



Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

JANUARY 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is a not-for-profit advocacy and support organization committed to preserving, protecting and promoting Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve for future generations through education and community partnerships, working together with Lee County and South Florida Water Management District. The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is a critical wetland system having positive value in inspiring and educating its visitors about wetlands and their roles in preserving the environment and local quality of life. Friends' vision is to maintain the Preserve's positive community influence in perpetuity.



2001—The start of the Friends Organization

PRIZES AWAIT PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE PHOTO CONTEST?

First prize photos in all categories will be awarded a parking sticker for parking for one year at most of the Lee County Parks and Boat Ramps. (Locations can be found at www.leeparks.org.) Second and third place winners will receive a merchandise certificate for the Friends Corner Store at the Interpretive Center.

The rules and entry information are included in this newsletter and on line at www.sloughpreserve.org.

Award winners will be notified by February 15, 2012 and awards will be presented at a Photo Contest Celebration to be held at the Slough Interpretive Center on February 25, 2012. Winning photos will be displayed for 2012 at the Slough Interpretive Center.

Entries will be accepted until 3:00 pm Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at the Interpretive Center at the Slough, 7791 Penzance Blvd. in Fort Myers. If there are any questions, please call the Friends at 239-533-7557.



Crew Marsh Field Trip
Photos Carolyn Babb

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FRIENDS FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULED FOR 2012

Field trips led by Friends members Janet Bunch and Mary Murray have been so successful that monthly trips are scheduled through May 2012. These trips are open to all Friends members. The trips scheduled are:

Hickey's Creek on January 24

Bird Rookery Swamp on February 7

Caloosahatchee Regional Park on April 10

Bowditch Point and Matanzas Pass Preserve on May 10

These adventures fill up fast, so contact janetbunch@yahoo.com as soon as possible to register.

WINTER GATHERINGS SPEAKERS



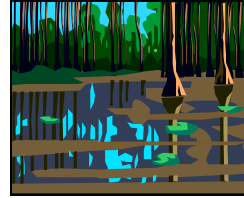
Dr. Jerry Jackson, Florida Gulf Coast University, renowned ornithologist and naturalist.

Surprise Eyes – The Downy Plumage and Behavior of Ducklings
Wednesday, January 25, 2012 7:00 pm

**Robert Repenning, Land Stewardship Coordinator,
Lee County Parks and Recreation**

State of the Slough 2012

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:00 pm



Amy Bennett Williams, journalist for the News-Press and author of *Along the Caloosahatchee River*

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:00 pm



Dr. Ernesto de la Vega, Lee County Hyacinth Control

An Underwater Exploration of Natural Ponds

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 7:00 pm

All programs are free and open to the public. Programs are scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Interpretive Center, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7751 Penzance Blvd in Fort Myers. RSVP by Tuesday before the Wednesday programs to Friends at (239) 533-7557 or carolyn_babb08@comcast.net



Along the Boardwalk.....Naturally noteworthy
by Dotty Brown

Rainbows burst forth from water droplets left by fog or dew on the tips of pine needles as the low winter sun sends its rays to the slough. Shadows are long, providing the photographer with unique composition in timing of shafts of lighting and shadows for contrast. The open understory, the ferns and wildflowers in particular, receive winter sunlight to renew their foliage. Adult birds and mammals, no longer tethered to nursing duties, are roaming - providing unexpected sightings. Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks and Glossy Ibis have been noted. On Monday morning after Christmas a FLORIDA PANTHER was observed east of the Interpretive Center by a visitor who reported it to Heather. The panther departed upon noting human presence.



What will you see on your walk along the boardwalk?

2011 Friends Photography Contest

You are cordially invited to submit your best pictures to the third annual Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve photography contest. This event is an opportunity for you to share your beautiful views of this very special natural area and its *native* wild-life.

Mail (or drop off) your photo(s), entry form, and entry fee (\$10 per photographer) to Six Mile Slough Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33966, between November 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012 (contest closes at 3:00 PM).

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.

There will be a separate category for Friends' Board members, the contest judges, and the staff of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve entries.

Each contestant may submit a total of up to five photos. Photos may be submitted in any of the categories below:

1. Plants
2. Animals (including insects)
3. Open (any photo that does not belong in one of the above categories, such as landscape, abstract, people)
4. Altered Images (Plants, Animals, or Open) Images which are modified in ways not covered in the "Permitted Modifications" section below should be entered in the Altered Images category. Judges may, at their discretion, place an entry in this category if it shows clear evidence of such alteration.

Separate awards will be granted for contestants aged 17 and under.

