



Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

April 2015

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CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SLOUGH SUMMER CAMPERS

By Heather Gienapp

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is again offering scholarships to interested campers, which will cover the fee of \$75 for a week of camp. Students from ages 10 -16 are asked to submit a one page essay explaining, "Why I want to go to the Six Mile Slough Summer Camp". Essays and the application should be submitted to Charles O'Connor at rcoc77@embarqmail.com or to 7791 Penzance Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33966. (The application is located on the Slough's webpage at www.leeparks.org under facilities and parks.) Please specify which session you desire.

Summer Naturalists (10 to 12 year olds)

July 6 through 10

July 13 through 17

Wilderness Explorers (12 to 16 year olds)

July 27 through 31

August 3 through 7



The same information is covered each week of camp. If you have any questions please call Heather at 239-533-7556. Entries must be received by Friday, May 31, 2015. Winners will be notified by June 15, 2015. If your camper is already enrolled in camp and wins a scholarship, the Friends will reimburse you directly.

CONSERVANCY'S JOHNSON TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE LINK

The speaker for the Friends April 22, 2015 gathering will be Nicole Johnson, the Director of Governmental Relations for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Nicole will present her program on *ECONomics – Understanding the Relationship Between our Environment, Economy and Quality of Life*.

A native of Jacksonville, Illinois, Nicole received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. Her degree consisted of a double major in Physical Geography and Psychology. Nicole continued her education at the University of Illinois at Springfield, where she received a Masters of Arts degree in Environmental Studies, with a specialized focus on land use planning. After graduation, Nicole worked for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, where she assisted in implementation of the Illinois Emissions Reduction Market System, through creating and presenting educational seminars on the system.

In 1997, Nicole accepted a position at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, as the Environmental Policy Specialist. Since that time, she has been promoted and currently holds the position of Director of Governmental Relations, responsible for the Conservancy's growth management program. As the Conservancy's spokesperson for policy issues related to growth management she testifies at local, regional, and state public hearings. Nicole has worked on local issues, such as the Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship Area, the Hendry County Rural and Agricultural Lands Study and the Lee County Density Reduction/ Groundwater Resource Area Overlay.



FRIENDS GATHERINGS

All programs are free and open to the public. However, seating is limited. Please contact the Friends to reserve a seat prior to the day before the program at sloughconnections@gmail.com or (239) 533-7557.

Programs are scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Interpretive Center, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7751 Penzance Blvd in Fort Myers.

SPRING

The March wind does blow
Up north there is snow
What does Robin do?
He comes to the Slough!

Dotty Brown

Protecting the Headwaters of the Six Mile Cypress Slough – a Public Partnership

by Annisa Karim

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North has been in the news lately because of the large-scale restoration plans that are about to be initiated there. Concurrently, we've been getting lots of questions from visitors and volunteers alike about what is going on at the Slough. Here's the short answer – the County, through its Conservation 20/20 program, acquired a preserve just north of SR 82 that is the subject of a phased plan to restore natural plant communities, protect the water quality and improve water flow throughout the Slough. "Six Mile North", as we like to call it, is managed separately (by a different biologist) from the rest of the Slough but all of the portions of the Slough in conservation are managed by the Conservation Lands Section of the County's Parks and Recreation Department (Non- Conservation 20/20 and Conservation 20/20). Any questions about the actual restoration of Six Mile North should be directed to Cathy Olson. However, before you pick up the phone to call Cathy, read on and perhaps some of your questions will be answered. Refer to the accompanying map as many times as you need.

Water is the lifeblood of Florida. This is true for our upland ecosystems and it is certainly true for our wetlands. The movement, distribution, and quality of water on a landscape has a lot to do with what types of plants and animals we see on that landscape including when we see them, how often, and for how long.

Over time, the hydrology (movement, distribution, and quality of water) across the landscape around and within the Six Mile Cypress Slough has been altered. A private donation of 16.5 acres to the Conservation 20/20 program in 2010 protected a crucial hydrological link between the parts of the Slough north of SR 82 to those south of SR 82. This generous donation also initiated the purchase of approximately 1,202.5 additional acres to form Six Mile North.

