



Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

SUMMER 2008

FRIENDS CORNER - STOCKED AND READY FOR BUSINESS

The "Corner" store at the Interpretive Center at the Six Mile Cypress Slough is stocked and ready for business. The "Corner Gang" as they call themselves, Joyce Sanders, Rudy and Irmgard Lampron, Nancy Johnson and Carolyn Babb (as well as other Friends) have worked hard and long to get the store ready for regular hours of business.

Now all that is needed are volunteers to help staff the Corner. The goal is to have enough Friends to have a regular schedule to coincide with the hours for the guided walk and the open hours of the Interpretive Center.

CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES FOR THE COMING MONTHS. VOLUNTEER FOR A MORNING OR AFTERNOON AT THE CORNER!!!!

Rudy Lampron has coordinated the installation of a state of the art computerized sales and inventory system. There will be a training session for those folks volunteering for working at the Corner.

Please contact Carolyn Babb at babb88@centuryfla.com or 239-728-4707 to volunteer for any of the following times beginning immediately! For the months of August and September the store will be open on the following days:

Wednesday 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

If there are other days or hours that are more convenient for anyone, we are always open for suggestions and volunteers.

JOIN US, HAVE SOME FUN AND HELP FUND THE INTERIOR DISPLAYS. THE CORNER NEEDS YOUR HELP.

The day of the Grand Opening of the Interpretive Center the store was open and sales surpassed \$2,000. All of the profits from this day and all of the other sales go directly back to the interior displays of the center.

Wendy Key, a Friends member as well as a jewelry designer, has designed a signature necklace, using the Friends logo, exclusively for sale at the Corner. The first order of 25 sold out almost immediately and another 25 are now available. Wendy will also have some of her other designs at the Corner as well.

There are note cards and post cards of the photographs by volunteer Wilma Keidel.

The mural on the entry wall painted by Erma Woodis has also been used for note cards and posters that are for sale at the Corner.

The Corner also has an assortment of books, games and some toys that are all directly related to the Slough. It is the intent to keep the focus at the Corner on educating about the Slough as well as informing about all of the fun to be had at the Slough.

See page 3 for our very own book about the Slough—The Slough and You by Bill Sanders, featuring our own Ibis.



Signature Logo Necklace made exclusively for Friends for sale at Friends Corner



T Shirts and golf shirts available with the Friends Logo.



Don't forget a Hat!!!





Our first summer with the Interpretive Center open for visitors has been an interesting and educational experience. In case you haven't had the chance to come, you will see that it is all we dreamed it to be... and this is still with our temporary displays! **Friends Corner** is the name we have placed on the bookstore and gift shop. Rudy, Carolyn and Nancy have been busy with the inventory and if you visit on Wednesday, you'll probably find it open. I have been enjoying greeting visitors at the reception desk and introducing them to all the green aspects of the building as well as informing them about Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough and our partnership with the county.

One morning, I met Cheryl Black, a professor at Edison College. We became engaged in conversation and as she spoke with such enthusiasm about the Slough and her appreciation of what the Friends have accomplished, we both recognized an opportunity beneficial to all. She is now a new member of the Board of Directors! This meeting would not have taken place without The Interpretive Center! This is just the beginning of seeing our vision of getting the message of the wonders of Six Mile Cypress Slough out to all our visitors, through this "special gateway" to the Preserve. Come on out!! Joyce Sanders

RESEARCH IN THE SLOUGH

Currently, Friends members are volunteering time to assist one of our Friends Board Members, Jeff Key, with research for a Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) project that is the result of two studies developed from the Lee County Land Stewardship Plan of 2003. Jeff is pursuing his Masters of Arts in Environmental Science at FGCU.

The next quarter issue of *Connections* will have a detailed article about this study and its importance to the Slough.

One important component of the research is the effort of the volunteers without which this work would be impossible. If you are interested in volunteering, we meet every Friday now through September and then every other Friday October through mid May for hydrological monitoring. Please call Jeff Key at 239-822-6087 or email jeffgkey@comcast.net.



A
FRIEND
INDEED

CLARK RHODES FRIEND EXTRAORDINAIRE!!!!!!

We Salute You.

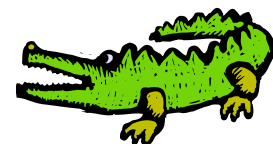
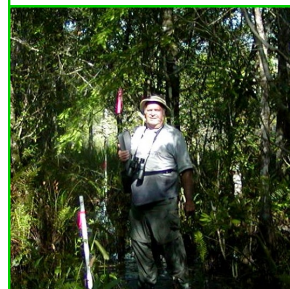
By Carolyn Babb

Follow this man around for just a day and you will think that you have accomplished more than most folks can accomplish in a month! Clark is not only a Friend of the Slough, he is a volunteer guide, a kayak guide, a research aide, a trail blazer, a weed puller, a fence maker and post hole digger, a senior center kitchen helper, bingo caller and line dance instructor, to name a few of his activities, all done within the same week!

