



The Ghost Writer

MAY 2015

NEWSLETTER of the Friends of Fakahatchee, "Home of the Ghost Orchid"

EVENTS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!!!

for dates & costs, see
www.orchidswamp.org
and select Tours & Events

GHOST RIDER TRAM TOUR

will resume in the fall

MOONLIGHT TRAM TOUR

will resume in the fall

TRAM TOUR & WET WALK

will resume in the fall

BIOLOGIST'S SWAMP WALK

will resume in the fall

BOARDWALK AFTER DARK

will resume in the fall

ISLAND CRUISE

will resume in the fall

FOF BOARD MEETING

Sunday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.
Ranger Station, Copeland

FOF COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2015)

Boardwalk Vision – Tom Maish
Finance – Ken Shapiro
Boardwalk Fundraising – Tom Maish
Governance – Ted DeGroot
Membership – Jinny Ball
Public Relations, etc – Bruce Bunch
Tours/Education, etc – Patrick Higgins
Resource Management – Don Leonard
Events – vacant

If you would like to help out, please
phone Francine at (239) 495-6744.



**Groundbreaking for New Boardwalk Parking Area
Scheduled for January 2016**

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 ...



Over 60 people attended the Annual Members' Dinner on April 12 when Howard Lubel received the coveted Mel Finn award. See the President's Report on page 4 and Panther Talk article on page 5.

This is the last newsletter until the fall ... unless we have something extraordinary to report. **HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!**

Visit www.orchidswamp.org for events, newsletters, glorious photos, and more ...

M.O.ZONE - Seen Around the Strand

On 3/23/15, Mike Owen, Park Biologist, observed 4 **River Otters** (2 adults and 2 juveniles) crossing East Main from north to south. On 3/27/15, Dee and Don Leonard, volunteers, observed a medium-sized adult **Virginia Opossum**, on Janes Scenic Drive (JSD). On 3/29/15, around 8AM, 3 visitors reported seeing a young **Florida Panther** on West Main. On 3/31/15, Donna Glann-Smythe, volunteer, observed 3 adult **American Swallow-Tailed Kites** flying to the West of the Fakahatchee Headquarters.

On 4/3/15, around noon, Melissa Miano, Park Ranger, observed an adult **Southeastern Five-Lined Skink** on East Main just east northeast of the gate. On 4/3/15, in the early afternoon, on US-41 Steven Bass, Park Ranger, observed a juvenile **Little Blue Heron**, (white with a little bit of blue) and later observed 15 Juvenile **White Ibis** on JSD. On 4/6/15, at 12:50PM, Mike Owen observed a female **American Redstart** between West and East Main. He also has been hearing **Chuck-Wills-Widow** calling in the evenings and early mornings.

On 4/7/15, while checking staff gauges along JSD, Skip, volunteer, observed 5 **Red-Shouldered Hawks** and one of them with a snake in its talons flying north to south. On 4/11/15, between 9:30AM to 3:30PM, he and 4 others while on JSD observed a 3-foot healthy **Water Moccasin** with a lot of color and pattern, likely a young one, that slowly crossed East Main and 3 **Red-Shouldered Hawks** with one flying by the vehicle and then ahead of them down the road a ways before it veered off. He said that in discussion with Renee Rau, Manager, she also reported seeing over a dozen of **Red-Shouldered Hawks** on 4/12/15 along JSD and Four Stakes Prairie. On 4/10/15, near sunset, Renee reported seeing 3 **Marsh Rabbits** along US-41 and SR-29.

Skip is noting primarily **Ruddy Daggerwings** and **Palamedes Swallowtail Butterflies** along the drive this month.