Permitted Modifications (for categories 1-4, above)

- Red-eye removal and spot editing
- Use of filters or photo editing software to sharpen, soften, blur, despeckle, or remove noise
- Use of corrective functions to improve the natural appearance of the image, such as levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone, hue, saturation, lightness, value, color balance, and tint.
- Judges reserve the right to reassign a photograph to a different category, or disqualify it.

Altered Images (Category 4)

Photographs manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects (i.e. hand coloring, bleaching, collage and photo composites, and filters applied to approximate other artistic techniques such as fresco, pen or pencil renditions, etc.).

Photos must be printed on the paper of your choice, 8" x 10" or 8" by 12". Please select a 6-character code and write it on a sticky Post It Note; attach it on the back of each of your photographs. Note each code on your entry form.

For a photo in which a person is recognizable, you must secure a model release from the subject or, in the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian and provide it to *Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve* upon request.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, photographic quality, and effectiveness in conveying the beauty and/or unique character of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in one of the contest categories. Judging will be anonymous. The contest judges will not have access to the entry forms.

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".

Miscellaneous

Award winners will be notified by February 15, 2012 and awards will be presented at a Photo Contest Celebration to be held at the Slough Interpretive Center on February 25, 2012. Winning photos will be displayed at the Slough Interpretive Center.

Prints will become the property of Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is not responsible for lost or damaged photos.

By entering the contest, photographers agree that *Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve* may display winning photos and may make and retain copies of the photographs for educational purposes and fundraising without any fee or other form of compensation.

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is designated by IRS a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and registered charitable organization # CH13822 in compliance with Florida Division of Consumer Services requirements.

2011 PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve 2011 Photo Contest Entry Form

Name _____ Age 17 or Under? _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Please mark your personal code on a post it note (or similar) and attach to the back of the photo (s) being submitting.

Category:

Plants:

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____ Photo #4 code _____
Photo #5 code _____

Animals

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____ Photo #4 code _____
Photo #5 code _____

Open

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____ Photo #4 code _____
Photo #5 code _____

Altered

Photo #1 code _____ Photo #2 code _____ Photo #3 code _____ Photo #4 code _____
Photo #5 code _____

Send your photos (Maximum of five photos) to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33966, by January 31, 2012. Be sure to include a check for your \$10 entry fee made out to Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. You will be notified by February 15, 2012 if you have won or placed in the contest. Awards reception will be on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Noon. Thank you for entering and good luck!

Photo Release Form

Permission to Use Photograph in 2011 Photo Contest sponsored by Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough

I grant to Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough ("the Friends") the right to take photographs of me and my family in connection with the above-identified event

I authorize the Friends, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that the Friends may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Signature, parent or guardian if under 18: _____

SLOUGH PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR WINTER



Tai Chi Thursdays, January 12th through February 16th, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. \$60 per session or \$12 per class



Beginner/ Intermediate Level Traditional Yoga Tuesdays, January 10th through February 14th, 9:00 am to 10:15 am, \$50 per session or \$10 per class



Tracking Club Saturdays, January 14th and February 11th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Skull ID 101 Tuesdays, January 10th through March 27th, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm



FondZoo Art Tuesdays, January 10th, February 14th and March 13th, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, \$25 per person

Working Your Digital Camera Wednesday, January 18th, Saturday, January 21st, or Wednesday, March 21st 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, \$45 per person



2010 Photo Contest Winner
by Vincent Abbatiello

EXPLORE THE SLOUGH BY THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON

Experience the Slough in the light of the full moon on this guided sensory walk. You may hear sounds that you will not hear in the day, smells that come and go and feel changes in air temperature as you walk along the boardwalk.

A volunteer naturalist will lead you along the boardwalk as the moon rises over the Slough. You should wear comfortable walking shoes. No flashlights needed. No cameras with flashes are allowed.

Saturday	January 7, 2012	5:45 pm
Tuesday	February 7, 2012	6:15 pm
Wednesday	March 7, 2012	6:30 pm
Friday	April 6, 2012	7:45 pm

Reservations are required for programs. Register for programs online at www.leeparks.org or by calling Lee County Parks and Recreation at (239) 533-7275.

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

POT LUCK MOMENTS



Photos
Carolyn Babb
Tim Denger
Heather Gienapp

REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Janet Bunch

The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Special Events Committee, which is basically me, has a full line-up for this season. Special Events mans (womans?) a Slough display at public events to attract new Slough visitors. Our year started in September with the **Living MINDfully Festival**, new this year. It was followed in November by the **Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival**. The **Burrowing Owl Festival** February 25th at the Rotary Park in Cape Coral from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm and **the CREW Wildflower Festival** March 31 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm, round out the schedule for this year. In all, our display is visited by hundreds at these events.