Clark relocated to Florida from Indiana about ten years ago. At that time he was active in Habitat for Humanity. He signed up for the Volunteer Naturalist activity at the Slough about eight years ago. Along with his guide activities as a volunteer, he has been active in four different FGCU projects at the Slough and helped to blaze a 31 mile long trail at Prairie Pines, just to name a few more of his activities. He tirelessly gives of his time to aide in the research at the Slough.

Following this man around the Slough is an education in itself. His knowledge, enthusiasm and positive attitude about work in the Slough (and anything else) are contagious. One wonderful personal memory is of the bedraggled group of college boys following him through the Slough. Clark with a post hole digger on his shoulder leading the boys with faces drenched with sweat and shoulders drooping with exhaustion. Not only does he run circles around the youngins' he whistles while he works and has been known to line dance in the parking lot at the Slough. Not enough can be said about this man and his contribution to the Slough. He is truly a special Friend, and

we are proud that he is one of us.



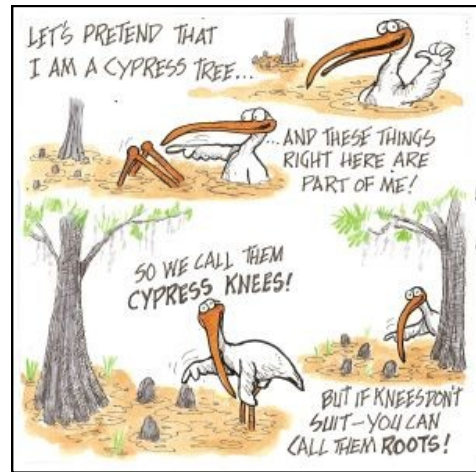
Photos by Bob Repenning

“THE SLOUGH AND YOU” BY BILL SANDERS

Author and cartoonist, Bill Sanders, has created a children’s book all about the Slough. It is an educational book that is entertaining as well. Our ibis has made it from the fund raiser at the golf course to the Slough for a guided tour on the boardwalk. As he walks along he points out all of the exciting things to see, such as his friend, Hoppy, a little anole and Old Charlie, our big alligator. Ibis points out all of the things that a volunteer guide might point out while on a guided walk. And he does a great job at it. The book can be personalized for a special friend.



The book is available at Friends Corner. (\$9.95 plus tax) All proceeds from the sale of the book will be used for the on going interior display work at the Slough. Or if you would like to order a book by mail please contact Joyce Sanders jsandersj01@comcast.



Along the Boardwalk ...A Summer Daydream...by Dotty Brown



In summer the livin’ is easy! The rain has come to refresh the ponds for fish, frogs , insect larvae and aquatic vegetation. Wood Ducks, Glossy Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Heron feed on this aquatic life along the pond edges. The air is alive with emerged insects. Butterflies, such as the Gulf Fritillary, Ruddy Daggerwing, Zebra Longwing, and several species of Swallowtails frequent the Buttonbush. Dragonflies and Damsel flies flit to and fro through their territorial air space controlling the insect populations. Epiphytic plants are absorbing the humidity. The Butterfly Orchids bloom and the Resurrection Fern provides the lush green background for all of you to come enjoy this summer daydream!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!!

Carolyn Babb
Walter & Nancy Baker
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
George & Jackie Cooper
Patricia Coppins C
Mary Ross Denison
Maureen & Dave Doern
Gail G. Dye
Daniel Eagan
Samantha Eagan
Calvin Eells
Richard & Lois Fein
William & Teresa Fields
Rosemary Fleming
Florida Native Plant Society
Harriet J. Gallagher
Robin Gardner
Marsha Golod
Green Thumb Garden Club
Rosalene Hackman
Rebecca Harris
Neal & Evelyn Hartman C
Ronald & Sharon Inge
Lucy Jacoby
Nancy Johnson
Laurel Kearns
Jo Ellen Kessler
Billie & Charlotte Key
Richard & Judith Krauss
Marty & Alice Krebs
Sharon & Chris Kuchinskas
Leila Marks C
Mickey Miller C
Gretchen Monti
Phoebe Obdyke C
Peggy Oldham
Wiley & Betty Parker C
Betty K. Prevatt
Sissel W. Robertson
Elizabeth S. Schallenberg C
Rob Scharlau
Charlotte Schwartz
Carolyn Sears
Walter & Cathy Sedlacek C
James & Shirley Talmadge
Arnold & Joan Van Rossem C
Harriet H. Warner
Ginny Widrick
Worthington Holdings LLC
Jeffrey Zasadny

“C” denotes Charter Member

Welcome New Members

Cheryl Black
Joseph Cassin
Alissa Erickson
Jim Leute
Bill & Barb McKinley
Jeanie Nipper
Chuck & Kathy Pavlick
Steven & Margaret Ulrich
Nathan Voegele
Mary Webber

Interpretive Center Donations

Gratefully Received From:

Joseph Cassin
William & Louise Crumpacker
Rosalene Hackman
Illinois Prairie Community
Foundation – Monti Family
Fund
Nancy Johnson
Laurel Kearns
Leila Marks
Pelican Preserve Golf Club
Betty K. Prevatt
Elizabeth S. Schallenberg
Walter & Cathy Sedlacek
Southwest Florida Community
Foundation – Jordan Moguil
Memorial Fund
Mary Webber

Share the Gift of the Slough!

