



# CONNECTIONS

SAVE THE DATE!

# SLOUGHBRATION

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Editor: Theresa Roake	



*Allyson, Summer Camp 2021*

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of  
Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve  
Saturday, December 4th, 2021 from 10am-4pm  
Fun SLOUGH-filled activities all day

More details to follow

# PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Fall is one of my favorite seasons of the year. So when I hear people say that there is no fall in South Florida, my first thought is: "You must walk the Slough when the trees around Gator Lake display multiple hues of orange and yellow? It's absolutely gorgeous!"

But, fall offers more than colorful leaves. It's the opportune time to rediscover songs and calls of migratory birds or to encounter a new species. The past few weeks, the Slough has welcomed several beauties like the Northern Parula, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Just to name a few. Thus, the fall is a beautiful time to wander in the Slough and admire migratory birds that are here to stay for the winter or are making a stopover before flying farther south. It's also an excellent time to welcome our "snowbird" friends back.

In addition, the Slough is home to two momma alligators who each care for a pod of about fifteen hatchlings. One of our alligators who is missing a forelimb, whom many believed to be a male, is one of the moms and is taking her role as a mom to heart. So, this year's fall is a prime time to come and sharpen your senses to detect adorable baby alligator chirps.

Come and see what "you" may discover at the Slough this fall. *Sabine Vandenhende*

## WELCOME TO THE SLOUGH

The wait is  
finally over!

We are pleased to  
announce the birth of  
our baby alligators:

Born: September 2021

Mothers: 2

Number: 30+

Length: 6-9 inches

Weight: 1-2 oz

Source: My FWC



Photo by Deb Wedeking



Full Moon at the Slough

Photo by Vincent Abbatiello

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## FULL MOON RISING

BY THERESA ROAKE

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Whenever I think of Halloween, the image that comes to mind is the oh so spectacular Hunter's Moon. Do you remember trick or treating as a child by moonlight? Sometimes the moon was shaded by clouds to spooky effect and sometimes it was bright and clear like the moon that watches over Linus in "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." Another name for October's full moon is Blood Moon, which is even more apt for Halloween. November brings the Beaver Moon or Give Thanks Moon.

Native Americans have used the moon cycles to keep track of seasons for centuries. Distinct names were given to moons of each month to signify events occurring in the natural world. As a result, tribes from different parts of the country may have different names for a particular full moon. A beautiful story about the full moon is "*Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back*" by Joseph Bruhac and Jonathan London (available in Friends' Corner). There are thirteen full moons in a year and thirteen scutes on a turtle's back. Many native peoples believe turtles are sacred animals representing Mother Earth.

The Fall brings spectacular full moons to Southwest Florida. Skies begin to clear with the first of our "cold" fronts allowing them to act as beacons in the night. Go out and see for yourself. In our neck of the woods, our Fall **Full Moonrise is at 7:12 pm on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 7:57 pm on November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Take a Full Moon walk in your neighborhood or a nearby natural place and open your senses to the night.

# NEW PROGRAM SPECIALIST JOINS SLOUGH FAMILY

By Carolyn Babb

Adrienne Martin has joined the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve staff as the new Program Specialist. Adrienne comes to the Slough from the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. She was the Outreach Ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed at the Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuges. The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge is part of the United States National Wildlife Refuge System, found in southwestern Florida, twenty miles east of Naples, in the upper segment of the Fakahatchee Strand of the Big Cypress Swamp.

Adrienne has bachelor's degrees in history and political science from Northern Arizona University. She also worked for AmeriCorps before working and volunteering at animal sanctuaries in Florida, Tennessee, and Arizona. Her credentials include certification as an environmental educator with Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. She has climate change training with Climate Reality, former vice-president Al Gore's organization and is a certified wildland fire fighter.



**Adrienne at Cochran Lake,  
Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge**

Adrienne is most at home and comfortable working in a natural space like the Slough. Like most people, she is amazed at this slash of green in the urban area of Fort Myers. She feels this sanctuary for wildlife makes one forget that you are in the middle of a city. She also enjoys working with children and seeing that "Ah Ha" moment happen when they see and learn something new.

