Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Photo by Kara Bressler
Agenda

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting - March 25, 2015
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:
  Carolyn Babb, President
  Charles O’Connor, Vice President
  Jeff Key, Board Member

Election General Membership

Introduction of Board of Directors Carolyn Babb

Introduction of Bob Repenning, Coordinator, Land Stewardship “State of the Slough”
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
Heather Gienapp, Lee County Parks and Recreation Liaison
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Staff

• Annisa Karim, Senior Supervisor
• Heather Gienapp, Supervisor
• Andrea Naccarato, Senior Program Specialist
• Bob Repenning, Land Steward
• Andy Gurri, Senior Maintenance Specialist
• Steve Heitz, Senior Maintenance Specialist
Dear Friends Members, Board of Directors and Slough Staff,

Another year has come and gone and the Friends are again celebrating a wonderful year of promoting, preserving and protecting the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

The list of accomplishments details our member and donor support, not only monetarily, but in actions. Memberships and donations totaled over $30,000. The Friends Corner store accounted for over $3,000 of income. We supplied the Slough with over $20,000 of direct support.

Our organization continues to assist the staff at the Slough with anything that is requested and in our power to do. That is only possible due to the generosity of the members and donors. The Slough staff in turn helps the Friends with our mission as well. The partnership with Lee County remains strong.

Friends members work in the gorgeous garden at the center of the parking lot, help in stewardship projects in the Slough, do highway clean up, provide educational opportunities at activities, help at summer camp, lead visitors through the Slough in the summer time, provide an updated website and help at many of the activities at the Interpretive Center throughout the year. The Friends members dedicate thousands of hours during the year.
I want to give a special thank you to Friends treasurer Frank Murray. He tracks all of our financial dealings throughout the year, including membership fees, donations, federal and state taxes, insurance policies for the store, directors and liability, store inventory and all transactions made. The organization continues to be successful due to his efforts.

The Friends Corner store volunteers work every hour that the Interpretive Center is open. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and efforts to make the store a success. Many thanks to Friends secretary Theresa Roake for keeping the store schedule up to date and finding time to train new workers. The challenge and expense we faced this year was due to the Personal Card Industry Data Security Standards requirements to accept credit cards. The costs for compliance (new equipment and software) in 2014 were over $3,000.

Board Vice President Charles O’Connor has two of the best jobs of all – leading visitors in August and September through the wet Slough and heading up the Friends Photo Contest.

Friends Board member Terri Krass continues to rock the Rock and Stroll Garden Project. The rocks purchased through donations are inspiring to read. If you haven’t strolled through the garden lately, please take time to do so.

I say thank you to the contributors to our newsletter, Connections. Dotty Brown has been creating for the newsletter since the beginning of Friends in 2001. Jeff Montgomery has supplied various meander muses for it also. Board member Jean Scholz supplies the membership statistics as she keeps our membership current and growing. Copy editor Bruce Bunch has developed many great articles and headlines. This year the start into digital publishing was a success right from the beginning.
New titles are still being added to the Blake Cadkin Memorial Resource Library. Thank you to Friends member and volunteer Gretchen Monti for her work in organizing and cataloging the library.

Our friend and Charter Friends member Mary Rude retired as the Supervisor at the Slough this year. We miss her tremendously. She had a calming effect on all, not just me.

Heather Gienapp was promoted to the Supervisor position, and we couldn’t be happier. She is an amazing teacher. We are so lucky to have her.

The new program specialist Andrea Naccarato is getting her feet wet at the Slough. She has so much knowledge to share and is so willing to help.

Thank you to the entire Board of Directors and the Advisory Board for the hard work and efforts this past year. It would take pages to list all the activities in which they are involved in support of the Slough.

Thank you to Lee County Parks and Recreation staff members Annisa Karim, Mary Rude, Heather Gienapp, Bob Repenning, Andrea Naccarato, Andy Gurri and Steve Heitz for their efforts and love of the Slough.

It is a treasure to be involved with these wonderful people. Our membership continues to grow. Our message continues to spread worldwide. Thank you to all of my Friends!

