

# The Ghost Writer

### OCTOBER 2014

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

# **EVENTS**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!!! for dates & costs, see www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com

GHOST RIDER TRAM TOUR starting Nov 1

MOONLIGHT TRAM TOUR starting Nov 6

BIOLOGIST'S SWAMP WALK starting Nov 7

BOARDWALK AFTER DARK starting Nov 7

TRAM TOUR & WET WALK starting Nov 13

COASTAL CRUISE Dec 22 and March 21

BOARD MEETING
Sunday, October 12, 10:30 a.m.

Ranger Station, Copeland see note on page 3

WELCOME-BACK DINNER Saturday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.

Port of the Islands, East Naples reservations required www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com

### Florida Panther Festival

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.

North Collier Regional Park
www.floridapantherfestival.com

<u>Swamp Heritage Festival</u>

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.
Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center
www.nps.gov/bicy





### Fakahatchee Kids' Fishing Clinic - Success!

by Francine Stevens

The month of Sept was dedicated to prepare for the day and find donations for the Kids' Free Fishing clinic on September 20.

Tom Maish went to bat and we received fishing supplies from Lake Tradford Marina, Ace Hardware, Sport Authorities, Bass Pro Shop, beverages from Pepsi and a gift card from Publix. Marco Island Marina Fishing Club members donated their time to teach the children about fishing.

On Saturday it almost rained on our parade; during the week the weather forecast had been spot on with rain all day, every day, and announced more of the same for Saturday but fortunately we were spared from rain until 2 PM. In the morning the children from Park Side Elementary, a Title 1 School in Naples Manor, East Naples, arrived on a bus sponsored by **Iberia Bank**. Patrick Higgins kept over 69 precious guests entertained while they were lined up for registration and, once the children went thru the introduction to fishing responsibly, knot tying, bait and tackle, and practiced casting, they received their well-earned fishing pole – a donation from a grant by **Fish Florida\***.

The excitement and smiles on their beautiful faces made our day! Many children had never fished before. It was wonderful to see the parents bond with their children in the Park, much laughter and giggles while volunteers were putting wormy worms on the hooks, untangling the lines, and releasing the fish back into the lake; and, of course, there were plenty of Kodak moments! Everyone left with an FOF bag full of literature about the Park and information about FOF. I am very grateful to all our FOF volunteers and their support to make this happen; seeing all the happy children having fun in the Park made it worthwhile to all of us.

Special thanks to Steven Huff, Everglades Adventure Tours, Captain Robby Daffin, Doug & Tucker Hanks, and Jolen Mayberry (Collier Parks & Recs).

\*Fish Florida is a not-for-profit organization and their grants are possible because of the Fish Florida specialty license plates and community donations.



As they left the Fishing Clinic, kids yelled out "Thank you Fakahatchee".

more photos on page 4

# M.O.ZONE - Seen Around the Strand

On 7/1/14, at 11:20AM, Mike Owen, Biologist, observed a **Spicebush Swallowtail** near Gate 12/East Main and saw another one on 7/14/14 in the afternoon near Gate 19. On 7/15/14, in the evening, Melissa Miano, Park Ranger, observed an **Eastern Screech Owl** off of Jones Grade and on 7/18/14 observed a **Florida Panther** run across SR-29. On 7/18/14, in the early afternoon, visitors observed a **Black Bear** off of West Main.

On 7/21/14, around 8:30AM, Bente Torvund, administrative assistant, observed a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** squabbling around a firebush in the Headquarters garden. On 7/21/14, Steve Houseknecht, Park Services Specialist, observed an adult female **Florida Panther** off of Janes Scenic Drive (JSD). On 7/21/14, in the evening, Mike Owen observed a **Barn Owl** in the beginning of JSD that flew to the east.

On 7/24/14, while reading staff gauges, Robert Fisher observed **Mourning Doves, American Crows,** a male and female **Cardinal, Red-shouldered Hawks** and had noted 5 **Eastern Kingbirds**, recognized by their tails dipped in white paint, especially in the beginning of the drive. (They have already seemingly migrated south for the winter). The Eastern Kingbirds were last seen in Fakahatchee the first week of September prior to their migration south.

