



The Ghost Writer

FEBRUARY 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

Tuesday at 10am

MOONLIGHT TRAM TOUR

all tickets sold out

TRAM TOUR & WET WALK

Feb 19/26, March 19/26

BIOLOGIST'S SWAMP WALK

Feb 7/13, March 7

BOARDWALK AFTER DARK

March 4

COASTAL CRUISE

March 21

FOF BOARD MEETING

Sunday, February 15, 10:30 a.m.

By-Law Amendment is on the Agenda
Members Welcome, call (239) 495-6744
Ranger Station, Copeland

Everglades Ultras Marathons

Saturday, February 21

www.evergladesultras.com

Members' Annual Picnic

Saturday, March 14

more info in our next issue

Clyde Butcher Open House

February 14-15

www.clydebutcher.com

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival

February 24-28

www.evergladesmuseum.org



Fakahatchee Tram Tour Brings Swamp to Life for Ten Minnesota Book Club Members

by Bruce Bunch

Ten members of a Minneapolis book club made the trek from their chilly city to sunny Florida to bring the best selling book they had just read – *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean – to life.

"We read the book and last night we watched *Adaptation*, the movie based on it. Now we're ready to see the swamp ourselves," said Kathie Doerr, who organized the trip. The group, on a tight schedule, arranged a custom tour on the Friends of Fakahatchee Ghost Rider tram.

Naturalist Patrick Higgins, who led the three-hour tour, told the group that orchid and bromeliad poaching – the subject of the 1998 book – was still an issue at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. "There's no gate to lock and more than 85,000 acres to patrol, so it remains a big problem," he explained. Higgins said that with financial help from the Friends of Fakahatchee, the park was working to restore several orchid species that had once flourished in the park.

After the three hour tour, several members of the group said they were surprised by the marshlands and meadows in the park. "We had expected a real jungle everywhere," said one. Perhaps their biggest surprise was that the swamp was "a really beautiful place," not "scary and gothic" like the New York City based author's description had lead them to believe.

EVERGLADES ULTRAS RECOMMENDED

Bob Becker of Ultra Sports reports that the www.trailrunner.com website has selected the Everglades Ultras held in the Fakahatchee as one of the 21 Destination Trail Races for its 2015 Bucket List.

The races (50m, 50k, 25k) take place on **Saturday, February 21**, with the longest one starting off at 6:00 a.m. For info, see www.evergladesultras.com where runners can register and donate to the Fakahatchee. There is a limit of 350 participants.

FOF volunteers will help with aid stations along the way. Call Melissa Miana at (239) 695-4593 to volunteer. For a report about the preparations in the park, see "Hacking in the Fak" on page 7.

M.O.ZONE - Seen Around the Strand

On 12/22/14, in the mid-morning, visitors using binoculars while in Dan House Prairie observed a flock of **White Pelican** circling to the South. On 12/29/2014, at 1:30PM, a Pennsylvania visitor reported seeing a **Soft Shell Turtle** sitting on Janes Scenic (JSD) and a 2-ft. **Yellow Rat Snake** farther down the drive during his adventure.

On 12/29/14, in the afternoon, Becky, volunteer, observed an adult **Black Bear** near the East Main area walking leisurely along the drive for a short time before heading back into the swamp. Later that afternoon, she observed a **Northern Harrier** flying over the Southern end of JSD over the Prairie along with a **Belted Kingfisher**.

Visitors who were on the drive reported they had seen a beautiful **Short-tailed Hawk** near the restored Prairie canal. This hawk was in plain view, in a cypress tree, eating a small bird as well as cleaning up after eating. Not quite in the FSSPP but close. On 12/30/14 at 1:10 PM, Jay Staton, volunteer, observed a **Great Blue Heron** with a large alligator gar in its mouth at the corner of SR-29 & US-41 (*see photo below*).

On 1/5/15, at 2:15 PM, visitors saw an **Everglades Mink** on JSD north of the visitor center. On 1/6/15, around 10 AM, near the beginning of the Drive, Becky, volunteer, observed an adult **American Bald Eagle** flyover from East to West. She also observed **Great Egrets**, two **Wood Storks**, **Anhinga**, **Crows**, **Black Vultures**, and **Turkey Vultures**.

During January 2015, several species of **butterflies** were seen along the Drive including Zebra Longwings, Barred Yellow Sulfur, Cloudless Sulfurs, Gulf Fritillaries, Julias, Little Metalmarks, Viceroy's, Queens, Monarch, Ruddy Daggerwings, and White Peacocks.