**Carolyn Babb**
President
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Friends 2014 Accomplishments

Direct support to the Slough of $20,476 including:
- New canvas shelter at Wood Duck Pond
- Six new and two refurbished picnic tables
- Sod for center garden area
- Plants for center garden at parking lot
- Parts and maintenance for lawn tractor
- New tires for tractor cart
- Rope for fencing at restrooms
- Drill and saw set for land steward use
- Boot brushes for restrooms and staff entrance

$20,000 commitment toward estimated total cost of entry mural

Field trip expenses for Lee County school trips
- Summer camp scholarships for 15 campers
- Summer camp supplies
- Summer camp intern compensation

Books and CDs for Research Library topics include native grasses, bromeliads, and native plants

Photo by Diane Deming
Friends 2014 Accomplishments cont’d

Display cases for specimens for Interpretive Center
Guest register books for Interpretive Center
Supplies for demonstration exhibits (Pine basket making)

Class fees for training with Tom Brown for Slough staff
Retirement party for Mary Rude, Supervisor at the Slough
Welcome back volunteer meeting refreshments

GPS unit for use by land stewardship volunteers
Waist packs for land stewardship volunteers
Water and lunch for Georgia student volunteers

Fanny packs for volunteer gifts
Stewardship volunteer of the year gift
Center garden maintenance
Adopt A Highway pickup monthly
Summer camp volunteer helpers
Land stewardship workers weekly

Friends Corner Store open and staffed for all Interpretive Center hours

Photo by John McConnel
Friends 2014 Accomplishments cont’d

Wet walks for 150 visitors

Field trips for members including visits to:
   Bunche Beach
   Flint Pen Strand
   Little Pine Island Mitigation Preserve
   Estero Marsh Preserve

Friends Gatherings with speakers including:
   Dr. Charles O’Connor
   Ray Judah
   Robert Repenning

Speaker honorariums for Friends Gatherings

Monday Group plaque

Photo contest 64 photographers, 180 photos

Special Events committee represented Friends at the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival

Quarterly newsletter, Connections

Facebook Friends Group of 199 members

Website www.sloughpreserve.org

Complete 2014 Annual Report Available at www.sloughpreserve.org

Photo by Chuck Pavlick
March 15, 2015

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

As detailed in the statement of income and expenses for 2014 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income received</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations, other income</td>
<td>26,326.07</td>
<td>16,722.08</td>
<td>-36.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership revenue</td>
<td>11,325.01</td>
<td>13,606.01</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends Corner sales*</td>
<td>18,790.30</td>
<td>21,328.09</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants, programs</td>
<td>22,508.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin. Costs</td>
<td>2,502.22</td>
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** Total includes $20,000 grant as 50% of the mural to be installed on the entrance walled of the Interpretive Center. Recorded as a liability in 2014, disbursed in 2015 when work began. Balance will be recorded as 2015 transactions.

Decline in 2014 donations reflects a large number of memorial donations and gifts in tribute in 2013 and a few larger direct donations.

For broader context, in the seven-plus years since the Interpretive Center opened, our membership organization has provided approximately $158,000 in direct support of its goals: growing the number of opportunities for visitors to experience Six Mile, while maintaining and enhancing its environmental value.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Murray, Treasurer
## Balance Sheet

**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve**  
As of December 31, 2014

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>1000.1</td>
<td>BoA Main Checking</td>
<td>8,332.19</td>
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<td>1000.2</td>
<td>BoA Savings MM</td>
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<td>1000.3</td>
<td>BoA Bookstore check</td>
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<td>1000.41</td>
<td>Time Deposit CD 8787 02/12/2015</td>
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<td>1000.42</td>
<td>Time Deposit CD 8826 11/14/2014</td>
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<td>1000.43</td>
<td>Time Deposit CD 8758 5/16/2015</td>
<td>10,000.50</td>
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<td>1000.44</td>
<td>Time Deposit CD 0113 7/29/2015</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
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<td>Total 1000 · Current Assets</td>
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<td>1300.3</td>
<td>Inventory on hand IC store</td>
<td>14,330.95</td>
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<td>1300.4</td>
<td>Cash on hand Bookstore</td>
<td>1,137.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300.5</td>
<td>Cash on hand Treasurer</td>
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<td>1300.6</td>
<td>PayPal service</td>
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<td>Total 1300 · Other Current Assets</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>132,757.03</td>
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**TOTAL ASSETS**  
$132,757.03

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

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<td>Grant for Mural Interpretive Center</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>State Sales Tax payable</td>
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<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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#### Equity