If you want to report sightings, contact Park biologist Mike Owen or his assistant Karen Relish by phone at (239) 695-2886 or by email at FOF\_90@hotmail.com

# MIKE OWEN GETS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park biologist Michael Scott Owen was honored this summer by the Florida Wildlife Federation at their 77th annual Conservation Awards Banquet.

The FWF recognized his work at Fakahatchee for the past 20 years, documenting the great diversity of plants and animals and measuring water levels that provides important data which will help show benefits of Everglades restoration.

In addition, he has always been a great spokesperson for the Fakahatchee – his enthusiastic efforts to educate the public by doing talks and guided swamp walks have brought the wonders of the place to so many groups and individuals

Most recently, he has partnered with several botanical gardens in an effort to halt the destruction and possible loss of the rare and endangered Giant "air plants" which are actually in the Bromeliad family (the same family as pineapple) and to restore some of the lost orchids of the Fakahatchee. He has even traveled to Cuba to locate several orchids with the goal of replacing species that used to be found in the park

#### The FWF stated:

For his deep love of nature and tireless efforts on behalf of this very special place, the Federation is delighted to name Mike Owen as Forest Conservationist of the year.



## President's Message

by Francine Stevens

### No Lazy Summer Days for the Friends of Fakahatchee!

Tenacious volunteers this summer kept clearing the trails and controlling exotics. They cleared West main tram from Janes Scenic Drive to Four Stakes Prairie, sprayed the darn Caesar weed for over 3 miles north of Ballard camp and, thanks to a generous donation from the Ebert Foundation, hired Stahlman Landscaping to work on East Main from Janes Scenic to Ballard camp. I could go on but will leave the rest for you to discover in the Resource Management report. Huge thanks to Howard Lubel, Dino Barone, Paul Joslyn, Jen Stine, and Ray Carroll for rallying friends, family, and Fakahatchee landowners to devote so much time outdoors under hot, humid, and buggy conditions.

FOF volunteers were just as busy indoors, Patrick Higgins of the Boardwalk Vision Committee sent out requests for proposal (RFP) for a Boardwalk Interpretative Master Plan and, thanks to Jimene Rinehart's generous donation, FOF was able to hire a consultant to help prepare the RFPs. Proposals are already in from four companies and under review. FOF also reviewed the 100% Boardwalk project blue print and sent their feedback to DEP

In July FOF received a generous \$8,000 grant from the **Chapman Foundation** to help the Education and Outreach Committee develop interpretation programs for children. **Jean Stefanik**, a long time FOF member, was extremely helpful

with the grant application; I met Jean at our picnic when she offered to help with grant applications and our first grant with Jean's help was accepted. **Thank you, Jean** – what a great start!

Education and Outreach Committee: Patrick Higgins and Glen Stacell were hard at work to increase FOF adventure tours program, a must due to popular demands. We will be ready to accept your ticket reservations on line first week of October and will send a special bulletin to the membership to that effect.

The Communications Committee is launching an improved FOF Website in October. They are working closely with Next Step Collective to wrap up the project. We expect everyone will appreciate the new design and will send a notice to the membership when new Website is launched. Thank you to Patrick Higgins, Bruce Bunch, Marya Repko, and Rose Flynn.

Our Welcome back dinner is set for Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> and this year we are going back to Port of the Islands where they have a fabulous spacious lobby for meet & greet. After a delicious buffet, Nick Penniman will tell us all about his book *Nature's Steward*. Tickets will be on sale in October.

### FOF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board Development (Governance) – Francine Stevens Finance – Ken Shapiro
Resource Management – Don Leonard
Boardwalk Vision – Tom Maish
Fundraising Development – Tom Maish
Education & Outreach – Patrick Higgins
Communication – Bruce Bunch
Fundraising Events – vacant
Traditional Events (dinners, picnic) – Francine Stevens
Membership – Jinny Ball
Merchandise – Jinny Ball

If you would like to serve on any of our committees, contact Francine Stevens at (239) 495-6744.

#### **BOARD MEETING**

At the next Board Meeting on **Sunday, October 10,** in the Park office in Copeland starting at 10:30 p.m. changes to the by-laws are on the agenda. Members are welcome to attend. For more info, call Francine Stevens at (239) 495-6744.