Now for the restoration project. The overall concept is to rehydrate the wetlands on the 1,219 acre preserve (Six Mile North), provide additional water to Six Mile Cypress Slough, and reduce flooding to adjacent neighborhoods by storing excess water. Additionally, public access is planned once the entire project is completed in several years.

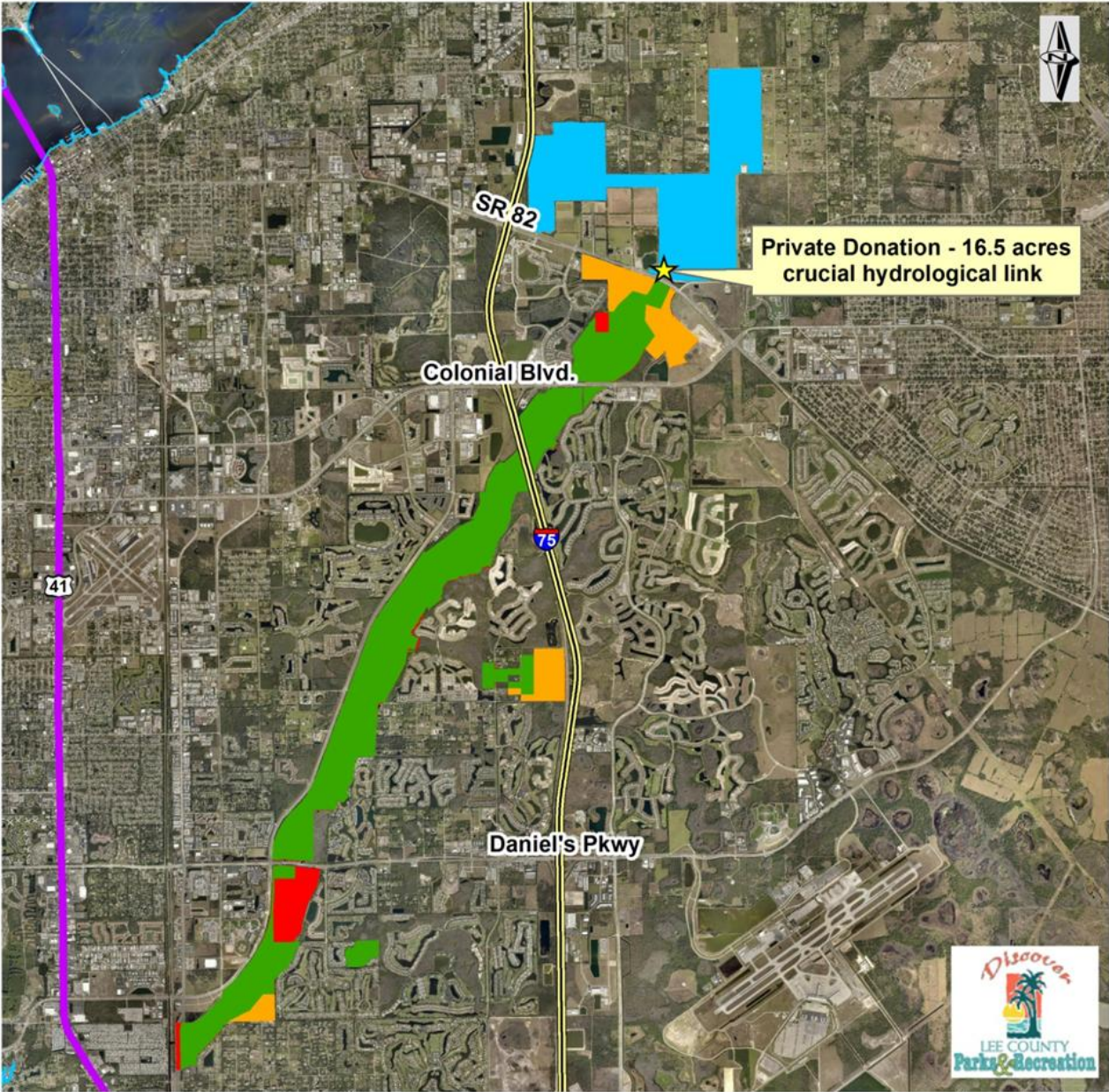
Construction of Phase 1 was approved at the Board of County Commissioners' meeting on February 17, 2015. Phase 1 creates a "bowl" where excess water from surrounding properties will be stored in a former agricultural field. Berms will be started to protect the surrounding properties from flooding. Water control structures to control the flow of water into the Slough will also be added. The creation of the parking area for future recreation will complete Phase 1. Phase 2 will complete the berms and control structure in the western basin and Phase 3 will provide the flowway to get unwanted water offsite to the "bowl". Once all three phases are complete, Conservation 20/20 staff will mark the hiking and equestrian trails.

