



# Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

October 2015

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## Seventh Slough Photography Contest Submissions Start November 1st

The Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve seventh annual photo contest begins November 1, 2015. Entries will be accepted until January 31, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. Award winners will be notified by February 14, 2016 and prizes awarded at a reception at the Interpretive Center on February 27, 2016.

There are five categories including Animals; Plants, Open (photos other than animals and plants), Altered and Youth (Ages 17 and under). Each photographer may submit three photos for the entry fee of \$10.00. Top prize in each category provided by Lee County Parks and Recreation is a one-year Lee County Parking Sticker good at 18 parks and boat ramps in Lee County. Second and third place winners will receive gift certificates good for purchases in the Friends Corner Shop at the Interpretive Center at the Slough.



Winners will be selected by a panel of judges including Geoff Coe, professional photographer, Dr. Charles O'Connor, Friends Vice-President and James Mathisen, US Fish and Wildlife Service Ranger and photography specialist.

Photograph by John McConnell,  
First Place Altered Category  
2015

Please submit your favorite photos of the Slough to the contest. This event is an opportunity for you to share your beautiful views of this very special natural area and its *native* wildlife. Pictures of non-native and exotic plants and wildlife are not considered for the judging. Pictures may have been taken at any time at the Slough.

Winning photos will be displayed at the Slough Interpretive Center. Winning photos are also used for postcards for purchase by visitors in Friends Corner and for advertising for Slough and Friends events.

Entry forms and information are available at the Interpretive Center and online at [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org)

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

Rachel Carson



## Friends Kick Off Season With Potluck On December 9th

You are invited to the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve's annual **Holiday Potluck**. Festivities will commence at the Interpretive Center on **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

Please bring a dish to pass. The Halls will be decked and entertainment provided. (It's always entertaining at the Slough.) Come ready to jingle those bells! The party is open to all Friends members and nonmember friends as well.

The Friends Corner store will be open for business for Christmas gifts for all ages.

Space is limited so please RSVP to [troake@comcast.net](mailto:troake@comcast.net) or to the Friends at the Slough (239) 533-7557.



# Varied Destinations Slated For New Friends of Six Mile Excursions

By Janet Bunch - Field trip czar

Another exciting year of exploring is in store for the Friends. Our REALLY good friends, Jeff Montgomery and Suzanne Frechette, have agreed to again help out with our transportation needs. We couldn't do all the things we do without them. I am deeply grateful for their assistance.

As usual, we try to have a little bit of something for everybody. While this schedule is tentative date-wise at this point, this is the line-up so far:

**Sat., Oct. 17: 9 a.m. - noon. Wildflower Walk at CREW** with the ever delightful Brenda Thomas. Brenda was the education director at CREW prior to Deb Hanson, and she remains a stalwart CREW Buddy. The fall wildflowers are different from those of spring, but just as wonderful, and then we'll have the grasses to ooh and ah over! This is a flat easy walk, but you'll still want sturdy footwear.

**Tues., Nov. 17: 9 a.m. - noon. Galt Preserve** with Ranger Mickey Miller. This is one of the showplaces of Conservation 20/20, with a nice trail network, picnic shelter and observation decks. Located on Pine Island, just south of Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve, Galt has its own nesting bald eagle couple.

**Sat., Jan 2: Clinic for the Rehabilitation Of Wildlife.** I don't have a time on this yet, but we'll get a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility and get to know a little more about the services they provide to injured wildlife in our area. There is a \$20/person fee for this adventure.

**February: Gordon River Greenway in Naples.** This one isn't cast in concrete yet, as our guide, Alec Sulecki from Conservation Collier, is still away on her summer break. The Greenway ties together a water quality project on the Gordon River, Freedom Park, and a wonderful multi-use pathway of a couple miles. Many spiders might be seen on this jaunt!

**March 15: 9 a.m. - noon. Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area** with Bob Repenning. This is a reprise of last year's wildly successful jaunt, with registration priority going to those who did not get to go last year.

**As is usual on these trips, this article constitutes the ONLY official notification of the complete schedule.** Folks who are interested in the field trips must email me directly so I can put you on the list. Registration for the individual trips is done a month in advance of each trip.

When each trip is posted, complete details of trip length and difficulty, gear and clothing recommendations, and any other information needed to help you make an informed decision on whether or not you want to participate.. Maximum number of participants on each trip is 12, which as we know from our own guided walk experience, ensures that everybody has a good experience. I do keep a wait list but be advised that I don't usually get a lot of advance notice of a cancellation, so if you're on the wait list, you might get the call at the last minute.