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



Photo of Great Blue Heron with Alligator Gar in its mouth by Jay Staton (*see MOZone above*).

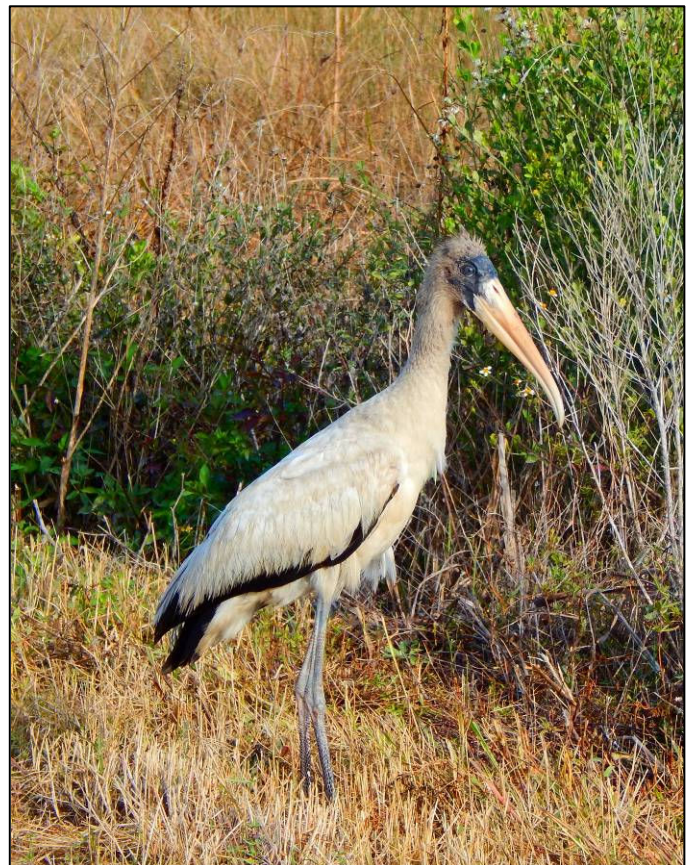


Photo of a Wood Stork in the prairie north of Janes Scenic Drive by Becky Basford.

A First Step in Creating an Interpretive Master Plan for the Boardwalk

by Patrick Higgins

I was in downtown Naples for breakfast and the Martin Luther King Day parade when I recognized the back and the silver ponytail of Phil Fisher, my favorite local artist. He had set up his easel under a blue sky near the corner of 13th Avenue and 3rd Street South to capture, in his customary vibrant palette, a streetscape of stuccoed buildings, geraniums, cascading bougainvillea, multi-colored foliage and the interplay of light and shadow on the sidewalk.

The subject, as I glanced over the top of his canvas, was recognizable but not an exact reproduction. That's not what a good artist does. He strips the scene down, creates something new and, in the process, reveals the essential hidden truth which engages the observer on an emotional level. That's essentially what we, as Park interpreters, do too – whether it's orally, in writing, or through exhibits and signs.

Interpretation is not the mere provision of information but should spark interest, provoke, engage, enhance understanding, and ultimately reveal the deeper meaning or significance of the resource. If effective, it will make an emotional connection and elicit a response; that “Aha!” moment that will stay with the visitor, and perhaps change them forever, even inspiring some to take action. That's a tall order and doesn't happen by accident. It takes planning.

Planning the physical side of Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk upgrade, with its new parking area, associated deceleration lane, proper restrooms, picnic shelter, and a bridge across the canal leading to a multipurpose visitor center and whole new trail system over the salt marsh linking to the existing Boardwalk is well underway.

But just as important is the interpretive planning for the site. On January 14th the Park and FOF took the first steps in a six month process to develop an Interpretive Prospectus by hosting an Interpretive Planning Workshop at Rookery Bay. The event was facilitated by Jennifer Rigby and Kris Whipple from the Acorn Group, a specialist interpretive planning firm whom FOF have retained for the duration of this project. Both are expert NAI Certified Interpretive Planners with an impressive track record of successful projects across the country. Previously, they literally got their feet wet during a very long day spent with Mike Owen, Renee Rau and me walking the ground, including a plunge into the swamp off East Main, emerging enthralled only as dusk was settling in. I think they've caught the Fakahabit.

