



Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

January 2010



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED THE SLOUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

11:00 a.m. SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, 2010

The photographs entered in the first Photo Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve will be on display at the Interpretive Center at a reception from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday February 6th.

There were 36 entrants and a total of 150 photos in the three categories of plants, animals and an open category for any other type of picture.

The nine winning photographs will be announced and then remain on display at the Interpretive Center until May 1, 2010.

Come and congratulate all of the entrants and take a look at all of the beautiful pictures taken in the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

PEANUT BUTTER AND CHOCOLATE IS UNBEATABLE!!

The 2nd Annual Dessert Festival was an undeniable success. The favorite dessert was a delightful combination of peanut butter and chocolate, how could you lose! The winner was Friends member, Sue Tutko. The prize was a gift card at Publix to replenish the ingredients for some more of the fabulous dessert. Thanks so much for everyone's participation. Thanks to Heather Gienapp for her "green" presentation. We all learned something new!

FRIENDS' WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 p.m. AT THE INTERPRETIVE CENTER, SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE, 7751 PENZANCE BOULVEVARD IN FORT MYERS.

Monday, January 25, 2010

The speaker is John Cassani from the Lee County Hyacinth Control District. His topic will be the exotic flora and fauna in Southwest Florida.

Monday, February 22, 2010

Cheryl Black, a Friends Board Member and professor at Edison College, will tell us about her work with sharks and the impact that human activities are having on shark populations.

Monday, March 22, 2010

Friends Annual Meeting

Robert Repenning is the land stewardship coordinator for the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. He will be discussing the efforts that go into the challenges of managing the natural system we love, the Slough.

**RSVP by the day before the program to
carolyn_babb08@comcast.net, mary-
murray@comcast.net or the Friends' number
at the Slough 239-533-7557.**



Friends Board Member, Dr. Charles O'Connor at the dessert counter! Peanut butter and Chocolate winner is in the center.

WELCOME TO THE NEW NEIGHBORS

The Six Mile Corporate Park, on Six Mile Cypress/ Ben C. Pratt Parkway, south of the Slough, held a Grand Opening Celebration on November 4, 2009. The owners, Crystal Six Mile Partners, LLC, presented the Friends organization with a donation to fund two Lee County School District Six Mile Cypress Slough field trips, with the promise of future donations.



Photo Courtesy Bill Burdette

Dr. Bill Hammond and Friends President Carolyn Babb accept the donation from the Crystal Six Mile Partners.

THE FRIENDS THANK COUNTY EMPLOYEE JOHN DERUMS

The printing of *Connections* takes place at Terry Park, at the Lee County Parks and Recreation office. The printing has been done by John Derums, a 30 year county employee. He has decided to join the ranks of the retired. John has been helping the Friends since the beginning of the organization. He has printed our newsletter, *Connections*, fliers, posters for golf outings, events at the Slough and events away from the Slough. Any of our printing needs were handled by "JD."

John has plans to start a part time photography business. Hopefully, he will use the Slough as a favorite subject! He also has plans for some camping trips.

Thank you John. We will miss your professionalism and your willingness to help us with our printing problems and concerns! Enjoy retirement!



SIX MILE CYPRESS PARKWAY ADD LANES PROJECT NEWS

The federal government has provided funding for the estimated \$10 million project to widen Six Mile Cypress Parkway from two lanes to four lanes between Colonial Boulevard and Daniels Parkway. Lee County intends to take bids for the project in early 2010. The project was previously unfunded, but new 2009 federal stimulus funds are being utilized. The existing contract plans will be revised to remove highway lighting from the add lanes project. The only lighting will be that necessary for safety at intersections. The intersection of Six Mile and Penzance Boulevard will be channelized with turn and deceleration lanes as needed on all legs. A traffic signal installation is also included in the plans. The project will take approximately 18 months to complete.

