



# CONNECTIONS

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Editor: Theresa Roake	

## SPEAKERS SCHEDULED FOR 2022 FRIENDS GATHERINGS

### Wednesday, January 26th—Adrienne Martin— Your Florida Panther



Have you ever wondered about the elusive panthers that call Florida home? Join us to learn about the history, biology, management and conservation efforts of this isolated puma population from Program Specialist Adrienne Martin. You will learn to identify panther tracks, and tell them apart from our other Florida feline, the bobcat. Plus what to do if you are lucky enough to encounter a Florida panther in the wild! Before joining the Slough family, Adrienne worked as the Outreach Ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. To register for this special program, please click [here](#).

Stay tuned for registration information for the remainder of our Gatherings. Members will receive an email for early registration and subsequent invitations will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

### Wednesday, February 23rd—Edwin Everham—FGCU's Water School



Dr. Edwin (Win) Everham is a professor at Florida Gulf Coast University where he is the program leader for Environmental Studies. He will be telling us all about FGCU's Water School.

### Wednesday, March 23rd—Rick Bauer—State of the Slough



Rick Bauer is the Slough Supervisor as well as its Natural Areas Coordinator. He will be giving us an overview of what's been happening in our beloved Slough over the past year.

### Wednesday, April 27th—Dr. Jose Padilla-Lopez—Birds in the Slough



Dr. Jose is an avid birder who leads guided bird walks at the Slough. He will be talking about birds we see in the Slough as well as his experiences birding through out the world.

# PRESIDENT'S NOTES



The Friends ended the past year with the successful "Sloughbration" event to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. "Sloughbration" offered many displays, activities, and exciting presentations. But, the most heartwarming was seeing the joy of the fifty-five volunteers to be together again at the Slough. Without the volunteers', the Slough staff's, and the guest participants' contribution and dedication, this day could not have occurred. They brought smiles to our visitors' faces, young and old, and most importantly, they contributed to conveying the Friends' message and the significance of the Friends' mission. Thank you!

In the New Year, the Friends will maintain the same enthusiastic commitment of the past 20 years. With all our members' support, we will continue to watch our for our beloved Slough's well-being.

Thank you for being a Friends member, and may 2022 bring you many more amazing Slough memories.

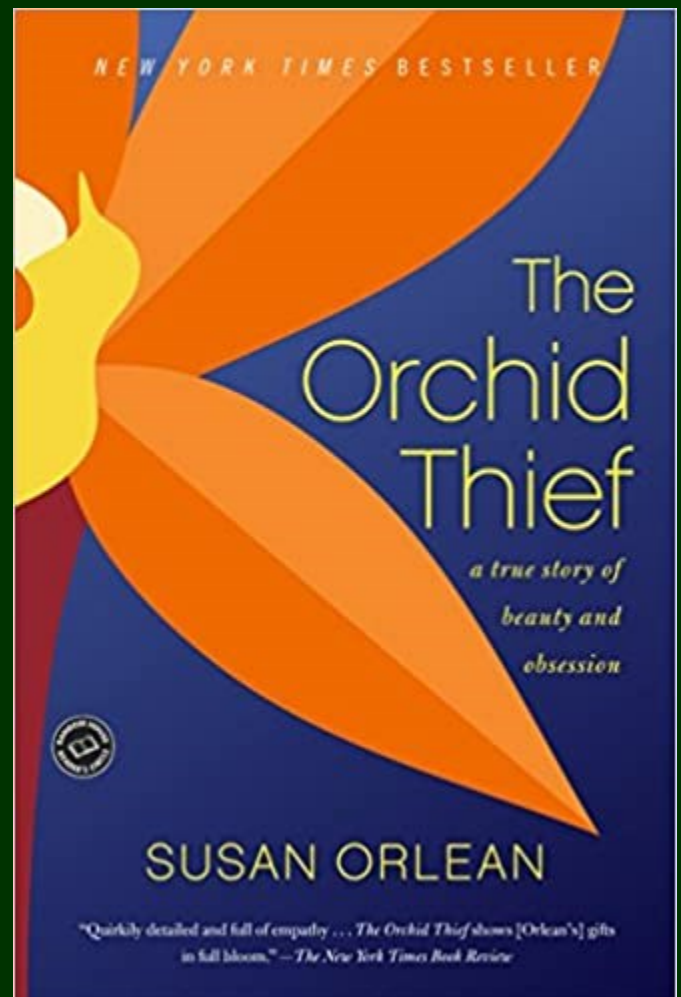
See you on the Boardwalk!

