Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Photo by CC Mattingly
FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2014
INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Photo by Carolyn Babb
Agenda

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting - March 26, 2014
Interpretive Center

Welcome Carolyn Babb, President

Announcements

Annual Report Theresa Roake, Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

These current board members are proposed for re-election for an additional term of two years:
Frank Murray, Treasurer
Theresa Roake, Secretary
Donna Cressman, Board Member
Terri Krass, Board Member
Jean Labriola Scholz, Board Member
Steve Tutko, Board Member

Election General Membership

Introduction of Board of Directors Carolyn Babb

Introduction of Ray Judah, Former Lee County Commissioner
Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb  President
Charles O’Connor  Vice President
Theresa Roake  Secretary
Frank Murray  Treasurer
Donna Cressman
Jeff Key
Terri Krass
Jean Labriola Scholz
Steve Tutko
Mary Rude, Lee County Parks and Recreation
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Staff

- Annisa Karim, Senior Supervisor
- Mary Rude, Supervisor
- Heather Gienapp, Senior Program Specialist
- Bob Repenning, Land Steward
- Andy Gurri, Maintenance Specialist
President’s Message

Friends of Six Mile
Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting  March 26, 2014

The years get better and better. Membership grows, donations increase and the Friends Corner Store shows an increase in profit of 20 percent. We are indeed a well balanced organization. All of this allowed us to provide financial support to the staff and the Slough of over $22,000 in 2013. Add to that all of the hours that our members provide for so many activities and the Friends are shining stars.

The list of accomplishments gets better than the previous years which have been absolutely outstanding.

The Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau selected Friends as the winner of the Eco-innovation category of the 2013 Chrysalis Awards. I am so proud that our organization was selected and honored for our efforts for fostering growth and sustainability in Lee County.

There were different field trips planned and executed for Friends members this year to places like the Randell Research Center on Pine Island and the Conservancy of SW Florida in Naples. These learning experiences make us better volunteers and stewards in our mission to protect and preserve the Slough. Another 150 folks sloshed through the DEEP water of the Slough in August and September and others by the light of the full moon. We picked up garbage along the road. We watched butterflies emerge from the chrysalis that were constructed on plants in the center garden, tended and cared for by staff and volunteers.
Take a look at our photo contest entries for this year. Again the judges were amazed at the talent and the beauty as shown by the entries from our visitors.

The Friends Corner volunteers have allowed us to have the store open all of the hours that the Interpretive Center is open. I appreciate the hard work and dedication so much. Some day that blasted computer will get a good report in this message. Again, however, the humans win and the computer may be replaced by now. Keep up the good work to all!

Frank Murray, the Friends Treasurer, keeps our books current and all of our reports, forms and money available 24/7. Not a penny comes or goes that he doesn’t know where or why. His dedication, accuracy and knowledge are beyond belief and we can credit him with so much of our success.

The board members work hard and with equal dedication to the Friends. Members include a Golden Apple Award winner, three Florida Master Naturalists, a Florida Master Gardener, Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau volunteers, a research scientist, a world famous journalist and an environmental services company owner. It is an amazing group of folks. A great big thank you to all of them for the gigantic effort needed to make our organization a success.

Thank you to the Lee County Parks and Recreation staff and to Lee County for our continued successful partnership. It is strong and we all work together with the goal of promoting and preserving the Slough.

To Mary Rude, Heather Gienapp, Bob Repenning, Andy Gurri and Annisa Karim thank you for all you do for us and for the Slough. I value your friendship and your love of the Slough. I love you all!

Thank you to all of the Friends members. Your generosity and support allows us to continue in our efforts for the Slough. I can’t wait to see what the new year brings and all that it holds for us. Bring it on!

Thank you my dear friends. See you in the Slough.

Carolyn Babb, President
Friends 2013 Accomplishments

Direct Support to the Slough of $22,526. for purchases including:
- Magnet Spotting Board
- New Signage
- Protective Railings at viewing decks of all ponds
- Garden Trellis
- Water Faucet in Garden
- Water Bottle Filler at Fountain
- Bear Proof Garbage and Recycle Bin

Camp Scholarships and Supplies

Friends Field Trips including:
- Bat Kayak Tour
- Telegraph Creek Preserve
- Archbold Biological Station
- Bowditch Point Preserve

