



# Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

SPRING 2009

## SILVER CERTIFICATION FOR THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Lee County Commissioner Brian Bigelow, Joyce Sanders and Friends members during the LEED award ceremony at the Interpretive Center.

(Photo Lee County Parks and Recreation)

The final piece of the puzzle was placed on Friday April 24, 2009 when participants gathered at the Interpretive Center at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve to celebrate the presentation of the US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Silver Plaque. LEED is an internationally recognized certification program and a benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance "green" buildings. The Interpretive Center is one of only 42 LEED certified new construction projects in Florida and the first LEED certified new public building construction in Lee and Collier Counties.

The Interpretive Center was certified as a green building because it demonstrates the whole building approach to sustainability by performance in key areas. Some of these key areas include a sustainable site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and awareness and education. Some of the specifics about the Interpretive Center include the fact that it was built on an old road bed creating a minimum disturbance of the land, native plants were used in areas that were disturbed, the ceiling is of bamboo, a rapidly renewable resource. The boardwalk and deck are made of a recycled lumber called Trex (made from grocery bags and pallet wraps along with recycled wood.)

Rainwater is collected from the roof into a cistern that is then used to flush the toilets and irrigate plantings. Indoor lighting is all fluorescent and activated by motion detectors and will turn off automatically if no movement is detected in a room. Sunlight is available throughout the building to light rooms. The windows can also be opened to allow fresh air into the building. Numerous individuals and organizations are responsible for the dream and the eventual completion of the fabulous Interpretive Center. The list is long but includes Lee County Board of County Commissioners, Ray Judah, Tammy Hall, Bob Janes, Frank Mann and Brian Bigelow, Lee County Parks and Recreation, South Florida Water Management District, all of the Friends and volunteers at the Slough, the professional groups including Parker/Mudgett/Smith Architects, Inc., GATES, Johnson Engineering, TLC Engineering, Bob Rude Structures, Inc., Rob Andrys Architecture, Worthington Communities, Gates Butz Institutional Construction, Inc., Trifecta Construction Solutions and the CITIZENS OF LEE COUNTY.

## YOU NEVER KNOW

by Steve Tutko

**YOU NEVER KNOW**....A statement we use often to describe what we might encounter while volunteering at the Slough. It often pertains to our visitors, since we never know exactly who they are and what they do. One day while working the front desk and Friends Corner, a man approached me and said, "What a wonderful facility and exhibits you have in the new Interpretive Center." He mentioned he had worked for 30 years in the environmental field, many of them in Washington, D.C. I couldn't help myself; I had to ask what he did for a living. It turned out he worked for several Presidents in many roles. The most notable was when he was nominated by President Carter to be an Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior. In this capacity he was Director of The National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife. It's nice to know that many visitors no matter who they are, enjoy and appreciate what we offer, and what we are all proud of - the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

**There have been visitors to the Interpretive Center from 46 states (Anyone from Hawaii, North Dakota, Louisiana or Mississippi?) and 18 foreign countries!!!**

**JOYCE SANDERS**  
**A Founding Member and**  
**a Lifetime Member**



(Photo Dr. Charles O'Connor)  
 By Alouise Skehan

Outgoing president Joyce Sanders, is shown above as she receives the Friends Lifetime Founding Member Award from incoming president Carolyn Babb at the Friends Annual Meeting held March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Interpretive Center. As President, Joyce has worked tirelessly for seven years toward our goals in so many ways. Her enthusiasm, dedication, clarity of purpose, and leadership have enabled Friends to raise community awareness of the importance of preserving this jewel of a preserve for future generations.

Joyce has encouraged board members and committee persons to develop and carry out innovative outreach and educational programs such as the Adopt-a-Road program for a section of Six Mile Parkway, the Slough Writing Contest, Slough Wet Walk offerings to the public and the Friends educational programs which are also open to the public.

As nearby growth and development threatened to negatively impact the slough, Joyce spoke eloquently and often to various commissions, councils and boards on behalf of the preserve. These events generated much media attention, which gave Joyce opportunities to advocate for the preserve and encourage citizens to join Friends and support our efforts.

