



FRIENDS OF BAREFOOT BEACH PRESERVE

November 2009

FIRST A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN THE DUES FOR THE YEAR ! This year in particular your support with your dues is very important to ensure the programs continue uninterrupted.

If you haven't, now would be a good time to fill out the attached membership form and send it with your \$30.00 membership to Friends of Barefoot Beach Preserve PO Box 564, Bonita Springs, 34133

DATES TO REMEMBER AND SAVE

Saturday December 5, 9:00 am help clean the blinds and cabinet at the learning center then visit over coffee and donut holes and see what else needs doing. All are welcome! Come to do a small job while you visit with your friends in The Friends. Wear your volunteer shirt or get one that day. Be sure to wear your name tag or make one to help the new folks with names.

Monday December 7, 10 am Learning Center opens with docents

Saturday December 12, 10:00 First Lecture-see schedule on back

Friday January 22, 2010 Docent Lunch at Barefoot Club house

Friday March 5, 2010 luncheon, membership meeting Imperial Golf Course

If you are thinking about a special gift for someone, consider a brick in our path and a separate one with the Friends Logo for a doorstep. The next installation will be mid to late January.

Come to the preserve; stop in at the Learning Center; see how you can become involved whether it is by supporting our lecture series with your attendance or learning about the park and becoming a docent, weeding in the gardens, learning how to spot plants that need trimming or carrying a bag to the beach and picking up the bits and pieces that escape the trash bin. We would like some fresh voices to continue the enthusiasm of the last eighteen years and ensure the preservation of the Preserve. Invite a friend to come with you on the 5th or to the lectures. Please let us know if you would like to be more actively involved in the decisions and activities of the organization. We welcome you.

NOMINATIONS. Recommendations for officers are solicited from the members of the Friends in the fall newsletter. . Please contact Jan Bachrach or Tom Crowe if you are interested in serving on the board or heading a committee .Margaret Winn

A new campaign this summer and fall has concentrated on protecting the large population of ***gopher tortoise*** living in the preserve. You will see red flags around the

park and preserve marking the location of a tortoise burrow. It is hoped that funding will become available to permanently mark a section of the burrows as a study area. A **change in parking patterns** has been made necessary by state mandate to protect the burrows on the East side of the road in the park. You will see the areas marked off with rope and posts. This was done by a large group of volunteers from Ave Maria Law School this summer working with park maintenance personnel as supervisors.

Bob and Bobbe Hickman devoted a good deal of the summer to repairing, staining and fixing up the learning center with the help of some student volunteers. They were able to repaint, reconfigure in some cases, all of the learning center cabinets. Please give a big thank you to *Mr. Jim Brunco of Quality Cabinets and Counters Inc.* for his donation of an entire sheet of new Formica for the counter tops.

Thank you also to *the Club at Barefoot Beach* for the donation of the four blue umbrellas for the picnic tables.

Bob also built a new storage bench providing seating for lecture goers that also conceals and protects the supply of life jackets and cushions used for the canoe trips.

Two of the display cabinets have been redesigned to hold trays for display boards and trays of shells and mollusks as they become more frequent to the beach. The DVD player remained in the learning center all summer and was used by rangers and home schooling mothers to enrich the visits to the preserve.

After much research and careful planning, Collier County has installed two remote *recycling toilets* that enable beach goers to utilize the south end of the preserve and the third parking lot knowing that a permanent toilet is available in the parking lot and another is available on the Saylor trail close to the large educational chickee.

The Saylor trail is in great shape thanks to energetic work by our trail crew. A loop trail has been rough cut connecting to the Estuary trail; thus providing a great opportunity to view all the habitats in the preserve. This loop was also necessitated by the erosion you will see at the end of the preserve at Wiggins Pass.

Check out our new *protected bulletin board with its acrylic cover*, thanks to our handy helpers Virgil Brockman and Bob Hickman. See the new *Sightings board* on the front of the learning center. Pop one of the great DVD programs from FGCU in the player.....

Open the bookcase and enjoy the new books donated by Charlotte Katz from Milt's library. He is missed and will be remembered by the reference help he left behind, Audubon Field Guides To Birds, wildlife and Shells. We will also miss Udaya(Mike) Dash, Ira Dash, our Past President's husband who died in October. Both men will be honored with bricks in front of the learning center. Read the *Nature Notes* from Sharon Truluck which are also available on our website www.fobbp.org

This season will see the purchase of a *power point projector* to ensure our ability to attract top speakers to the series.

We will continue to fund the *bus transportation for elementary schools* to send elementary school children to the preserve for programs with Nancy Olson and Cynthia Piper.

The Friends are actively participating, with the rangers in the *FGCU colloquium and volunteer program* this season again with young people contributing at least ten hours each to pick up trash, do gopher patrol, hole filling etc activities.

The interaction of our docent volunteers with the public in the learning center and on the beach and trails are intended to enhance the experience of park visitors; assist the ranger staff in a meaningful way and provide a satisfying volunteering experience for our members.

Our *lectures* presented during season from mid December to mid April by noted speakers and local authorities on issues affecting the park and estuary are totally funded by dues and donations; there is no charge to the public other than entry to the park itself.

2009-2010 lecture schedule

10:00A.M. Learning Center Barefoot Beach		<u>2010</u>	
Preserve		February 13	Shells of Barefoot
Friends of Barefoot Beach Preserve.org			Jan Bachrach
		February 20	Bird Migration*
<u>2009</u>			Jerry Jackson, Ph.D
December 12	Plants of Barefoot Preserve*	February 27	Master Naturalist Program*
	Ranger Mauricio Araquistain		Martin Main, Ph.D
		March 6	Everglade's Wildlife*
			Ian Bartosek
December 19	Native Plants and Human Use*	March 13	Seahorses*
	Byron Stout		Gary Pettit, Ph.D*
		March 20	Terrapins*
			Phil Allman, Ph.D
December 26	Gimble Gopher Tortoise Story	March 27	Reptiles of Florida*
	Kay Thorpe Bannon*		Mary Toro
		April 3	Frogs of SW Florida*
<u>2010</u>			Melinda Schuman*
January 2	Wildlife Rehab Center*		
	Joanna F Vaught*	April 10	Hurricanes
			Edwin Everham, Ph.D*
January 9	Naples Zoo*		
	David Tetzloff*		www.fobbp.org

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