




Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



**FRIENDS OF
SIX MILE CYPRESS
SLOUGH PRESERVE**

**ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 23rd, 2022
VIA ZOOM**

Agenda

**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Annual Meeting - March 23rd, 2022
Via Zoom**

Welcome

Sabine Vandenhende, President

Announcements

Annual Report

Sabine Vandenhende, President

Nominating Committee Report

Carolyn Babb, Board Member

Election

General Membership

Introduction of Board of Directors

**Introduction of Rick Bauer, Supervisor Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
*“State of the Slough”***

Board of Directors

- Sabine Vandenhende **President**
- Nancy Olson **Vice President**
- Theresa Roake **Secretary**
- Sara Maliva **Treasurer**
- Carolyn Babb
- Lyn Brown
- Donna Cressman
- Terri Krass
- David Minnick
- Bud Schopp
- Rick Bauer, Lee County Parks and Recreation Liaison

President's Message

The past year, 2021, was a year of change, continuous adaptability, innovation, and celebration.

While some Friends Board roles changed, the Slough staff underwent a complete turnover in personnel. But as always, "the Slough provided"! We could not have asked for better people than Rick Bauer as the Supervisor of the Slough, Adrienne Martin as the Program Specialist, and Damion Rodriguez and Robert Ferrari as Maintenance Specialists. In a short time, the Slough Staff and the Friends Board created an extraordinary relationship, which is key to the Friends' mission and to the Slough's well-being. In addition, our Friends organization provided over \$12,500 in support of the staff and the Slough in 2021.

Last year's public health challenges didn't deter the Friends Board. On the contrary, adaptability led to innovation and new programs. For example, we used virtual platforms to offer the entire education program, organize a successful virtual photo contest ceremony, hold our first meetings of the new "Slough Bookworms" book club, and more.

Furthermore, 2021 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Twenty years of our non-profit organization's accomplishments deserved recognition. As such, the Friends Board organized a successful "Sloughbration," a day-long Community Environmental Education Day that did not go unnoticed. It brought joy to the more than fifty volunteers, who eagerly helped make the event possible. Furthermore, it attracted more than four hundred visitors who enjoyed learning about many facets of the Slough and its residents. But most importantly, it sparked community awareness of the importance of protecting the Slough and wetlands in general.

With the accomplishments of 2021 in mind, the Board of Directors is looking forward to accomplishing other significant projects and establishing new programs in the coming year.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to the Friends members for your continuous support and interest; thank you to the Friends Board Directors for your never-ending devotion; and thank you to the Slough Staff for your cooperation, trust, and dedication. Your support enables the Friends to continue and accomplish our mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting our precious Slough. I also want to honor all previous Friends Board Directors for paving the path we continue to follow.

I hope to see or meet you soon!