Her earlier experiences include leading tours and school groups on guided hikes and presentations to the public including camps and school groups. She has represented the various organizations at local events and festivals. Adrienne has also created Interpretive materials for organizations. Her goals and plans include exhibits and presentations, including a panther presentation. (One of her biggest obsessions is the big cats.) Ideas for the activities include more interactive exhibits for the visitors. Her immediate goal is to reinstate activities such as guided walks by volunteers at the Slough to pre-COVID levels. She is already impressed at the level of commitment of the volunteers at the Slough. She often uses the word "dedicated" when talking about the volunteers' level of activity. She plans to welcome and get to know all the volunteers as they are comfortable returning to their volunteer roles at the Slough.

Adrienne's time away from Slough work includes volunteer work in fishery research by tagging juvenile sharks in the Ten Thousand Islands for the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. She also volunteers with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation aiding with surveys for horseshoe crabs in Lee County. She enjoys kayaking, hiking and exploring the outdoors. She is a painter and a cat mom to Calypso.

Adrienne has an open-door policy with a bowl of candy on her desk. Please join the Friends in a warm welcome to Adrienne. We hope she is as happy as we that she has found a new place to teach and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve.

# ADRIENNE AT WORK

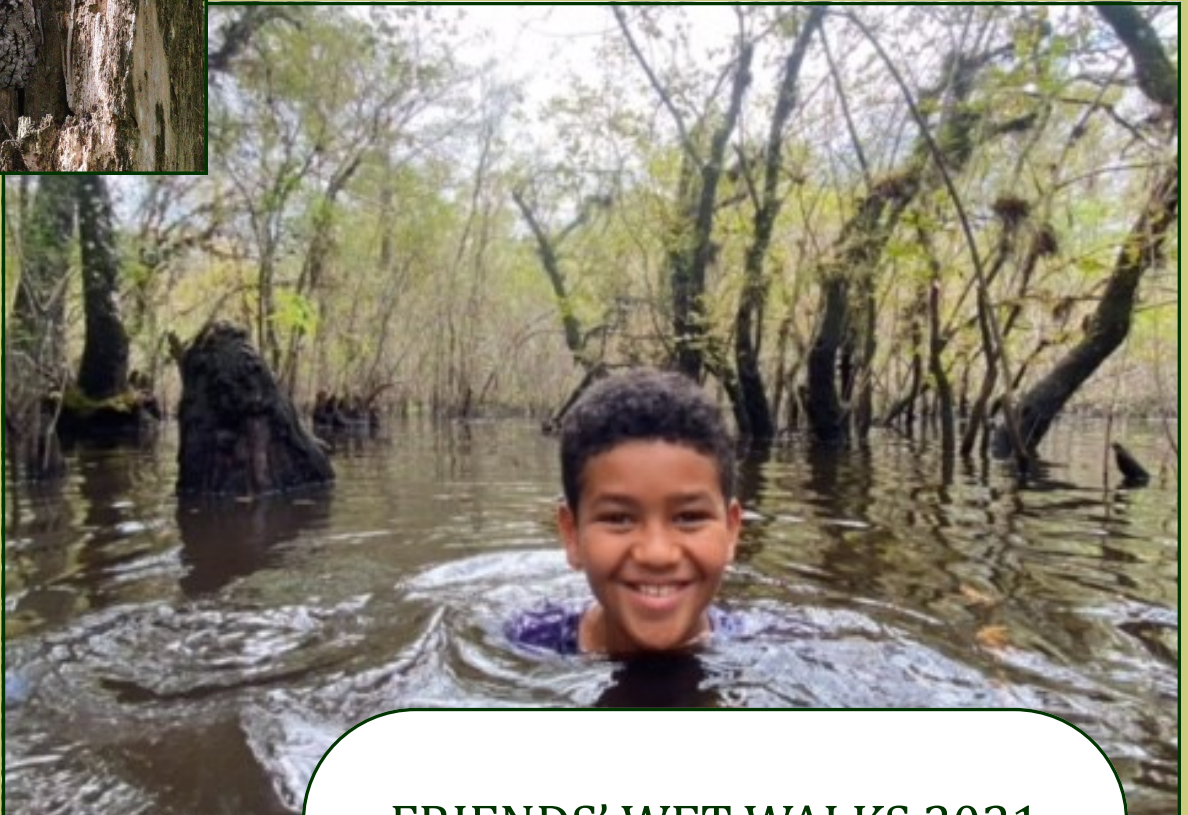
Adrienne and baby sea turtles at the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. All activities conducted under proper permit from FWC.