If you want to report sightings, contact Park biologist Mike Owen
by phone at (239) 695-2886 or by email at FOF_90@hotmail.com

WILDLIFE BLITZ

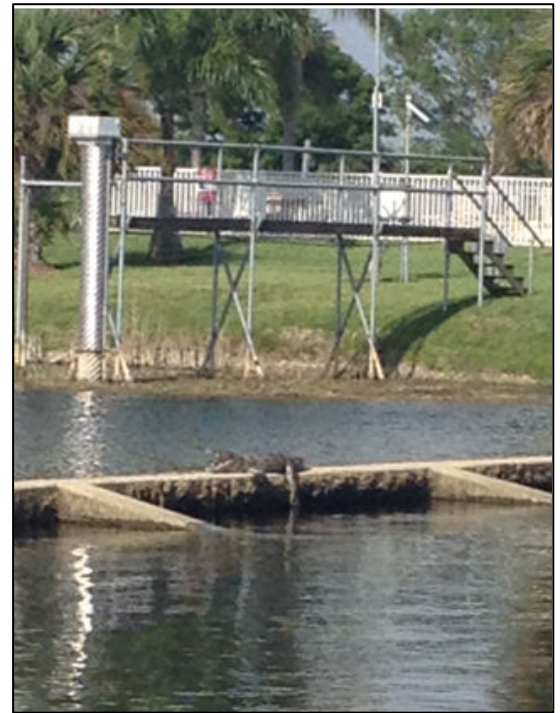
by Mike Owen

We have 1 or 2 people stationed at 0.5 mile intervals along Janes Scenic Drive, starting at 2.2 miles north of Gate 1. The observers at each site sit or walk quietly recording any animals they see or hear. We record the type of animal, time of day to nearest minute, direction the animal was moving, distance and direction from the site, adult or juvenile, length if it's a snake or alligator, and appearance or condition. We start each count period at 8:30 AM and record any mammals, birds, reptiles or butterflies observed or heard through 10:30 AM.

With this standard procedure carried out over several years we hope to be able to offer some data regarding wildlife population fluctuations through time. This data could be gathered once a month from November 2015 through April 2020 to yield a 5-year data set of baseline wildlife detections for future reference. What seems common to us now may become rare in the future or vice versa! Without recording quantitative data in a standardized format we would only be guessing at the trends in wildlife populations over the years.

On April 4 we had 9 people cover 7 sites along JSD from 2.1 to 5.4 miles past Gate 1 (water chlorination facility). Then on April 14 we had 12 people cover 9 sites along JSD from 2.2 to 5.9 miles past Gate 1. The mammals observed were Eastern gray squirrel, White-tailed deer, Virginia opossum, Florida panther, Everglades mink, and Florida black bear! On March 19 we had 21 people covering 11 sites from 2.2 to 7.2 miles north of Gate 1. The mammals observed were E. gray squirrel, White-tailed deer, Raccoon, and Everglades mink!

We try to conduct the wildlife surveys on a week day to observe during a time of lower vehicle traffic on JSD which could reduce the number of animals detected. We are trying to keep the variables to a minimum so that we will eventually have a good database of wildlife observations that can offer future resource managers a glimpse into the past and a record of wildlife population variations. With this method we cannot estimate populations, but it will offer a better estimate of the trends in animal populations through time.



This photo taken on April 24 shows only the 7th American Crocodile documented in Faka-Union Canal in 21 years. The last one (#6) was in November 2000. Faka-Union Canal is the boundary between Fakahatchee Strand Preserve and Picayune Strand State Forest. The concrete wall the Croc is sitting on is actually a weir that is meant to separate the fresh and salt water in this section of the Everglades. Photo and report by Tod Dahlke with confirmation by Mike Owen.

Groundbreaking for New Boardwalk Parking Area Scheduled for January 2016

by Patrick Higgins

After years of planning, keeping the vision alive, stop-go fund-raising and cajoling, Fakahatchee's Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk upgrade is finally starting. The State has stepped up to the plate and has just advised your Boardwalk Vision Committee that they are now funding the new parking area. In the not too distant future haphazard parking will be a thing of the past and the port-a-potties will be gone, too.

The new parking area will be created out of an old curve of the Tamiami Trail left over from when the highway was straightened. This is located 400 yards further southeast along Highway 41. The new entrance will be where there is currently an obsolete stop sign and metal gate. As this area is already hard-surfaced, the development will have a minimal environmental impact.