But closest to Joyce's heart, I believe, is Joyce's dedication to all the efforts involved in the planning, development and building of the Interpretive Center as a "gateway to the slough." and a nationally recognized LEED certified Green Building. In addition to making considerable personal financial contributions to our fundraising efforts to build the Interpretive Center, Joyce enthusiastically spearheaded successive and financially successful fundraising events particularly the Swing for the Slough Golf Outings. These events helped to educate the community of the importance of the preservation of the slough and cemented public/private partnerships that aided in the development of the Interpretive Center.

In addition to Joyce's very professional side, she also has a very thoughtful and caring side, which showed itself often through the years when one of us who worked with her had a family crisis or health emergency. Joyce was there for us with a beautiful note, a meal or a plant, which she brought to our home.

On behalf of all past and present board members and all the Friends membership, I would like to offer Joyce a huge heartfelt THANK YOU for her outstanding leadership and wish her time to enjoy the fruits of her hard work. And may she have fun as she greets visitors at the Interpretive Center in her new role of Friend Corner Coordinator!



Joyce at work already at Friends Corner!

*SUMMER PROGRAMS*  
*AT THE SLOUGH*

**SUMMER NATURALISTS**

DATES: JULY 13-17  
 JULY 20-24

AGE: 10-12  
 TIME: 8 AM—4:30 PM  
 COST: \$50  
 LIMIT: 15

Explore Nature and learn techniques for spotting animals in the wild, identifying animal signs and tracks using all of your senses. End the week with an off board-walk walk in the Slough!!!

**WILDERNESS EXPLORERS**

DATES: AUG 2-7  
 AUG 10-14

AGE: 12-16  
 TIME: 8AM—4:30 PM  
 COST \$50  
 LIMIT: 20

Survival, tracking, animal study, awareness games and nature skills!!!

Call Heather Gienapp at 533-7556 with questions. To register call 533-7440 or on line at [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org)

*WET WALKS AT THE*  
*SLOUGH*

*WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES FOR THIS SUMMER WET WALKS AT THE SLOUGH. DR. CHARLES O'CONNOR WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH THE SLOUGH DURING THE RAINY SEASON!!!*

*DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED!!!*

**INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**SUMMER HOURS**

**TUESDAY - SUNDAY**

**10:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM**



# FRIENDS CORNER STOP AND SHOP

THE NEXT VISIT TO THE SLOUGH MUST INCLUDE A VISIT TO THE CORNER. THE CORNER GANG HAS PURCHASED A GREAT NUMBER OF BOOKS INCLUDING *THE NATIONAL AUDOBON SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE TO FLORIDA*, MANY OF THE *FABULOUS FLORIDA* BOOKS AND MANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND YOUTHS. THERE ARE PUZZLES, T SHIRTS AND HATS AS WELL. ALSO ON HAND IS JEWELRY CREATED BY ONE OF OUR FRIENDS MEMBERS, WENDY KEY. SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FRIENDS SIGNATURE NECKLACE THAT IS FOR SALE. REMEMBER THAT ALL OF THE PROFITS ARE BEING USED FOR DISPLAY AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE SLOUGH. (CURRENTLY STAFF IS COORDINATING THE CREATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE SLOUGH.)

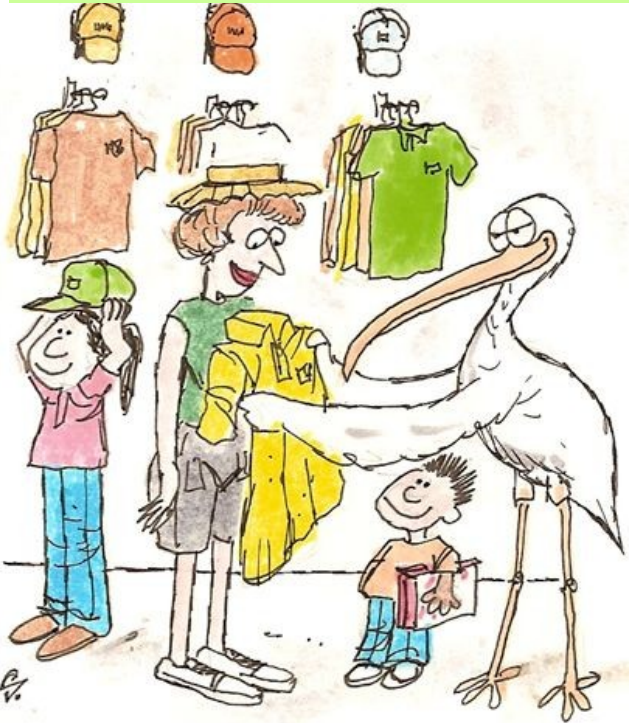
PLEASE VISIT AND SHOP. ICABOD IBIS WILL BE THERE WAITING!!!!



