



CONNECTIONS

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Editor: Theresa Roake	

LIVE: LAST GATHERING OF THE 2022 SEASON



We are excited to announce that our last Gathering of the 2022 season will be live at the Slough. The program topic is **Birds of the Slough** and will take place on **Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m.** Our speaker will be **Dr. Jose Padilla-Lopez**, a Lee County pediatrician and ardent birder. He has traveled to Europe, Asia, Africa, and throughout the Americas in search of birds. He is a member of the Lee County Bird Patrol and leads bird walks for the public at the Slough as well as other Lee County properties. He will be talking about the birds of the Slough and sharing some of his experiences in birding around the world.

As we return to live gatherings, there will be a **limited number of seats in person**. We are also happy to announce that you have a second option due to recently purchased technology. If you prefer to view the presentation live from your living room, or attendance at the Slough has reached its limit, you will be able to attend via ZOOM. This will be our first hybrid presentation and we hope to continue to use this tool to reach more members. Many of you have expressed an interest in returning to live programs and many have enjoyed not having to leave the house and enjoy streaming programs. In addition, we have members who live quite a distance and are unable to attend in person. We think this hybrid format could be a win-win for all members. We have been practicing for the big day but please bear with us if we have a couple of hiccups along the way.

To register for a seat at the **Slough**, please email:

friendsofsixmilesloough@gmail.com.

You will receive an email confirming your registration.

To register for the **ZOOM** presentation, please click on the link below:

When: Apr 27, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcquGoqzoqGtw1n8vNkSUA50c_fNKq9yOK

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Dear Friends,

Isn't Spring one of the most beautiful times to stroll through the Slough? Cypress trees slowly fill the canopy with their soft, lush green needles while blue flag irises adorn the Slough's ground floor. Birds display their stunning breeding plumage and vibrant colors. An array of migrating birds regularly appears to the joy of the enthusiastic birders. At times, a momma otter surprises visitors by showing off her three adorable pups. Ten baby alligators, a little bigger than a dollar bill, often bask or crawl on a log at Wood Duck Pond while mom keeps an eye from a distance. Wood ducks regularly float behind the Grandmother tree to move from one pond to another. A raccoon feasts on a ribbon snake. It is not surprising that visitors leave the Slough with a smile, a story to tell, or astonishing photographs of the Slough's beauty.

While nature is pretty active, so are the Friends. We offer monthly educational presentations and are excited to soon introduce the first hybrid presentation, i.e., Zoom and in-person simultaneously. We recognized the 2022 photo contest finalists for their amazing images at an outdoor reception. Furthermore, we kicked off our field trip program with a guided walk at Six Mile Cypress Preserve North. Finally, the Slough Book Worms continue with interesting reads which spark exciting discussions.

Come and join us for a presentation, on a field trip, or at the book club. But, most importantly, enjoy the Slough's magical spring season before the sweltering summer heat appears or before you leave for a northern destination.

See you soon!
Good travels!

Sabine



FRIENDS FIELD TRIPS INSPIRE

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve recently hosted its first field trip after a hiatus of a few years. We toured Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North with Rick Bauer, Slough Supervisor and Land Steward. We learned how ecosystems vary throughout the Slough and even identified new species to add to the Slough's Plant and Wildlife lists.

The next field trip is a Wildflower Walk at CREW's Marsh trails on Wednesday, April 20th. Registration is now closed for this field trip.

On May 14th, we will be hosting a "dry walk" at the Slough. Have you been on a wet walk? Have you ever wondered what's under the water as you stand in the cathedral of cypress trees? We will be heading out on the wet walk trail before the summer rains begin, providing a unique opportunity to see what lies beneath the water. To register for the "dry walk", please email donstohler@comcast.net. You will receive a confirmation email with further details. We are planning more field trips for 2022 and will keep you posted.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE WETLANDS WITH FGCU

By Carolyn Babb



Carolyn, Sabine and Rick ready to share with visitors

Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve participated in the 25th anniversary celebration of Florida Gulf Coast University. Sabine Vandenhende, Carolyn Babb of the Friends, and Rick Bauer, Supervisor of the Slough, welcomed over two hundred attendees at the celebration.

The theme of the Friends and Lee County's joint exhibit was conservation and preservation of wetlands and how individuals can help with that effort. Participants were asked to commit to activities such as using water sparingly, to reuse, reduce and repurpose or even volunteer in a conservation effort. Top vote for efforts in conservation was to use water sparingly. Ideas from participants for additional efforts in protecting wetlands included planting native plants, composting, reducing plastic use and disposing of medicines correctly.

This event was a wonderful educational outreach opportunity for the Friends and Lee County Parks and Recreation.

Thank you to the FGCU Water School for the invitation.



