

# Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

March 2010



## FRIENDS FIRST PHOTO CONTEST

The Friends first Photo Contest at the Slough attracted 36 exhibitors with over 150 photographs which were judged by Steve Chase, a professor from Edison College. A reception was held on February 6, 2010 to announce the winners. The winning photographs are fea-

tured on page Two of this issue. Plans are already underway for the next contest to begin in the Fall of 2010. Pictures at the Slough at any time of the year are eligible. Watch the Friends web site [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org) and the Lee County Parks and Recreation web site [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org) for details later this year.

(Photo Heather Gienapp)

## FRIENDS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS TO SUMMER CAMPS AT THE SLOUGH

The Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is offering 12 scholarships to pay for the fees for a week of summer camp at the Slough. Students from ages 10 -16 are asked to submit a one page essay explaining "Why I want to go to Summer Camp at the Slough."

Camps sessions are Naturalist Camp for 10 -12 year olds from July 19 to July 23 or July 26 to July 30. Wilderness Camp is for 12 -16 year olds from August 9 to August 13 or August 16 to August 20. All sessions of the camps involve exploring and learning about nature through the beauty of the Slough.

Essays should be submitted to Dr. R. Charles O'Connor at [rcoc77@embarqmail.com](mailto:rcoc77@embarqmail.com) or to the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7791 Penzance Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966. If you have any questions please call the Friends at

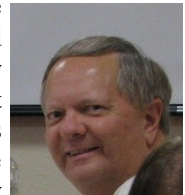
239-533-7557. Entries must be received by Friday, May 28, 2010. Winners will be notified in writing by June 11, 2010.



(Photo Carolyn Babb)

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Friends Annual Meeting for 2010 was held on March 22, 2010. Three new board members were elected by the general membership. Steve Tutko who has been serving on the Advisory Board of the Friends organization agreed to join the Board of Directors. He is a biologist and originally came to the Friends Organization via the Babcock Ranch. Not only has Steve offered valuable information and knowledge at every meeting of the Board of Directors in the past several years, he has been one of the regulars at Friends Corner, and a trash picker for the



(Photo Carolyn Babb)



(Photo Carolyn Babb)

Friends Adopt A Highway Program.

Rejoining the board as Advocacy Chairperson is Joyce Sanders. Joyce has been the coordinator of the Friends Corner gang "Worker Bees" since her retirement as President of Friends last year. She is a Founding Board member of the Friends organization and a driving force in the building of the Interpretive Center. This is a great "refit" for her and for the Friends organization. Her great passion is preservation of the Slough.

Friends is going to have the first "remote" board member in Jean Labriola Scholz who is joining the board from Pennsylvania. Jean and her husband are in Fort Myers six times a year at their second home and anticipate relocating here. She is a scientist at the University of Pennsylvania with research and teaching experience in plant and animal genetics, cellular immunology, and biotechnology. She is eager to join the Friends Board and we welcome her with open arms. From Jean "I have a strong avocational interest in native plants and their use in landscape design and habitat restoration. For the past decade I've been part of a team of volunteers that organizes one of the country's largest conferences on native plants in the landscape. I fell in love with Six Mile Cypress for its plants and land/waterscapes, but well understand the tremendous broader value of the preserve to the area's ecology as well as its human residents."



(Photo Courtesy Jean Scholz)

The Board of Directors welcomes the new board members and thank them for their willingness to help support the staff and volunteers at the Slough and represent the great group of citizens who are members of the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

# FRIENDS FIRST PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



Richard Burwell  
Plant Category



Brigitte Foremen  
Plant Category



Gretchen Barsness  
Animal Category



Gail Campbell  
Open Category



Janet Bunch  
Open Category



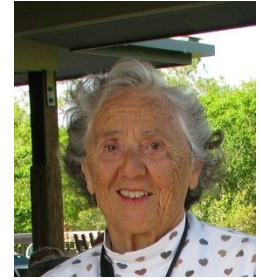
Vincent Abbatiello  
Animal Category



Peter Sidell  
Plant Category

*Along the Boardwalk.....A most remarkable winter! ...by Dotty Brown*

Cooler than normal temperatures, more clouds with low ceilings, intermittent rain showers and lengthening daylight hours played their roles in winter's wildlife playground at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Evaporation from the ponds and lake was minimized giving aquatic life and water birds ample food supply and habitat. Mergansers are taking advantage of this at Wood Duck Pond. Will we see their puffy ducklings padding behind Mama into the hidden haunts of the shrubs that surround the pond? Will we see migrating species pause as they monitor the movement of spring into the February fury snow lands up north? When will the Iris bloom? Come watch the unveiling of a much anticipated spring!!