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<th>Account Code</th>
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<td>3001</td>
<td>Opening Bal Equity</td>
<td>13,983.57</td>
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<td>3010</td>
<td>Unrestricted (retained earnings)</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
<td>-8,883.51</td>
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<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>112,621.34</td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**  
$132,757.03
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough
Income and Expense Summary
January – December 2014

Ordinary Income
4000 · Revenue
4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants
4011.1 · Interpretive Ctr, Preserve, Displays 2,820.00
4011.12 · Donations box Boardwalk 4,460.08
4011.13 · Donations Jar Interp Ctr 2,015.00
4011.2 · Donations In Tribute 2,025.00
4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants – Other 2,580.00
Total 4000.1 · Contributions, Gifts, Grants 13,900.08
4001.5 · Program Revenue
4015.1 · Photo Contests 620.00
4015.2 · Wet Walks spcl tours etc 1,728.00
4015.3 · Name stones Garden project 474.00
Total 4001.5 · Program Revenue 2,822.00
4003 · Membership revenue
4031 · Membership, Other 25.00
4032 · Membership, Individual $20 1,020.00
4033 · Membership, Contributing $50 1,720.00
4034 · Membership, Supporting $100 2,700.00
40345 · Membership, Associate $250 2,000.00
4035 · Membership, Sustaining $500 3,000.00
4037 · Patron $1000 3,000.00
403 · Membership revenue – Other 140.00
Total 4003 · Membership revenue 13,605.00
4004 · Interest earned 78.75
4009 · Bookstore-Interpretive Center
4009.01 · Bookstore sales
4009.1 · Bookstore credit sales 12,112.62
4009.2 · Bookstore cash sales 10,370.04
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough
Income and Expense Summary
January – December 2014 contd.

4009.4 · Charges to Sales
   4009.81 · Fla Sales tax collected/paid       -1,315.63
   4009.82 · Sales tax collection fee earned   38.28
Total 4009.4 · Charges to Sales              -1,277.35

4009.01 · Bookstore sales – Other            122.78
Total 4009.01 · Bookstore sales              21,328.09

4009.5 · Bookstore Overhead
   4009.51 · Credit processing fees            -884.09
   4009.52 · Insurance Bookstore               -1,116.37
   4009.55 · Misc expenses                     -3,353.21
Total 4009.5 · Bookstore Overhead            -5,353.67

4009.6 · Purchases for resale                -13,576.47

4009.9 · Adjust inventory asset account      808.48
4009 · Bookstore-Interpretive Center – Other 68.81
Total 4009 · Bookstore-Interpretive Center   3,275.24

Total 4000 · Revenue                        33,681.07

Total Income                                $33,681.07

Expense
5000 · Expenses
5009 · Grants, etc. paid
   5009.1 · Displays and Slough                9,758.61
   5009.2 · Interp Center support, pledge
   5009.21 · Mural entrance wall               20,000.00
   5009.23 · Scholarships Summer Camp          1,125.00
   5009.25 · Summer Camp support (other)       1,523.13
   5009.2 · Interp Center support, pledge – Other 2,915.68
Total 5009.2 · Interp Center support, pledge 25,563.81
   5009.3 · Cadkin Fund Resource Purchases     342.37
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough
Income and Expense Summary
January – December 2014 contd.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5009.5 · Program Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>5009.51 · Photo contest</td>
<td>112.34</td>
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<td>5009.53 · Name Stones Garden Project</td>
<td>809.95</td>
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<td>5009.54 · Speakers honoraria</td>
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<td>5009.55 · Wildlife Education</td>
<td>1,540.22</td>
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<td>5009.56 · Invasive Plant control</td>
<td>181.24</td>
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<td>5009.59 · Other program expenses</td>
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<td>5009.5 · Program Expenses – Other</td>
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<td>5009 · Grants, etc. paid – Other</td>
<td>68.00</td>
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<td>Total 5009 · Grants, etc. paid</td>
<td>40,516.48</td>
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<td>5016 · Other Expenses</td>
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<td>5016.1 · Permits Taxes Fees</td>
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<td>5016.2 · Office supplies</td>
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<td>5016.3 · Postage</td>
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<td>5016.4 · Printing, shipping</td>
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<td>5016.5 · Insurance (Main org)</td>
<td>1,191.03</td>
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<td>5016.6 · Maintenance &amp; Misc</td>
<td>258.97</td>
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<td>2,048.10</td>
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<td>42,564.58</td>
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<td>Total Expense</td>
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<td>Net Ordinary Income</td>
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Net Income                                ($8,883.51)
## Membership