Conservation 20/20 monies and a \$300,000 grant from the South Florida Water Management District fund Phase 1. Phase 2 is undergoing design and permitting and is funded by Conservation 20/20 management money and the Florida Department of Transportation. Phase 3 is currently being designed. Conservation 20/20 staff has applied for additional funding from the South Florida Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection for funding of additional phases. This is a huge restoration project with many partners and moving pieces.

Over time, we may see a difference in the hydrology off our boardwalk here at the Slough but that is still in the future.

Cathy Olson, manager of the Conservation Lands Section, has agreed to provide updates as the project moves forward

Six Mile Cypress Slough



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Map created by Annisa Karim
AKarim@LeeGov.com
Aerial Image 2014
February 2015

- Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North - A C20/20 Preserve
- Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Acquired before C20/20 was established
- Other Portions of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Acquired through C20/20
- Portions of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve owned by other entities

This map is not a survey; it is intended for informational purposes only.

Rock and Stroll Garden “Rocks On”

by Terri Krass

There are now nineteen beautiful carved river stones located in the garden, and one more on the way! One of the new stones is a tribute to one of our long time Slough volunteers, Dottie Brown. Dottie has been a volunteer since 1997 and was in the second class of naturalists taught by Mary Rude. Just after she completed her training, she was asked to greet Jeb Bush and his party when he was campaigning for Governor. She spent eleven years doing guided walks, then moved on to roving, working the front desk, writing the “Along the Boardwalk” column for the Friends Newsletter. Most recently she has put together three programs that she provides for visitors on the trail. The first talked about Anhingas, the second about Owls in the Slough and this year the topic is Bladderwort. In addition, she has compiled 20 Years of Observations from the notes of trail guides. Dottie Brown is a cancer survivor and an inspiration to her fellow volunteers.

Her daughter, Darmae gave the inscription on the stone for her birthday based on the many reasons she was thankful. She shared the following about her Mom: “you gave me a love for nature and music, for all the time you give as a volunteer at the Slough, and for introducing me to the Slough and taking me visit often.”

Stones for the Rock and Stroll Garden may be ordered at the Front Desk and credit cards are accepted for the \$250 cost. All proceeds go toward supporting the educational programs offered at the Slough. We hope everyone will take time to visit the garden and consider having their own “rock” on display.



Spring

by Dotty Brown

Peel your eyes for migrating gems. A robin waits for spring to reach its northern route. Watch for a hummingbird to come sipping nectar from the slough’s fresh blooms. Watch the skies for swallow-tailed kites. They are here to eat lizards, dragon flies and other insects from tree tops or ground.

Marvel at the mating modifications shown uniquely by each species: the Anhingas green eye, the deep red legs and bills of the ibis. The variety of plumage changes in color and feather locations is spectacular! Thank Harriet Hemenway of Boston for leading the stopping of the slaughter of egrets and herons for their feathers to adorn women’s hats. The followers voted to form the Massachusetts Audubon Society.



The nurturing of young is under way. Two gator nests produced young in August. Watch for the mamas keeping vigil of their broods. Enjoy the antics of the parents in the rookery coaxing their young from their nests, flapping their

wings to teach them how to fly.

Buttonbush blooms to the delight of the butterflies. Pond apples are flowering. Turtles can be seen out of the water to build their nests and lay their eggs. It is a wonderful renewing time at the slough! Come!



