


Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Photo by Kara Bressler



**FRIENDS OF
SIX MILE CYPRESS
SLOUGH PRESERVE**

**ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 25, 2015
INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

Photo by Diane Deming

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

President's Message

Friends of Six Mile
Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting March 25, 2015

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.

President's Message

cont'd

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.

President's Message

Cont'd

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



FRIENDS OF SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE

7791 Penzance Boulevard
Ft. Myers, Florida 33966

(239) 533-7557
www.sloughpreserve.org

March 15, 2015

Advisory Board

Jacquelin Cadkin
A & J Cadkin Foundation

Dr. William Hammond
*Florida Gulf Coast
Universit*

Wiley M. Parker, A.I.A.
*Parker/Mudgett/Smith
Architects, Inc.*

Joyce Sanders
Past President

Board of Directors

Carolyn Babb, President

Dr. Charles O'Connor
Vice President

Theresa Roake, Secretary

Frank Murray, Treasurer

Donna Cressman

Jeff Key

Teresa Krass

Jean Labriola Scholz

Stephen D. Tutko

Parks and Recreation Liaison

Heather Gienapp, Supervisor

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:

	2013	2014	change
Income received			
Donations, other income	26,326.07	16,722.08	-36.5%
Membership revenue	11,325.01	13,606.01	20.1%
Friends Corner sales*	18,790.30	21,328.09	13.5%
Spending			
Grants, programs	22,508.88	**40,516.48	80.0%
Admin. Costs	2,502.22	2,319.29	-7.3%

* Gross sales, store net \$3,275.24. Year-end merchandise on hand \$14,331.

** 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

Checking/Savings

1000 · Current Assets

1050 · Bank of America accounts

1050.1 · BoA Main Checking 8,332.19

1050.2 · BoA Savings MM 51,906.29

1050.3 · BoA Bookstore check 1,762.60

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 5/16/2015 10,000.50

1050.44 · Time Deposit CD 0113 7/29/2015 25,000.00

Total 1050 · Bank of America accounts 117,001.58

Total 1000 · Current Assets 117,001.58

Total Checking/Savings 117,001.58

Other Current Assets

1300 · Other Current Assets

1300.3 · Inventory on hand IC store 14,330.95

1300.4 · Cash on hand Bookstore 1,137.50

1300.5 · Cash on hand Treasurer 282.00

1300.6 · PayPal service 5.00

Total 1300 · Other Current Assets 15,755.45

Total Other Current Assets 15,755.45

Total Current Assets 132,757.03

TOTAL ASSETS

\$132,757.03

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2001 · Liabilities

2001.4 · Grant for Mural Interpretive Center 20,000.00

2005 · State Sales Tax payable 135.69

Total 2001 · Liabilities 20,135.69

Total Other Current Liabilities 20,135.69

Total Current Liabilities 20,135.69

Total Liabilities 20,135.69

Equity

3001 · Opening Bal Equity 13,983.57

3010 · Unrestricted (retained earnings) 107,521.28

Net Income -8,883.51

Total Equity 112,621.34

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

4001.1 · Interpretive Ctr, Preserve, Displays 2,820.00

4001.12 · Donations box Boardwalk 4,460.08

4001.13 · Donations Jar Interp Ctr 2,015.00

4001.2 · 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

4001.51 · Photo Contests 620.00

4001.52 · Wet Walks spcl tours etc 1,728.00

4001.53 · Name stones Garden project 474.00

Total 4001.5 · Program Revenue 2,822.00

4003 · Membership revenue

4003.1 · Membership, Other 25.00

4003.2 · Membership, Individual \$20 1,020.00

4003.3 · Membership, Contributing \$50 1,720.00

4003.4 · Membership, Supporting \$100 2,700.00

4003.45 · Membership, Associate \$250 2,000.00

4003.5 · Membership, Sustaining \$500 3,000.00

4003.7 · Patron \$1000 3,000.00

4003 · 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.**

5009.5 · Program Expenses	
5009.51 · Photo contest	112.34
5009.53 · Name Stones Garden Project	809.95
5009.54 · Speakers honoraria	100.00
5009.55 · Wildlife Education	1,540.22
5009.56 · Invasive Plant control	181.24
5009.59 · Other program expenses	1,991.94
5009.5 · Program Expenses – Other	48.00
Total 5009.5 · Program Expenses	4,783.69
5009 · Grants, etc. paid – Other	68.00
Total 5009 · Grants, etc. paid	40,516.48
5016 · Other Expenses	
5016.1 · Permits Taxes Fees	71.25
5016.2 · Office supplies	144.35
5016.3 · Postage	283.92
5016.4 · Printing, shipping	98.58
5016.5 · Insurance (Main org)	1,191.03
5016.6 · Maintenance & Misc	258.97
Total 5016 · Other Expenses	2,048.10
Total 5000 · Expenses	42,564.58
Total Expense	42,564.58
Net Ordinary Income	-8,883.51
 Net Income	 (\$8,883.51)

Membership

Quarterly Update

January	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Renewing	35	28	27	21	22
New	14	4	1	3	3
February					
Renewing	11	6	12	6	8
New	3	1	4	2	3
March					
Renewing	12	14	12	13	6 *
New	4	5	6	4	2 *
1st Quarter					
Renewing	58	48	51	40	36 *
New	21	10	11	9	8 *

** as of 3/20/15

Annual Membership Snapshot

Annual Membership Snapshot	As of 3/24/12	As of 3/24/13	As of 3/9/14	As of 3/20/15
Lifetime	3	3	3	3
Honorary	5	11	13	5
Donor	7	8	8	4
Guest	3	0	8	8
Patron \$1000	4	2	3	5
Sustaining \$500	6	6	6	6
Corporate Sponsor \$500	0	1	0	0
Associate \$250	3	4	4	7
Supporting \$100	37	36	41	45
Contributing \$50	54	59	54	52
Individual \$20	80	76	78	97
Student \$10	4	3	1	0
Inactive 2+ years	4	2	2	n/a
Total Membership	210	211	221	232

** 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*

March – **Ray Judah**, Former Lee County Commissioner, *Protecting Our Waters*.

Photo by Krystal DiNicola

Advocacy

A detailed pencil drawing of a snake with orange and brown scales, coiled around a red-eyed frog in a natural setting. The snake's head is positioned near the frog, and its body curves across the frame. The background shows some foliage and a textured ground surface.

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.

Website

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”**

Board Election – Nominating Committee Report

**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.**

2014 Annual Report

www.sloughpreserve.org



Photo by
Carolyn Babb