### Quarterly Update

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<td>21</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>New</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6 *</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8 *</td>
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** as of 3/20/15

### Annual Membership Snapshot

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<th>Annual Membership Snapshot</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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<td>Lifetime</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Donor</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Guest</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Patron $1000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Sustaining $500</td>
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<td>Associate $250</td>
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<td>Supporting $100</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>Contributing $50</td>
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<td>Individual $20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>Inactive 2+ years</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td>210</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>232</td>
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** During the autumn of 2014, the Friends all-time membership total reached 500
Communications

*Connections*- Friends newsletter was published four times in 2014, 250 paper copies of each edition in January, April and July.

In November of 2014 the newsletter was published digitally for the first time. Total distribution was to 228 members. The digital newsletter was sent via an email account specifically developed for the membership newsletter and is also being used for notification of Friends Gatherings and any other items that may be of interest to the members.

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

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

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 Keith Ridge
Education

Slough Summer Camp Scholarships 2014
Fifteen 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 2014

110 Lexington Middle School 8th grade science students spent a day at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve on field trips with Education Chair Charles O’Connor. The curriculum included

• The wet walk – an incomparable experience with positive memories that last a lifetime
• Online researching about the Slough (using both the Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends’ websites).
• The Marsh Game – students learn about four major water pollutants in our area (phosphate, ammonia, nitrates, suspended solids – muddy water), and how the slough native plants clean the water and it passes. The game includes organizing half the students as water drops with pollution cards, and the remainder as marsh plants with color photos around their necks. The students role play in an area mimicking the long, narrow slough. It’s very effective and instructional, yet a lot of fun, too. (Created by Cindy Bear and Charles O’Connor).
• Slough Interpretive Center – students had the chance to visit and enjoy this beautiful building with its amazing exhibits.  

Photo by Joe Loverde
Education cont’d

Summer Public Wet Walks 2014

*Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve* hosted approximately 12 summer trips along the wet walk trail, which is usually closed to the public, and were led by Charles O’Connor. 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. Waitlist for these walks exceeded 80 people.

**Speakers for 2014**

January – **Dr. Charles O’Connor**, Vice President, Education Chair—*Florida Fossils*

February – **Bob Repenning**, Land Steward, *State of the Slough*


Photo by Krystal DiNicola
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 2014, we continued to monitor the status of Conservation 20/20 funding. We continue to be concerned about the future of this important program.
Currently, the website at 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.
Friends Corner Store

TOTAL SALES FOR 2014   $21,328

29 VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work. Best volunteers anywhere!
Rock and Stroll Garden – March 2015

Rock and Stroll Garden “Rocks On”
The Rock and Stroll Garden, located on the island in the center of the parking lot, was created so everyone could “own a piece of the Six Mile Slough” by having a personalized stone placed in the garden. To date we have nineteen beautifully carved river rocks in place and one more on order. When a stone is purchased- two purposes are served. The garden becomes more beautiful and all profits go to support the educational programs at the Slough. Order forms are located at the front desk, credit card payments are accepted and it takes approximately two to four weeks for delivery and installation. The carvings may include names, favorite quotes, and simple art work. Next time you visit the Slough, take a few minutes to enjoy the beautiful Rock and Stroll Garden. Hopefully you will be inspired to add your stone to the growing collection.

Terri Krass, Board Member
Minutes of Annual Meeting
March 26, 2014

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 2013.

Frank Murray, Treasurer
Theresa Roake, Secretary
Donna Cressman, Board Member
Terri Krass, Board Member
Jean Labriola Scholz, Board Member
Steve Tutko, Board Member
were re-elected for an additional term of two years.

Carolyn Babb made introduction of Board of Directors.

Ray Judah, Former Lee County Commissioner presented “Protecting Our Waters”
The Nominating Committee proposes the re-election of the following Board Members for an additional term of two years:

Carolyn Babb, President
Charles O’Connor, Vice President
Jeff Key, Board Member

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