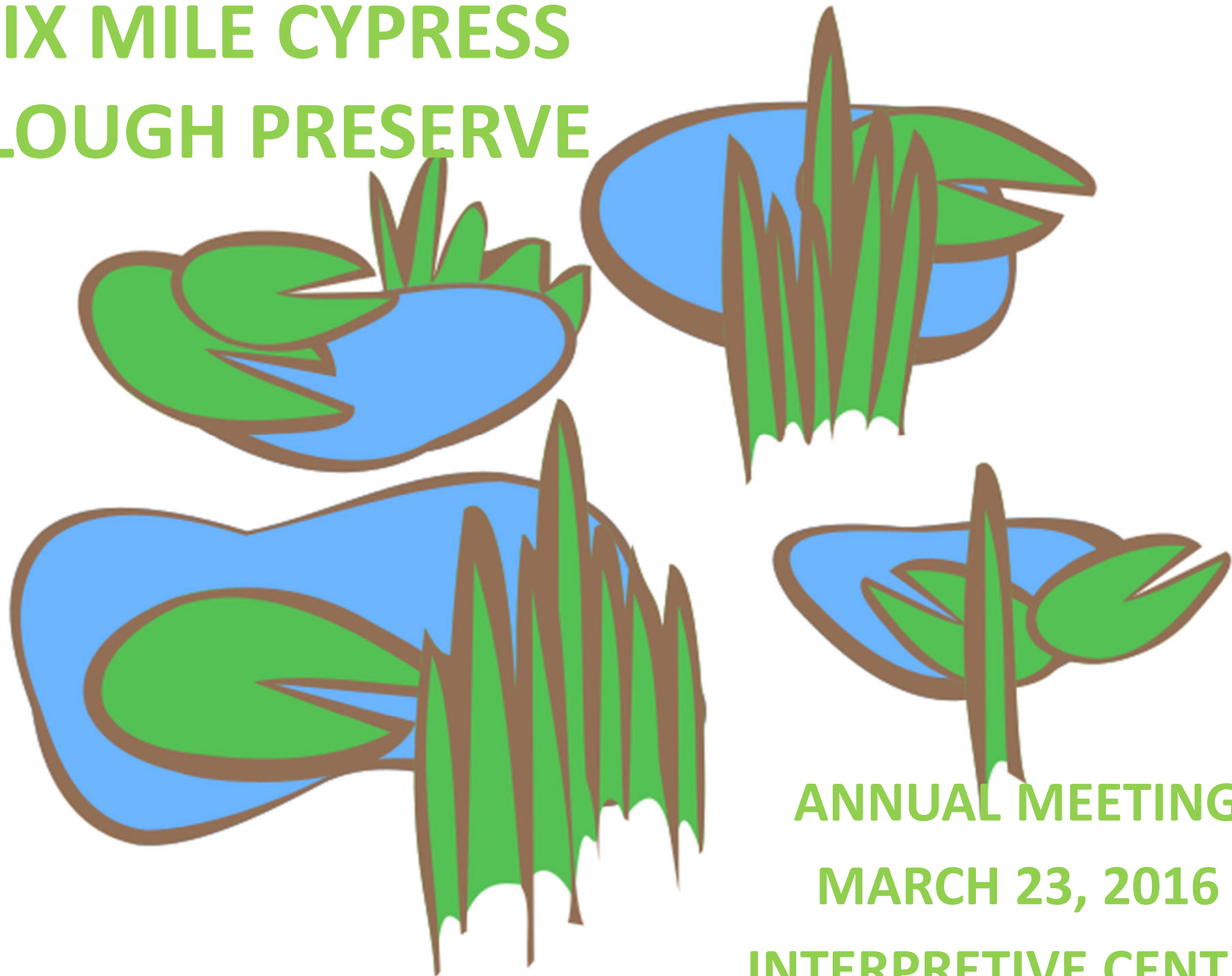




Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Photo by Richard Burwell

**FRIENDS OF
SIX MILE CYPRESS
SLOUGH PRESERVE**



**ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 23, 2016
INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

Agenda

**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting - March 23, 2016
Interpretive Center**

Welcome

Carolyn Babb, President

Announcements

Annual Report

Theresa Roake, Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

Carolyn Babb, President

Election

General Membership

Introduction of Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb, President

**Introduction of Bob Repenning, Coordinator, Land Stewardship
*"State of the Slough"***

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

Heather Gienapp, Lee County Parks and Recreation Liaison

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Staff

- Annisa Karim, Senior Supervisor
- Heather Gienapp, Supervisor
- Andrea Naccarato, Senior Program Specialist
- Bob Repenning, Land Steward
- Andy Gurri, Senior Maintenance Specialist
- Dave Mitchell, Senior Maintenance Specialist

President's Message

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting for 2015
March 23, 2016

Another year has flown by for the Friends. Friends membership remains constant. Visitors continue to donate for the Slough. Friends Corner had the best year yet. All is right with the Slough. The Board of Directors and the staff at the Slough work together for the common goal to protect, preserve and promote the Slough. Our partnership with Lee County is a great one.

The Friends provided \$32,000 in support of the staff and the Slough in 2015. The sweat equity is even more powerful. Please read the list of accomplishments. The Board of Directors and the members put in many, many hours at and for the Slough.

We accomplished the largest project funded by the Friends since the Interpretive Center opened. The exterior wall of the Interpretive Center is now a beautiful metal sculpture to welcome the visitors. A 30 second television public service announcement was funded telling viewers about the wonders of the Slough. More camp scholarships were given to deserving campers. We are still buying books for the volunteer resource library. The Rock and Stroll Garden grows more beautiful with the addition of new rocks and plants. Trash pick up on Six Mile Parkway continues. Our list of accomplishments grows every year.