A Different Kind of Spring Breaker Helps Restore the Slough

by Bob Repenning

For the fourth year in a row a group of eighteen students from the University of Georgia spent their weeklong vacation from school working at Lee County preserves. This was accomplished through a national program called IMPACT that provides public service throughout the nation at spring and Christmas breaks. This year their last day in Lee County, Friday the 13th was spent in pinelands restoration at the Slough.

The work consisted of stacking vegetation that was cut by staff to restore the flatwoods along the edge of the slough. Staff and volunteers over the last few months have spent several work days cutting invasive hardwoods and large shrubs to open the pine forest up. The slash was left in place and the students hauled it out and stacked it into piles to decay and also provide cover for wild life. The tree trunks were cut up into fire wood size pieces for the Caloosahatchee Regional Park to be sold to the campers at the park. The work can be seen behind the first gate south of the entrance to the slough where you will see the open flatwoods and piles of branches. The value of this work to the county from the University of Georgia Students and other volunteers equates to over \$4000.00 in labor.



Georgia students piling brush in the Slough and eating lunch provided by the Friends at the Interpretive Center

Photos Heather Gienapp and Carolyn Babb



Latest Friends Annual Report Now Online

The Friends Annual Report for 2014 is now available on line at www.sloughpreserve.org. The report was presented at the annual meeting March 25, 2015. You can read all about the accomplishments of 2014 including details of how the membership fees, donations and honorarium donations have been used to preserve, promote and protect the Slough.

Carolyn Babb, President, Charles O'Connor, Vice President and Jeff Key, Director, were re-elected for two year terms.

Bob Repenning, land stewardship coordinator for the Slough presented his annual State of the Slough address. This years emphasis was on the different variety of trees found in the Slough.

Photos Annisa Karim



Meander Musings

by Jeff Montgomery

On our February meander, we were fortunate to observe a beautiful Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) working in Gator Lake near “Big Al’s Beach”. It had been about five years since I last saw one of these magnificent birds in the Slough. Purple Gallinules are members of the rail family and are related to the rails, coots and moorhens (now, common gallinules). They are a tropical bird but have been found as far north as Nova Scotia and are occasional visitors to Great Britain.

The Purple Gallinules feed on a variety of animals and plants: frogs, insects, fish, leaves, flower buds and algae. They can swim like ducks, but their large feet allow them to walk on lily pads and other aquatic plants. They often hold their prey or food in their feet as they eat. Their nests are floating islands of vegetation in which they lay six to nine buff-colored eggs. Males and females are identical, but both sexes incubate the eggs and feed the young. As each bird approaches the nest to take their turn, they present their partner with a leaf to show they are taking their shift.



The rails are weak fliers with stubby wings. Oddly, this characteristic causes them to often be blown off course and they end up as vagrants in far-off places. This is similar to our own cattle egrets, which arrived from Africa to Guiana in 1877 and now populate much of North America. Similarly, the rails are thought to have populated many of the Pacific Islands. Because flight muscles and feathers are energetically expensive to maintain, their progeny quickly evolved into flightless birds on those islands thanks to a lack of predation pressure. This provided the Polynesians with an easy food source when they arrived some fourteen-hundred or so years ago. Some sources believe that as many as 17 species of flightless birds in Hawaii became extinct because of human predation.

Although it is impossible to know with certainty, without the rails to feed on, the early Polynesians might not have survived and prospered on the Pacific Islands. So, we can thank the rail family for the exotic cultures of Hawaii and Tahiti.

Feeling at Home at the Slough

by Andee Naccarato, Senior Program Specialist

January 1st, 2013 was the date of my first visit to the Slough. My friends and I traditionally choose nature outings to celebrate the New Year, and that year we chose Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. I have vivid memories from that visit – whisk ferns growing on cypress knees, maple leaves floating on the water, daredevil squirrels hanging head-downwards from the canopy, and echoing calls of the Red-shouldered Hawk and Carolina Wren. Little did I know back then that one day I would join the Slough family.



About six months ago, when I was applying and interviewing for this position, I was intrigued to learn that Slough programs emphasize nature awareness. This theme resonated with me because of a special experience I had in Ghana, a small country in tropical west Africa. Ghana functions with hydroelectric power and, since I was there during the dry season, electricity was unreliable and unpredictable at best. Any modern conveniences (computers, refrigerators, oscillating fans) were rendered irrelevant at a moment’s notice.