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Adrienne tagging juvenile sharks at the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. All activities conducted under proper permit from FWC.

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## FRIENDS' WET WALKS 2021

### A Photographic Journey Through the Slough

by Sabine Vandenhende

Photos by Mekki Kabbadj, Charles O'Connor & Sabine Vandenhende







# DID YOU KNOW?

Florida Fall Foliage

By Theresa Roake

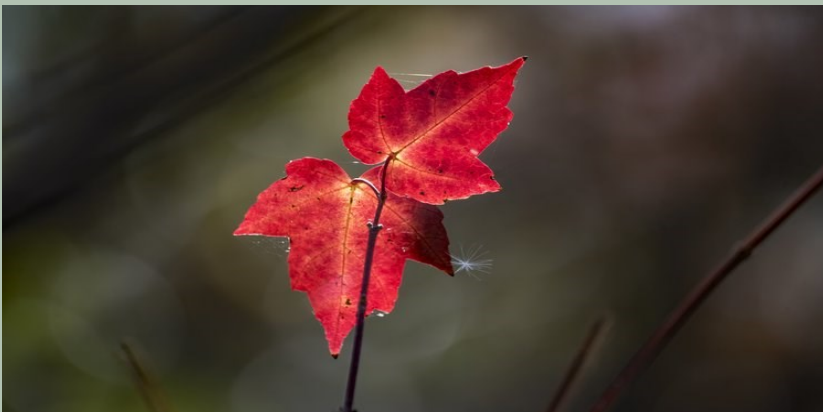
**Did you know** that a nickname for the sweet gum tree's spiky fruit is "gumball." There is anecdotal evidence among gardeners that the practice of using the dried fruits as mulch around plants keeps slugs and other critters away.



Sweet Gum Fall Foliage and "Gumball"

Photo By Edge of the Woods Native Plants

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Red Maple Leaf

Photo by Michele Kalka

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**Did you know** that red maple trees actually prefer wetlands? One of their nicknames is "swamp maple".

