

Connections

Newsletter for Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

October 2016

INSIDE Conservation 20/20 2 Rock and Stroll Garden 3 Staff Training 4 Summer Camp 5 Summer Camp Photos 6 Slough Programs 7 Membership News 8 Friends Corner 8 Fall Migration 8 Along the Boardwalk 9 President's Notes 9 Join the Friends 10 Photo Contest Rules Photo Contest Entry Form

Eagle scout Payton Lunsford and his father mix concrete for the new raft in Gator Lake



Slough Photo Contest Kicks Off November 1

The Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve annual photo contest begins November 1, 2016. Entries will be accepted until January 31, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. Award winners will be notified by February 11, 2017 and prizes awarded at a reception at the Interpretive Center on February 18, 2017.

There are five categories including Animals, Plants, Open (photos other than ani-

mals 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.



Photograph by Kaitlyn Stucker First Place Youth Category 2016

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.

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

Season Starts With Friends Potluck On December 7th

Join us in celebrating the holiday season with the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Interpretive Center at the Annual Potluck. The Slough will dress for the occasion and entertainment will be provided. Maybe you should bring those dancing shoes. You will also have the

chance to win fabulous door prizes. What a great way to celebrate "the most wonderful time of the year."

Please bring your favorite dish to pass. Whatever you choose to bring will be perfect for the occasion. We have found through the years that it all works out: a

little bit of this and a little bit of that. It's great fun trying each other's special recipes.

RSVP to (239) 533 7557 or <u>carolyn_babb08@comcast.net</u> for a headcount.

We look forward to seeing you there.



November Vote Will Decide Future of Conservation 2020

By Janet Bunch

The Conservation 2020 program will be on the ballot November 8. It is a referendum, not an amendment, so it will not have a number like the solar amendment. Also, it will be last in the ballot initiatives, so please read your ballot carefully so you don't inadvertently miss it.

The millage rate has already been set for this year by the Board of County Commissioners. There is no increase over last year, and the budget includes funding for C2020. Voting FOR the renewal will not increase your taxes. Voting AGAINST renewal will not reduce your taxes and maintenance of existing preserves will continue. What WILL happen with a NO vote is that no new acquisitions will be made, essentially ending a program that has provided close to 25,000 acres of land that provides storm water storage, aquifer protection and recharge, critical wildlife habitat, and in most cases, opportunities for public passive recreation.

Lee County is the sixth fastest growing county in the United States, per the US census, and our population is expected to double by the year 2040. That growing population will have a diminishing supply of drinking water from historic sources. Continued acquisition of land within the <u>Density Reduction/ Groundwater Resource</u> area of east Lee County is essential to maintain an adequate supply for a burgeoning population. As development continues, wildlife encounters will increase, and as the amount of paved surfaces increases, more surface water run-off will threaten water quality in our rivers and estuaries.

Conservation 2020 was originally a grass roots effort by many dedicated Lee County citizens. We have an opportunity in November to validate their effort and Keep Conserving Lee. Don't forget to vote!



Six Mile Cypress North, 1219 acres, north of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Some Lee County Conservation 2020 Preserves



Yellow Fever Creek Preserve protects the headwaters of Yellow Fever Creek, in rural north Lee County.



San Carlos Bay Bunche Beach Preserve includes public beach facilities .

Loiter and Learn in the Rock and Stroll Garden

by Donna Cressman, Master Gardener

This little garden in the parking area is always interesting and has seasonal changes to notice anytime you have the leisure to loiter. In the Fall, some plants have beautiful displays of berries: Wild coffee has bright red berries and beautyberry has lavender to deep purple berries. The wild cotton has a delicate white flower with a bright yellow center, in anticipation on the cotton balls to arrive later. Be on the lookout for butterflies, especially the gulf fritillary, with its bright orange wings, silvery on the underside. You may even see the orange caterpillars of this butterfly on the passion vine growing throughout.

Even in this small space, the variety of sizes and shapes of leaves is truly amazing. You can see the lacy leaves of ferns, the triangular leaves of coral bean, the dark green ridged leaves of wild coffee, the spade shaped leaves of the salvia, to name a few.