I found myself naturally drawn outside on these occasions, especially when the wind was blowing and carrying sea spray from the nearby beach. I started keeping a daily journal of details that were commonplace, yet beautiful when observed: a road the color of mashed sweet potatoes, the complaining cries of goats, or a subtle scent of jasmine in the air. The slower pace of life there taught me how to feel a place and become grounded in the present moment.

I immediately felt connected to the Slough because I sensed the same appreciation for nature emanating from its caretakers. The dedicated volunteers and staff make the Slough come alive for so many visitors who may not be naturally open to its gifts. Thank you to everyone for sharing your knowledge, advice, and passion for this wonderful place. I eagerly anticipate future wonders to behold and natural lessons to learn as I continue to grow with you all at the Slough.



UPCOMING SLOUGH PROGRAMS

All About Alligators Saturday, April 4, 2015, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Basket Making Class Saturday, April 11, 2015, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Drawing Inspiration First and third Fridays, April 3 and 17, 2015, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Friends Gathering Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm Speaker See Page Three

Full Moon Walk Friday, April 3, 2015 at 7:45 pm



Crafty Native Plants Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm



Slough Yoga Session Tuesdays, April 7-28, 2015, 9:00 am to 10:15 am

SW Florida Butterflies Saturday, April 18, 2015, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Youth Bird Walk Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:00 am to 10:30 am



New Guided Walk Procedures

Visitors planning to join the daily and twice daily guided walks will need to arrive early. To enhance the visitors' experience, guided walks are limited to the first 20 people to check in, first come, first served (no groups of six or more). Check in for guided walk begins 30 minutes prior to the start at the entrance to the boardwalk. The entire party must be present at the Trail Host Station to sign up. Each guided walk lasts about 90 minutes and will cover three-quarters of a mile on a raised, fully-accessible boardwalk trail.

Guided Walk Schedule

April, November and December: Daily - 9:30 a.m.

January-March: Daily - 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

May-October: Wednesdays only - 9:30 a.m.

Reservations and fees may be required for programs.

Register online at leeparks.org or by calling

Lee County Parks and Recreation at

(239) 533-7440 or (239) 533-7275

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



CC and Mary

CC Mattingly and Mary Murray Named Top Volunteers at the Slough

CC Mattingly was announced as the Volunteer of the Year at the annual recognition party at the Slough. CC is active in many roles at the Slough including trail host, guide, summer camp counselor and scheduler for the Interpretive Center. Mary Murray was named Lead Volunteer for her activities including development of the new training program for Slough volunteers. Congratulations to Friends members CC and Mary.

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!

Lequita Adams
William and Carolyn Babb
Barb Beers
Elizabeth Carter
Frankie Crain C
Donna Cressman and George Boyer
Susan Draper
Gayle and Paul Edwards
Jamie Ferguson
Theresa Fields
Suzanne Frechette
Eileen Fonerko
Shirley Fox C
Carl and Linda Grispino
Rosie Hackman
Richard and Andrea Houle
Annisa Karim
Teri Krass
Jean Landon
Rudy and Irmgard Lampron C
Barb Lutarewych
Jeff and Nancy Montgomery
Michael Moran
Anne Mullin
Kris Nelson
Vicki Norton
Charles O'Connor
Poinciana Garden Club C
Nancy Rainone
Wendy Rex
Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society
Christina Sierra
Kate Streng
Jim Turner
Barbara Van Antwerp
Vi Weis
Dana Wiest

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

Welcome New Members

Brenda Berg
Linda Bradley
Frank Burns
Katherine and David Flaherty
Susan Handke
Linda Meredith
Neil Scheffler
Doug Souder

Conservation 2020 Winter of 2014-15

By Janet Bunch

There is a 14 acre parcel that is adjacent to the Slough, Nomination 254-3, just north of Colonial is awaiting the Board of County Commissioners approval to begin negotiations on the purchase price. The asking price is significantly high, and three previous negotiation efforts failed to reach an agreement.

