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.
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: friendsofslough@gmail.com

---

**The Orchid Thief**

SUSAN ORLEAN

"Quickly detailed and full of curiosity... The Orchid Thief shows [Orlean’s] gifts in full bloom." —*The New York Times Book Review*
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.
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.

Editor’s Note: Thank you to Slough staff for helping to keep our members informed.
Sloughbration: A Day in Photos

FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Sloughbration Logo Artist Allyson

Bill Hammond talks about The Monday Group.

Photos by Sabine Vandenhende
Win Everham, Professor, FGCU

In the water at Otter Pond

Lee County Schools Environmental Education

Lee County Mosquito Education
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.

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.

Sources: My FWC, University of Florida
2022 PHOTO CONTEST
Submit your photos!

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

For more information on joining or renewing go to our website at www.sloughpreserve.org.