### **Chapman Foundation Grant**

At the "Lost & Found Orchids" event last March, FOF member Van Sayler approached Tom Maish to offer financial help to the Friends.

Van is chair of the Chapman Foundation in Georgia which focuses on serving children. He suggested the FOF apply for a grant to design and develop the displays and activities that will attract children to learn of nature in the Fakahatchee.

Patrick Higgins wrote the script on how the Fakahatchee displays will entice children away from their electronic devices back into the wonders of nature. FOF member Jean Stefanik, having grant writing experience, volunteered to prepare the information required in the grant application process.

The result: The Friends of Fakahatchee were awarded an \$8000 grant!

The initial investment from the grant was to purchase supplies for the Free Fishing Clinic which introduced children to our great outdoors; many whom had never been outside of city limits.

Our THANKS to Van Sayler and the Chapman Foundation for their interest and generosity.

# BOARDWALK REPORT

by Linda Koreny

This summer my husband and I visited numerous National Parks in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada, as well as several of our western states. We have enjoyed some absolutely incredible bike riding, hiking, and kayaking and have seen wonderful wildlife and awesome views but when I received the report below from one of my fellow Fakahatchee Boardwalk observers, my husband remarked that he could see that I am "anxious to get back" to southwest Florida. Indeed, since the leaves are now changing colors and the temperature is beginning to drop, it is indeed time to head southward ...

She had written: "Fall is in the air over the Boardwalk with the deciduous conifers and other trees starting to lose their needles and leaves, respectfully. There is water standing along the sides of the boardwalk and the alligator pond is full. The **Dahoon Holly** has its red fruit. The **Belted Kingfishers** are being seen. Looking for the return of the Bald Eagles."

"Great egrets are feeding in the marshes en route to the Boardwalk. Double-crested Cormorants are back perched on the wires and cross arms of the telephone poles as well as a few Belted Kingfishers. The Cicadas are singing. Pond apples are ripening. Fewer mosquitoes."

On 9/2/14, Renee Rau, Park Manager, observed a **Bobcat** off of US-41 near the Boardwalk.

On 9/6/14, between 8:30-9:30AM, Cyril Marks observed 2 **Anhingas**, male and female, and **Green Herons** near the Boardwalk.

One experience I enjoy quite a bit each year is observing the changes that happen on the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk as the season progresses. When we arrive in the fall, the strand is full of water and the Bald Cypress trees having lost their leaves, the sun pours in. Over the winter months the types of birds which inhabit the Strand change and by spring, the water is gone, either into the Gulf or absorbed by the Bald Cypresses which then are bursting in green leaves and the cooling shade changes the view.

So, come often, bring your binoculars and your camera and enjoy this experience with me.

# Fakahatchee Kids' Fishing Clinic Happy Faces!

Thanks to Jay Staton for photos of the Fishing Clinic





Renee Rau, park manager, sent this email about the great day:

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you all for helping with our first ever Fish The Everglades - Kids Fishing Clinic at Fakahatchee Strand

It was a full day of proud moments and it wouldn't have been possible without your hard work and dedication. It was almost overwhelming to see the community respond so positively to something like this and many of the participants and their families have already reached out to extend their appreciation and provide feedback.

I'm so glad you were a part of Fakahatchee history. Thank you again. Let's do it again soon!

## Visiting the OK Slough

by Anthony (Tony) Marx

In my last article I talked about the Picayune State Forest which adjoins the Fakahatchee and is expected to increase the flow of water into the Fakahatchee Slough as current improvement work takes effect. But its historic source of water flows from the Okaloacoochee Slough, the northern part of which is now the Okaloacoochee State Forest and Wild Life Management Area accessed from a few miles north of Immokalee, in Hendry County; about a 40 minute drive from the Fakahatchee.

Whenever I mention the Okaloacoochee, the usual reply is "The what"? Few Naples residents know about it, perhaps because it is a fairly new arrival on the list of S.W. Florida's parks and preserves. For brevity, I like to use the name conjured up by the locals – The OK Slough, and typing that in Google surprisingly links to the Okaloacoochee anyway.