*Sabine*

## Slough Bookworms Meeting

We hope you can join us for our next book club meeting on Monday, February 7th at 2pm. We will meet on the back deck of the Interpretive Center at the Slough. Our selection this time is ***The Orchid Thief*** by Susan Orlean. This true story takes place here in Southwest Florida in the Fakahatchee Strand. If you plan on attending, please send an email to:

[friendsofsixmileslough@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsixmileslough@gmail.com)





## GUIDED WALKS ARE BACK!

We are thrilled to announce that three of the Slough's most popular programs are back.

Monthly bird walks returned in late Fall 2021. They take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30 am. Prior registration is not required, but space is limited to 8 participants at this time.

Daily guided walks returned on January 1, 2022. Walks are at 9:30 am daily through the end of March. Schedule may extend, please monitor the Parks & Recreation website. Prior registration is not available so it's a good idea to arrive early. A trail host is on station at 9 am for registration.

Full Moon walks are also back. This very popular program is already sold out for January and February but keep your eye on the Parks & Recreation website for registration for March and April.



# SLOUGH CONSTRUCTION QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## What's happening?

The Slough is undergoing construction to help us be more accessible to all visitors. The outdoor bathrooms are undergoing renovations to meet current ADA standards and a sidewalk is being installed for safe access for pedestrians coming from Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Our parking lot is also being re-striped to add nine new parking spaces. The project is expected to last from January 6th to April 6th, 2022.

## Where can I go to the bathroom?

Our outdoor bathrooms are currently CLOSED. There are four (4) port-a-let toilets located just south of the boardwalk in the parking lot, one of which is an accessible toilet. These are serviced twice weekly by the contractor. If you have concerns regarding cleanliness, please let staff know. Visitors can also use the restrooms located in our Interpretive Center during times that the building is open: Tuesday– Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Where can I park?

We understand that the limited parking is incredibly frustrating and staff is doing everything they can to accommodate visitors to the Slough while undergoing these renovations. Please park in one of the open parking spaces in the parking lot. Vehicles parked along the driveway, in undesignated spaces, or in staff/volunteer designated parking spaces will be ticketed. We understand that this is frustrating and greatly appreciate your patience!

## What is happening to the driveway?

A sidewalk is being installed along the entrance to the Slough. This is to provide safe pedestrian access from Six Mile Cypress Parkway without impeding traffic.

## Will this affect the wildlife?

Some of the animals may move further into the Slough to avoid the sounds and the amount of activity. Construction is only happening during daylight hours so they are still able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the night. You may have better luck seeing wildlife near Otter Pond or Wood Duck Pond. However, the Slough's residents are wild animals and we can't guarantee any sightings. It doesn't seem to have affected the squirrels!

## Why can't you do this during summer?

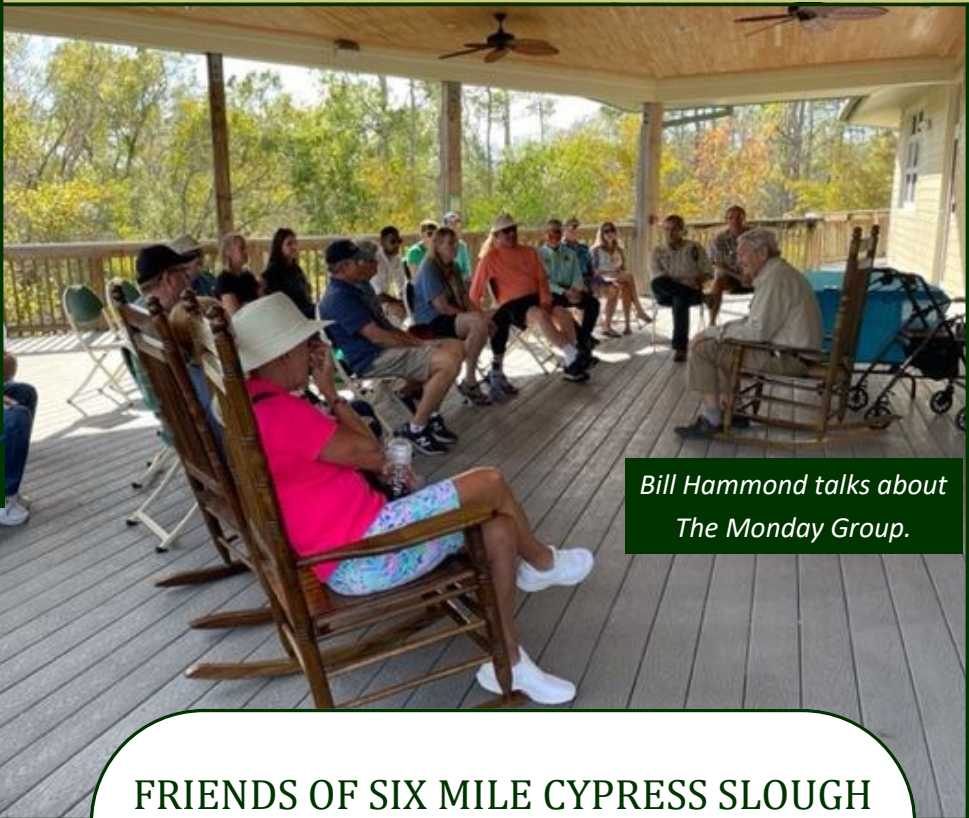
Although busy season may not be ideal for people, it is when it comes to weather! In the summer months, construction projects have to contend with daily afternoon thunderstorms, lightning, and hurricanes. The water levels are also higher which means access to certain areas may be limited or cause excess damage. In Southwest Florida, most construction takes place during the dry months to minimize impact to the environment and make it easier to perform the necessary work.



