

Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

APRIL 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.



Friends Bird Rookery Swamp Field Trip
Photo Carolyn Babb

PHOTO WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Slough visitors submitted over 370 photos to be judged in the third annual Photo Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough. Ninety four photographers submitted 374 photos for six categories.



Judges for the contest were Friends vice president/education chair, Charles O'Connor; photographer Geoff Coe, owner of Wild Images Florida in Fort Myers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ranger and photographer Jim Matheson.

First place winners included Charles Pavlick, animal category, Keith Ridge, plant category and open category, Sam Kaler, altered category, Maddie McWilliams, youth category and Charles O'Connor, staff category. All of the winning photographs are included on pages 3-5. The photos are currently on display in the Interpretive Center.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

APRIL FRIENDS GATHERING

Dr. Ernesto de la Vega

Lee County Hyacinth Control District

An Underwater Exploration of Natural Ponds

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 7:00 pm

The program is free and open to the public. However, seating is limited. The program is at the Interpretive Center, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7791 Penzance Blvd in Fort Myers. Please RSVP by Tuesday April 24, 2012 to Friends at (239) 533-7557.

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CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER CAMPERS

The Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is again offering scholarships to interested campers which will cover the fee of \$58.50 for a camping session.

Camps sessions are Naturalist Camp for 10 -12 year olds from June 25 to June 29 or July 2 to July 6 (no camp on July 4th). Wilderness Camp is for 12 -16 year olds from July 16 to July 20 or July 23 to July 27. All sessions of the camps involve exploring and learning about nature through the beauty of 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." Essays should be submitted to Dr. R. Charles O'Connor at 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 Thursday, May 31, 2012. Winners will be notified in writing by June 11, 2012.

If your camper is already enrolled in camp and wins a scholarship, the Friends will reimburse you directly.

FRIENDS 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10 Year Anniversary of Friends
New membership initiatives
Benches in garden
Arnie Rosen slough video donation
December potluck
2010-2011 Photo contest, 36 photographers, 134 photos
2011-2012 Photo contest, 94 photographers, 373 photos
Co hosted *Natural Wonders of the Slough* in January
Speakers for the year included:
Allyson Webb - Bats
Jamie Ellis - Honeybees
Charles Sobczyk The Living Gulf Coast — A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida
Bob Repenning - State of the Slough
Field trips for Friends:
Celery Field
Crew Marsh
Rookery Bay
Adopt a Highway
Mary Murray selected as Slough Volunteer of the Year
Wet Walks - 7 walks for 150 people
New entrance sign
Camp scholarships
Friends nominated for Chrysalis Award
Three new board members
Participation in FGCU oral history project
Lee County Parks and Recreation CAPRA reaccreditation participation
Assisted Bob Repenning with Land Stewardship
Special Events Committee represented the Friends at:
Charlotte Harbor Festival
Burrowing Owl Festival
Crew Wildflower Festival
Summer camp volunteers
Summer intern compensation
Friends Corner training and store operation
Summer camp financed speakers and training, supplies
FGCU research
Friends website

COMPLETE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE AT
www.sloughpreserve.org

2011-2012 FRIENDS PHOTO CONTEST

ANIMAL CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
CHUCK PAVLICK



SECOND PLACE
JASON BOECKMAN



THIRD PLACE
DEBBIE O'NEILL



HONORABLE MENTION
JOSEPH MORAN



HONORABLE MENTION
JOSEPH MORAN

PLANT CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
KEITH RIDGE



SECOND PLACE
ROBIN BELL



HONORABLE MENTION
SUSAN SNYDER



THIRD PLACE
LINDA NORMOYLE

OPEN CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
KEITH RIDGE



SECOND PLACE
LINDA NORMOYLE



THIRD PLACE
PETER SIDELL



HONORABLE MENTION
TOM HARVEY

ALTERED CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
SAM KALER



THIRD PLACE
SUSAN SNYDER



SECOND PLACE
KRYSTLE DINICOLA

YOUTH CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
MADDIE MCWILLIAMS



SECOND PLACE
HANNA GRIMM



THIRD PLACE
HANNA GRIMM



HONORABLE MENTION
ANNA EPPLE

STAFF CATEGORY WINNERS



SECOND PLACE
CAROLYN BABB



THIRD PLACE
CAROLYN BABB



FIRST PLACE
CHARLES O'CONNOR

Before melaleuca removal



HABITAT RESTORATION AT SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE

By Bob Repenning

The portions of the 20/20 properties on Morgan Hill Road, a finger of the Six Mile Cypress Slough, is being restored through mechanical melaleuca removal. This work is being done at no cost to the County. The harvested timber is being sold as a biofuel for a power plant. The county gets rid of this pesky exotic and restores native habitats. This work should be concluded in the next month.