The design of this new parking area is 100% complete. The plans include, for the first time, gated access to the Park with a fee collection point, parking for 65 cars, an open-sided picnic pavilion, proper restrooms, and a campsite for resident volunteers, as well as a bridge across the canal. The bridge could be a major feature itself and will lead to an interpretive center nestled on the wet prairie and a new low level boardwalk (*shown in green on the attached diagram*) connecting to the start of the current Boardwalk.

According to the State's Bureau of Design and Construction, the design and permitting will be completed before year's end. Groundbreaking is slated for January 2016. When it's complete, access from the current ad-hoc parking by the Indian Store will be severed and that area re-landscaped with native plantings.

Part of the overall plan is a deceleration and turn-lane off Highway-41. Funds for this have been now been transferred from the Florida Department of Revenue to the Department of Transportation, facilitated by the Boardwalk Vision Committee who have been keeping all the disparate elements of the State and local government machinery in the loop. This aspect will be completed as part of the US-41 resurfacing project.

Your Boardwalk Vision Committee can add two other feathers to its cap; the likely elimination of a concrete sidewalk that was going to parallel US-41, and State funding for the first new boardwalk section (*green on the diagram*) on the other side of the canal leading to the south side of the Lake and coming out near where the picnic table was by the Indian Village.

Originally, in the bargain struck last year, FOF supported raising funds for everything on the other side of the canal. FOF will now only be expected to raise funds for the new interpretive center, the stroller/wheel chair accessible crushed shell path (*in blue*) and a covered observation deck at the top of what we're calling Green Heron Lake, and the link from there (*shown in yellow*) to the middle of the existing Boardwalk.

Earlier plans also called for an isolated observation tower out on the wet prairie. Latest thoughts are to replace this with a gradually elevated (maximum 1:20 pitch) fully ADA compliant section of the boardwalk leading to an observation platform some 20 feet up right on the boundary of the Strand and prairie. This elevated section would be parallel to the edge of the Strand but set back just inside it, with a thin line of naturally occurring trees and shrubs masking it from view as it is approached from the lake and salt marsh/wet prairie. It would gradually reveal a view across the salt marsh/wet prairie and the interior of the Strand. No section of it would be visible from the existing Boardwalk.

In partnership with the Park, FOF supports funding for the overall interpretive planning for the whole expanded site including the contents of the visitor center, interpretive signage, and displays. Planning for this is well underway via our consultants, the Acorn Group, who are producing an interpretive prospective for us which should be complete in July 2015 and will be an important tool in our fund raising activities. Watch this space for news of our new capital campaign and further details of the plan.

Patrick Higgins is a National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpreter, Vice-President of the Friends of Fakahatchee, and Project Manager for the development of the Boardwalk Master Interpretive Plan.



Overview of the Fakahatchee's Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk expansion site layout. Locations and routes of new boardwalk sections are approximate

President's Message

by Francine Stevens

Much has happened since the last newsletter. First, the 12th of April was a loaded day for the Board of Directors because we held two Board meetings before the Annual Members' Dinner. The first meeting starting at 1.30 PM with the Board and directors Tony Marx and Rose Flynn ending their 2-year term and with this experienced Board the CSO Goals for fiscal year 2015-16 were established concluding the pending business at hand.

I adjourned the meeting and called the next meeting to order welcoming new Board members Patricia Sherry and Tod Dahlke and immediately calling on the Board to elect its officers. I was elected president for another year and so was Patrick Higgins elected Vice-President, Jinny Ball Treasurer and John Kaiser Secretary. *See a list of all the Board members and Officers on page 8.*

Next was the President's appointment of Committee chairs:

Boardwalk Vision – Tom Maish

Finance – Ken Shapiro

Fundraising for Boardwalk Expansion – Tom Maish

Governance – Ted DeGroot

Membership – Jinny Ball

Public Relations, Media, Website, EventBrite – Bruce Bunch

Tours, Education, Interpretation – Patrick Higgins

Resource Management – Don Leonard

Events committee chair remains vacant.

Together we reviewed the action guidelines for each committee and it was time to close the meeting to get ourselves ready for the Annual Members' Dinner evening ahead.