The photo contest is again a success. Visitors always find a photo opportunity at the Slough and want to share with everyone. The postcards made from the winning photos that are sold in the Friends Corner store are a big hit.

Friends Corner volunteers sold merchandise with a profit of over \$9,000 in 2015. And it is service with a smile☺ We can't thank them enough for their efforts.

Extra special thank you goes to Frank Murray, the Friends Treasurer, for all of the work it requires to keep track of our finances. He does so many things from the income taxes, to the Florida sales tax for the store, to the non profit eligibility requirements.

The entire Board of Directors is a hard working, dedicated group of Slough loving people.

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 well together with the common goal of protecting, preserving and promoting the Slough.

To Heather Gienapp, Andrea Naccarato, Bob Repenning, Andy Gurri, Dave Mitchell 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.

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 2016 has in store for us. Bring it on!

See you in the Slough.

Carolyn Babb, President

Friends Accomplishments 2015

Direct Support to the Slough of \$32,000 including:

Wall art external Interpretive Center

Public announcement by Waterman Broadcasting

Public wet walks for over 150 people

Camp scholarships for 15 campers

Camp supplies

Camp intern stipend

Camp speakers honoraria

Friends Field Trips including:

Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area

Wild Turkey Strand

Downtown Fort Myers

CREW Wildflower Walk

Galt Preserve

Funding for Lee County school field trip buses and teachers

Invasive plant control—financial and physical

Rocks added to Rock and Stroll Garden

Photo contest - 81 photographers, 207 photos

Books, CDs, DVDs for Blake Cadkin Resource Library

Gathering speakers including:

Geoff Coe, Florida Wildlife Photographer

John Kiseda, Sustainability Educator

Robert Repenning, Land Steward, Lee County

Nicole Johnson, Director of Governmental Relations for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer thank you gifts