Telegraph Creek Preserve, a large 1,730 acre preserve is located in Alva, on the north side of North River Road. Telegraph Creek flows through the southeastern portion of the preserve. It was closed briefly for a prescribed burn. The plant communities in this preserve are adapted to burning on a 3-5 yr. cycle. Prescribed burns are one way of managing these systems in the absence of a natural wildfire and serve to reduce the amount of combustible material on the property. The area is watched for several days to insure that all hot spots are out. The resulting ash is a good source of fertilizer and it's always exciting to watch how quickly re-sprouting of vegetation occurs and animals return to their usual haunts.

Galt Preserve, a 265 acre property located on Pine Island, approximately 7 miles south of Pine Island Center just north of York Road in St. James City is now open to the public, with the caveat that one of the trails is closed to protect the bald eagles that are now nesting there. This is the latest of the C2020 preserves to open to the public after lengthy exotics removal efforts and construction of the trail network, boardwalks, restroom facilities and picnic shelters. Located on Stringfellow Road south of Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve, this beautiful area should be the goal of your next hiking adventure.

Guided walks on C2020 preserves that were held Saturdays from December through March were a huge success this year. The total attendance at walks held at Prairie Pines, Caloosahatchee Creeks East, Wild Turkey Strand, Pine Island Flatwoods, and, for the first time, at Powell Creek Preserves was 274 as of the end of Feb!

Guided Ranger Walks led by the ever-popular Ranger Mickey Miller began March 5 with a trip to Yellow Fever Creek and will end with the Earth Day jaunt to Gator Hole Preserve on April 22. Each hike is limited to 15 people. Please RSVP to Mickey at MMiller2@leegov.com or 239-229-0522. These are always a blast so don't miss out!

Note: Trail maps for all C2020 preserves are available online at www.conservation2020.org/preserves

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Theresa Fields
Lori and Michael Cullen
Shiona Sommerville and Arvind Krishnamurthy
Nora Johnson for the Rock and Stroll Garden
Patricia Schaeffer
Janice and Richard Scheler in memory of Carole Davidson Pruss
Steve and Marge Ulrich in memory of Joan Cassin

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Cadkin Foundation

Dr. William Hammond
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Heather Gienapp, Supervisor
Six Mile Cypress Slough
Preserve

Connections Staff

Carolyn Babb, Editor

Bruce Bunch, Copy Editor

A Friend to Know

Meet Friends Member Erin White by Theresa Roake

Erin started vacationing here in Southwest Florida many years ago. Like many visitors to our area she started out spending a week or two on the white sandy beaches of Sanibel. On one fateful trip to the airport, she was early for her flight and looking for something to fill some time. Erin found the Slough and promptly fell in love. Visits to the Slough became part of her routine when spending time in our part of the world.

After more than 20 years of working in the financial and IT industries in the Northeast, Erin's dream of moving to Southwest Florida came true. In 2006, her employer sold a number of properties and encouraged its employees to work from home. Erin chose to make our corner of paradise her home base. She soon began exploring all the natural places to play and became involved in causes dear to her.

In a few years, the corporate officials decided to bring the troops back to home base. However, Erin was reluctant to leave her new home and opted to stay here. She opened her own consulting firm: **Paradise Coast Consulting, LLC**, specializing in IT and social media services. Coming full circle, one of her recent projects is working on The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel's "Awaken Calendar" project. Awaken is a first-of-its-kind, digital ecological calendar, combining time-lapse photography with an online calendar that reminds users of the many, year-round, natural seasons and migrations of The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel.

We are fortunate Erin decided to stay in our area. In addition to running her business, she volunteers a lot of her time. Erin is a Florida Master Naturalist and a talented photographer. She is the current chairperson of the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism (Florida SEE <http://FloridaSEE.org>) and has helped with their IT needs over the past few years. She created the Facebook page for the Conservation 20/20 program and continues to maintain the page and post her beautiful photographs. You might meet her at one of our gatherings and she has been a regular participant on Friends Field Trips. Better yet, you might see Erin out on the Boardwalk in her beloved Friends denim shirt and camera around her neck taking pictures. If you do, please introduce



Erin White yourself, you'll be glad you did.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hi to all of the Friends



The annual meeting was a success. Bob Reppening was informative and funny. I still think he should have used the title, *Fifty Shades of Green* for his talk. But then I keep trying to find a forum to use it. (I guess this is it!) The Slough is definitely showing fifty shades of green right now. Spring is at the peak. The bald cypress trees are a green that isn't found in the Crayola box. All of the wading birds are showing beautiful breeding colors. As Dotty muses the ibis are showing the bright coral red of the bills and legs.