Sabine Vandenhende, President

**Camp scholarships
Camp supplies**

**Books for the Cadkin Memorial
Library,
the Slough's research library**

**Rocks added to Rock and Stroll
Garden**

**Photo contest
and first ever Virtual Awards
ceremony**

**Artwork and designs for future
Trail Entrance improvements**

**Slough Bookworms,
the Friends new book club**

**Butterfly garden maintenance
and plantings**

Public Wet Walks

Address Advocacy issues

Newsletters

**Gathering speakers
including:**

**Dr. Jerry Jackson,
Florida Gulf Coast University**

**Jason Dunning ,
NBC-2 Meteorologist**

**Roxanne Taylor,
Natural Areas Coordinator**

**John Cassani,
Calusa Waterkeeper**

**Funding for Recent
Sightings Board**

Friends Corner sales

Website updates

**“Sloughbration”
Educational Outreach Day
To celebrate 20 years of
Friends**

Friends Accomplishments 2021

**Direct Support to the
Slough of over \$12,500**

1,340 hours

=

167.5 workdays

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Bank Accounts

1050 Bank of America Accounts

1050.3 Checking Store 77,210.37

1050.41 Time Deposit CD 8787 10,025.84

1050.42 Time Deposit CD 8826 10,025.31

1050.43 Time Deposit CD 8758 10,026.80

1050.44 Time Deposit CD 0113 25,066.54

1050.45 Time Deposit CD 1023 10,018.03

1050.46 Time Deposit CD 1036 10,018.53

1050.47 Time Deposit CD 1052 10,016.85

1050.48 Time Deposit CD 1065 10,024.18

Total 1050 Bank of America Accounts 172,432.45

Total Bank Accounts \$172,432.45

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2021 (cont'd)

Other Current Assets	
1300 Other Current Assets	
1300.3 Inventory on Hand store	16,998.91
1300.4 Cash on hand bookstore	550.00
Total 1300 Other Current Assets	17,548.91
Total Other Current Assets	\$17,548.91
Total Current Assets	\$189,981.36
TOTAL ASSETS	\$189,981.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3001 Opening Balance Equity	120,660.20
3010 Retained Earnings	53,082.19
Net Income	16,238.97
Total Equity	\$189,981.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$189,981.36
Submitted by Sara Maliva, Treasurer	



Membership

Membership remains strong. **In 2021**, Membership Revenue and Donations totaled over **\$21,000**.

Membership represents hundreds of individuals. In addition to individual memberships, there are family memberships as well as local clubs and organizations who support our mission. If you are not a member, please consider joining us. If you are a member, please consider recommending **Friends to friends**. As a team, we can all help to further our mission of preserving and protecting our beautiful Slough. For more information on membership, please go to our website at:

www.sloughpreserve.org

Submitted by Lyn Brown, Board Member, Membership Chair

Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee of the Friends of the Slough Board seeks to assist in fulfilling the mission of the Board, “to preserve, protect and promote the Slough for future generations.”

This committee seeks to do this by being in ongoing communication with elected officials county wide and responding to those who promote the incursion into and development of the Slough property.

Over the past year, we have been in communication with each of the County Commissioners; members of the Fort Myers City Council whose districts border the Slough boundaries; and representatives of Lee County Parks and Recreation. Through these conversations, we have been assured repeatedly that development within the boundaries of the Slough property is not foreseen or advised.

As the areas within the Six Mile Parkway corridor between Daniels and Colonial continue to see ongoing development, we will continue to be responsive to any ideas or conversations about the possibility of using lands within the Slough boundary.

Submitted by David Minnick, Board Member,
Advocacy Chair



Education

Summer Camp Education Activity assisted by Friends

Camp participation was smaller due to Covid restrictions. However, Friends members participated in activities behind the scenes, including the photography sessions and the wet walks. The Friends also provided \$1,000 in funding for supplies for the activities of the campers.

Camp Scholarships

Summer camp was held but with fewer participants due to COVID restrictions. The Friends provided four scholarships to worthy campers.

Six Reasons Why We Love – Educational feature started for email distribution to membership. This year's topics included: Northern Cardinals, Alligators, Monday Group, Lubber Grasshoppers, Slime Mold, Florida Master Naturalist Program and Cypress Trees. This has been a fun and educational way to connect with the members about common Slough and nature related things in our lives and provide them with little known facts about them. We have solicited participation and topics from members.

Education



Gathering Speakers in 2021

The Friends Gatherings were held via Zoom in 2021. They proved to be successful and well received:

January – **Dr. Jerry Jackson**, Professor Emeritus, FGCU, *Woodpeckers*

February – **Jason Dunning**, NBC-2 Meteorologist, *Southwest Florida Weather, The Good, The Bad and the Ugly*

March – **Roxanne Taylor**, Land Steward, *State of the Slough*

February – **John Cassani**, Calusa Waterkeeper, *Water Quality*

Sloughbration - The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Friends organization was held December 4, 2021. The entire day was devoted to educating and entertaining approximately 450 visitors about the Slough and its importance to all.

