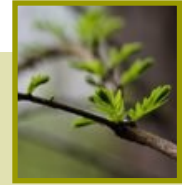


# CONNECTIONS



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Editor : Theresa Roake

Friends of Six Mile Cypress  
Slough Preserve  
7791 Penzance Blvd  
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[www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org)



## PAST PRESIDENT'S NOTES

That's right: I am now Past President of Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. At our Annual Meeting via Zoom at the end of March, we installed new officers. Sabine Vandenhende is our new President, Nancy Olson is Vice President, Sara Maliva remains our Treasurer and I am moving over to the Secretary role. Carolyn Babb, Lyn Brown, Donna Cressman, Terri Krass and Bud Schopp remain as Directors. David Minnick is a new Director with a focus on Advocacy. For a look at our Annual report, please check it out on our website. I enjoyed my time as President and look forward to new ideas and old favorites from our new leadership. If you see these folks out on the trail, please pass along ideas you may have or simply thank them for serving!

In this issue, we recap Gatherings, learn about a new program, check out some wonderful photography and exercise our minds with a puzzle. Enjoy the read.

As always, thank you for being our Friend.

*Theresa Roake*



Photo by Cathy Webb

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## BIRDS OF A FEATHER... FLOCK TOGETHER

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We hope you enjoyed our virtual Friends Gatherings this season. We even had an early bonus photography session with professional photographer and volunteer Geoff Coe in November. In December we had our annual holiday party. Friends matched wits with Holiday trivia, shared favorite holiday traditions and went on a scavenger hunt. In January, Dr. Jerry Jackson taught us a lot about Florida's woodpeckers and in February NBC-2 meteorologist Jason Dunning helped explain the wild weather of Southwest Florida. March brought Lee County Natural Areas Coordinator Roxanne Taylor with the annual State of the Slough address. For the grand finale we had Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani enlighten us about water quality in Southwest Florida. Recordings of all gatherings except the Holiday Party are still available for a limited time on our website at [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org).

We received positive feedback on our Zoom gatherings including ease of attendance and the ability to watch recordings at a later date. While we look forward to gathering again in person, we will look at ways to continue to use this tool in additional programs and trainings.



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## SAVE THE DATE...

# NEW PROGRAM UNVEILED

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**Save the Date!** On Monday, June 7th at 2 pm, please join us for the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Book Club via Zoom. Many of our Friends have begun to migrate north and it's starting to get hot out there. Future meetings will be held at a mix of possible venues. Can you picture yourself on the back deck in a rocker with a good book? Maybe at the amphitheater or a small group at one of the shelters on the Boardwalk? The Friends' book club will be a nature-oriented adventure. We'll be reading both fiction and non-fiction centering on Florida flora and fauna or general themes related to the Slough. Think *River of Grass* by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas or a Doc Ford novel by Randy Wayne White. For our first meeting, we would like you to bring a favorite nature-related book of yours to share. President Sabine Vandenhende will be our moderator this time leading a discussion of the general parameters of the book club and what you would like to see moving forward. In addition, we would like your input on a name for the club. Please send your name ideas to [sloughconnections@gmail.com](mailto:sloughconnections@gmail.com). We'll be voting on a name and if your selection wins, you may win a fabulous prize. Keep an eye on your email's inbox for your Zoom invitation to this fun new program.

# FACEBOOK POSTCARD CONTEST

## CHALLENGES FRIENDS PHOTOGRAPHERS

By Carolyn Babb

The Friends Facebook group is a popular site for Slough visitors to post photographs of the sights from their walks, some frequent, even daily, some just once a year. We have presented three challenges to photographers.

The challenge is to post a favorite photograph suitable as an image on a postcard to be sold in the Friends Corner Store at the Interpretive Center at the Slough. Our knowledgeable and talented postcard committee makes final decision of "postcard worthy." The postcard committee is comprised of experts in the field of anything slough related sold in the store.

The first postcard challenge was in March. The subject was a Gator Lake landscape. Anyone who visits the Slough with a camera can relate to the difficulty in obtaining any slough landscape photograph. There were 12 entries from all seasons in this challenge. The winner was Val Kelly with a colorful, golden, fall time of year Gator Lake shot.