Carolyn and Rick interact with attendees



Young visitor enjoying the Slough's puppets



Carolyn explains Slough watershed

FRIENDS PHOTO CONTEST 2022

BY SABINE VANDENHENDE

We had yet another successful photo contest, with even more amazing pictures than last year. This year's competition attracted 83 participants who competed in five categories. This year, our youngest finalists were 10, 11 and 13 years old. Judges Jason Boeckman, Karen Lund, Carol Matthai and Dr. Charles O' Connor provided complimentary feedback on the winning pictures during an outdoor ceremony at the Slough.

We wish to thank retiring judge Geoff Coe for 12 great years.



Judge Charles O'Connor
Announces Youth winners



Sabine Vandenhende
Explains winning photo



Winners & Judges

To see more photos of the reception click [here](#).



Pat Lonergan
Explains winning photo



Judge Jason Boeckman
Announces Animal winners

ANIMALS



1st Place
Mike Krause



2nd Place
Jeremy Greenfield



3rd Place
Pat Lonergan



Honorable Mention
Stephen Royal



Honorable Mention
Jeremy Greenfield



Honorable Mention
Lori Starr

BIRDS



1st Place
Bill Baburchak



2nd Place
Cathy Webb



3rd Place
Thomas Lonergan



Honorable Mention
Dennis Church



Honorable Mention
Pat Lonergan



Honorable Mention
Thomas Lonergan

PLANTS & LANDSCAPES



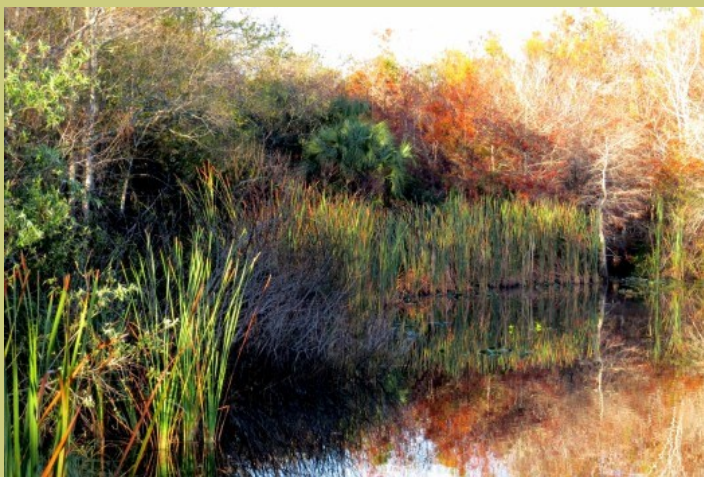
1st Place
Linda Normoyle



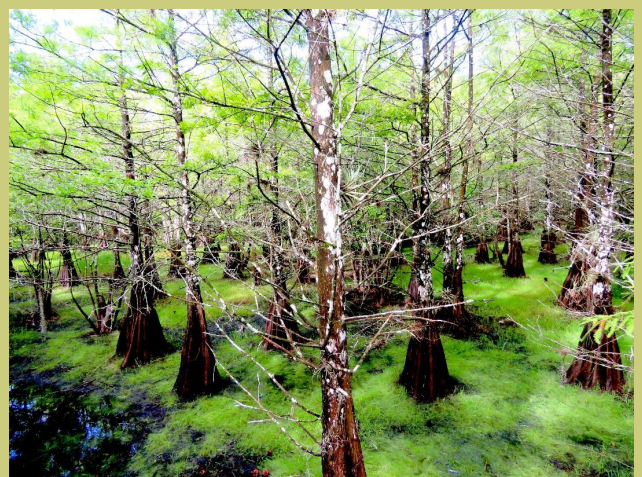
2nd Place
Rachel Campbell



3rd Place
Kathleen Ornes



Honorable Mention
Jemetta Hunt



Honorable Mention
Dan Bacalzo

YOUTH



1st Place
Jacob Grazioso



2nd Place
Kaya Hammond



3rd Place
Landon Tinklepaugh



Honorable Mention
Jacob Grazioso

STAFF



1st Place
Sara Maliva



2nd Place
Sabine Vandenhende



3rd Place
Sabine Vandenhende



Honorable Mention
Carolyn Babb

Honorable Mention
Carolyn Babb



DID YOU KNOW?

Spring

By Theresa Roake

Did you know that the iris takes its name from the Greek word for a rainbow, which is also the name for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, Iris.?



Blue Flag Iris in bloom
Photo By Heidi Wise



Spring Foliage on Bald Cypress
Photo By Diane Deming

Did you know that the bright green spring foliage of our bald cypress is very soft and has the texture of feathers? We encourage you to reach out and touch it for yourself.

