



CONNECTIONS

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Editor: Theresa Roake

CUE THE VIVALDI!

FOUR SEASONS DISPLAY UNVEILED



Thanks to our generous members and donors, a new educational display was recently installed in the shelter located at the entrance to the Boardwalk. The display, entitled "Seasons of a Cypress Slough," highlights the changes throughout the year at the Slough. Many visitors are surprised to learn that we experience all four seasons in Florida. In the fall, our eponymous bald cypress change color. Birds are migrating south and the rains begin to slow. In winter, our deciduous trees are bare and visitors are able to spot wildlife. Water levels begin to drop steadily making it easier for wildlife to feed. Spring brings the blue flag iris and nesting birds. Water levels are at the lowest making it easy to see wildlife tracks in the mud. Summer provides shade canopy as the trees become full and the cicadas provide a steady soundtrack.

We hope you get a chance to check out the new display soon. Keep an eye out for more improvements at the trailhead.

Friends of Six Mile Cypress
Slough Preserve
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Fort Myers, FL 33966
www.sloughpreserve.org

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Dear Friends,

The Slough may seem dormant in the summer. However, while the wildlife sightings may be scarce, it's an opportune time to admire little elements of nature. For example, frogs become extremely vocal after rainfall. Not only may you hear cicadas sing almost all day, but you may also find their alien-looking exoskeleton on a tree trunk. Or you can observe dragonflies working hard at catching pesky mosquitoes while showing off their brightly colored bodies, lacy wings, and acrobatic flight patterns. With some luck, you'll spot a diligent mom alligator guarding her nest. You may also notice how lichen beautifully pops against dark wet tree bark. Essentially, summer at the Slough is when Slough staff and a group of dedicated volunteers teach children about the Slough, its beauty, and its importance. The Friends are proud to sponsor this fantastic Slough Summer Camp program by funding the Summer Camp Counselor position, providing the camp supplies, and granting scholarships. In accomplishing our mission, nothing is more rewarding than to spark a child's interest in nature.

In addition, every summer, the Friends organization offers Friends members and the community the opportunity to walk off the boardwalk and discover the heart of the Slough. For this summer's wet walk season, we are excited about offering two special themed wet walks along with the regular wet walks. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, I wish you a wonderful summer and hope to see you on the boardwalk or on a wet walk.

The Friends Board and I greatly appreciate your support

Sabine

SLOUGH BOOKWORMS NEWS

Slough Bookworms, the Friends' book club, celebrated its one year anniversary in June with our discussion on naturalist E.O. Wilson's novel *Anthill*. We've explored a variety of topics over the past year including stories of old Florida, new ways of looking at birds, and orchid thieves. We read a murder mystery that took place in the Slough and the author joined us for the discussion. We meet on the first Monday in February, April, June, August, October and December. We are looking forward to another year of good books and conversation.

