



Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

FALL 2009

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve 2010 Photography Contest

Pick out your favorite Slough photos and submit them to the first annual Photo Contest! Enter your pictures by December 15th. Awards will be presented at a reception to be held February 6, 2010 at the Slough. Contest rules and entry forms are available at the Interpretive Center desk or at www.sloughpreserve.org



FIRST ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The first annual Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Photo Contest is underway. The contest runs now through December 15, 2009. All of the pictures that everyone loves to take of the plants, animals and exciting occurrences at the Slough should be entered in this contest. Winning photographs will be announced at the Interpretive Center on Saturday, February 6, 2010 and will be on display there after the official announcement. The contest rules and the entry form are available in this issue of *Connections*, at the Interpretive Center and at the Friends website, www.sloughpreserve.org.

FRIENDS' PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

December 14th—2nd Annual Dessert Fest 6:00 PM

Heather Gienapp, Senior Program Specialist at the Slough, will present a Green Building Program with a tour of the Interpretive Center highlighting all of the building's "green" aspects. The Interpretive Center was awarded Silver Certification from the US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environment Design. The award is now on display. The Interpretive Center was certified as a green building because it demonstrates the whole building approach to sustainability by performance in key areas.

Join us on December 14th and find out just what they are!

See Page Four for Dessert Fest Information!

Along the Boardwalk....Cool Cuisine at the Slough Cafe...by Dotty Brown

Some cooler than normal night temperatures have quickened the ripening of the Slough Café's menu. The wings of the migrating flocks ride the wafts of those welcome breezes. A flock of Tufted Titmice flits through the Cypress of the Ibis Marsh feeding on insects, seeds and fruits bounteously offered in the Ibis Marsh vegetation of Cypress, vines and aquatic plants. Overhead a Blue Jay sounds his alarm. Or is it a call for "Here is the Laurel Oak full of acorns for you"? I watch as the sentinel promptly plucks an acorn from its branch and flies off. Did you think acorns were just for squirrels? Tufted Titmice are also known to feed on them as well as spiders and their eggs. Look for mixed species of warblers that have taken up their positions for foraging throughout the preserve. White Milkweed and Hemp vine blooms coat the branches of many trees and shrubs mimicking the snow covered landscape of more northern climes. Shorter daylight hours have encouraged the Red Maple tree leaves to shed their chlorophyll green and let their anthocyanin red pigments shine through. Fall beckons the photographers, birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts to the Café table for a feast of the season!



GOOD NEWS

By Mary Rude

I am happy to report that the rest of the new displays funded by the Friends have been installed. Andy Gurri, our maintenance man, worked especially hard in the 90+ degree heat to measure, build and install the panels. He used his ingenuity to finagle some of the more challenging installations. He was also lucky enough to have Arnie Rosen, a Slough volunteer and Friends member, to help him out. Together they did an excellent job. Thank you, both! The maps at the amphitheater are actual aerials, so you get a good overall sense of where you are in the grand scheme of the County. They are also glare free. The display panel at Otter Pond is smaller and not precariously perched over the edge of the boardwalk. It is a vertical panel, closer and easier to read.

Thank you to the **Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve** for providing these educational display panels. Many people have admired the panels and praised the Friends for their support of the Slough.



Display at Otter Pond pictured above. Below are pictures of the aerial photographs displayed at the amphitheater.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT THE SLOUGH



Reservations are required. They can be made by calling 533-7440 or online at www.leeparks.org

Basket Making Class

Sat., Nov. 14th
 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 \$10/person Age 16+
 Make a basket using natural materials.

Photography Class

Sat., Dec. 5th
 9:00 a.m.—12 p.m.
 \$35 person Age 18+
 Learn how to get better nature shots. Follow up class to be held on Dec. 12th.



Slough Tracking Club

Third Saturday of the Month
 10:00 a.m.—12 p.m.
 Free Age 18+
 Learn about wildlife through their tracks.



CHECK OUT THE LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION WEB SITE www.leeparks.org TO SEE ALL OF THE PARKS IN THE COUNTY AND THE EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve 2010 Photo Contest Rules

You are cordially invited to submit your best pictures to the first annual Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve photography contest. This event is an opportunity for you to share your unique views of this very special natural area and its wildlife.

The contest rules are listed below. Mail your photo(s), entry form, and entry fee to Six Mile Slough Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33966 between October 15 and December 15, 2009.

- The contest is open to amateur photographers only (may not possess a professional photographer tax identification number for the sale of photographs).
- Photos must have been taken at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.
- Each contestant may submit three photos in any or all of the following categories:
 - Plants
 - Animals (including insects)
 - Open (any photo that does not belong in one of the above categories)
- First, second, and third place will be awarded in each category. Contestants are eligible to win only one award in each category. One photo will be selected from all the winners as the "Top Shot".
- Photos must be in color, 8" x 10" or 8" by 12", printed on the paper of your choice. Please select a 6-character code and write it IN PENCIL on the back of each of your photographs. Note each code on your entry form.
- Judging will be anonymous. The contest judge will not have access to the code information on the entry forms. Photos will be judged on technique (composition, lighting, sharpness), interest, and originality.
- Digital photos may be cropped and manipulated so that the subject is more natural looking, but nothing can be added to the original picture. The judge has the right to disqualify any photos that do not meet these requirements.
- Award winners will be notified by January 20, 2010 and awards will be presented at a Photo Contest Celebration to be held at the Slough Interpretive Center on February 6, 2010. Winning photos will be displayed at the Slough Interpretive Center.
- Prints will become the property of Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is not responsible for lost or damaged photos.

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve 2010 Photo Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mark your personal code on the back of each photo that you are submitting.