The 13,382 acre pristine slough is located within Hendry County and flows in a north-south direction into Collier ending in the NW corner of the Big Cypress National Preserve. Somehow its water flow manages to reach the Fakahatchee even though separated by State Road 29 and its canal running north – south. This unique natural system contains eight identified distinct natural communities which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Its multiple features include lakes, marshes and stands of upland trees, and is one of the few remaining Pre-Columbian landscapes left in this region. Like other preserves in S.W. Florida it was previously owned then purchased by Government agencies, in this case under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program using Preservation 2000 and Save Our Rivers Funds.

Heavily logged like the Fakahatchee and Picayune, it was a late comer to the growing number of preserved lands, becoming a State Forest in the early 2000's. The Atlantic Land Improvement Company (ALICO) continued harvesting into the 1980's using portable sawmills.

Fortunately it was not drained, and instead elevated tram dirt roads were constructed across the swamps to take out the lumber shipped elsewhere for railroad ties. Quaint signposted names like Wild Cow Grade and Mustang Road reflect its earlier ranching history, and it is still bordered by ranch lands down its eastern boundary. These few open and winding roads now function as single-vehicle-wide access or biking into the interior. During the earlier decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, saw mills were constructed to handle the lumber and the small town of Sears was built on the northern edge. The town declined and disappeared after a fire destroyed the mill.

The contiguous natural habitat is home to a variety of wildlife earning it a place on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. Home to whitetail deer, wild pig, bobcat, gopher tortoise and occasionally Florida panther and black bear, it attracts a large variety of bird life including Sand Hill Cranes and Wood Storks.

A section of paved State Road 832 (Keri Road) cuts across the top section of the Forest and three signposted hiking/biking trails between one and three miles in length lead off it on the north side. On the south side three trails up to six miles long are open to street vehicles and where they are closed off to motor vehicles, you can park and continue on foot.

Two cleared primitive camp sites with fire rings are available for overnight camping year round and accessible by car. Although you can access it all year, the narrow roads can flood occasionally between June and November and there is often no room to turn around.

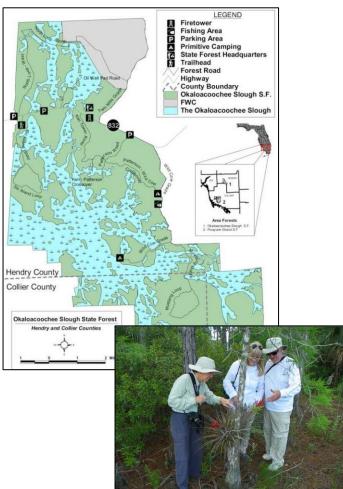
Fishing opportunities are plentiful over a wide area, so combined with photography, hiking, biking and vehicle access it is well worth visiting including those who are mobility impaired.

#### How to get there

From I-75 exit 80 Everglades City/Immokalee (15 miles from the Naples toll) head north onto SR-29. Drive through Immokalee, continue past Felda, and turn right (east) at the Okaloacoochee sign onto Keri Road. After passing the Forestry office on the right you will see trail signs with leaflets and trail plans. Admission is \$2 per person and \$10 for camping.

From North Naples take Immokalee Road to Immokalee, turn north on SR-29 and follow the same directions.

Tony Marx is a Florida Master Naturalist and F.O.F. Board Member. He is also a volunteer interpreter for the Fakahatchee guided tram tours.



Janet Bunch, Francine Stevens, and Bruce Bunch with an endangered Cardinal air plant in the OK Slough; photo by Tony Marks.

### **Night Ramblings**

by Patrick Higgins

Late July found me stumbling down a sunken way with Martha in the pitch dark of a moonless night. Our rough path was hemmed in by ancient yew and beech trees. We were in the Chiltern Hills of South Oxfordshire – an area designated as being of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Special Area of Conservation about 15 minutes from our son's house in Watlington. The broad bottomed ditch we were negotiating dated back to Saxon times. In the darkness with the clinking of key chains and water bottles one could almost hear "the tramp of Saxon foemen, Saxon spearmen, Saxon bowmen" although more commonly this path would have been trampled by generations of Saxon farmers taking their animals to market; merchants with their wares travelling between settlements, and woodsmen hauling timber and charcoal.

Further down, the sunken way was bisected by an old Roman road, now resurfaced and travelled by cars. For some unknown reason the Roman routes are always straighter than most of our modern English highways.