Chrysalis Award from Lee County Visitors and Tourism Bureau

Funding for Field Trip Buses and Teachers

Invasive Plant Control – Financial and Physical

Puppet Troupe

Rock and Stroll Garden

Photo Contest

Books, CDs, DVDs for Blake Cadkin Resource Library

Special Events Representation at
- Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
- Burrowing Owl Festival
- Interpretive Center Anniversary

Photo by Jose Padilla-Lopez
Friends 2013 Accomplishments cont’d

Gathering Speakers including:
   Neil Wilkinson
   Roger Clark
   Robert Repenning
   Rosie Emery

Volunteer of the Year

Binoculars, scopes and tripods

Friends Corner

New Benches

Butterfly Garden

University of Georgia Students Support

Five Year Anniversary of the Building Event

Complete 2013 Annual Report Available at www.sloughpreserve.org

Photo by Carolyn Babb
March 15, 2014

Board of Directors
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Carolyn Babb, President

As detailed in the statement of income and expenses for 2013 and formal balance sheet as of Dec. 31, Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve continues to successfully accumulate financial resources to supplement programs and visitor facilities at the Slough and Interpretive Center, and provide substantial amounts of support. Key items for comparison:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income received</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations, gifts</td>
<td>13,337.96</td>
<td>26,326.07</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership revenue</td>
<td>11,250.00</td>
<td>11,325.01</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Corner sales</td>
<td>16,784.20</td>
<td>18,790.30</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and support</td>
<td>14,224.77</td>
<td>22,508.88</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. Costs</td>
<td>2,502.22</td>
<td>2,319.29</td>
<td>-7.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For broader context, in the six-plus years since the Interpretive Center opened, our membership organization has provided approximately $124,000 in direct support of its goals: growing the number of opportunities for visitors to experience Six Mile, while maintaining and enhancing its environmental value.

In addition to financial records, your Treasurer prepares paperwork which includes a seven-page federal tax return (despite our organization’s tax-exempt status), actively defends our compliance with filing laws, tracks complex Florida reporting requirements to maintain our charitable organization registration, coordinates our exemption from paying sales taxes and separately licensed to collect sales taxes from visitors to our store, a demanding schedule which now requires filing a state sales tax return monthly instead of twice a year.

Sincerely,

Frank Murray, Treasurer

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Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Corporation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.
Registration Number CH13822 Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
# Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

- **Checking/Savings**
  - **1000 · Current Assets**
  - **1050 · Bank of America accounts**
    - **1050.1 · BoA Main Checking** 11,170.86
    - **1050.2 · BoA Savings MM** 37,893.90
    - **1050.3 · BoA Bookstore check** 3,304.12
    - **1050.41 · Time Deposit CD 8787 02/12/2015** 10,000.00
    - **1050.42 · Time Deposit CD 8826 11/14/2014** 10,000.00
    - **1050.43 · Time Deposit CD 8758 5/16/2014** 10,000.50
    - **1050.44 · Time Deposit CD 0113 7/29/2014** 25,000.00
  - **Total 1050 · Bank of America accounts** 107,369.38
  - **Total 1000 · Current Assets** 107,369.38
  - **Total Checking/Savings** 107,369.38

- **Other Current Assets**
  - **1300 · Other Current Assets**
    - **1300.3 · Inventory on hand IC store** 13,534.44
    - **1300.4 · Cash on hand Bookstore** 873.50
    - **1300.5 · Cash on hand Treasurer** 72.42
    - **1300.6 · PayPal service** 5.00
  - **Total 1300 · Other Current Assets** 14,485.36
  - **Total Other Current Assets** 14,485.36

- **Total Current Assets** 121,854.74

**TOTAL ASSETS**  $121,854.74

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities

### Current Liabilities

- **Other Current Liabilities**
  - **2001 · Liabilities**
    - **2005 · State Sales Tax payable** 349.89
  - **Total 2001 · Liabilities** 349.89
  - **Total Other Current Liabilities** 349.89
  - **Total Current Liabilities** 349.89

- **Total Liabilities** $ 349.89

### Equity

- **3001 · Opening Bal Equity** 13,983.57
- **3010 · Unrestrict (retained earnings)** 88,671.01
- **Net Income** 18,850.27
- **Total Equity** $121,504.85

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**  $121,854.74
## Friends of Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
### Income & Expenses Summary
#### January through December 2013