At the Annual Dinner it was easy to announce that FOF accomplished once more its mission to support the Park thanks to the support of our members, the generosity of donors, and the essential contribution brought in as a result of the tours organized by the Education/ Interpretation committee. The

FOF remains in a strong financial position and was able to support the park financially to the tune of nearly \$68,000.

It was my pleasure to announce Howard Lubel as the Mel Finn Award recipient. Howard's contribution range as Board member, Board Secretary, and President in 2011 and as Chair of Resource Management when that committee was created two years ago to work closely with the Park manager and bring issues for the Board to resolve. And, as if this weren't enough, he continues to do what he loves the most –working & volunteering steadfastly with "boots on" in the Park under the direction of the Park manager. *See photos on page 1.*

Another example of generosity and support is in Bob Becker of Ultra Sports who donated \$4,000 to FOF at the Annual Members' Dinner and who continues to work & volunteer "boots on" in the Park.

The Annual Members' Dinner program with Deborah Jansen was a real treat (*see article on page 5*), and we will continue to work on finding a location and caterer/restaurant that will better meet our expectations.

Next, to the 18th of April for the "Cuba Connection" Event when Dennis Giardina and Mike Owen delighted our guests with their discoveries. Just over 100 guests and members joined us for a wonderful evening in a Cuban theme organized by Jimene Rinehart who also rallied a team to help her host the evening. I have had sufficient positive feedback to declare that it was a very successful and excellent event and our guests will come back for more. Jimene deserves all the credit!

We had a great fiscal year ending March 2015 and onward to 31 March 2016 promises to be very exciting because the Boardwalk Expansion Project will prove to be more than a dream. I will let you discover that story reported by the Boardwalk Vision committee (*see page 3*).

The "Cuba Connection" event on April 18 was a great success. Seen here from left to right: Dennis Giardina (Everglades Region Biologist for FWC), Yunelis Perez (daughter of Dr. Rolando Perez, Director of Science at Soroa Botanical Garden in Cuba), Matt Richards of the Atlanta Botanical Garden who has been helping with the Fakahatchee Orchid Restoration Project, Park Manager Renee Rau, Donna Owen, and Park Biologist Mike Owen.



PANTHER TALK

Deborah Jansen, leader of the Big Cypress Preserve panther capture team, gave an update on the Florida panther to a packed Annual Meeting of the Friends of Fakahatchee on April 12 at the Port of the Islands Resort.

Jansen has spent more than 30 years studying, tracking, and monitoring the highly-endangered Florida panther, an "umbrella species" for the entire Everglades ecosystem. She is one of eight Guardians of the Everglades immortalized by Nicholas Petrucci in full-sized portraits on display at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Jansen told the group that when she first started working in the Everglades in the early 1980s, teams searching for panthers seldom came upon any trace of the animal. Today, she said, 120 to 140 of the endangered animals are living south of the Caloosahatchee River. Unfortunately, about two dozen are killed each year, most by cars.

Jansen said new satellite-tracking collars were replacing radio collars on the panthers, enabling wildlife biologists to pinpoint the locations of panthers and their dens precisely. After showing slides of charismatic blue-eyed panther kittens in the wild, she noted that only one in four will survive to become adults.

Looking ahead, Jansen said several challenges face the panthers' continued survival. One is a source of food. "They have pretty much wiped out hogs in the Big Cypress," she said. The deer herd, another preferred food source, has been reduced by about 1,000 in the Big Cypress due to hydrological changes, she said. The big cats had been known to eat alligators as long as 13 feet, but these reptiles are sources of mercury, which could have a negative impact on the cats over time.

Jansen said her personal view was that maintaining a large healthy wetland and fires that provided fresh browse for deer were critical to the continued viability of the panther in Florida. Showing slides of panther-car collisions along SR-29 north of I-75, she said the need for additional fencing and underpasses was clear.



Speaker Deb Jansen with FOF President Francine Stevens and FOF Founding Member Elsa Caldwell at the Annual Members' Dinner on April 12. Photo thanks to Bruce Bunch.