So, spend a few moments when you have a chance. There is a lot to enjoy!



Wild Coffee Berries Photo Donna Cressman



Gulf Fritillary Photo Carolyn Babb



Wild Cotton Flower Photo Donna Cressman



Donna Cressman, a Slough volunteer and Master Gardener and member of the Friends Board of Directors will give a talk on Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants:

Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 30,

from 10:00 to 10:30, in the Rock and Stroll Garden. Please join her to learn more about the changes that occur daily in this beautiful garden.

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Offers Inspiration

By Andee Naccarato—Senior Program Specialist

Where can you do yoga to explore learning styles AND play improv games to stir creativity? At Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training, of course! This certification program is offered through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI; www.interpnet.org). In late August, I was lucky enough to attend a four-day training session at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood, Florida sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (www.CHNEP.org) and the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

One of my main reasons for attending this workshop was to return with ideas for our own Tour Guide Training for Slough Interpretive Naturalists. Beyond learning about the interpretive approach through *POETRY* (see below), I participated in many special interpretation exercises I believe will be enjoyed by our up-and-coming Interpretive Naturalists. For example, pairs of participants each selected a random object (e.g. plastic shovel) and had to tell an interpretive story that connected this object to a strong conservation message.

Over the four days, we discussed just about everything related to interpretation, from non-verbal communication to the importance of thematic programming. I learned how to prepare a program outline following NAI standards. Additionally, I developed and presented a 10-minute program utilizing NAI's suggested formula. Later this season, I will build upon this 10-minute program to offer an educational opportunity for Slough volunteers regarding visitors' perceptions of invasive species.

I would like to extend a special thank-you to the Friends board members for making my participation in this outstanding training possible. I can't wait to infuse these new ideas and creative activities into our Slough Interpretive Naturalist courses. These interpretation strategies in the hands of our volunteers have the potential to ignite curiosity in our visitors and inspire more and more people to care about our natural environment.



Senior Program Specialist,
Andee Naccarato leads a walk
on the Slough boardwalk for a
Lee Grows Class.
(GROWS—Government Resource and Orientation Workshop Series). This program is
open to citizens interested in the
operations and responsibilities
of Lee County Government.

Interpretation is...

Purposeful

Organized

Enjoyable

Thematic

Relevant

You make the difference!

Slough Summer Camp 2016 Fun-filled and Special

By Andee Naccarato—Senior Program Specialist

We enjoyed four, fun-filled weeks of summer camp at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve! Overall, 57 children (ages 8-15) attended Wilderness Explorers, Slough Secrets, and Summer Naturalists camps. There was a nice mix of returning campers and first-timers, plus one child who traveled all the way from Saudi Arabia to visit her sister and attend our Wilderness Explorers session!

plorers session!

Every week of camp was filled with campers making friends and getting connected with nature, but the big buzz was the brand new Slough



Senior Program Specialist, Andee Naccarato and summer campers

Secrets camp. Attended by our youngest campers (8-9 years old), Slough Secrets explored the Slough in layers. Every day, we explored the boardwalk from a new angle, from getting to know plants to spotting reptiles. Plus, campers participated in a bird count and shared their findings with an online citizen science organization. As the campers learned about different kinds of Slough inhabitants, they constructed their own shoebox dioramas displaying artistic scenes of their favorite plants and critters.

One popular activity during Slough Secrets was the Mushroom Murder Mystery, in which campers had to figure out which mushroom was a killer. Campers received cards with pictures of different mushrooms and had to pair up with their appropriate food source (i.e. dead plant material or a live tree). Ms. Ashlyn (Lead Counselor) and Ms. Theresa (Volunteer Camp Counselor and Friends Board Member) enlivened this experience by dressing up as a Slough Scientist and Slough Sleuth to the delight of all.

These amazing specialty camps would not be possible without the Friends' support. Not only did the Friends provide camper gifts and craft materials, but this year the Friends funded a record-setting 22 scholarships! Plus, Friends President Carolyn Babb was back for another summer of wet walks, sharing her love of the Slough with the campers. Thank you, Friends, for encouraging the next generation of nature-lovers to care for our planet.

SUMMER CAMP MEMORIES



Getting ready for a walk



Pink flamingo in the slough????