For further information contact the Project Manager, Chris Piazza, FDOT, District Environmental Management Office, P O Box 1249, Bartow, FL, 33831 or chris.piazza@dot.state.fl.us

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FRIENDS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS!!!

**See page four, Membership News, for information.
Come join the Board. Help with the Friends efforts.**

THINGS TO DO AT THE SLOUGH



Geoff Coe and the first photography class on the boardwalk.

Nature Photography Class

Learn techniques from a pro to create better nature photos and enhance your appreciation of the outdoors. Geoff Coe, owner of Wild Images Florida and a Slough volunteer, will provide classroom and field instruction along the boardwalk.

**Saturday, Jan. 23rd or Wednesday, Feb 24th
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

\$60 per person – Adults only

Bring your camera (digital SLR or point-and-shoot with zoom capability recommended). Please be familiar with your camera's basic operations. Reservations are required by calling 239-533-7440 or online at www.leeparks.org

Skull ID Programs

Discover what animals eat, how developed their senses are and more - just by looking at their skulls! Join Volunteer Naturalist **Chuck Schmitz** as he teaches visitors how to identify animal skulls.

Tuesdays, Jan. 5th, 12th and 19th

Thursdays, Jan. 7th, 14th, and 21st

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The same information is covered each time. No reservations are necessary for this **FREE** program.

Full Moon Walks

Experience the Slough in a new light as you walk around the boardwalk trail. This will be a guided sensory walk for anyone six years and older.

Saturday, Feb. 27th 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 27th 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27th 8:00 p.m.

\$5 per person

No flashlights or cameras with flashes please. Reservations are required by calling

239-533-7440 or online at

www.leeparks.org.



FronDZoo Art

Make wild animals out of queen palm fronds and coconut palm “hair”. Artist Heidi Saletko will share techniques on how to use paint to create a work of art you will be proud to hang on your walls!

**Wednesday, Feb. 10th or
Wednesday, March 10th
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

\$15 per person, six years and older

Reservations are required by calling 239-533-7440 or online at www.leeparks.org.



*Along the Boardwalk.....Picture It!...Paint It!...Photograph It!
...by Dotty Brown*

The scene is set. The light is right. The canopy is open. Sun rays sneak in from a low angle to create hues and shadows found at no other season. Fog creates veils of mist and mystery among the spiders' webs, the lichens and the mosses. Turn on the zooms, catch the beauty through a magnifying lens and marvel at the delicacy of nature's tiniest creations. Can the artist match

the color of the felt-like Red Blanket Lichen? On a video camera catch the parachuting seed of the white milkweed vine as it floats like a snowflake on a passing breeze. Record the color and shape of the released cypress cone resin spot on the water's surface. Images await your imagination along the boardwalk of the Six Mile Cypress Slough.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!!

Dr. William & Mary Akerly
Walter Baker
Beverly Brazill C
Bill & Dotty Brown C
Bruce & Janet Bunch
Frankie Crain C
Calvin Eells
John Gnagey
Pete Hawkins
Jack Horner
Richard & Andrea Houle
Flo Komman C
Ricki Laird C
John & Sue Miller C
Mickey Miller C
Eileen & Dale Mitchell
Gretchen Monti
Kris Nelson
Jan & Mary Ellen Nyland
Phoebe Obdyke C
Carla L. Palmer
Wendy Rex
Dr. Stephen F. Scholle
Jean Scholz
Marie Shaffer
Mark Smith
Jim Turner

“C” denotes Charter Member

Welcome New Members

Ben & Kelly Bishop
CB Richard Ellis
Geoff Coe
Karen Goldberg
Darrell & Judith Haar
Katrina Hayes
Billie MacNeill
Molly Meadows
Ron & Lynn Myrick

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Katrina Hayes
Gretchen Monti
Mark Smith
Jim Turner
Homer and Alouise Skehan Pyle

IN SEARCH OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Are you a member or a would-be member who would you like to help even more ? Do you want to help promote the Slough and help educate the public on the importance of the Slough. If so, the current Board of Directors is looking for folks to join us. The possibilities are amazing.