Looking for something special as a gift or for recognition??? Give a gift membership in the Friends. The new member will receive a special card informing them of your gift and what membership in **Friends** means. They will then receive *Connections* and all announcements of special events and programs for Friends. Best of all it will encourage them to learn more about the preserve and share your love of this special place. And don't forget....all contributions to the Friends are tax deductible. What a unique gift!! Just fill out a membership form and send it along with your contribution and any special information you'd like included in the card to:
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Preserve
Attention: Mary Murray
Membership Chair
7791 Penzance Blvd
Ft Myers, Fl 33966

Nominations for Honorary Membership in Friends

Did you know - The Board of Directors can grant an Honorary Membership in Friends? This would be given as Special Recognition to someone who does an unexpected good deed for the preserve or goes out of his or her way to demonstrate interest in the Slough or a Friends project. For instance, Jeanie Nipper stopped in to report a bear sighting on her way to work. Here's the scoop.

- 1 An Honorary Membership lasts for one year
- 2 Any Friends member can nominate such a person
- 3 Nominations are approved by the Friends Board
- 4 Honorary Members will receive a letter thanking them for what they did and informing them of their honorary membership.
- 5 After a year they will be invited to renew as a regular member

Send nominations to:

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Attention: Mary Murray, Membership Chair
7791 Penzance Boulevard
Ft. Myers, Florida 33966

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
Cadkin Foundation

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

Dr. William Hammond
Florida Gulf Coast Uni-
versity

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

Stephen D. Tutko
Babcock Ranch

Sharon Kuchinskas
Citizens Advocate

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Secretary

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Cheryl Black

Clyde Dabbs

John Gnagey

Jeff Key

Carol Newcomb-Jones

Mary Murray

Charles O'Connor

**Parks and Recreation
Liaison**

Mary Rude, Supervisor
Six Mile Cypress Slough
Preserve



**NEW BOARD MEMBER
CHERYL BLACK**

Cheryl Black has joined our hardy band of volunteers on the Friends Board of Directors. She is a Biology Professor at Edison College and brings her education and knowledge in aquatic ecology to the board. She is a member of the Fort Myers Rotary Club and the Caloosa Dive Club. She has a Masters Degree in Aquatic Ecology from VA Commonwealth University. She is an avid scuba diver and interested in wildlife and underwater photography. Cheryl is a welcome addition to the Friends Board. Welcome to the Board from all of your new Friends!!!

Connections – ON LINE ONLY?

Would you like to receive your copy of *Connections* on line? **This is another way to show your commitment to preserve natural resources, consume less as well as save money.** This funding that can be devoted to the interior of our Interpretive Center. You can do your part by receiving our newsletter on line. If you would like to receive your future copies of *Connections* via email only, please send your request via email to Carolyn Babb at babb88@centuryfla.com

HELP KEEP SIX MILE CYPRESS PKY, ALONG THE SLOUGH, FREE OF TRASH— EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:00 AM. MEET AT THE BOARDWALK. FUN, FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS!!! JOIN US. PLEASE!!!

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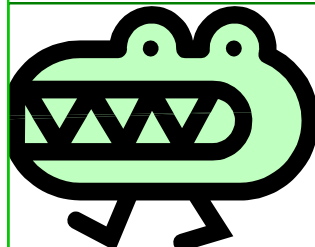
WET AND WILD

Dr. Charles O'Connor will lead wild and woolly wet walks through the Slough for those wild and crazy folks that really want to experience the spirit of the Slough. With this typical rainy season weather, the Slough is at her best these days. Water levels should be about up to about there _____. (Fill in your blank—Any guess will do!)

Wet Walks are scheduled for the following days:

Saturday August 23rd at 10:00 AM
Sunday September 14th at Noon

Please contact Dr. O'Connor at rcoc@comcast.net for reservations.



Sign Up Today!

Check Area of Interest

- Education Preserve Advocacy
 Projects Publicity
 Fund Raising Special Events
 Friends Corner

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Check Type of Membership

- Student \$10
 Individual \$20
 Contributing \$50
 Supporting \$100
 Associate \$500
 Corporate Sponsor \$500
 Patron \$1000

In addition I would like to contribute

\$ _____ for exhibits and displays for the Interpretive Center.

TOTAL\$ _____

Mail to Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough, 7791 Penzance Blvd, Fort Myers. FL 33966

Friends web site: Sloughpreserve.org Phone 239-533-7557

Special thanks go to the Lee County Department of Parks and Recreations for its generous support in producing this newsletter. Thanks to Lee County also for providing meeting space at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Interpretive Center.

WETLANDS

SEPTEMBER 14 NOON

AUGUST 23 10:00 AM

WET WALKS WITH DR.
CHARLES O'CONNOR

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
7791 Penzance Blvd.
Fort Myers, Florida 33966