HACKING IN THE FAK

by Dino Barone

Winter is over. The water is receding and the birds are leaving to their summertime destinations. Gators are congregating at their favorite watering holes. Deer flies and the Fakahatchee Phlebotomists (AKA mosquitoes) are slowly making their presence felt ("WHACK"). Personally, I am rooting that the dragon flies are especially hungry this year and will enjoy a hearty feast of mosquitoes a la carte.

For some, this devotion is all year long. Wildfire season is now. Open access to remote parts of the park, via trails or dozer lines, is imperative to allow Firefighters with their equipment in to contain these events. High heat with our summer rain is the perfect receipt for foliage to go into turbo growth mode. Basic trimming of the trams in the early summer before low lying areas (prairies and washouts on trams) flood or become too soft for most equipment to transverse, allows us easier access to these areas once the water begins to recede in November.

I personally want to thank all the Fearless FAKA-hackers who volunteered their precious time in the Fakahatchee. The trams and trails are in the best shape that I have ever seen in the five years I have been volunteering in the Park. These intrepid FAKA-hackers have endured cuts, scrapes, muscle aches, mosquito bites and the occasional bout of poison ivy, yet y'all keep on coming back all for the benefit of the resource we all so love.

The trails go on forever, yet the clearing never ends ...

Have a Super Duper Awesome Fakahatchee Summer,
Dino
FAKA-hacker



Seasonal volunteer Dee Leonard landscaped around the Visitor Center in Copeland by hauling rocks that were uncovered when Janes Scenic Drive was graded.

BOARDWALK REPORT

by Linda Koreny

Driving by the Boardwalk this afternoon, we had to nix our planned stop as the very welcome rain was “coming down in buckets”. I was a bit disappointed to miss the opportunity of writing an up-to-the-last-minute report of Boardwalk sightings.

This has been, I think, an especially interesting season because we were able to share many exciting stories and photos from a number of our visitors. Two FOF members from New Hampshire, Diane Allen and Paul Hines, who enjoy a considerable amount of time on the Boardwalk as well as in the Fak each winter shared their recent BCB experience and sightings:

*“Boardwalk birds seen recently include **Prothonotary, Prairie, Palm, Black & White and Northern Parula warblers** along with several **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** and a **Northern Water Thrush**. **Carolina wrens, Great-crested Flycatchers, Red-bellied & Pileated Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Gray Catbirds, and White-eyed Vireos** will greet you in the morning with their calls and songs. Occasional calls from the **Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Osprey and Barred & Great-Horned Owls** can be heard from high in the canopy.*

*A **Barred Owl** at eye level within a few feet of the boardwalk (see Paul’s photo below), 2 **Raccoons** curled up sleeping high in a Cypress tree, and a **Southern Black Racer** spotted at the Gator Pond were three recent extra treats.”*

My last stroll on the Boardwalk in the spring is always quiet and reflective. October begins my winter season when the Bald Cypress trees are truly “bald”; that is, without their leaves, creating the bright open canopy overhead and the strand is full of water beneath the Boardwalk. The slow transformation over the next six months is always fascinating as the vegetation changes, various birds visit and the resident wildlife move around with the changing conditions. My “season” will end this month with the Bald Cypress trees bursting with green leaves creating the cool, shady canopy and the dry thirsty strand just beginning to receive its summer rains. There is still time for numerous visits before we head north and west to visit grandchildren for the summer.

Whether you have recently visited the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk or not – *seize the day*, go for a stroll and your week will be better! See you in October ...



EXPLORING EAST RIVER

by Tod Dahlke

Things are low and dry down here in Fakahatchee South. While driving along US-41 the Alligator and Turtle departure routes are clearly visible from the road. It's almost as if they followed right behind the seasonal residents as they left just after Easter (*see photo below*).

One morning, as I was approaching the turn in to the river, a huge **Black Bear** clumsily galloped across the road from the South and did a belly flop into the canal. Once across, he continued North and disappeared into the mountain of grass and cattails. Later that day another guide told me the night before the Bear (I assume the same one) actually swam across the river in front of their kayaks as they were paddling through the second tunnel. My guess is the dropping water levels are leaving small pools of fish that eventually die and make for easy pickings.