Instructions from Miss Andee



Lead counselor Ashlyn and wet camper



Puppet show curtain call



Enjoying outdoor learning



Campers rest at Otter Pond



Wet walk with volunteer Mr. Jeff

UPCOMING SLOUGH PROGRAMS

All About Alligators Saturdays, November 5, December 3, 2016 and January 7, 2017, 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Butterfly Gardening Tuesdays, November 8, Wednesday, November 30, 2016 and January 10, 2017, 10:00—10:30 a.m.

Drawing Inspiration: Creative Responses to the Slough: Image and Word

Fridays, October 21, November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16, 2016 and January 6 and 20, 2017, 12:30—3:30 p.m.

Earth Skills Primitive Shelter Saturday, November 19, 2016, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Friends of the Slough Gatherings Wednesdays, January 25, February 22, March 22 and April 26, 2017, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Full Moon Walk Saturday, November 12, 5:30—7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 5:30—7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Photo Contest Entry submittal November 1, 2016—January 31, 2017

Skull ID 101 Fridays, January 6 and January 20, 2017, 1:30 –2:30 p.m.

Slough Yoga Tuesdays, November 8 - December 13, 2016 and January 3 - January 31, 2017, 9:00 a.m.— 10:15 a.m.

The Seasoned Slough Tuesdays, January 3 and 17, 2017, 10:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Youth Bird Walk Saturdays, October 15, November 5, December 10, 2016 and January 14, 2017, 8:00—10:30 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

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: Every Wednesday and 4th Saturday of the month- 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing Members: Thank you for your continued support!

Brenda Berg
Dotty Brown
Lyn Brown
Susan Crawford and Jeff Rosemann
Wilma Keidel C
Alice and Martin Krebs
Linda Leach
CC and Matt Mattingly
Garn Mennell
Doris Orff
Kathleen and Charles Pavlick
Carol Rabanus
Marie Shaffer

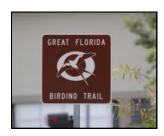
"C" denotes Charter Member, persons who were first year members of the Friends.

Welcome New Members

Darmae Brown Gina Godsell Nancy Olson Jim Lewin

Additional Donations Gratefully Received From:

Robert Clark - Rock and Stroll garden stone in loving memory of Lou Haer Garn Mennell Marie Shaffer



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is listed on the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Friends Corner Gearing Up for Season By Theresa Roake

There are now 30 Worker Bees helping keep the doors open and the lights on at the Friends Corner store. We welcomed new store volunteers Sabine Vandenhende and Bill Toelke in May. In addition to making all those sales that help fill the coffers to pay for programs, our volunteers act as informative ambassadors for our organization. Many thanks to each of our Worker Bees!

Carolyn Babb has ordered a number of new items for the store for the upcoming season. There are new books, new jewelry and many "Grandma gift" opportunities. A new favorite of mine is *How to Hide A Butter-fly* by Ruth Heller. Kids get to go on a virtual nature hunt through the pages of the book while learning skills to use when looking for wildlife. Please stop by to take a look and say hi to our great volunteers!

Fall Bird Migration is Here but Slow

by Robert Repenning

The boardwalk has had quite a number of birdwatchers the past few weeks. Fall migration is in full swing but still slower than some years. A variety of birds are being seen on the boardwalk but in low numbers. Still the Six Mile boardwalk is considered the best birding spot in Lee county for fall migration this year. Some of the birds being seen include prothonotary warbler, redstarts, hooded warbler, blue-winged warbler and the rare Canada warbler.

The prothonotary warblers were here in such numbers one day a birder commented "I have seen a life time's worth of prothonotarys in the past hour." Other migrants seen include the yellow-billed cuckoo, thrushes, and orioles. We still have a few more weeks of migration, so good birding.