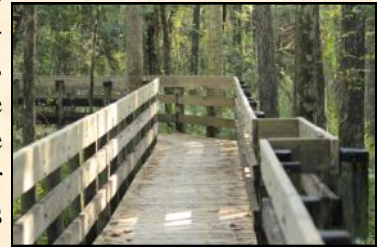
**PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE OTHER ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW AFTER THESE FIELD TRIPS!** I can't always predict when exactly we'll return. If you have any questions, my cell is 239-691-3251.

## Several Summer Site Improvements Enhance Our Slough

by Heather Gienapp

A couple of summer improvements to the Slough are noticeable, such as seal coating the parking lot and pressure washing the trail, but others may be less obvious. Twenty posts along the trail were replaced, a few hazardous trees were trimmed or cut down and the waterless urinals in the men's room in the Interpretive Center were replaced with flushing ones.

A new parking pay machine was also installed. It is similar to the previous machine however, this new one is powered with electricity. Andy Guri will no longer have to change the batteries weekly during season. (Cheers from Andy!) Another benefit is the machine will not shut down in between each customer to save power. (Cheers from all of us!) We appreciate the patience of our visitors and volunteers with the trail closures while the work was being completed. I believe it was well worth it.



Pressure washing was done by  
Ridgeway Roof and Exterior  
Cleaning from Polk City, FL

## Along the 2015 Autumn Boardwalk

by Dotty Brown

New habitats have formed from pruned limbs and skillfully tumbled trees. What will occupy the nooks and cubby holes formed in their falls? What will grow on them as they become nursery trees? The boardwalk is pressure washed and repaired. Now...

Come early to the boardwalk in the first shafts of sunrise. See the sparkle of dew on the spider webs. Marvel at the delicate drops of water at the tips of the pine needles casting rainbows. A squirrel climbs into the edge of a sun's shaft in a cypress tree. He has breakfast on the seeds in the mature cones.

Below, the resin on the discarded hulls dissolves to create a mosaic of color. As the sun rises bird life awakens. Listen to the cacophony of bird calls: the tufted titmouse, the Carolina wren, the red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers and more...



Lift your eyes skyward below a sabal (cabbage) palm. Search for the lacy fruiting stalk with flowers resembling baby's breath. Pollinated blooms produce dark grape-like fruit.

The autumnal color change of the cypress needles can rival the northern fall show of the north. Their drop opens the canopy curtain to energize growth in the understory of the slough. COME: Enjoy the seasonal changes.





## Donna Cressman, Friends Board Member and Master Gardener, Schedules Two Slough Gardening Chats

The next time you visit the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve start your walk in a different direction with a stroll in the Rock and Stroll Garden. The garden is located in the center of the slough parking lot. The garden, tended by Florida Master Gardeners headed by Friends board member Donna Cressman, is home to many native Florida plants and the walkways are lined with commemorative stones that have been placed by Friends donors. Donna and her crew are in the garden every Tuesday morning to dig, plant, and water.

For a special chat, join Donna on Tuesdays, November 10th from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. and December 8th from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. for a special question and answer session about Florida native plants. Donna will identify plants that attract butterflies and birds and answer your questions about native landscaping.

Parking fee of \$1 an hour per vehicle is required.



Passionflower Vine

Swallowtail Butterfly  
Caterpillars



Gulf Fritillary Butterfly

## Fungus Among Us

By Jeff Montgomery

“There's a fungus among us” is from a 1950s song lyric, but it is especially true at this time of year in the Slough. We noticed an especially beautiful translucent white fungus on our August meander (angel wing fungus?). The fungi are an interesting, important and mostly-ignored kingdom of organisms. They are neither plant nor animal; their cell walls are not made of cellulose like plants, but chitin like insects. Recent DNA studies indicate that they may be the ancient ancestors of all animals, including us. While many of us are familiar with the edible ones – morels, portabellas, truffles and the like, we may not recognize the ones that literally plague us – athlete's foot, ringworm, and yeast infections. Speaking of yeasts, without these hard-working fungi we would have no bread, donuts or beer.

The image one conjures up when fungi are mentioned is the mushroom or toadstool, but these are really only the reproductive parts of the fungi. The actual organism is composed of tiny, threadlike rootlets known as mycorrhizae. These fibers are spread throughout the soil or log on which the mushroom is growing. A mycologist from FGCU said you should imagine the mushroom as an apple in an orchard where the tree is growing under the ground and we only see the apple. In fact, some consider a honey fungus growing in Oregon to be the largest organism on earth. It is 2.4 miles in diameter and is estimated to weigh over 100 tons!