Photos Robert Repenning



After melaleuca removal

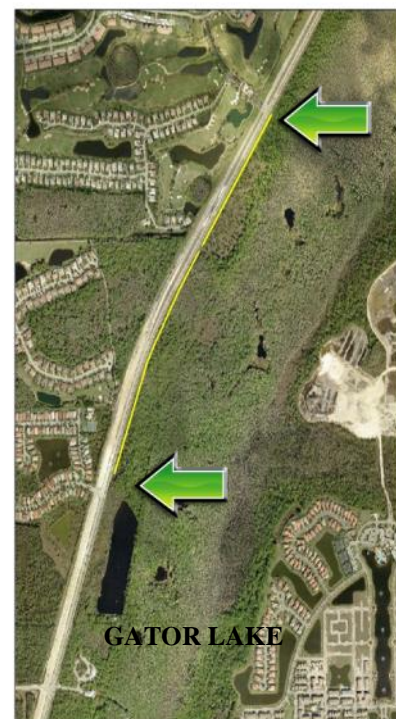
FENCING ALONG SIX MILE CYPRESS PARKWAY

By Bob Repenning

The road widening work is not the only thing to change along the Parkway. Last year, a fence was installed south of Penzance Boulevard. This year additional fence will be installed from where an existing fence ends north of Gator Lake along the road to a point across from the entrance to Heritage Palms. This will serve several purposes including clearly defining the preserve boundary. It will also block access to the slough by off the road vehicles. As the habitat along the road is opened up through land management activities it will also allow access by four wheel drive vehicles. Hopefully, the fence will prevent this. The fence will also to some extent keep hogs off the road where they are a danger to themselves and cars. The fence will also allow us to access securely more areas for hog trapping. Traps have been stolen from unfenced areas.

The arrows indicate the area of the new fence being installed along Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

SIX MILE CYPRESS PARKWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The consultants responsible for the project management, Cella Molnar and Associates, Inc report that the project completion date for the Six Mile Cypress Parkway project is now estimated to be April 30, 2012, with the probability that this date will be extended.

SLOUGH PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR SPRING



Tai Chi Thursdays, April 5th through May 10, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. \$60 per session or \$12 per class



Beginner/ Intermediate Level Traditional Yoga Tuesdays, April 3 through May 8, 9:00 am to 10:15 am, \$50 per session or \$10 per class



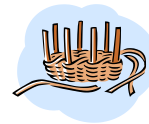
Tracking Club Saturdays, April 7, May 5, June 2, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

FrendZoo Art Tuesday, April 10, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, \$25 per person



Nature Photography Wednesday, April 18, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, \$45 per person

Basket Making Saturday April 21, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, \$15 per person



Alligator Detectives Saturday April 7, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

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



Along the Boardwalk... by Dotty Brown

Spring Green robes the slough this warm spring. The foliage is punctuated with promising buds that will burst into blooms of Blue Flag Iris, snowballs on the Button-bush or yellow Primrose Willow. Not to be outdone, the birds saturate their colors for mating. The White Ibis' beaks and legs turn deep red; their immature emerge with brown plumage. The Little Blue herons sport an azure-blue plumage; their immature are white plumage with blue tipped beak. Shallow waters expose fish hollowing out nesting holes in the sand banks.. Turtles take to land to lay their eggs. Snakes are seen copulating. The slough invites you to come and GET THE NATURAL PICTURE OF SPRING!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!

William and Carolyn Babb
Walter Baker
Jerry and Francis Bernstein
Jeanette Botha
Dotty Brown C
Bill and Barbara Catineau
Frankie Crain C
Donna Cressman
Scott Cooper
Dave and Jan Cornell
Ben Desmond Jr.
Pascha Donaldson
Eileen Downing
Gayle and Paul Edwards
Kitty Engels
Suzanne Frechette
Cheryl Gatbonton
Harriet Gallagher
John Gnagey
Carl and Linda Grispino
Rosalene Hackman
Bill and Rosemarie Hammond C
Carol Hampton and Robert Reichle
Lynn C. Hartmann
Linda Hefty
Bonnie and Brian Hogan
Nancy Hollmann
Laurel Kerns
Glen Kesler
Terri Krass
Richard and Judi Drauss
Rudy and Irmgard Lampron C
Sue Meyers
Mickey Miller C
Rebecca R. Mitchell
Gretchen Monti
Mary and Frank Murray
Poinciana Garden Club
Mary and Frank Porter
Wiley and Betty Parker C
Marilyn Ponto
Ellen Pritchard
Arnie Rosen
Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society
Judy & Dave Schele
Stephen F. Scholle
Jean L. Scholz
Marie Shaffer
Peter Sidell
Linda Sprankle
Mary Webber

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

Welcome New Members !