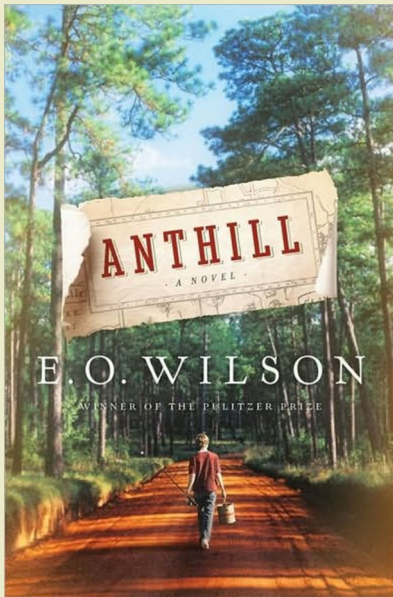
Did you know that breeding adult great blue herons have **long, dark plumes on the head, neck and back**. Many of our wading birds have this plumage in a variety of colors during the Spring breeding season.



Great Blue Heron in Breeding Plumage
Photo by Jonathan Fredin

FRIENDS' BOOK CLUB NEWS

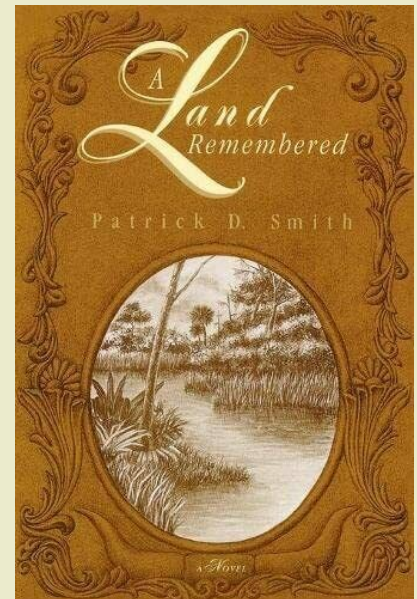
Slough Bookworms dig deep into titles.



June's book



Author Jeanne Meeks Speaks



August's book

Earlier this month author Jeanne Meeks joined us to discuss her book *Gator Bait*, a fictional murder mystery which takes place at Hammock Preserve (aka the Slough). It was a fun read. We enjoyed learning how she goes about researching and writing her books. We were excited to learn that one of the characters was based on Friends member Kelly Bishop who was there for the discussion. Jeanne was also gracious enough to autograph our books.

On Monday, June 6th, we will be discussing New York Times Bestseller *Anthill* by E.O. Wilson, a much beloved naturalist. *Anthill* is the story of Raff Cody, a boy who grows up determined to save the world from its most savage ecological predator: man himself.

On Monday, August 1st, it's time for *A Land Remembered* by Patrick Smith. In this best-selling novel, Patrick Smith tells the story of three generations of the MacIveys, a Florida family who battle the hardships of the frontier to rise from a dirt-poor Cracker life to the wealth and standing of real estate tycoons.

Both June and August meetings will be via ZOOM or a hybrid in-person and ZOOM. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer.

Days to celebrate Nature

April 22nd, Earth Day

May 17th, Endangered Species Day

May 23rd, World Turtle Day

May 29th National Alligator Day

June 15th Nature Photography Day



MEMBERSHIP

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

Renewing Members. Thank you for your continued support.

Kristine & Steven Bauer
Brenda Berg
Ann Bishop
Bill Black
Bromeliad Society
Ian Comly
Jan & Dave Cornell
Donna Cressman & George Boyer
Joann Davis
Bill Doolin
Gayle & Paul Edwards
Lance Ford
Jan Grier
The Griffes
Jean Landon
Nancy Laposta & Michael Frazier
Lynda Leach
Maddy & Tom Mahoney
Sara & Bob Maliva
CC Mattingly
Richard Martinez
Maggie & David Minnick
Michael Moran
Mary Murray
Nancy Olson & Mike Talbert
San-Cap Audubon
Barbara & Ben Shearer
Gayle Sheets
Neil Scheffler
Lory & Gary Starr
Susan & Steve Tutko
Sabine Vandenhende & Lee Rosenbaum
Linda Varga
Vi Weis

Donations gratefully received.

Crumpacker Memorial Fund
Michelle & Mike Rohan
Donations in memory of:
Barbara Van Antwerp

Welcome New Members.

Joseph Archazki
Marlou Bezemus
Charlotte & Gerry Canelli
Kati Heysinger
Carole Kerns
Jessica Lampron
Marty Linnemeyer
Debra Mangopoulos
Adrienne Martin
Jennifer & Robert Moll
Greg Podczaski
Anne Rapp
Natalie Rosamund
Lynn Schope
Barry Slaughenhaupt
Benjamin West

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