Behind me, back up the hill, our ditch led to the Ridgeway, Britain's oldest byway dating back over 5,000 years, which stretched from the Norfolk coast on the east to that of Dorset in the southwest, linking up Neolithic sites like Stonehenge and Avebury. It's hard to escape history in England, but we were in search of the glow worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*), cousins to Fakahatchee's fireflies in Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve. However, in the dark my mind kept wandering to the Fakahatchee because I had to give a talk locally on the Everglades Ecosystem and was also planning some new night-time interpretive programs for the upcoming season back in Florida.

The Reserve is a mosaic of chalk grassland, beech woodland and Juniper scrub sitting atop 300 feet of chalk, formed 350 million years ago from the compressed calcite shells of microscopic Foraminifera that lived in the warm, shallow seas that once covered southern Britain. Chalk grassland is a unique and fragile habitat, important for both its beauty and wildlife value. It is the product of centuries of grazing by animals on nutrient-poor chalk soils and is characterized by a short turf rich in herbs, flowers, butterflies, and grasses and, like the Fakahatchee, also in orchids although here they are all terrestrial.

Comparisons between the ecosystems continued to flood my thoughts as we bumped along. In one we employ prescribed burns to maintain the habitat. Here, it's the grazing of a large flock of speckle-faced sheep and a few Dartmoor ponies that controls the spread of young scrub and keeps chalk grassland healthy.

Aston Rowant, at only some the 500 acres, is a classic example of the threat to biodiversity through islandization and habitat fragmentation. Especially as even this small, precious parcel is sliced into two by a massive cut for the six lane M40 motorway from London to Oxford which paralleled our route just over the rise. It was further affirmation why the Fakahatchee is important; not just because of its unique plant communities, but also as Florida's largest State Park because of its scale. When it comes to maintaining biodiversity, size does matter!

Back in Florida swallow-tailed kites would just be beginning to assemble for their annual 4,500 mile return migration to South America. Here there were Red kites (*Milvus milvus*). They had been reduced to just a handful of pairs in Wales through past persecution. Through a reintroduction program using chicks taken from northern Spain there are now some 250 breeding pairs in the Chilterns. With a 5½-foot wingspan, Red kites are much larger than our swallow-tail, weighing 2-3 pounds, versus 10–20 ounces, and their ecological role is different too. Rather than being canopy feeders, they are primarily carrion feeders, filling the role of vultures, although they will take

small mammals too if caught in the open. The locals who once persecuted them now throw the bones from their Sunday roasts out on to the lawn to watch them swoop in, a practice sadly that does not encourage the kites' dispersal into new territory.

In Florida the instant we step off the road we are on the alert for fire ant nests. Here there is an unseen benevolent ant, the Yellow meadow ant (Lasius flavus). The chalk grassland and other undisturbed ancient pasture areas are dotted with myriads of small grassy domes that look almost like neatly planted helmets. These are actually ant-hills, some over a hundred years old. Inside of each is a colony of up to 5,000 meadow ants that feed by farming the sap sucking aphids that live on the roots of the surrounding forbs and grasses. The ants milk the greenfly for honeydew which they carry back to their colony and in the winter will eat the aphids themselves. Their subterranean activities control damaging insects, open up the soil keeping it porous and their droppings fertilize the grasses' roots. They also have a curious relationship with the Chalkhill blue butterfly (Polyommatus coridon). Attracted by secretions they will bury the pupa, unintentionally protecting it from predators.

After about 45 minutes we finally detected the steady green glow of our target, a glow worm – about a foot off the track, naturally in completely the wrong spot deep in the woodland. Glow worms of course are not a worms at all but a bioluminescent beetle just like our related firefly. In their larval stage they are predatory and hunt snails, which is why calciferous habitats that favor snails like chalk grasslands are preferred. As adults they rarely feed.

In the glow worm's case, it is only the inch long wingless female that glows significantly. She had climbed up a dried grass stem about 12 inches above the ground then curled her abdomen slightly upward to display the last few segments of her abdomen where her glowing organs are located in hope of attracting a passing male. Unlike American fireflies, she can't readily turn her glow on and off – it's rather like a very slow starting fluorescent tube, which takes about 20 minutes to cycle so they don't flash. Misplaced deep in the woods she would be very lucky to have any success. As well as attracting a mate, the glowing abdomen is a warning to predators to stay away - bioluminescent chemicals taste bad.