**Autumn at Gator Lake**  
**Photo By Val Kelly**

The second challenge happened in April with the topic to find a Florida softshell turtle photogenic enough for a postcard. Again, there were seven delightful turtle entries but the winner was a shot by daily Slough visitor Dennis Church. His photograph included the three most common turtles in the slough, the red-bellied cooter, the peninsula cooter and the star of the show, the Florida softshell turtle.

The third challenge topic was cypress knees and their stories. There were 27 entries in this challenge. The postcard committee reviewed the entries thoroughly but could not decide on one that was best for a postcard photograph.

This challenge for slough photographers will be presented again. The two winners, and any more that may occur, will be limited edition postcards for sale in the Friends Corner store with a special display as a Facebook Winner, recognition in the newsletter and on Facebook. The winner will receive five copies of the postcard once we're back in business. The Friends Board of Directors wishes to thank all of the photographers that have participated in our Facebook challenges. All of the proceeds from the sale of the very popular postcards are used for direct support of the Slough and Slough programs.



**Turtles at the Slough**  
**Photo By Dennis Church**

# FRIENDS PHOTO CONTEST 2021

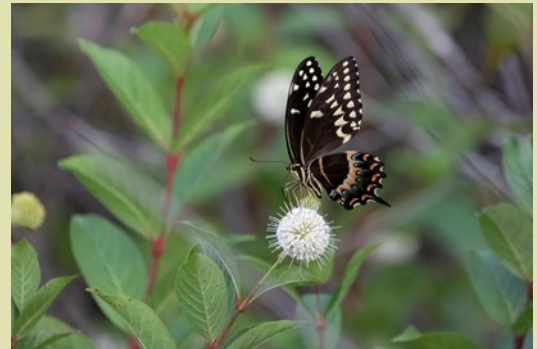
BY SABINE VANDENHENDE

Seeing the many amazing pictures that appear daily on the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Facebook page, we knew that the contestants were going to wow the judges with their astonishing images. And they did. This year's contest attracted 76 participants who competed in five categories: Animals, Birds, Plants & Landscapes, Youth, and Staff. COVID didn't deter us from celebrating the winners. For the first time, we held a virtual Photo Contest Winners Ceremony. A successful ceremony in which the judges, Jason Boeckman, Geoff Coe, Karen Lund, and Dr. Charles O'Connor provided our winners with complimenting feedback on their winning picture. We invite you to view the ceremony and all the winning pictures on the Friends Website [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org). The winning pictures are also exhibited in the Multi-Purpose room at the Interpretive Center.