Prothonotary warbler



Birders on the boardwalk



Yellow-billed cuckoo

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

ALONG THE BOARDWALK FALL WET-DRY 2016

by Dotty Brown

Baby alligators that hatched about August 19th have been sighted with mama in Otter Pond. Cypress needles are turning amber and falling. Seeds and berries are ripening. Migrating families of birds arrive. Warblers come in mixed species flocks. A flick of yellow brings binoculars in focus to follow until a perfect perch discloses that it is the treasured Prothonotary. A blink of red alerts to a Red Start. Flocks of Titmice rollick through the underbrush. Oven birds that sport their two brown head stripes may be seen ground feeding near and around Gator Lake. Migrators move on to Mexico or South America; some stay for our winter. The ripened berries, seeds and the plentiful insects provide fuel for the long trips ahead and for resident wildlife.

Watch the shrinking water depths in Gator Lake and ponds during the transition from wet to dry seasons beginning in November and continuing to May. This concentrates the fish and other aquatic critters for the nurture of fledglings in late winter and spring. Vegetation distributes its seeds by wind, rain, stick-tights and water currents. Enjoy the lengthening shadows, the cooler breezes as the daylight hours shorten

and the twilight brings out the night foraging of owls, bats and night herons.





PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Here we are again! Ready for another season of visitors and snowbirds at the Slough. We were lucky



enough to have a mama gator have her family visible from the boardwalk. The boardwalk had to be closed until the blessed event occurred and mama settled in at Gator Lake. Then she moved to Otter Pond and now their location is unknown. She probably got tired of people staring at her young ones.

Summer did seem to fly by this year. I did wet walks with all of the campers. And also with Friends' vice-president, Charles. His walks are so popular. There is no better way to see and appreciate the Slough than right in the water. I always feel refreshed and invigorated after the walk. Try it, you'll like it!

Don't forget to stop and see us at Friends Corner. Friends members get a 10% discount on purchases.

Please vote on the Conservation 2020 referendum. It is important to all of us!

See you in the Slough. CB

FOLLOW FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH
PRESERVE



TWEET WITH FRIENDS

@FriendsofSixMil



| | Student (\$10) |
|--|--|
| Name | Individual (\$20) |
| | Contributing (\$50) |
| | Supporting (\$100) |
| Address | Associate (\$250) - 1 |
| 11441 C55 | Sustaining (\$500) – 1, 2 |
| | Corporate Sponsor (\$500) – 1, 2 |
| City State Zip | Patron (\$1,000) - 1, 2, 3 |
| E-Mail | 1- includes parking sticker for 18 Lee Co. Facilities. |
| | 2 - includes choice of wet walk or moon walk for |
| Phone | ten guests. |
| | 3 - includes table or rocking chair naming opportunity |
| In addition I would like to contribute | |
| | HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH YOUR TIME? |
| \$additional for the Friends use at | I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH: |
| the Slough. | |
| TOTAL\$ | |
| | |

Membership Level (Please Check One)

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

JOIN FRIENDS TODAY!

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

<u>7791 Penzance Blvd.</u> Fort Myers, Florida 33966

2017 FRIENDS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

You are cordially invited to submit your best pictures to the 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* wildlife.

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, 2016 and January 31, 2017 (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 11, 2017 and awards will be presented February 18, 2017 at a Photo Contest reception 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.

2017 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

| Name | | | AGE (If 17 and Under) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Address | | | <u> </u> |
| City | State | Zip | |
| Phone | | | |
| Email | | | |
| Please mark your persting. Category: | sonal code on a post it no | ote (or similar) and attach to | the back of the photo (s) being submit- |
| 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 | - |
| Blvd., Fort Myers, FL Friends of Six Mile C | 233966, by January 31, | 2017. Be sure to include a cl You will be notified by Febr | Preserve Photo Contest, 7791 Penzance heck for your \$10 entry fee made out to ruary 11, 2017 if you have won or placed |
| Permission to Use Ph | | hoto Release Form Contest sponsored by Friend | s of Six Mile Cypress Slough |
| connection with the a I authorize the Friend cally. I agree that the Friend | bove-identified event. s, its assigns and transfe ls may use such photogr | rees to copyright, use and pu | ake photographs of me and my family in blish the same in print and/or electroni- ny name and for any lawful purpose, |
| | | city, illustration, advertising, | and Web content. |
| I have read and under | stand the above: | | |
| Signature: | | | |
| Printed Name: | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| Date: | | | |
| Signature, parent or g | uardian if under 18: | | |