Kellyn Celtic Arts Students entertained Friends members and guests at the March 17, 2009 "Green" celebration at the Interpretive Center at the Slough. Friends members celebrated by wearing green shirts.



Some of the "Worker Bees" from Friends Corner. Contact Joyce Sanders to help!



### *Along the Boardwalk....Yes, we're Green!!...by Dotty Brown*

The winter's bare limbs of the Cypress trees in Ibis marsh are fully clothed in spring green needles. Welcome rain caused the wintry brown fronds of the Resurrection Fern to spring into its fresh green blanket on the tree trunks. Snakes are curling up in the soft green vegetation and exercising in the warming pond water. Nesting birds are foraging for emerging insects to feed their young. Young alligators are under the watchful eye of their mothers. Yes, the slough is sporting all shades of green and bustling with renewing activity. Come and celebrate the wonder of it all!



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## *Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!!*

Carolyn Babb  
Gretchen Barsness  
Jerry Bernstein  
Jeanette Botha  
Dr. Thomas & Beverly Brown  
Frank & Dee Burns C  
Elizabeth Carter  
Joseph Cassin  
George & Jackie Cooper  
David & Janet Cornell  
Gerald & Joni Curcuru  
Mary Ross Denison  
Joan Dougherty  
Eileen Downing  
Gayle Edwards  
Joanne & Jack Gifford  
Rosalene Hackman  
Bill & Rosemarie Hammond C  
Carol Hampton  
Neal & Evelyn Hartman C  
Nancy Hollmann  
Charles & Ginger Huether  
Richard & Debra Huxley  
Richard & Judith Krauss  
Conrad & Anna Massa C  
Sally McPherson  
Garn Mennell C  
Frank & Mary Murray  
Nancy Osborne  
Poinciana Garden Club C  
Ellen Pritchard  
Homer Pyle  
Clark Rhodes  
Jack & Sue Rogers  
Bob & Mary Rude C  
David & Judy Schele  
Arnold & Joan Van Rossem C  
Harriet Warner  
Stephen Webb  
"C" denotes Charter Member

## *Welcome New Members*

Ronald R. Benz  
Dick Burwell  
Gilkey Organization LLC  
Andy Gurri  
Brian Hogan  
Tracey Koenig  
Abby Robinson  
Arnold & Jan Rosen  
Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society  
Kate Streng  
Fran Williams  
Mary & Charles Wright

## *Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:*

Gretchen Barsness  
Alan & Jacquelin Cadkin  
Joseph Cassin  
Mary Ross Denison  
Poinciana Garden Club  
Bob & Mary Rude  
Bill & Joyce Sanders  
Alouise Skehan

## **Remembering Friends**

Honor/memorial cards are available through Flo Kornman at [lkornman@aol.com](mailto:lkornman@aol.com) or 481-0452 or 4289 Mariner way, #110, Fort Myers FL, 33919. These cards are perfect for birthdays and thank you thoughts. They also make wonderful memorials.