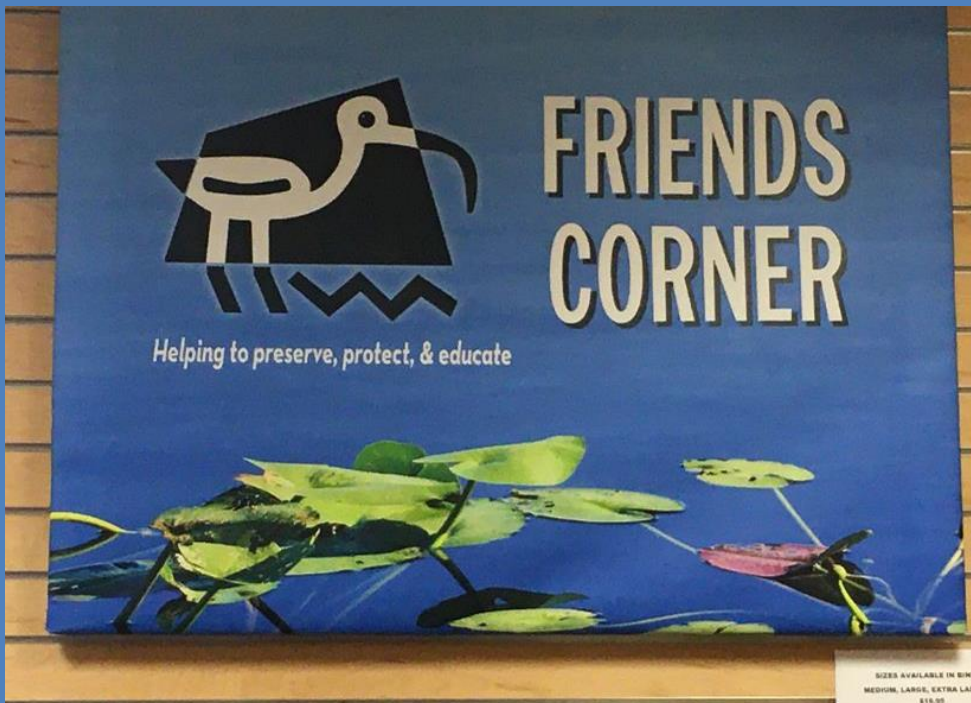
Submitted by Carolyn Babb, Board Member, Education Chair



Friends Corner Nature Store

TOTAL SALES FOR 2021: \$12,633

INVENTORY VALUE: \$17,000



Friends Corner reopened in June 2021 with 23 volunteer workers. To all of the volunteers at the Corner: THANK YOU!!!

**Donna Cressman, Board Member,
Nature Store Manager**

Rock and Stroll Garden

Since last year there have been five new stones added to the Rock and Stroll Garden. The year presented a major challenge in that our long-time stone carver experienced a disabling accident and was unable to work with the large garden stones for over 6 months. In the meantime, two different stone carvers were selected but the quality of their work did not match the other stones in the Garden. Thankfully, our original carver has recovered, and we are very grateful for his creativity, patience and willingness to keep our project growing. Each stone purchased benefits the Educational Programs at the Slough and we appreciate everyone that helped our Garden grow.

I also am especially appreciative of the skilled gardeners who select the beautiful butterfly plants, faithfully water during the dry season and create the atmosphere. Our maintenance staff are always helpful to place the stones and keep the area clean and mulched. This project is truly a collective effort!

Submitted by Teri Krass, Board Member,
Rock and Stroll Chair



Board Election Nominating Committee Report March 23, 2022

The Nominating Committee proposes the election of the following Board Members for a term of two years:

- Nancy Olson, Vice President
- Theresa Roake, Secretary
- Donna Cressman, Board Member

Additional nominations from the Floor may be submitted for consideration at this time. The Board may appoint Directors at any time.



Prepared by Theresa Roake, Secretary