*Banner Year by Mary Rude, Supervisor, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve*



This season we had record number of visitors to the Slough. The cold weather seemed to encourage people off the beach and into the preserve. The afternoon guided walks had unprecedented numbers of participants. Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help and teach the eager public. I was impressed by the rapt attention the visitors were paying to the guides as they listened about the Slough. We have also had quite a number of new visitors to the Interpretive Center. One visitor left this comment with the volunteers at the front desk...“As a V.I.P. 7 years in National Parks, my husband and I have seen many Visitor Centers. This ranks in the top % of excellent information centers we have ever seen. Good job! Awesome!” Laivlors

The Friends have added a whole dimension to the Interpretive Center by having the Friends Corner gift shop. Many people have enjoyed purchasing a guide book to use on the trail or having something to take home. I know that I have had the pleasure of sending some of the beautiful cards.

The Friends volunteers in the gift shop have also helped tremendously with disseminating information to the visitors. At times they have been the only volunteer at the front desk and have to wear “2 hats”. I have received many compliments on how wonderful the volunteers are at the Slough, so knowledgeable and courteous, too. And while we appreciate all the volunteers who work at the desk, **Bill Sanders** and **Carolyn Babb** were honored at our Volunteer Recognition party for all the hours they have put in at the desk. As we looked around at our party to find Bill, he was nowhere to be seen. With a laugh, we found him manning the front desk! That's dedication.

*Turn Binoculars into Magnifying Class by Alan Cadkin*

We use binoculars to make far away objects look closer. By turning them around, we can make close objects look larger (like a magnifying glass.) Look through only one lens and place the binoculars very, very close to the object you want to magnify. The closer, you get, the larger the image. Think of it as a microscope. I have used this to see detail of lichens (of course). But it is great for small insects and other tiny objects.



This tiny section of bark contains many different items to identify.

*Slough Advocacy Progress*

Lee County added 1,213 acres to the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve February 23, 2010 bringing the total acres of the preserve to nearly 3,700 acres. The acquisition was funded by the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program. The parcel is located north of the Slough at SR 82.

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is Lee County's most visited preserve. When the first protective purchases were made, this unique natural feature was in a rural setting. Thirty years later it is in the City of Fort Myers surrounded by urban development.

The acquisition contains cypress domes, wet flatwoods and pasture lands. The pasture lands were included to provide the possibility for water storage to enhance the slough. The public lands that make up the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve with this addition will be increased by over 30%. The addition of uplands to the slough will offer recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking and other passive recreation close to the city of Fort Myers and the population core of Lee County. Because of the size of the parcel the acquisition will be phased over two years.

Charter Friends Member and Friends Advisory Board Member, William F. Hammond, Ph.D., a long-time environmental educator and consultant in Lee County, is a member of the Conservation 20/20 Advisory Committee. (Shown at left in this picture.) Read his Guest Opinion, The News-Press, Local and State Section, of Saturday, March 20, 2010

<http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article>

*This is one of the most important land purchases since the Conservation 20/20 program was validated by the voters.* Guest Opinion: Bill Hammond



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Carolyn Babb  
Gretchen Barsness  
Bill & Jean Black C  
David Burke  
Frank & Dee Burns C  
Richard Burwell  
Bill & Barbara Catineau  
Jan & Dave Cornell  
Jerry & Joni Curcuru  
Mary Ross Denison  
BL Desmond  
Pascha Donaldson  
Eileen Downing  
Gayle & Paul Edwards  
Harriet Gallagher  
Gilkey Organization LLC  
Doris Giuseffi  
Rosalene Hackman  
Bill & Rosemarie Hammond C  
Carol Hampton  
Bonnie & Brian Hogan  
Lee Huberty  
Charles & Virginia Huether  
Richard & Debra Huxley  
Jasmine Garden Club  
Laurel Kearns  
Richard & Judith Krauss  
M J Major C  
Sally McPherson  
Frank & Mary Murray  
Carolyn Nieset  
Nancy Osborne  
Deanna Pipher  
Ellen Pritchard  
Clark Rhodes  
Sissel Robertson  
Jack & Sue Rogers  
Arnie Rosen  
Bob & Mary Rude C  
Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society  
Judy & Dave Schele  
Walter & Cathy Sedlacek C  
Stephen Tutko  
Harriet Warner  
Stephen Webb  
Ginny Widrick  
Jeffery Zasadny

*“C” denotes Charter Member (persons who comprised the first year’s membership of Friends)*

*Welcome New Members*

Richard Ponto  
Frank & Mary Porter  
Peter Sidell  
Nancy Stewart

*Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:*

Bill & Barbara Catineau  
Doris Giuseffi  
Frank & Mary Porter  
Bob & Mary Rude  
Walter & Cathy Sedlacek

*SUMMER CAMP SCHOLASHIPS*

Summer Camp Schedule

Naturalist Camp

July 19-23 or July 26-30

10-12 Years Old

Wilderness Camp

August 9-13 or August 16-30

12-16 Years Old

Submit essays to the Friends at RCO77@embarqmail.com or 7791 Penzance Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

*WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO CAMP AT THE SLOUGH???????*

## FRIENDS PROGRAM SCHEDULE APRIL 2010 is WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 6:30 pm

A Gathering of Friends in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Sally McPherson from the SFWMD is the speaker.