Nevertheless, hers is a very efficient light source. Unlike incandescent light bulbs that only transform about 3% of the energy used into light, bioluminescence is generally 90 to 98% efficient. The light is produced by a reaction between calcium, luciferin, and ATP in the presence of the catalyst luciferase and oxygen, using nitric oxide as a chemical on/off oxygen valve. It is the switching on and off of the oxygen flow which allows American fireflies to flash. Specific flash patterns are used to identify other members of their species, as well as members of the opposite sex and even in the case of some *Photuris* fireflies to mimic the light signals of other firefly species to lure, kill, and eat them. Studies of America's most common Photinus species show that female are more attracted to males that flash longer and faster. A flash can bring either sex or death! We shall be trying a bit of mimicry ourselves on our moonlight tram rides down Jane's Scenic Drive this season to see if we can attract any eager males. It's just a case of getting the response timing right.

Anyways, that solitary glow worm was the only one we saw that night. I guess we missed the peak by about a week, but even then observers were only seeing a dozen specimens a night on this site. Light pollution as well as habitat loss is taking a toll on these interesting insects. We're pretty lucky in the Fakahatchee.

see photos on page 7

# **Night Ramblings**

by Patrick Higgins



View of South Oxfordshire from atop the Chilterns at Watlington Hill. Photo Patrick Higgins



Field of yellow meadow ant mounds. Photo Phil Champion

Wingless female glow worm (Lampyris noctiluca). Photo Barry Crowley



### **BIG CYPRESS ACCESS**

If you travel along I-75 (Alligator Alley) from the east, you'll notice that the rest area at MM63 is open again after an upgrade. There are backcountry access points into the Big Cypress on both sides of the Alley. For info, see <a href="https://www.nps.gov/bicy">www.nps.gov/bicy</a> and click on Plan Your Visit.



Self-portrait by Rose Flynn from a photo at "En Plein Air'

### Art in the Preserve

There will be two "En Plein Air" sketching and painting session this winter from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, November 8,** and **Saturday, January 10.** Places are limited and reservations are required. There is no charge. Phone Karen at (239) 695-2886 or email lizardart@gmail.com.



A new painting from JoAnn Sanborn, "Meadow in Early Summer"

#### **PAINTING WORKSHOP**

Everglades artist JoAnn Sanborn, a generous FOF member whose pictures include the Fakahatchee, is offering an intensive painting workshop in Marco Island on **February 25-27**. Places are limited and she is taking reservations in advance now. For info, see www.sunshinestudios.net or phone (239) 394-4221

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We have 382 memberships including 52 whose renewal was due during the  $1^{st}$  quarter and 20 whose renewal was due during the  $2^{nd}$  quarter.

Reminders are being sent by email so please renew!

Notices for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will go out soon by post and email.

Welcome to new member since our last newsletter:

Cindy Liberton, Webster, FL

#### **MEMBERSHIP GOAL**

Our numbers fluctuate, because people do not renew, but our goal next year is 500 (yes, FIVE HUNDRED) paid-up memberships! You can help by making sure your renewal is up-to-date and by giving an FOF membership to a friend as a Holiday gift.



FOF member Jürg "George" Furrer passed away in late May. He had been president of the Swiss Orchid Society and enjoyed his tromps in the Fak with Bill Mesce on frequent visits here from Switzerland. He was a talented artist who sketched many of the old buildings in our area, such as the Post Office, Market, and Janes' Restaurant on SR-29 near Copeland.

### What Are We? Who Are We?

The **Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc,** a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation <u>Citizen Support Organization</u>, 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. © 2014, Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter, including pictures, may be reproduced without permission.

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North American Canoe Tours, Nathaniel P. Reed, Shurr Adventures, Tour the Glades

BUSINESS BENEFACTOR: Everglades National Park Boat Tours

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<b>NEW MEMBERSHIP</b> Please make check payable to "FOF" and send to: FO	DF Membership, P.O.Box 35, Everglades City, FL, 34139
	rter (\$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)	
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