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4000</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$43,678.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>4000.1</td>
<td>Contributions, Gifts, Grants</td>
<td>$21,462.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>4001</td>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>$4,863.26</td>
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<td>4003</td>
<td>Membership revenue</td>
<td>$11,325.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>4004</td>
<td>Interest earned</td>
<td>$182.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>4009</td>
<td>Bookstore-Interpretive Center</td>
<td>$5,844.50</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4009.1</td>
<td>Bookstore credit sales</td>
<td>$10,298.24</td>
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<td>4009.2</td>
<td>Bookstore cash sales</td>
<td>$9,601.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>4009.4</td>
<td>Charges to Sales</td>
<td>$18,790.30</td>
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<td>4009.5</td>
<td>Bookstore Overhead</td>
<td>$-2,102.62</td>
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<td>4009.6</td>
<td>Purchases for resale</td>
<td>$-11,375.71</td>
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<td>4009.7</td>
<td>Commissions on crafts</td>
<td>$-29.99</td>
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<td>4009.8</td>
<td>Credit processing fees</td>
<td>$-839.36</td>
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<td>4009.9</td>
<td>Adjust inventory asset account</td>
<td>$532.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Bookstore-Interpretive Center</td>
<td>$5,844.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$43,678.44</td>
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**Total Income**: $43,678.44
Friends of Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Income & Expenses Summary
January through December 2013 cont’d

Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>5009</td>
<td>Grants, etc. paid</td>
<td>22,508.88</td>
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<td>5009.1</td>
<td>Displays and Slough</td>
<td>5,192.48</td>
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<td>5009.2</td>
<td>Interpretive Center support</td>
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<td>5009.23</td>
<td>Scholarships Summer Camp</td>
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<td>5009.25</td>
<td>Summer Camp support (other)</td>
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<td>Interpretive Center support - Other</td>
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<td>Total 5009.2</td>
<td>Interpretive Center support</td>
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<td>5009.3</td>
<td>Cadkin Fund Resource Purchases</td>
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<td>5009.4</td>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>5009.51</td>
<td>Photo contest</td>
<td>66.47</td>
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<td>5009.53</td>
<td>Name Stones</td>
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<td>5009.54</td>
<td>Speakers honoraria</td>
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<td>5009.55</td>
<td>Wildlife Education</td>
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<td>Invasive Plant control</td>
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<td>5009.59</td>
<td>Other program expenses</td>
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<td>Total 5009.5</td>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Total 5009</td>
<td>Grants, etc. paid</td>
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<td>Charges to Designated Accounts</td>
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<td>5016</td>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<td>5016.1</td>
<td>Permits Taxes Fees</td>
<td>176.25</td>
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<td>5016.2</td>
<td>Office supplies</td>
<td>229.88</td>
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<td>5016.3</td>
<td>Postage</td>
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<td>5016.4</td>
<td>Printing, shipping</td>
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<td>Insurance (Main org)</td>
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<td>5016.6</td>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Misc</td>
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<td>Total 5016</td>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 5000</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>24,828.17</td>
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Total Expense $24,828.17

Net Ordinary Income $18,850.27

Net Income $18,850.27
### Membership

#### Quarterly Update

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<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td><strong>Renewing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3**</td>
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<td><strong>1st Quarter</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>30**</td>
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* as of 3/9/14

#### Annual Membership Snapshot

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<tr>
<th>Annual Membership Snapshot</th>
<th>As of 3/6/11</th>
<th>As of 3/24/12</th>
<th>As of 3/24/13</th>
<th>As of 3/9/14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron $1000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustaining $500</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Sponsor $500</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Associate $250</td>
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<td>Supporting $100</td>
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<td>Contributing $50</td>
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<td>54</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>Student $10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inactive 2+ years</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
<td><strong>210</strong></td>
<td><strong>211</strong></td>
<td><strong>221</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communications

*Connections* – Friends newsletter was published four times in 2013, 250 copies each edition in January, April, July and October of 2013.

Contributors included Mary Rude, Heather Gienapp, Bob Repenning, Mary Murray, Frank Murray, Jean Scholz, Charles O’Connor, Janet Bunch, Dotty Brown, Theresa Roake, Terri Krass, Steve Tutko, Jeff Key, Jeff Montgomery, Arnie Rosen and Carolyn Babb, editor and Bruce Bunch, copy editor.

Friends utilizes copy equipment at Terry Park in Fort Myers at the Lee County Parks and Recreation Offices to produce the newsletter. It is printed, folded, stamped and addressed by volunteers.

Email communication is used for messages and information to the membership for meetings and events and other information. An email listing of membership is maintained for this purpose.