The prairies may be bone dry but the East River still flows. The red tannin water is crystal clear starting a mile from the launch but it is as salty as the bay. The **Osprey** are certainly taking advantage of the low, clear water. I spent almost an hour watching a pair hunt and dive to collect their share of the Mayan Cichlid and Mullet that are frantically trying to find cover. It's amazing how the Osprey hover in mid air waiting for the right time to dive. I've heard this referred to as the "Sky Dance". Once they have their prey lined up, they fold their wings back and drop like a missile into the water. I've seen them go completely under water and disappear for a few seconds before emerging with their catch. Another resident of East River that is enjoying the water clarity is the **River Otter**. Last week I watched 3 of them dip and dive around our kayaks, only coming up long enough to sneak a peek at the humans spying on them. Their curious behavior is a welcomed sight here on the river.

Our daily rains will be here soon and the influx of fresh water will change this delicate ecosystem yet again. Many more discoveries to come ... I'll see you on the river!



Back In The Days of The Wild, Wild (South) West

by Tony Marx

Southwest Florida was still unexplored long after the West was won. In fact, few non-native people had ventured into it until after the Civil War. Until the late 19th century, the Fakahatchee or "Forked River", other than to its native peoples was known only by a few hunters, and a sprinkling of settlers living in the Thousand Islands. Some locals still refer to it by its original pronunciation *Fikahatchee*.

The mangrove islands hugging the coast from the tip of Florida to present-day Marco Island, formerly the haunt of pirates, now harbored some running from the law. Following the American Civil War, veterans also gradually found their way south looking for opportunity, especially those from the southern states who had seen their cities, farms, and infrastructure destroyed in the bitter fighting. They wanted to get as far away from the Yankees as they could. Others growing vegetables at Cape Sable, the southernmost tip of mainland Florida, made their way north up the west side, seeking a new start in the Ten Thousand Islands.

More settlers were living in the Islands than anywhere else south of Fort Myers. They were a hardy bunch who risked themselves and their family in a harsh environment and sometimes paid with their lives. With no regard for land tenure laws they would simply pull a boat up on the shore of an uninhabited sand and shell mangrove island and over time would build a fresh water cistern and shack.

There was no law to speak of. The nearest Sheriff was in Key West or Fort Myers and the residents took care of things themselves. An argument sometimes ended in violence and people might just disappear without trace. A notable incident occurred in 1910 just after the second violent hurricane in two years had flooded the low-lying island crops with salt water flood tides and polluted the wells, driving out most of the hardy souls living south of present day Everglades City.

A man wanted by the law in the American West, E. J. Watson, was alleged to have shot dead Belle Starr, a well-known female outlaw, during an argument. Fleeing south, he found the Thousand Islands and homesteaded an island at Chatham Bend. A tough, truculent character, people learned not to mess with him as he was always armed. As stories circulated, embellished with details of his occasional alleged murderous acts, the menfolk on Chokoloskee decided to eliminate him.

Ted Smallwood had built and opened an Indian Trading Store there four years before, trading with the local Seminoles who stopped by with animal hides, furs, and egret feathers in exchange for bright calico and sewing materials for their colorful finery, tools, and other needs. The store also catered to the needs of the small white population.

Learning that Watson was expected to pick up his wife and child at the store, the men got together and decided it was time to overcome their fear and confront him as a group. The hurricane had destroyed the dock and when Watson finally arrived, he beached his boat next to the store. Glancing up at the armed and ominous looking crowd and summoned up

courage to call their bluff and made ready to leap off onto dry land to greet his wife, grasping a shotgun. Someone fired the first shot followed by a sustained volley from the rest and Watson fell dead, riddled with multiple bullet wounds before the horrified eyes of his wife and small daughter. When word reached Sherriff Tippins, he made the journey from Fort Myers by boat. He questioned the vigilantes and seemed satisfied they felt threatened by Mr. Watson whose shotgun happened to have been not been loaded. Nothing further was heard from him and the matter was dropped.