There will be a short boardwalk trip to the amphitheater at Gator Lake guided by Bob Repenning, coordinator of land stewardship at the Slough.

All members and their guests are welcome to attend the program. Refreshments will be served. Additional information about the program can be found at the Friends web site, [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org)

RSVP by the day before the program to Carolyn Babb at [carolyn\\_babb08@comcast.net](mailto:carolyn_babb08@comcast.net) or the Friends’ number at the Slough 239-533-7557.

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE. [carolyn\\_babb08@comcast.net](mailto:carolyn_babb08@comcast.net)



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

## Connections STAFF

Editor	Carolyn Babb
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Lay-out/Design	Carolyn Babb
Printing	Lee County Parks & Recreation

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

### Advisory Board

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Cadkin Foundation

Carolyn Delizia Swift

Dr. William Hammond  
Florida Gulf Coast University

Carol Newcomb-Jones

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

Clyde Dabbs

### Board of Directors

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President

Charles O'Connor  
Vice President

Nancy Johnson  
Secretary

Frank Murray  
Treasurer

Jeff Key

Molly Meadows

Mary Murray

Joyce Sanders

Jean Labriola Scholz

Steve Tutko

### Parks and Recreation Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor  
Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Preserve

## Janet Bunch Slough Volunteer of the Year

Friends member and Special Event Coordinator, Janet Bunch was named Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Volunteer of the Year at the Volunteer Recognition Potluck Party. Janet is not only an active Friends member but also a dynamo as a volunteer at the Slough. She participates in guided walks, front desk duty, kitchen clean up at all of the events, roving on the boardwalk and all other duties as assigned! Friends is so proud to have another one of our own named Volunteer of the Year.

*Congratulations Janet!*



Heather Gienapp presents Janet Bunch with Slough Volunteer of the Year Award.



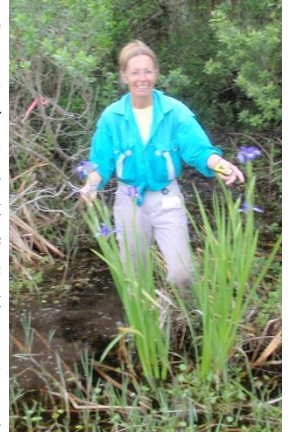
(Photo Courtesy Janet Bunch)

Janet at one of the many Special Events she and other volunteers have attended representing the Friends Organization and the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Koreshan Earth Day  
Saturday, April 24, 2010

Spring is here! I am so tired of winter (for those of you who think Florida doesn't have four seasons, think again.) This has been the coldest winter ever! But have we been busy. The Friends Corner has done a booming business. It is so great to have funds for equipment and books and other items needed for the Interpretive Center. A big thank



CB and Irises in the Slough

you to all of the Friends that have worked at the store this winter. And thanks for your patience as I try to learn about how it all works as well! We will have it fine tuned by next season. The store's success is not only due to our fabulous members at the register, but to all of the many, many visitors we had this winter at the Slough. There was a net income of \$4,277 for Friends Corner this year! I am glad to share our treasure with all of the visitors, but sometimes it is so nice to have that solitude and the spirit by myself. I walked in the rain and dark around half of the boardwalk during one of the Full Moon Walks. There was an owl hooting, the rain was misting with the moon trying to peek out at me. What a feeling!

The Friends Gathering programs on Monday evenings this winter have been outstanding and informative as usual. Thanks to all who helped make them a success. Planning has already started for next winter!

The Photo Contest exceeded our original expectations. The quality of the photographs was amazing. You can see the winners in this issue. They are also on display at the Interpretive Center until May. Next year will be even better.

Special thanks to Mary Murray for all of her fantastic work as Membership Chairperson. She worked very hard to streamline our list of members and update the email listing for our use. Her service on the Board of Directors has been greatly appreciated. I know she won't stray too far and will still be doing all she can for the Slough and the Friends.

There is still room for new members for the Board of Directors. And lots of room for help with all of the Special Events and activities. Step up to the plate this year. Help out!

I am looking forward to continuing as President of the Friends. Maybe I will have time to do all of those items on my President "to do" list that I put together a year ago!

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**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