## *SPECIAL EVENTS NEWS FROM THE SEASON*

Special Events for the season was *busy, busy, busy*. Janet Bunch, Special Events Chairperson and crew, Jeannette Botha, Barbara Catineau, Carol Hampton, Kris Nelson, Carla Palmer, Yvonne Rogers and Betty Willis participated in six events. Included were Birdfest, CREW Wildflower Festival, Koreshan Earth Day and FGCU Earth Day, Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival and the SW Florida Symphony Chorus concert. Friends has also been invited to participate in the Burrowing Owl Festival in Cape Coral. All of these events are enjoyable and fun to do. If any of these events interest you, please contact Janet at [janetbunch@yahoo.com](mailto:janetbunch@yahoo.com) to volunteer for next year. It is a great opportunity to make new friends with many common interests.

## **EXTRA, EXTRA FRIENDS NEW**

### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT!!!**

Beginning in 2009, memberships of \$50 and more will receive a 10% discount at FRIENDS CORNER. All of the books related to the Slough, hats, shirts, puzzles and other goodies are available to you at this discount. What a great opportunity for all of us! Support the Slough and do some extra shopping as well. There are many great gift ideas for children as well as for adults. All of the profits go directly back for programs and items for the Slough.

*Thanks to the Friends Corner Gang for this wonderful idea!!!*



**EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE WITH THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON, MARY MURRAY. Connections WILL BE COMING VIA A LINK SENT BY EMAIL AS OF WINTER 2010. TWO MORE HARD COPY ISSUES WILL BE AVAILABLE.**



**Advisory Board**

Jacquelin Cadkin  
Cadkin Foundation

Carolyn Delizia Swift

Dr. William Hammond  
Florida Gulf Coast University

Carol Newcomb-Jones  
Kitson & Partners, LLC

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

Stephen D. Tutko  
Babcock Ranch

Joyce Sanders  
Past President Friends of  
Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Preserve

**Board of Directors**

Carolyn Babb, President

Charles O'Connor  
Vice President

Nancy Johnson  
Secretary

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Cheryl Black

Jeff Key

Mary Murray

**Parks and Recreation  
Liaison**

Mary Rude, Supervisor  
Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Preserve

**2009 ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE  
FRIENDS**

The 2009 Annual Meeting of Friends was held on March 23, 2009. Cheryl Black was elected to the Board of Directors for a term of two years. Two current board members were re-elected for an additional term of two years, Jeff Key and Nancy Johnson. Three board members have retired, Clyde Dabbs, John Gnagey and Joyce Sanders.

New Officers for the Board of Directors have been elected and they are Carolyn Babb, President, Charles O'Connor, Vice President, Nancy Johnson, Secretary and Frank Murray, Treasurer.

Friends members that live in the area don't forget **TRASH DAY** on the third Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Slough parking lot. Dick and Andrea Houle are the Trash leaders. And doing a great job at that! Please join the Trash Pick Up Crew during the summer.

**Connections STAFF**

Editor	Carolyn Babb
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**GREETINGS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT**

As a newbie to Florida four years ago, I literally wandered into this new and different place called the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. I live just up the road close to the bike path that runs along Six Mile Cypress Parkway, so wandering is no exaggeration. That is exactly what I was doing. As a new retiree and Floridian, I was floundering without a defined purpose and new goals for this new chapter of my life. And what a chapter (book?) I started!!!

In 2005 Mary and Heather were advertising for folks to sign up for the volunteer naturalist class. I saw the notice posted on the wall at the washrooms building in September of 2005. Currently there is a year waiting list. Looking back, this was my first fated moment to blend this portion of my life with the Slough.

The first naturalist class a wonderful woman said to me "Would you like to be my friend?" She later said it worked for her grandson in kindergarten and thought it might work for her, another newly transplanted northerner. It did. We are steadfast friends as well as Friends. Add another short brunette from our class, and the rest is Slough history. We are Friends!

These are just two of my many encounters with the spirit of the Slough! There have been many since and more to come I know, but my future was set four years ago during that first wandering to the Slough.

The Friends Board of Directors has some great ideas for the upcoming year for the Friends organization and the mission to protect, preserve and promote the Slough. I will do my best as the President of the organization to ensure that we are as successful in the future as we have been the past eight years since the beginning of the Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in 2001.

See you at the Slough. CB



## 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](http://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.

Fort Myers, Florida 33966

7791 Penzance Blvd.

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