Rookery Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve in Naples

Photo Carolyn Babb

We also have been organizing field trips for the Friends membership. Mary Murray and I started last year on a small scale, and it has grown by leaps and bounds, which is exciting. So far this season, we've gone to Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, Celery Fields Audubon Preserve in Sarasota and a guided hike at CREW. Our next foray will be to join a guided hike at CREW in December. We'll have trips to Hickey's Creek Jan.



Happy field trippers at Celery Fields
Audubon Preserve in Sarasota

Photo Janet Bunch

24, to Bird Rookery Swamp Feb. 7, a gastronomic tour with Mary Murray at Caloosahatchee Regional Park April 10, and on May 10 Carolyn Babb will be our hostess at Bowditch Point and Matanzas Pass Preserve. All Friends members are enthusiastically invited. These adventures fill up fast, so contact me at janetbunch@yahoo.com as soon as possible to register. I'm always looking for new sites, so if anybody has suggestions, let me know.

If I should happen to get hit by a bus, there is no back-up person. There have been several occasions where conflicts occur and choices have to be made of which events in which to participate. This results in missed opportunities for Slough outreach to potential new visitors. Ergo, if there is anyone or several someones out there who would like to shadow me at some of these events, or who would be willing to be the fall-back person in times of schedule conflicts or incapacity, I would be most grateful. I had to forgo the Ding Darling Days, which would be a great event for us, because I couldn't be two places at once. It's really been fun representing the Slough, and I wouldn't ask you to do anything that isn't fun or rewarding.

Yours in the car - Janet

Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park—Next Friends Field Trip
January 24, 2012
Photo Lee County Parks and Recreation



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!

Ronald Benz
Kelly Bishop
Bruce and Janet Bunch
Richard Burwell
Kathleen Cadle
Gail Campbell
Erik Carlson
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society
Michael and Nancy Frazier
Richard and Lois Fein
Shirley Fox C
Robin Gardner
Richard and Andrea Houle
Marty and Alice Krebs
Flo Kornman C
Alan McTeague
Garn Mennell
John and Sue Miller C
Eileen Mitchell
Jeff Montgomery
Corinne Murphy C
Kristen Nelson
Walter and Cathy Sedlacek C
Rick and Kate Streng

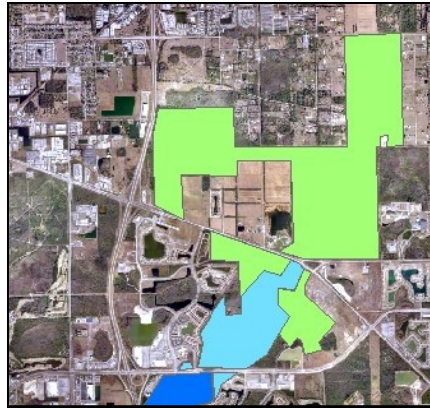
“C” denotes Charter Member, persons who were first year members of the Friends.

Welcome New Members !

Jeff Montgomery
Jim and Carol Zientek

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Richard Burwell
Garn Mennell
John and Sue Miller



SLOUGH INCREASES IN SIZE

By Robert Repping

For many years we have been telling visitors that the Slough is 9 miles long and over 2,000 acres. Thanks to recent acquisitions by the 20/20 program (see green area-north of State Rd. 82-on map) the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is now larger.

Today the Slough encompasses 3420 acres and is 11 miles long. Of this total, 1571 acres of land (46% of the total) has been added to the Slough through the 20/20 program.

Photo SM CSP

Jackie Cadkin,
Phoebe Obdyke
Alan Cadkin

FRIENDS MEMBER, SLOUGH VOLUNTEER PHOEBE OBDYKE RETIRES

The Alan and Jacquelin Cadkin Foundation has donated a bench in honor of Phoebe Obdyke and her dedicated work in creating a parking lot garden second to none. From a jungle 14 years ago to a jewel today, it is truly a blessing to the Slough. The benches are a wonderful place to contemplate and it is a lovely first impression. TO A TREASURE WHO LEFT US A TREASURE, Thank you Phoebe.

Alan and Jackie



The Cadkins: Benchmark for Philanthropy by Mary Rude

We have two more comfortable benches over-looking our center isle garden thanks to the Cadkin families. Jackie and Alan Cadkin generously donated a bench honoring long-time volunteer Phoebe Obdyke for all the time and effort that she put into nurturing the garden. She can now finally sit down and enjoy the lovely view.