Because the mycorrhizae are so thin, they have an incredible surface area to volume ratio. This allows them to conduct water and nutrients over large distances and they are associated with and vital to the delivery of those substances to many different species of plants. In a classic symbiotic relationship, the fungi supply water and nutrients to the plants and the plants supply the fungi with some of the sugars stored in their roots. Scientists estimate that, without the fungi, none of the great forests or ecosystems on earth would exist, so we should all be grateful that there is a “fungus among us”.

# Exotic Wright's Nut Grass Continues to Plague the Slough

By Robert Repenning

Invasive exotic plants are a continuing problem at the slough. We currently have over 40 plants at the slough that are listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (<http://www.fleppc.org/list/2015FLEPPCLIST-LARGEFORMAT-FINAL.pdf>) as being invasive in natural plant communities. We have some plants under control like Brazilian pepper and melaleuca, but others are rapidly increasing and becoming problematic. There are many that were not here when I started in this position 10 years ago. One of the problem plants I am dealing with is Wright's nut grass.

Wright's nut grass is a sedge not a grass. It has expanded its range into Southwest Florida recently. Several years ago Jeff Key said I think I saw some Wright's nut grass off Palomino Boulevard. I waited till it dried down and put on a back pack sprayer and went out to look for it. I couldn't find it anywhere. Three years ago I found it off Morgan Hill Road. It was a small patch and we hand pulled it. The next year there was a lot more and I sprayed it. But found it in three more areas of the slough from State Road 82 to Daniels Boulevard.

This year I hired a contractor to kill it on the 20/20 parcels and spent time spraying it with Steve and an intern. We worked in knee-deep water, in 90 degree weather with a four gallon backpack sprayer of herbicide walking up to half a mile from the road.

This plant is designed to be hard to kill. It is an annual so you need to kill it before it seeds. It sprouts at the beginning of the wet season so you can't drive in to kill it without digging up the roads. You have about 90 days to kill it before it seeds. After that it dies so it isn't worth spraying. The seeds sit in the soil until the right wetness clues it to sprout. Too dry and it waits till next year. It can take over an area quickly under optimum conditions.



**Wright's Nut Grass starting in the Slough  
north of Colonial Boulevard**



**Wright's Nut Grass seedlings off  
Morgan Hill Road**

# UPCOMING SLOUGH PROGRAMS

**All About Alligators** Saturdays, November 7, December 5, 2015 and January 2, 2016, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Basket Making** Saturday, November 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**Drawing Inspiration: Postcards from the Slough** Fridays, October 16, November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18, 2015 and January 1 and 15, 2016, 12:30—3:30 p.m.

**Family Play and the Earth Workshop** Saturday, November 7, 2015, 8:15 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**Florida's Felines** Saturday, November 21, 2015, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Friends of the Slough Gatherings** Wednesdays, January 27, February 24, March 23, April 27, 2016, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

**Full Moon Walk** Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 5:30—7:00 p.m. and Saturday January 23, 2016, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

**Native Plant Stroll** Tuesdays, November 10, 11:00-11:30 a.m. and December 8, 2015, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Photo Contest** Entry submittal November 1, 2015—January 31, 2016

**Skull ID 101** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, January 12—March 22, 2016, 1:30 –3:00 p.m.

**Storytelling** Sundays, November 1, 15 and 29, December 6 and 20, 2015; Sundays and Tuesdays, January 3, 12, 17 and 26, 11:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Slough Yoga** Tuesdays, November 10 - December 15, 2015 and January 5 - January 26, 2016, 9:00 a.m.— 10:15 a.m.

**Southwest Florida Butterflies** Saturday January 16, 2016, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Youth Bird Walk** Saturdays, October 17, November 14, December 12, 2015 and January 9, 2016, 8:00—10:30 a.m.

**Reservations and fees may be required for programs.**

**Register online at [leeparks.org](http://leeparks.org) or by calling**

**Lee County Parks and Recreation at**

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

## 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. Public guided walks are free with paid parking of \$1 per hour per vehicle. Groups of six or more should call (239) 533-7555 to arrange a group tour.