## ANIMALS



**1st Place**  
**Pat Lonergan**



**2nd Place**  
**Dennis Church**



**3rd Place**  
**Paula Fink**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Brian Just**

# BIRDS



**1st Place**  
**John Holmes**



**2nd Place**  
**Chuck Pavlick**



**3rd Place**  
**Virginia Bayne**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Dan Holtz**

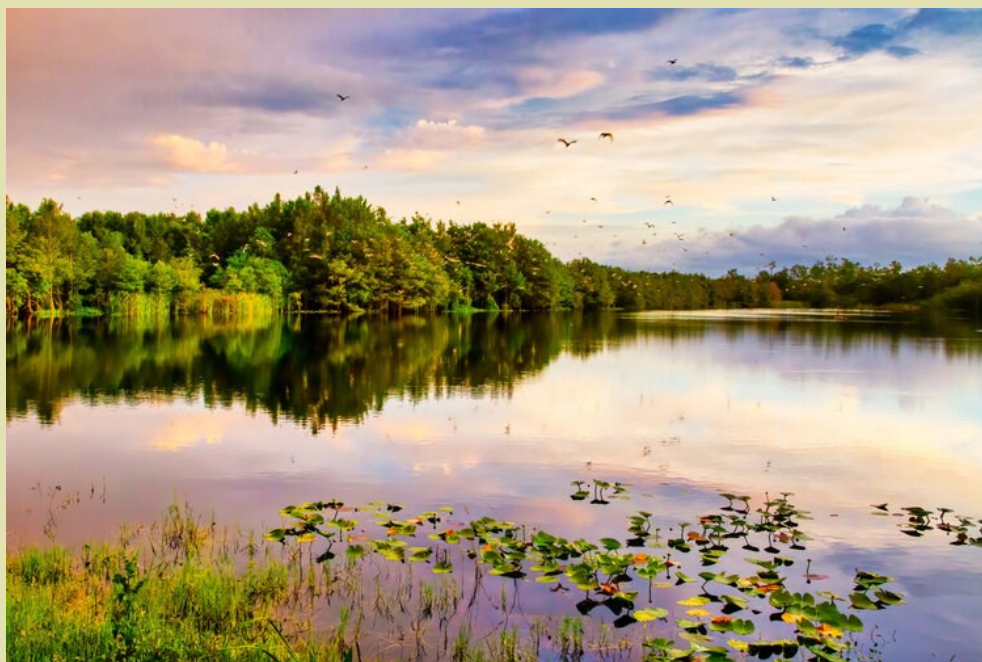


**Honorable Mention**  
**Pat Lonergan**

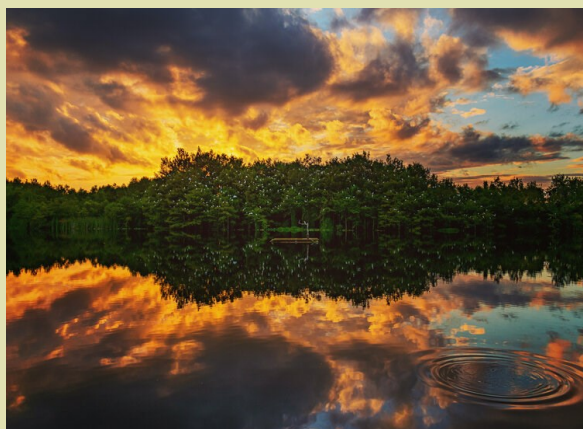


**Honorable Mention**  
**Elaine Weissborn**

# PLANTS & LANDSCAPE



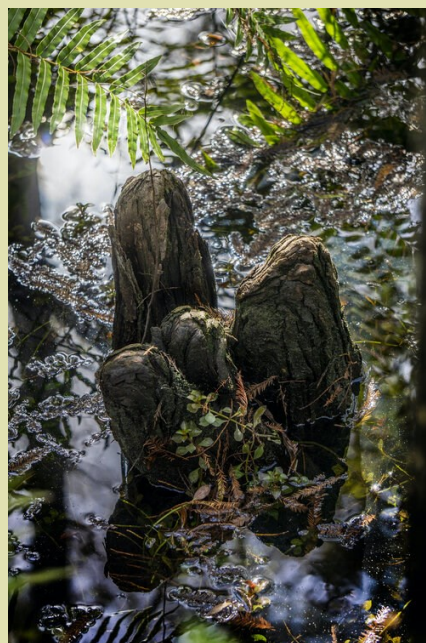
**1st Place**  
**Pat Lonergan**



**2nd Place**  
**Stephen Royal**



**3rd Place**  
**Jim Matiya**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Jeremy Greenfield**

# YOUTH



**1st Place**  
**Anna Gibson**



**2nd Place**  
**Benjamin Nelson**



**3rd Place**  
**Sophia Grove**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Adelyn Emery**



## STAFF



**1st Place**  
**Sabine Vandenhende**



**2nd Place**  
**Sara Maliva**



**3rd Place**  
**Sabine Vandenhende**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Carolyn Babb**

# DID YOU KNOW?

By Theresa Roake

**Did you know** the origin of the phrase “Watch the Birdie?” When early photographers used manual cameras, it could take a very long time to set up a shot. So someone or someones came up with an ingenious way to let photo subjects, particularly children, know when it was time for the smile and where to look. The mechanical bird would start to move and sing just as the photographer was ready to take the shot. There were different versions of the bird with a similar purpose. I don’t know about you, but as a nature lover, I think I prefer “Watch the Birdie” over “Say Cheese!”