**Help manage the store,
Balance the books,
Promote membership,
Educational programs,
Research, Writing**

The 2010 annual meeting of the Friends is on March 22, 2010. At that meeting the new Board of Directors is voted on by the membership. Help the organization even more by being a new nominee on that slate of Board of Directors !

If any of these sound of interest to you or if you have any other ideas, please contact Carolyn Babb at 239-728-4707 or carolyn_babb08@comcast.net.



**MOLLY MEADOWS
NEWEST BOARD MEMBER**

Welcome to Molly Meadows. Molly joins us with an interest in research going on at the Slough. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Anthropology. Molly is a project manager at the South Florida Water Management District. She brings a broad background that includes drawing, research, photography, map reading and finance. She also is a Girl Scout Co-Leader. She also spends her time helping her daughter with her dancing. Please join the Board in welcoming our newest member.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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

If you are interested in helping at any of the special events, please contact Janet Bunch at janetbunch@yahoo.com

Connections STAFF

Editor Carolyn Babb

Copy Editor Alouise Skehan Pyle

Printing Lee County Parks and Recreation

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Advisory Board

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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

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

Thank You to the Friends of the Slough For ALL Your Support – Mary Rude

A huge Thank you to the Friends for all they have given to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. This past year shows that the Friends were as busy as ever. The Friends supported us in a number of ways including: educationally, physically, financially, and enthusiastically! The Friends sponsored Monday Night educational programs as well as our Green Certification Celebrations. A number of Friends members and Board members also work the Front desk and run the gift shop, "The Friends Corner".

The Friends generosity kept on going throughout the year funding endeavors like the Great Blue Heron pavilion to the tractor and wagon to new signage for around the trail...in addition to many other project as well. The Friends have also continued to play the extremely important role of Advocate of the Slough. They have attended meetings to keep watch on the outside influence on the Slough, such as the water that flows into the Preserve.

The staff at the Slough and all of us at Lee County Parks and Recreation are humbly grateful for all the support. Thank you! We are looking forward to another grand year in 2010!



Plantings have been added to the
rafts at Gator Lake.

Hope that all had a great and safe holiday season. This weather is really hard to handle, isn't it? I just love to watch the Weather Channel when it is 2 degrees and snowing up in the Midwest. My friends in Illinois don't even want to talk to me this time of year!

The 2nd Annual Dessert Festival was stupendous!

Winner, Sue Tutko, made the yummiest chocolate and peanut butter bars (Took me three servings to make sure!).

I've taken some beautiful pictures of the Slough that really show the change in the FOUR seasons, not just wet and dry! The photography class that I took taught by Friends member, Geoff Coe, gave me some great help in areas that I really needed. Thanks, Geoff.

A super friend to our organization, John Derums of Lee County Parks and Recreation has retired. He was responsible for printing our newsletter, *Connections*. We will be lost without his expertise! He always was so quick to respond to our requests and did a great job. Thanks to John for all of his hard work in that effort.

I am going to be bringing this next topic up at every event in the next few months because it is very important to our organization and to the Slough. We are in need of new board members! Not that the old ones are all leaving, but the current board always needs some help! Just like most organizations! Two of the terms for board members are done at the end of March, and those folks are vacating their seats. But there is room for several more board members. We are also in need of help with the management of the Corner. And working at the store provides a great opportunity to interact with the visitors at the Slough. If you like to shop, finding bargains for the store is a fun way to satisfy that urge! Give it some thought! There are so many ways to help out. It's a great way to give even more to the mission of the Friends! Give me a call to talk about 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 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.

Friends Annual Meeting
March 22, 2010
February 22, 2010
January 25, 2010
INTERPRETIVE CENTER
WINTER PROGRAMS 7:00 PM

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