## 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.

## Slough Summer Camp 2015 Was Wet and Wonderful

By Andee Naccarato—Senior Program Specialist

Young campers experienced another wet, wonderful summer at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve! Fifty-two children attended our summer camps this year, with seven campers earning scholarships from the Friends. We offered four weeks of camp, with two weeks of Summer Naturalists Camp (10-12 year-olds) and two weeks of Wilderness Explorers Camp (12-16 year-olds). Andee Naccarato and Kelsey Knight served as Camp Director and Lead Counselor, respectively, with dedicated assistance from four Volunteer Counselors (Karen Bledsoe, Pete Cangialosi, CC Mattingly, and Rebecca Mitchell) and one Summer Camp Intern (Nicholas Lampron). The Summer Camp staff was mentored by Supervisor Heather Gienapp, who passed on many of her awareness and survival skills through dynamic training days.

During Summer Naturalists Camp, 27 campers improved their awareness skills and became more familiar with daily rhythms of the Slough. Many of the awareness activities asked the campers to explore nature, one sense at a time. One popular activity was called Meet a Tree, in which a sighted camper would guide a blindfolded camper to a specific tree on the boardwalk. The blindfolded camper would use his or her sense of touch to learn as much as possible about the tree, like the trunk's diameter and bark's texture. After being led back to the starting point, campers removed their blindfolds and attempted to use their sight to find the tree they had touched. Activities like these in Summer Naturalists Camp helped campers open up all their senses to the world around them.

Wilderness Explorers Camp welcomed 25 campers this year, with many returnees from previous summers. This camp allowed the participants to continue to hone their nature awareness skills, but also incorporated survival skills training. For example, Ranger Mickey Miller from Lee County Parks and Recreation visited each week of this camp to teach campers how to make fire by friction. Ranger Miller encouraged the campers to give thanks to the Earth prior to attempting to make fire and demonstrated proper techniques. With practice, a number of campers created their own flames using simple tools and perseverance. Wilderness Explorers Camp helped teach these children how to rely on themselves and the Earth for their basic needs.

Each week of camp culminated with a wet walk led by experienced Wet Walk Leaders (Carolyn Babb, Pete Cangialosi, and Jeff Montgomery). Even if a camper was hesitant to enter the Slough's waters at first, gently wading into the water with trusted friends and Counselors allowed any fears to be easily overcome. In the middle of the wet walk, campers were encouraged to spread out in a circle facing outwards and imagine themselves alone with nature. After four minutes, the campers reconvened with the Counselors and everyone shared a single word that defined their experience. Words like "peaceful," "reflective," and "beautiful" were often uttered. We hope special memories like these stay with Slough Summer Campers (and Counselors) for the rest of their lives.

Blindfold drum stalk  
activity for campers  
in the Slough.  
Photo Andee  
Naccarato





# SUMMER CAMP SNAPSHOTS



**Get wet—you bet!**



**Quiet time on the deck**



**Proud paper makers**



**Contemplating the cathedral**



**Into the wild**



**Enjoying outdoor learning**



**Nick walks softly and carries.....**



**Who wants the first glass?**



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Marcie Barbaro  
Bill Black                    **C**  
Karen Bledsoe  
Tim Denger  
Mary Ross Denison  
Virginia and Charles Huether  
Bettejean McCracken  
Pete and Cindy Ochsner  
Alice Oldford  
Doris Orff  
Arnie Rosen  
Steve Tutko

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

## *Welcome New Members*

Sarah Davis

## *Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:*

Donna Cressman in honor of  
Joyce Sander’s birthday  
Alice Oldford  
Alouise Skehan Pyle in memory  
of Roger Clark

## **Help Keep Parkway Litter Free**

The Friends still are the proud adoptive parents of a one mile stretch of Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Our devoted litter pickers worked through the summer and would love to recruit new pickers. If you have one or two hours on the third Saturday of the month please consider helping pick up trash. The crew meets in the parking lot at the Slough at 9 :00 a.m. on the third Saturday of every month. Vests, bags and picking sticks are provided.

## **Gratitude**

This time of year is always one of my favorites. I love the changing season, the fall colors (yes we have them) and most importantly I love the Thanksgiving holiday. It reminds me to be thankful for all that I have...my family and the support of the Friends members, Slough volunteers and the Slough staff.

My hope is, as we move into this next season, that all of us (and in turn our visitors) will walk at the Slough with gratitude in our hearts. Feelings are contagious, and perhaps this gratitude will grow and in turn spur kindness in each other and for the environment.

I am giving thanks to each and every one of you who support the friends in so many different ways. Without your generosity, kindness, and donations of time, energy and resources, the Slough would not be the beautiful and magical place that it is today. Your support is helping people connect to the earth today, in a way that perhaps they never have before, and is opening up a whole new world to them!