Accomplishment pins volunteer education

New binoculars for guided walks

Funded staff education opportunities

Friends Corner sales

Butterfly garden maintenance and plantings

University of Georgia students support

Funding for development and design of new guided walk brochure

Adopt A Highway Participation

Resource library reorganization

**Complete 2015 Annual Report Available at
www.Sloughpreserve.org**



FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE

7791 Penzance Boulevard
Ft. Myers, Florida 33966

(239) 533-7557
www.sloughpreserve.org

March 15, 2016

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
A & J Cadkin Foundation

Dr. William Hammond
Florida Gulf Coast University

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

Heather Gienapp, Supervisor

Board of Directors

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Carolyn Babb, President

As detailed in the statement of income and expenses for 2015 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 previous year comparison:

Income received	2014	2015	change
Donations, gifts	26,326.07	11,241.66	-57%
Membership revenue	11,325.01	13,820.00	+22%
Friends Corner sales	18,790.30	23,309.75	+24%
Spending			
Grants and support	40,516.48	31,992.90	-21%
Admin. Costs	2,319.29	2,987.53	+28%

* Gross sales. Store net revenue \$9,421.66. In addition, Inventory on hand at year end listed as Asset of \$15,075.14.

For broader context, in the seven-plus years since the Interpretive Center opened, our membership organization has provided approximately \$156,000 in direct support of its goals: growing the number of opportunities for visitors to experience Six Mile, while maintaining and enhancing its environmental value.

Sincerely,

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 · Current Assets

1050 · Bank of America accounts

1050.1 · BoA Main Checking	13,758.69
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1050.2 · BoA Savings MM	23,914.30
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1050.3 · BoA Bookstore check	3,256.60
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1050.41 · Time Deposit CD 8787 02/12/2016	10,000.00
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1050.42 · Time Deposit CD 8826 11/14/2016	10,000.00
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1050.43 · Time Deposit CD 8758 5/16/2016	10,000.50
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1050.44 · Time Deposit CD 0113 7/29/2016	25,000.00
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Total 1050 · Bank of America accounts	95,930.09
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Total 1000 · Current Assets	95,930.09
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Total Checking/Savings	95,930.09
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Other Current Assets

1300 · Other Current Assets

1300.3 · Inventory on hand IC store	15,075.14
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1300.4 · Cash on hand Bookstore	916.00
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1300.5 · Cash on hand Treasurer	203.00
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Total 1300 · Other Current Assets	16,194.14
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Total Other Current Assets	16,194.14
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Total Current Assets	112,124.23
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$112,124.23
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**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2015 (cont'd)**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

3001 · Opening Balance Equity	13,983.57
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3010 · Unrestricted (retained earnings)	98,637.77
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Net Income	-497.11
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Total Equity	112,124.23
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$112,124.23
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Membership

Quarterly Updates

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Q1 Jan-Mar					
Renewing	48	51	40	39	26*
New	10	11	9	8	5*
Q2 Apr-Jun					
Renewing	19	31	13	22	
New	8	4	4	6	
Q3 Jul-Sep					
Renewing	19	13	16	11	
New	2	3	5	1	
Q4 Oct-Dec					
Renewing	30	12	23	18	
New	3	6	5	3	

*as of 3/20/16

Q1 remains highest, Q2 and Q4 not far behind, Q3 sometimes robust

Membership cont'd

Annual Membership Snapshot

	As of 3/24/12	As of 3/24/13	As of 3/9/14	As of 3/20/15	As of 3/20/16
Annual Membership Snapshot					
Lifetime	3	3	3	3	3
Honorary	5	11	13	5	4
Donor	7	8	8	4	5
Guest	3	0	8	8	12
Patron \$1000	4	2	3	5	6
Sustaining \$500	6	6	6	6	7
Corporate Sponsor \$500	0	1	0	0	0
Associate \$250	3	4	4	7	13
Supporting \$100	37	36	41	45	44
Contributing \$50	54	59	54	52	51
Individual \$20	80	76	78	97	102
Student \$10	4	3	1	0	0
Inactive 2+ years	4	2	2	n/a	n/a
	210	211	221	232	247
Total Membership					

- During the autumn of 2014, the Friends all-time membership total reached 500
- With 15 additional new members in 2016, all-time membership total will reach 600

Communications

Connections – Friends newsletter was published four times in 2015 in January, April, July and October of 2015.