Jackie and Alan's children have followed in the philanthropical footsteps of their parents.

Steven Cadkin & Family and Laurie Cadkin Newland & Family donated a bench in memory of their brother Blake. This bench faces the garden as well. It affords one a sense of peace and tranquility by creating a space to simply sit quietly.

If you would like to honor a loved one or name a bench for someone special, please contact Jean Scholz of the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
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.

Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb
President

Charles O'Connor
Vice President

Frank Murray
Treasurer

Theresa Roake
Secretary

Donna Cressman

Nancy Johnson

Jeff Key

Bernard MacDonald

Joyce Sanders

Jean Labriola Scholz

Steve Tutko

Parks and Recreation

Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor
Six Mile Cypress Slough
Preserve



Bill and Doty at the Grand Opening of the Interpretive Center at the Slough in 2008.

Condolences to long time Friends Member Doty Brown on the loss of her husband of 60 years, Bill Brown.

Dorothy's column, *Along the Boardwalk*, has been published in *Connections* since the first issue of our newsletter. Bill often helped with our newsletter when needed and a valuable resource when I started as editor. CB

FRIENDS CORNER OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We want to extend a big THANK YOU to all who have agreed to help out in Friends Corner this season. We are pleased to announce the hours for Friends Corner for January to March, 2012:

Tuesday:	10 am - 2 pm*
Wednesday:	10 am - 4 pm
Thursday:	12 pm - 4 pm**
Friday:	10 am - 4 pm
Saturday:	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday:	10 am - 4 pm

*Also open from 2 pm - 4 pm the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

**Also open from 10 am - 12 pm the 4th Thursday

This is the busiest time of the year for Friends Corner and the money raised is used for a variety of programs at the Slough. Thanks again for helping keep the doors open!

Theresa Roake

Hi to all of the Friends— Hope your holidays were wonderful and warm! It is indeed paradise here in SW Florida.



There are so many of the Friends members to thank for all of the work and accomplishments of this past year. Activities such as the photo contest, winter program gatherings, summer camp counselors, tuition for camp, special events, wet walks, adopt a road and the worker bees at Friends Corner. I am sure there are more that will be added to the list as we work on the annual report for the March Friends meeting.

Now on to the wonderful "season" to welcome all of our visitors from up North. And they are here for sure! The boardwalk is busy, busy, busy and the Interpretive Center as well. Hopefully the sales at Friends Corner will reflect all of the traffic there is around the Slough!

Speaking of traffic—the improvement on Six Mile Cypress is not quite done yet, to say the least. The entrance at Penzance Road is a challenge at best, so please be careful when you come to visit. It is supposed to be done in February and on schedule for now.

Now is the time to sign up for a Friends Field trip. The trips have been so much fun and educational. I just returned from the trip to the Crew Marsh. It is amazing how many flowers bloom in December. There was even an orchid blooming. The area that we visited had a controlled burn in August of this year. The picture on the front page shows the new growth in just those few short months. We even saw evidence of black bear activity (back scratching) on a tree. The guide said that there is a mama bear and two babies in the area. There is so much to see and learn and so little time. I recommend a trip to everyone.

Make sure to schedule one of the Friends gatherings for the new year. The speakers are excellent, as usual. Bob Reppening's State of the Slough has been moved up to February in hopes of more of the seasonal volunteers and Friends being able to attend.

If you haven't entered the Photo Contest yet, there is still time! Entries are due by the end of January.

See you in the Slough. CB

Connections Staff

Editor/ Lay-out/ Design	Carolyn Babb
Copy Editor	Bruce Bunch
Printing Facility	Lee County at Terry Park

JOIN FRIENDS TODAY!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

In addition I would like to contribute

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

TOTAL\$ _____

Membership Level (Please Check One)

- Student (\$10)
- Individual (\$20)
- Contributing (\$50)
- Supporting (\$100)
- Associate (\$250) - 1
- Sustaining (\$500) - 1, 2
- Corporate Sponsor (\$500) - 1, 2
- Patron (\$1,000) - 1, 2, 3

- 1- includes parking sticker for 17 Lee Co. Facilities.
- 2 - includes choice of wet walk or moon walk for ten guests.
- 3 - includes garden bench or rocking chair naming opportunity.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH YOUR TIME?
I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH:**

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

Friends web site: www.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.

PHOTO CONTEST
ENTRIES DUE BY
JANUARY 31, 2012

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