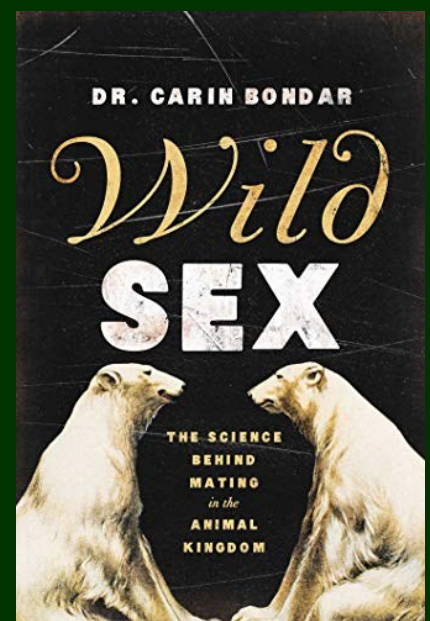
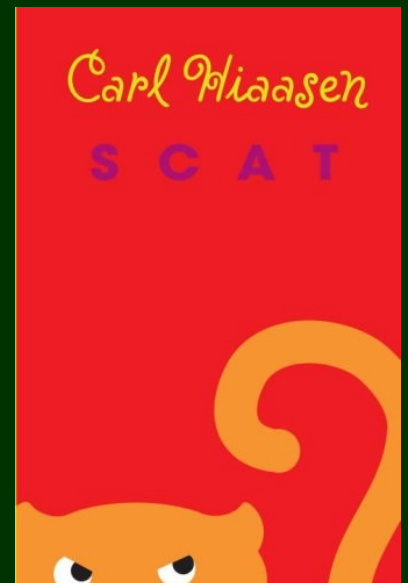
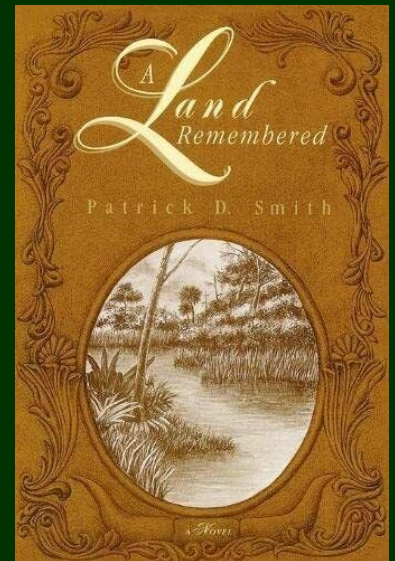
On August 1st at 2 pm, we will be discussing *A Land Remembered* * by Patrick Smith via Zoom. In this best-selling novel, Patrick Smith tells the story of three generations of the MacIveys, a Florida family, who battle the hardships of the frontier to rise from a dirt-poor Cracker life to the wealth and standing of real estate tycoons. For your Zoom registration, [click here](#).

October features Carl Hiaassen's *Scat**. This YA novel takes us deep into the Everglades with an eccentric eco-avenger, a ticked-off panther and two kids on a mission to find their missing teacher. Florida—where the animals are wild and the people are wilder. Be on the lookout for your Zoom invitation.

December brings an eye-catching title for discussion on the back deck of the Interpretive Center. It's *Wild Sex* by Dr. Carin Bondar. She explores the science behind mating in the animal kingdom. Birds do it, bees do it— every member of the animal kingdom does it, from fruit flies to blue whales. The mating habits of our animal cousins are fiendishly difficult, infinitely varied, often violent and absolutely fascinating.

We hope you can join us for one or all of our discussions. If not, we hope you're inspired to read them on your own.

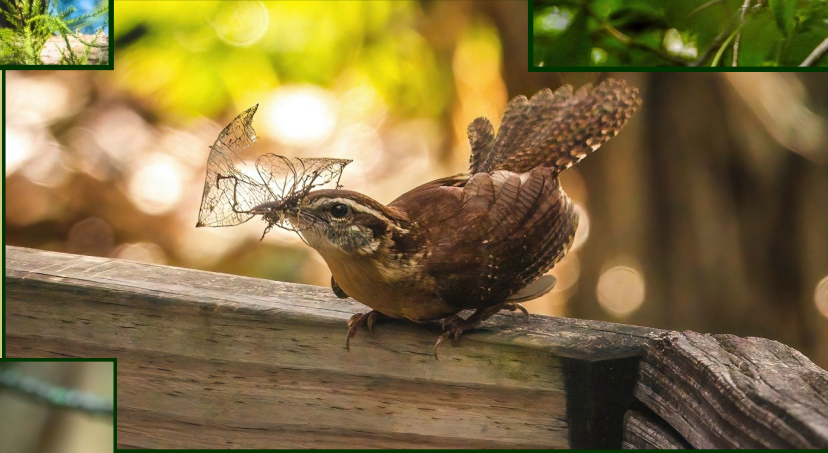
*Available in Friends Corner, our nature store.