Events and meetings are publicized in local newspapers including the News Press, the Naples Daily News, the Florida River Weekly and the Daniels Corridor publication.

*Photo by Chuck Pavlick*
Education

**Slough Summer Camp Scholarships 2013**

Fourteen scholarships were awarded to local youngsters. A good time was had by all. In addition, Friends provided many of the supplies for camp.

**School Field Trips 2013**

**Lexington Middle School** 8th grade science students spent a couple of days at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve on field trips with Education Chair Charles O’Connor. 60 students learned about the importance of Florida’s wetlands, native plants and animals, water conservation, and enjoyed a wet-walk through the watery heart of a beautiful cypress forest. The participants studied the slough ecosystem online, and submitted a completed worksheet and a short essay explaining why they wanted to attend. The trail is closed to the general public, but has been used educationally for over 40 years, safely walked by many thousands of students and adults. Charles has led over 180 long trail wetwalk trips. **Friends** provided funding for the buses and substitute teachers.

Photo by Jason Boeckman
Education cont’d

**Summer Public Wet Walks 2013**

Friends Education Chair Charles O’Connor led ten trips along the wetwalk trail, which is usually closed to the public, and the walkers offered very favorable comments at the conclusion. Folks really enjoyed the beauty of the trail and learning about the uniqueness of the ecology. Quite a few were repeat participants, and many joined through word of mouth.

**Speakers for 2013**


April - **Rosie Emery**, WGCU singer/songwriter, environmental educator and television producer. For twenty years she has focused on writing songs for children about animals and nature imparting the understanding of how all of life is interconnected.

Photo by Leah Rittenberg
Special Events 2013

Janet Bunch, Special Events Chairperson made sure the Slough was represented at the following events in 2013:

Burrowing Owl Festival
Wings Over Water at Harnes Marsh
Interpretive Center Anniversary
Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival

Friends Field Trips 2013

Janet Bunch, Carolyn Babb and Mary Murray organized field trips for Friends members in 2013. These trips are very popular and typically had the maximum number of participants. This is an excellent way for our members to gain more knowledge of the flora and fauna in our natural places to play. Places we visited this year included:

Bat Kayak Tour
Archbold Biological Station
Alva Scrub Preserve
Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Telegraph Creek Preserve
Bowditch Point
Prairie Creek Preserve

Photo by Cayce Jehaini
Advocacy

Our mission as Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve continues to be the commitment to preserving, protecting and promoting our wonderful friend the Slough.

In 2013, we continued to monitor the status of Conservation 20/20 funding. We continue to be concerned about the future of this important program.

Photo by Bob Repenning
Currently, the website at [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org) features our events and some brief information on the Preserve. Our Webmaster is in the process of updating and redesigning our website page by page. In addition, it would be nice to have integration with our social media. If you have an interest in helping out in this area or have any suggestions, please contact Jeff Key at (239) 822 6087.

Photo by Krystle DiNicola
Friends Corner Store

TOTAL SALES FOR 2013 $18,790

PROFIT $ 5,844

INVENTORY VALUE $13,500

25 VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work. Best volunteers anywhere!
The Rock and Stroll Garden was created in the spring of 2013 as a fund raising project to support the Friends educational programs and materials. The project also provided an opportunity to make improvements to the center parking lot garden. To date there are 14 engraved stones that have been placed in the garden and there is room for many more. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.

In addition to the stones in the garden, we have added a beautiful steel arch and a new sign that explains our goals. New plants have been added to attract butterflies and other wildlife by Master Gardner Donna Cressman. More opportunities for volunteer gardeners are planned for the future. Several new picnic tables will soon be in place for the public to enjoy along with the existing benches. In April, we plan to unveil a spectacular surprise addition – so stay tuned!

Terri Krass, Board Member
Minutes of Annual Meeting
March 27, 2013

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Board of Directors
March 27, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Carolyn Babb

Everyone was welcomed and Carolyn Babb read her message and presented reports from 2012.

Carolyn Babb, Jeff Key and Charles O’Connor were re-elected for an additional term of two years.

Carolyn Babb made introduction of Board of Directors.

Bob Repenning, Land Steward for Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve presented “The State of the Slough”
Board Election – Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee proposes the re-election of the following Board Members for an additional term of two years:

Frank Murray, Treasurer
Theresa Roake, Secretary
Donna Cressman, Board Member
Terri Krass, Board Member
Jean Labriola Scholz, Board Member
Steve Tutko, Board Member

Additional nominations from the Floor may be submitted at this time.