Category:

Plants:

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____

Animals

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____

Open

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____

Send your photos to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33966, by December 15, 2009. Be sure to include a check for your \$20 entry fee made out to Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. You will be notified by January 20, 2010 if you have won or placed in the contest. Thank you for entering and good luck!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!!

Tom & Beverly Brown
Susan Crawford
Ann & Randy Deming
Robin Gardner
Tina Hamm
Barbara Hayes C
Ronald Inge
Jeff & Wendy Key
Alan McTeague
Corinne Murphy C
Phoebe Obdyke
Peggy Oldham
Charles & Kathleen Pavlick
Donald and Susan Robertson C
Jeff Rosemann
Christina Sierra
Timothy L. Snyder
Jeff Zasadny

“C” denotes Charter Member

Welcome New Members

Nancy Bright
Warren & Marian Van Dyke
Joseph Galipeo
Bryan & Linda Hefty
Richard Owen

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Jeff Zasadny
Terry and Susan Clark

FRIENDS' WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED
AT 6:30 p.m. at the INTERPRETIVE
CENTER.

January 25, 2010

February 22, 2010

March 22, 2010

Friends Annual Meeting

All members and their guests are welcome to attend the winter programs. Please RSVP so we can make sure that there are enough chairs for everyone. Refreshments will be served.

There will be information about the programs at the Friends' web site, www.sloughpreserve.org and in the next issue of *Connections*.

RSVP by the day before the program is scheduled to Carolyn Babb at carolyn_babb08@comcast.net or Mary Murray at marymurray@comcast.net or at the Friends' number at the Slough 239-533-7557.

DESSERT FEST DECEMBER 14, 2009

Friends member Arnie Rosen made the best apple pie! He won the Grand Prize of a Publix gift card, hopefully to buy more pie ingredients. Everyone is invited to the Friends' **2nd Annual Dessert Festival** on December 14, 2009. at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dessert and enjoy an evening of treats followed by a presentation by Heather Gienapp, Six Mile Cypress Slough Program Specialist, on the green aspects of the Interpretive Center.



The treats tasted as good as they look!!!



Arnie has the look of a winner.

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE. Send to carolyn_babb08@comcast.net



VOLUNTEERS AND WORKER BEES—A new bulletin board located in the Interpretive Center has a daily update of happenings at the Slough for all of the folks working at the Front Desk. Please check the board every day prior to your shift to see what is new and exciting so that you can pass the information on to all of our guests that day!

Connections STAFF

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**TRASH PICKUP AT THE SLOUGH
THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
JOIN US 9:00 a.m.
FUN AND FRIENDS**

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
Cadkin Foundation

Carolyn Delizia Swift

Dr. William Hammond
Florida Gulf Coast Uni-
versity

Carol Newcomb-Jones

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

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Charles O'Connor
Vice President

Nancy Johnson
Secretary

Frank Murray
Treasurer

Cheryl Black

Jeff Key

Molly Meadows

Mary Murray

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor
Six Mile Cypress Slough
Preserve

WE LOVE BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday Dr. Tom Brown

What to give a guy who has it all??? Tom's wife Beverly, his children and grandchildren decided to give Tom a very special gift for his birthday this year – a Patron Level renewal of his Friends Membership. That's right they pooled their resources and donated \$1,000 in Tom's name to Friends of Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. This gift celebrates his love for Six-Mile Cypress Slough, and his work as a volunteer in the Slough toward preserving, protecting and promoting this treasure for future generations. Tom was VERY surprised and pleased. Many thanks to Tom's extended loving family the Pritchards, the Krausses, and of course Bev Brown.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
Saturday, November 21, 2009
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Burrowing Owl Festival
Cape Coral
Saturday, February 27, 2010

Crew Wildflower Festival
Friday, March 19, 2010
Saturday, March 20, 2010

Koreshan Earth Day
Saturday, April 24, 2010

Hi Friends—Welcome back to all of those lucky enough to spend their winters in Paradise from those of us lucky enough to be here all the time!!!! It was a hot and dry summer, but I always say Mother Nature has a plan. This year the plan was to be dry. But that only made any walking in the wet parts of the Slough even more enjoyable. I have to admit my favorite time at the Slough is spent wandering around doing “official business” of reading the water levels in the wells (that's what I'm doing in my picture) for the FGCU project that is the responsibility of our Friends' board member, Jeff Key. I did also participate in official wet walks led by board Vice-President Charles O'Connor. It was a good summer to get wet in the Slough.



If you haven't had a chance to see any of it yet, the new signage at the Slough is absolutely awesome. We should be so proud that our organization is able to provide the funding for this vital information for educating our visitors. Andy and Arnie have been working so hard to get all of the signs up for the season. A great big thank you from the Friends for all of their hard work. The rest of the signage (at Pop Ash Pond and for the Great Blue Heron Pavilion) has been ordered. The resource center is still expanding. Staff has ordered a whole “slough” of books for the volunteers to use. Now included are resource books for basic computer skills for novice computer users.

When asked for my volunteer hours for July, August and September, I had a hard time remembering what I had done this summer. Although I had kept track, just putting an event with the hours wouldn't compute! My brain was trying to deal with the loss of my mother in October after her battle with a lot of complicated diseases. What I do remember of the last six weeks is the hawk that landed on the power lines in her back yard on the day of her funeral, the cicadas in the woods across from her grave site during the burial, and the monarch butterfly that showed up at the end of that day! My Friends support sent in a special way that helped me each and every time I needed it. I thank each and every one of you for that support and will never forget it.

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 Phone 239-533-7557

Special thanks go to the Lee County Department of Parks and Receptions 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.

2ND ANNUAL DESSERT FEST
DECEMBER 14, 2009 6:00 p.m.
WINTER PROGRAMS 6:30 p.m.
INTERPRETIVE CENTER.
January 25, 2010
February 22, 2010
March 22, 2010

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