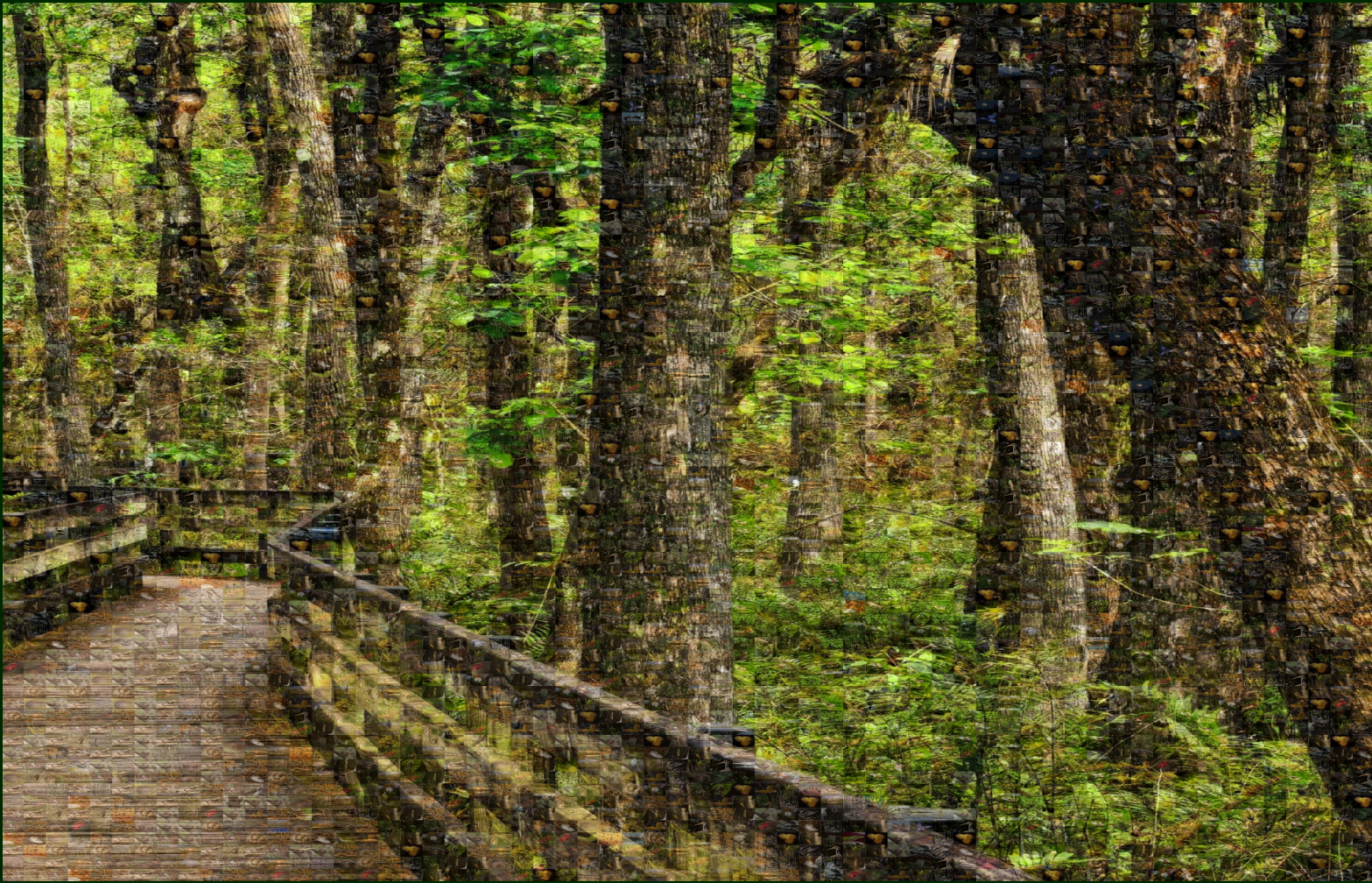
**Did you know** that bald cypress trees are one of the few deciduous conifers in the world? These trees form cones and sprout needles like conifer trees, but they also change colors in the fall and lose their needles every year.



Bald Cypress Fall Colors

Photo by Virginia Bayne

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## MURAL INSPIRES...

By Vincent J. Tomeo

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Trunks, wood twine binds.  
Hear a silent breeze whisper,  
as brilliant green leaves dress, grace towers.  
Walk a gorgeous plank trail into an enchanted forest.  
Here silence speaks.  
Stunning light plays tricks,  
as shadows dance between knots and snarls.  
Nature sings in this deep sleepless mire, bayou.  
Strolling this puzzle painting awakes one's very soul.

*Editor's Note: We thank Mr. Tomeo for sharing his beautiful poem with our membership. The author was inspired by our mosaic mural unveiled a short time before the Interpretive Center closed in March, 2020. Now that the building is open we invite all of you to visit and be inspired.*

## MEMBERSHIP

For more information on joining or renewing go to our website at [www.sloughpreserve.org](http://www.sloughpreserve.org).

### Renewing Members. Thank you for your continued support.

Stasia Arcarese  
Gretchen Barsness  
Karen Bledsoe  
Lyn Brown  
Sharon & Avery Dimmig  
Ruth King Fotovat  
Linda & Doug Garde  
Anne Gross  
Hope & Billy Holleran  
Annisa Karim  
Richard Martinez  
Honey & Harry Phillips  
Elizabeth Williams

### Welcome New Members.

Greg Boester  
Keiko Ferrari  
Sherry Fisher  
Tori Gray  
Shirley & Tom Koester  
Sandra Krupp  
Stacy Moody  
Andrea Perisho  
Jessi Smith  
Amber Streath  
Zachary Watson  
Paul Weiss

### Memorial Donations Gratefully Received.

Alouise Skehan Pyle  
in memory of Bill Sanders

Greg Chesmore  
in memory of Frank Steinberg

### Board of Directors

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