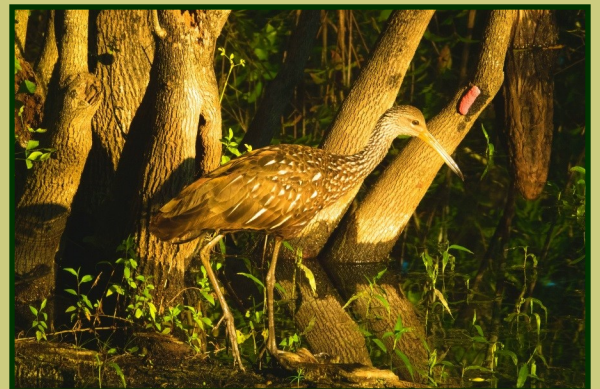


SLOUGH SIGHTINGS
PHOTOS BY SARA MALIVA





MORE SLOUGH SIGHTINGS
PHOTOS BY SARA MALIVA



Celebrating Six Reasons We Love...



Last year we started a new feature for Friends members. On the sixth of each month we send out six reasons why we love something at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. To celebrate the first year, here are six trivia questions to tease your memory about the past year's subjects. (Answers page 8)

1. What bird does not molt its beautiful red plumage?

- A. Scarlet Tanager
- B. Northern Cardinal
- C. American Redstart

2. What reptile at the Slough is a good mom?

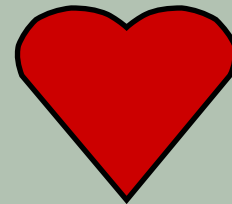
- A. Red-bellied Turtle
- B. Yellow Rat Snake
- C. American Alligator



Photo by Chuck Pavlick

3. What are neither plants, nor animals, nor fungi, nor bacteria, nor viruses-they are unique.

- A. Slime Molds
- B. Alien from another planet
- C. Latest model of electric vehicle



4. What is the Florida State butterfly?

- A. Monarch
- B. Zebra Swallowtail
- C. Zebra Longwing

5. What tree at the Slough has needles that remain soft and feathery all summer long?

- A. Red Maple
- B. Bald Cypress
- C. American Elm

6. What bird at the Slough is known as the Florida chicken?

- A. White Ibis
- B. Little Blue Heron
- C. Limpkin



Photo by Jose Padilla-Lopez

Friends Paddle at Bunche Beach

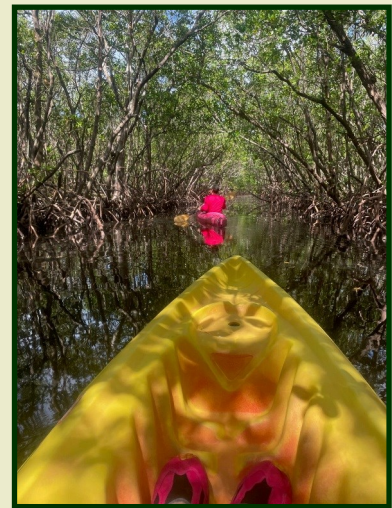


Celebrating a Great Paddle



Up a Creek with a Paddle

Earlier this month, Friends paddled at Bunch Beach to learn more about the preserve's history as well as the plants and animals that live in this estuarine environment. Here are a few photos of the day. To see more photos from this adventure, please [click here](#).



Mangrove Tunnel

Wet Walk Dates Coming Soon

Keep your eyes open for an email with wet walk dates for this season. Friends members enjoy early registration.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Welcome New Members.

Susan Beavers
Judith Davis
Nancy O'Brien
Sherry Patterson
Jackie & Steve Parker
Sue Stevens
Lynda Vilanova
Kathryn Zunich

Renewing Members. Thank you for your continued support.

Stasia Arcarese
Lyn Brown
Peggy Erickson
Christine Grannis
Hope & Billy Holleran
Virginia & Charles Huether
Matt McNeill
Nancy & Jeff Montgomery
Cynthia & Peter Ochsner
Toni & Tom Olsen
Judy & David Schele
Jean & Bill Scholz
Peter Sidell

Donations gratefully received.

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Lisa Silva
Marilyn Strauss

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Six Reasons Trivia Answers

1. B. Northern Cardinal
2. C. American Alligator
3. A. Slime Molds
4. C. Zebra Longwing
5. B. Bald Cypress
6. A. White Ibis