It has been a busy winter, that is a fact. Visitor numbers are up 50 percent for March alone. That's a lot of snowbirds coming to visit the Slough. Lucky for us they are spending money at Friends Corner.

We have a huge event planned for April 24th at 9 am. The Friends have funded a metal wall mural that covers the side of the building that you see as you drive in the entrance at the Slough. US Sign and Mill Company of Fort Myers designed and fabricated the mural from a design that was developed by a committee headed by former supervisor Mary Rude along with current supervisor Heather Gienapp, myself, Friends secretary Theresa Roake and Friends members Suzanne Frechette and Janet Bunch. The mural is a composite of all of the great natural parts you might see during a visit to the Slough.

You don't want to miss this! The mural is absolutely gorgeous. Can't wait for the reveal.

See you in the Slough. CB

FOLLOW FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE



TWEET WITH FRIENDS

@FriendsofSixMil



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



First Place Animals
Chuck Pavlick



Third Place Animals
Tom McAndrew



Second Place Animals



Honorable Mention Animals
Robert Bilsky



First Place Plants
Diane Deming



Honorable Mention Animals
Keith Ridge



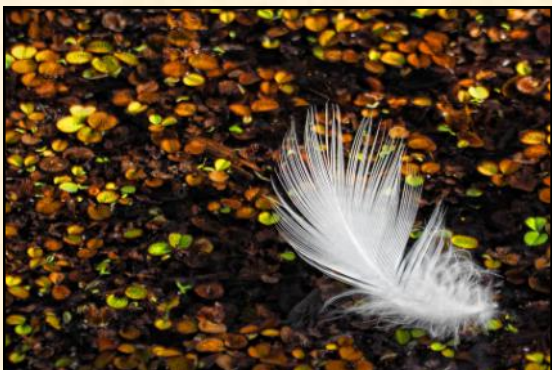
Second Place Plants
Narendar Priyanka



Third Place Plants
Trevor Unwin



Honorable Mention Plants
Sharon Hutchinson



First Place Open
Diane Deming



Second Place Open
Lequita Adkins



Third Place Open
Keith Ridge

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



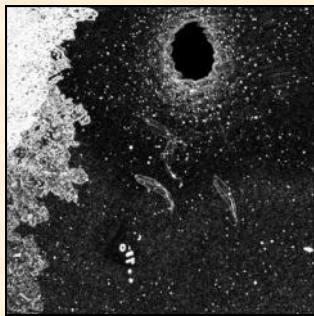
First Place Altered
John McConnell



Second Place Altered
Bruce Jaeger



Third Place Altered
Mary Vortdal



Second Place Youth
Josiah Swartz



Third Place Youth
Jay Mathey



First Place Youth
Kara Bressler



Honorable Mention Open
Diane Deming



Third Place Staff
Charles O'Connor



First Place Staff



Second Place Staff
Carolyn Babb

JOIN FRIENDS TODAY!

Membership Level (Please Check One)

Name _____

- 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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

- 1- includes parking sticker for 18 Lee Co. Facilities.
- 2 - includes choice of wet walk or moon walk for ten guests.
- 3 - includes table or rocking chair naming opportunity

In addition I would like to contribute

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

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

TOTAL\$ _____

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

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Corp. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. Registration Number CH13822 Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Friends web site: www.sloughpreserve.org Phone 239-533-7557 Online store: friendscorner.qbstores.com

Newsletter email: sloughconnections@gmail.com

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.

**We Know Who You Are:)
Friends renewing their membership need only send a check noted for membership. Please include a note if there is a change in your email address. It is not necessary to fill out a new membership form. Thank you for all of your support.**

**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, REQUESTS TO
sloughconnections@gmail.com**

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