Slough Denizen Ready to Assist!



*Sloughbration Logo Artist Allyson*



*Bill Hammond talks about The Monday Group.*

**FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!**

**Sloughbration: A Day in Photos**

Photos by Sabine Vandenhende





*Win Everham,  
Professor, FGCU*

*In the water at  
Otter Pond*



*Lee County Schools Environmental Education*



*Lee County Mosquito Education*





Artist at Otter Pond



Butterfly Life Cycle



Indigo Snake



CROW's Great Horned Owl



Artist at Gator Lake





Adam's Animal Encounters



Skulls of the Slough



Firemaking



Slough Zen Doodle



Ethnobotany



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Winter

**Did you know** that here in Florida, many birds of prey nest in the winter and nesting season lasts into the spring? Some pairs use the same nests year after year.



Red -Shouldered Hawk nesting at Nature Center at The Great Outdoors  
Photo By Gary Wittstock

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Barred Owl Hatchling  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology Barred Owl Cam

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**Did you know** that birds of prey , like barred owls, are born covered in white or gray, fluffy down feathers? Many other bird species hatch featherless.

**Did you know** that another term for a bird of prey is raptor? Raptor comes from the Latin word rapere, which means to seize or take by force.



Red-shouldered hawk  
Photo by Carol Matthai

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# 2022 PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your photos!



Dennis Church



Sophia Grove (Youth Category)



Chuck Pavlick

**Deadline to enter the contest is FEBRUARY 1, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.**

Contest sponsored by the Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

## Categories include:

Birds

Animals (not including birds)

Plants & Landscapes

Youth (17 & under)

**Open to all amateur  
photographers!**

**Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd  
places!**



Entry forms are available online and at the front desk inside the Interpretive Center.

For complete contest rules, visit [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org)

For additional questions, email [sfriends833@yahoo.com](mailto:sfriends833@yahoo.com) or call (239) 533-7550



## MEMBERSHIP

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

### **Renewing Members. Thank you for your continued support.**

Gretchen Barsness  
Cynthia & Edward Borodkin  
Pete Cangialosi  
Arlene Creeden  
Sharon Desrosiers  
Jim & Karen Duff  
Eileen Fonferko  
Mary Beth Gentleman  
Doug & Linda Garde  
Brian & Bonnie Hogan  
Andrea & Richard Houle  
Raburn Howland  
Julian Korn  
Terri Krass  
Richard Martinez  
Alice Oldford  
Stacey Prater  
Carol Rabanus  
Arnie Rosen  
David Rummel  
Kathy & Walter Sedlacek  
Marie Shaffer  
Mark Smith  
Don & Claudia Stohler  
Marge & Steve Ulrich

### **Welcome New Members.**

Sam Ayres & Susan Redding  
Jerry & Jennifer Boeckman  
Bill Chamber & Irene Sullivan  
Patricia & George Cingle  
Katherine Galloway  
Ann Holse-Huffman  
Jeanne Houseman  
Linda Kutney  
Elaine Moore  
Kathleen Nevans  
Mary Webber  
David Wright  
Jim & Marsha Wulpi

### **Board of Directors**

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