Everglade became Everglades, incorporated as the county seat in 1923. Within 5 years it had a railroad station, bank, telephone and other trappings of a town far larger than its tiny population, now connected by bridge to the mainland. The newly constructed Tamiami Trail passed by only 5 miles away giving it road access to Naples and Miami, and State Road 29 was added, passing the Fakahatchee and leading to Immokalee, along with a rail line later removed.

Still remote, during the 1920's many of the locals built liquor stills in the hidden depths of the mangrove islands and made a good living while Prohibition lasted.

In the 1970-80's the area became a hub for the Marijuana Trade. Smugglers dropped their bales from planes and boats and sometimes landed on remote roads or even the isolated airstrip. Many local families were involved and the area became known as a place peaceful people should stay away from, although violence was minimal.

Finally, the Reagan Administration galvanized local law enforcement and clamped down hard as part of the War on Drugs, ending the trade abruptly. The small city, population 400, returned to its sleepy existence and became a respectable destination for fishermen, tourists, and winter residents while managing to retain its visible memories of the past. As for the Thousand Islands, excepting Chokoloskee they are now uninhabited and a National Wildlife Refuge.



photo courtesy of Florida State Archives

Tony Marx is a Florida Master Naturalist. He is a volunteer interpreter for the Fakahatchee guided tram tours and frequently contributes articles to The Ghost Writer.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have 334 current memberships plus 22 in arrears from the 1st quarter.

The new Supporter level has proved popular with 39 memberships in that category, almost as many as Patrons (41). There are also 145 Family and 109 Individual memberships plus Businesses and Lifetimes listed below.

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

Lise Bauman, Marco Island
Kenneth Humiston, Naples
Noel Nation, Miami Beach
Brigitte Steinmann, Naples

THANKS!

Our newest Lifetime Individual member is Elsa Caldwell, one of the founders of FOF.



Sanibel naturalist, turtle expert, historian, and prolific author **Charles LeBuff** has released the first in a trilogy of novels. In this mystery, which is only available as an eBook, a crime is uncovered in the Fak and solved by the series hero.



This River Otter was photographed in East River by **Tod Dahlke**. See his report on page 6.

What Are We? Who Are We?

The **Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation Citizen Support Organization, provides financial and volunteer support to preserve the unique ecology and cultural heritage of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and to educate the public about its importance. The Fakahatchee is the largest cypress strand in the world and the deepest slough in the greater Everglades. Its 80,000 acres are bordered by I-75 (Alligator Alley), US-41 (Tamiami Trail), SR-29, Fakahatchee Bay, and Picayune State Forest.

The Ghost Writer, named after the endangered Ghost Orchid which blooms in the Preserve, is edited by Marya Repko with contributions from members and friends. It is issued at least six times a year and has an average circulation of over 400 copies.

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	Secretary – John Kaiser	Treasurer – Jinny Ball			
BOARD:	Jinny Ball	Tod Dahlke	Ted DeGroot	Dennis Giardina	Patrick Higgins
	John Kaiser	Tom Maish	Ken Shapiro	Patricia Sherry	Glen Stacell
					Francine Stevens

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NEW MEMBERSHIP

date _____

Please make check payable to "FOF" and send to: FOF Membership, P.O.Box 35, Everglades City, FL, 34139

☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30) ☐ Supporter (\$50) ☐ Patron (\$100) ☐ Benefactor (\$500)

☐ Business Patron (\$200) ☐ Business Benefactor (\$500) ☐ Extra Donation (\$ _____)

☐ Youth (\$10) under 18 (birth date: month _____ day _____ year _____)

☐ Lifetime Individual (\$1,000) ☐ Lifetime Family (\$1,500) ☐ Lifetime Protector (\$2,500) ☐ Lifetime Preserver (\$5,000)

NAME _____
STREET / P.O.BOX: _____

EMAIL _____
ALTERNATE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

☐ JAN ☐ FEB ☐ MAR ☐ APR ☐ MAY ☐ JUN ☐ JUL ☐ AUG ☐ SEP ☐ OCT ☐ NOV ☐ DEC