Contributors included Heather Gienapp, Andrea Naccarato, Annisa Karim, 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, and Carolyn Babb, editor and Bruce Bunch, copy editor.

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.

Education

Slough Summer Camp Scholarships 2015

Fifteen 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 2015

Several schools were able to bring students to the slough for wet walks, including Charles O'Connor who led a total of 100 Lexington Middle School science students on 4 all day, slough oriented field trips, funded by ***Friends***. The students learned many important insights about wetland ecology, and had an excellent time. Also, North Myers Academy of the Arts participated in 4 days of walks, led by Joelle Hammes, a fellow science educator in the Lee County school system.

Photo Contest

Another year for our very popular and successful contest – each continues to showcase amazing images taken in the slough.

Photo by Chuck Pavlick

Education cont'd

Summer Public Wet Walks 2015

15 public walks were led by Charles O'Connor including one for Audubon members and one for FGCU environmental students. ***The News-Press*** published a favorable article in the ***Tropicalia*** section on October 25, 2015. \$1,210 in donations were collected.

Speakers for 2015

January – **Geoff Coe**, Professional Photographer, *Better Pictures at the Slough*

February – **John Kiseda**, Sustainable Educator, *Florida Native Yards*

March – **Bob Repenning**, Land Steward, *State of the Slough*

April – **Nicole Johnson**, Director of Governmental Relations, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, *Understanding the Relationship Between our Environment, Economy and Quality of Life*

Photo by Pamela Kopen

Website

Currently, the website at www.sloughpreserve.org features our events and some brief information on the Preserve. Our Webmaster Jeff Key is in the process of reimagining our website. Please keep an eye out for the debut of Jeff's creation later in 2016.

Friends Corner



TOTAL SALES FOR 2015 \$23,309

INVENTORY VALUE \$15,075

32 VOLUNTEER WORKERS

**The store is a success because of the
volunteer workers. THANK YOU!!!**

Rock and Stroll Garden – 2015

2015 was a productive year for the Rock and Stroll Garden with the addition of six new stones. This brings the total stones to date to 25. The Garden is beginning to fill in with the many sentiments engraved for all to enjoy. There has been a change in "rock vendors" from Vermont to New Jersey. The newer stones are more traditional river rocks with smooth surfaces as opposed to some of the granite stones from the first vendor.

Under Donna Cressman's guidance, the plants in the garden are diverse and thriving. This gives the garden a very refreshing feeling and makes for a great picnic spot as visitors may sit and watch the many butterflies.

There is still plenty of room for more stones. Order forms are located at the front desk in the Interpretative Center. I will happy to help you select text, graphics or with any other detail. This is the perfect way to "own" your piece of the Slough. All proceeds go to support the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve educational programs.

Terri Krass, Board Member

A background illustration featuring a pair of hands holding a globe. The globe is covered with various colorful icons representing nature and wildlife, including a yellow deer, a purple butterfly, a blue bird, a green plant, a brown dog, a purple shark, and a yellow sun. The hands are rendered in a light, sketchy style.

Advocacy

The future of the Conservation 20/20 Program will be decided by Lee County voters in the November election. The Friends will keep the membership apprised of any pertinent activity and information.

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 25, 2015

**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Board of Directors
March 25, 2015 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 2014.

**Carolyn Babb, President
Charles O'Connor, Vice President
Jeff Key, Board Member
were re-elected for an additional term of two years.**

Board of Directors was introduced.

Bob Repenning, Coordinator, Land Stewardship presented "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 Scholz, Board Member
- Steve Tutko, Board Member

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

2015 Annual Report

www.sloughpreserve.org