Heather Gienapp  
Supervisor  
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



## **Slough Wins 2011-2015 Trip Advisor Hall of Fame Honors**

The Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence for the Hall of Fame by Trip Advisor, the worlds largest travel site. Of the total winners in the five year program only 9% have qualified for the Hall of Fame by winning the award for all five years.

Trip Advisor was founded in 2010. The Certificate of Excellence award honors hospitality businesses that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on Trip Advisor.



### Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin  
Cadkin Foundation

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

Jeff Key

Terri Krass

Jean Labriola Scholz

Steve Tutko

### Parks and Recreation Liaison

Heather Gienapp, Supervisor  
Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Preserve

### Connections Staff

Carolyn Babb, Editor

Bruce Bunch, Copy Editor

### Someone you should know

## **Meet Nicholas Lampron** by Rudy Lampron

Nick Lampron worked as the intern supporting this year's summer camps at the Slough. Nick is a senior at Frostburg State University, in Frostburg, Maryland and will graduate in December. His majors are Interpretive Biology and Natural History, both of which he loves.

My grandson is not a stranger to Six Mile Cypress Slough; some of us remember the recognizable painting of the youth on the greeting sign at the entrance to the Slough parking lot years ago - that was Nick. He also attended the first summer camp which Heather conducted at Lakes Park in 2003. His love for nature was already showing back then and his attendance at that summer camp brought out many strong feelings for the nature and our personal responsibilities for the environment.

Nick is interested in reptiles, particularly snakes. He was very excited when he saw and photographed a cottonmouth on the berm next to the Interpretive Center this summer (this sighting alerted staff to relocate a planned camp activity). His experience this summer, at camp, has helped add young people into the bigger picture of his future work.

Nicholas  
working  
with the  
campers



### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Hi all - do you think we have had enough rain this summer? Statistically August and September were way ahead of last year at this time.



Camp was fun again this year. The kids always seem to learn so much from the Slough. And there are quite a few return campers from previous years. That says a lot about the counselors and volunteers that work so hard to put on a fantastic camp.

Thanks to Kelsey Knight, the lead counselor and Nick Lampron the volunteer counselor and all of the volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

I helped with wet walks for the camps again this year. That is always a fun thing to do. I am amazed at how much the campers have learned about the slough during the week. They can talk about the slough the entire wet walk if you let them.

Looking forward to seeing all of our snowbird volunteers and Friends members arriving back in Fort Myers shortly.

See you in the Slough. CB

## **FOLLOW FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK**

### **FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE**



**TWEET WITH FRIENDS**

**@FriendsofSixMil**



## 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 18 Lee Co. Facilities.

2 - includes choice of wet walk or moon walk for ten guests.

3 - includes table 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 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](http://www.sloughpreserve.org) Phone 239-533-7557 Online store: [friendscorner.qbstores.com](http://friendscorner.qbstores.com)

Newsletter email: [sloughconnections@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sloughconnections@gmail.com)**

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



# 2016 FRIENDS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

You are cordially invited to submit your best pictures to the sixth 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, 2015 and January 31, 2016 (contest closes at 3:30 p.m.

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.

The contest is not open to Friends' Board members, the contest judges, or the staff of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

Each contestant may submit up to **three photos**. Photos may be submitted in any of the categories below:

- Plants
- Animals (including insects)
- Open (any photo that does not belong in one of the above categories)
- Youth (Age 17 and under)
- Altered Images (Plants, Animals, or Open)

Permitted Modifications (for categories 1-4, above)

- Red-eye removal and spot editing
- Use of filters 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 5)

Photographs manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects (i.e. hand coloring, toning, 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.

## Miscellaneous

Award winners will be notified by February 14, 2016 and awards will be presented February 27, 2016 at a Photo Contest Celebration to be held at the Slough Interpretive Center. 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 as charitable organization # CH13822 in compliance with Florida Division of Consumer Services requirements.

# 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

## ENTRY FORM

### Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AGE? (17 and 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 \_\_\_\_\_

##### Animals

Photo #1 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #2 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #3 code \_\_\_\_\_

##### Open

Photo #1 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #2 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #3 code \_\_\_\_\_

##### Altered

Photo #1 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #2 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #3 code \_\_\_\_\_

##### Youth

Photo #1 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #2 code \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #3 code \_\_\_\_\_

Send your photos (Maximum of three photos) to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33966, by January 31, 2016. 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 14, 2016 if you have won or placed in the contest. Thank you for entering and good luck!

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### Photo Release Form

Permission to Use Photograph in 2016 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: \_\_\_\_\_