Barb Beers
Marlin Berkland
Len Eishen
Kathy and Scott Fullerton
Ira Heshelin
Robert L. Herbst
Merle L. Levy
Gretchen and William McCaw
William Styka

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Jerry and Frances Bernstein
Kathleen Burger
Gayle and Paul Edwards
Kitty Engels
Lynn C. Hartmann
Pelican Preserve Visitors
Mary and Alice Krebs
Marlene Mame
Billy and Martha McGriff
Marvin and Lois Oed
Tedd Pruss
Edward and Kay Rutkowski

CONSERVATION 20/20 FUNDING IN 2012

The Friends organization continues to monitor the status of Conservation 20/20 funding in Lee County and the possible affects on management of the slough. In addition we are awaiting further developments regarding the possibility of current Lee County Parks facilities being transferred to the conservation 20/20 Program for funding in the future.

Interested persons can attend the Lee County Commissioners regular monthly meeting April 17th. The meeting is scheduled for 9 am in the Commission Chambers in the Old County Courthouse at 2120 Main Street in Fort Myers.

THANK YOU



SPECIAL THANKS TO RETIRING VOLUNTEER ALAN MCTEAGUE

A special thank you to retiring volunteer and Friends member, Alan McTeague for his efforts in leading private walks at the Slough for the Fort Myers Pelican Preserve community residents.

We appreciate his enthusiasm and willingness to go that extra mile and help the Friends in furthering education and preservation of the Slough.

Thanks Alan! CB

TO HONOR A SLOUGH VOLUNTEER

Carole Pruss, an enthusiastic volunteer at the Slough recently passed away. Her husband Tedd Pruss has asked that to honor Carole, donations be made in her name to the Friends organization. We have received many generous donations from Tedd and Carole's friends. Thank you so much for that generosity. The memorials will be used for the Slough that Carole so enjoyed.

Thank you.



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.

Joyce Sanders
Past President, Friends

Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb
President

Charles O'Connor
Vice President

Frank Murray
Treasurer

Theresa Roake
Secretary

Donna Cressman

Jeff Key

Terri Krass

Bernard MacDonald

Jean Labriola Scholz

Steve Tutko

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Mary Rude, Supervisor
Six Mile Cypress Slough
Preserve

FRIENDS GATHERINGS IN 2012



Dr. Jerry Jackson and ducklings with "eyes" in January



Bob Repenning reports the State of the Slough in February



Amy Williams and the Caloosahatchee in March

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER TERRI KRASS

Terri Krass, was elected to the Friends Board of Directors at the March annual meeting. Terri is a volunteer naturalist at the slough (scopes, guided walks, front desk, etc.) and already is working at the Friends Corner. She is a Florida Master Naturalist, volunteers for the Lee County Convention Bureau at the airport and a kayaker. She will be a great addition to the Board of Directors for Friends.

Welcome Terri!

Hi Friends—Another busy three months have flown by at the Slough. It's been non-stop at the Interpretive Center and on the boardwalk. All of our Gatherings with speakers were "SRO." We hope to



Pop Ash Preserve
Friends Field Trip

expand next year to outside on the deck. That will take a little more work with the equipment necessary for power point presentations. It is in the plan for next year! Mary Rude and I have talked about it and agree we would need to practice before we try it out in front of a live audience.

I guided a membership incentive moonwalk in March for a member and her guests, and it was one to remember! I am still telling the story of how Big Al stalked us across the Slough and to Gator Lake. I can still feel his eyes on us and his thoughts from his walnut size brain as to which one of us would be his bedtime snack. We fox-walked as fast as our legs could carry us down the boardwalk along Gator Lake, never looking back. And then noticed that it was too cloudy to see the moon. Who needed a moon? The Slough was at her best that night.

Just as we thought, the boxes on the tops of the lights in the parking lot had visitors almost as soon as they were in place. A lovely little screech owl and her mate each took up residence in a box. There are many pictures of her little face that just filled the opening. She would come out in the afternoon as the sun went down. It was quite a treat for the visitors and fun to point in the direction of the owl and watch as they recognize a real owl sitting up there.

The Annual Meeting in March was very well attended. The annual report for 2011 is on the Friends website. Please check it out for all of the information about our organization in 2011 and our financial standing.

A great big thank you to all of the members for your support in the past year. Hope you can visit soon and often. There's nothing else like it in the world!

See you in the Slough. CB

Connections Staff

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Printing Facility	Lee County Terry Park

JOIN FRIENDS TODAY!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

In addition I would like to contribute

\$ _____ additional for the Friends use at the Slough.

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.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