**Watch the Birdie**  
Photo By Marcus Hoffstatter

**Did you know** that Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve qualifies for the Amazon Smile program?

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. You may support the Slough by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). You simply set up your AmazonSmile account designating the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve as your selected charity. Then **each** time you choose to shop at Amazon, be sure to sign in under your AmazonSmile account and a portion of your purchase will go to the Slough. Our charity then receives a quarterly payment. Those small amounts add up to a big deal as we’re all doing more shopping online these days.

Thanks for shopping!





Photo by Diane Deming

# SIX MILE SCRAMBLE

By Theresa Roake

Unscramble to form words with one letter to each space. Then use circle letters to form phrase below.

**OENRH**

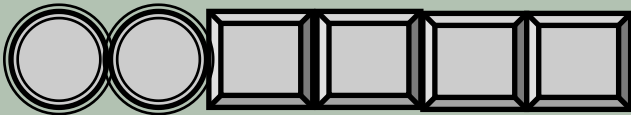


**SPRESCY**



Photo by Heidi Wise

**EPBOEH**

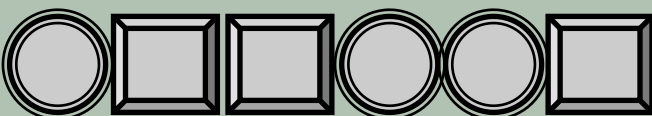


**GAHIANN**

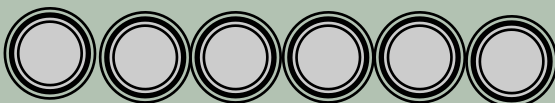


Photo by Sabine Vandenhende

**OSHUGL**



**What season is it? (3 words)**



## MEMBERSHIP

For more information on joining or renewing go to our website at  
[www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org).

### **Renewing Members 2021 to date** **Thank you for your continued support.**

Kelly Bishop  
Bill Black  
Bromeliad Society  
Jocelyn Browne  
Ellen & Richard Butz  
Pete Cangialosi  
Jan & Dave Cornell  
Arleen Creeden  
Donna Cressman & George Boyer  
Theresa Fields  
Eileen Fonferko  
Linda & Doug Garde  
Mary Gentleman & Donald Grant  
Jayne Giffes  
Christine Grannis  
Jan Grier  
Brian & Bonnie Hogan  
Richard & Andrea Houle  
Virginia & Charles Huether  
Norah & Ward Johnson  
Jean Landon  
Nancy Laposta & Michael Frazier  
Alice & Gary Lavimoniere  
Lynda Leach  
Tom Mahoney  
Sara & Bob Maliva  
Richard Martinez  
CC Mattingly  
Maggie & Dave Minnick  
Nancy & Jeff Montgomery  
Michael Moran  
Mary Murraray  
Alice Oldford  
Nancy Olson  
Carole Rabanes  
Nancy & David Rummel  
SanCap Audubon Society  
Jean & Bill Scholz  
Bud Schopp  
Ben & Barbara Shearer  
Gayle Sheets  
Karen Shields  
Mark Smith  
Claudia & Bill Toelke  
Sabine Vandenhende  
Vi Weis

### **Welcome New Members**

Kristine & Steven Bauer  
Rick Bauer  
Carole Drotos-Swales  
David Headley  
Karen & Juan Serret  
Lori & Gary Starr  
Linda Varga  
Margaret Walker

### **Board of Directors**

Sabine Vandenhende,  
President

Nancy Olson,  
Vice President

Theresa Roake,  
Secretary

Sara Maliva,  
Treasurer

Directors:  
Carolyn Babb  
Lyn Brown  
Donna Cressman  
Terri Krass  
David Minnick  
Bud Schopp

### **Advisory Board**

Jacquelin Cadkin  
Dr. William Hammond  
Jeff Key  
Dr. Charles O'Connor  
Jean Labriola-Scholz Phd.  
Steve Tutko

## **FOLLOW FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK**

**[FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE](#)**

**TWEET WITH FRIENDS @FriendsofSixMil**