The purpose of the Interpretive Prospectus is to flesh-out in sufficient detail, the exhibits, signage, visitor center contents, etc. to enable FOF to garner support and facilitate the fundraising for our portion of the project. It will allow us to go to the local donor community and show them exactly what their money will be used for. Part of the eventual output will be a four page fund raising brochure. This will be followed later on by the development of a comprehensive Master Interpretive Plan. In this first phase we were focusing on identifying the interpretive goals, themes, sub-themes, and storylines for the expanded Boardwalk area.

As wide a spectrum as possible of stakeholders in the Park were invited. Attendees included Board members, Park and FOF volunteers, managers and staff from neighboring National and State Parks, Rookery Bay, The Botanical Gardens, Everglades Museum, River of Grass Greenway, the Visitors Bureau, Conservancy of SW Florida, BG Givens from District 4 Headquarters, the DEP's Heather Shuke-Nelson who is in charge of interpretation across the entire State Park system, as well as Captain Franklin Adams, who all engaged wholeheartedly in the creative process. Jimene Rinehart did FOF proud by serving everyone an exquisite homemade lunch. So engrossed was the audience she plated-up for most people so the flow of ideas was uninterrupted.

For part of the time we broke into syndicates ensuring each had a mix of diverse backgrounds or agencies. By the end of the day we had a wall pasted with hundreds of colorful Post-it notes scrawled with topic ideas and dozens of annotated chart sheets which Acorn took away to begin to crunch and organize into an initial interpretive summary, but not before touring other local relevant sites like Six Mile Cypress Slough, Corkscrew, Big Cypress Welcome Center and the Marsh Trail to ensure our offering will be unique.

After the event Tom Maish, Chair of the Boardwalk Vision Committee, commented “Gauging the reaction of the participants, it looks like we are finally on our way!”

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.



Kris Whipple (left) and Jennifer Rigby (right) of the Acorn Group getting their feet wet in the Fakahatchee,



Above: Jennifer Rigby recording some of the hundreds of suggested interpretive topics for the Boardwalk development.

BOARDWALK REPORT

by Linda Koreny & Laurie Longe

I met Laurie Longe in an art class at Naples Botanical Garden and invited her to walk along the Boardwalk with me. Since she seemed to enjoy it so much I asked her if she could write something about her experience that I could use in my monthly article.

She actually wrote more than I expected so here's the report & photos by Laurie Longe.

I have lived in Collier County for the past twenty years and only visited the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk one time with my husband. We briskly walked along the planked Boardwalk spotting a few birds, a few trees and a few alligators.

That all changed on January 12. I was invited to visit the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk for the second time by my friend and park volunteer, Linda Koreny.

It was a beautiful, cool, sunny morning and the Boardwalk was already bustling with people when I arrived. Linda gave me a brief overview of the Everglades, the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians, and the impact that the building of the Tamiami Trail in the 1920's had on this area.

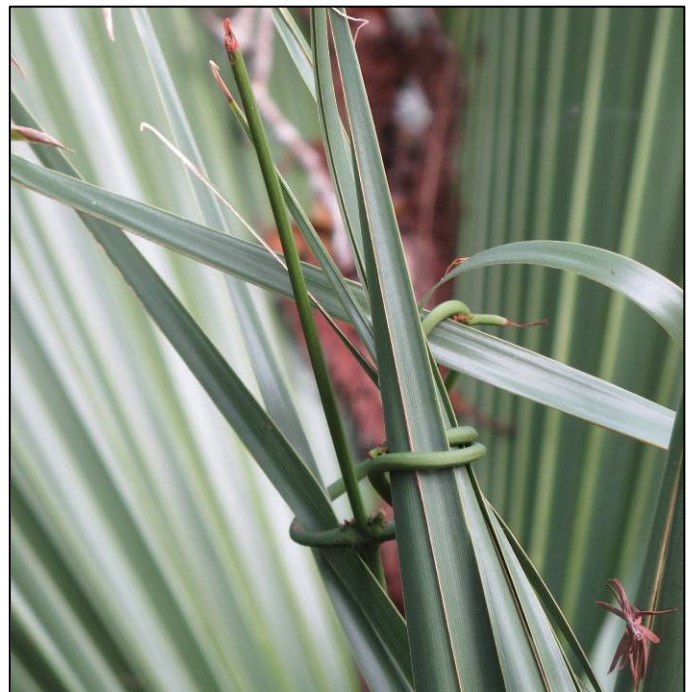
We started down the Boardwalk and within minutes Linda spotted a gorgeous **Yellow Rat Snake**. I surely would have missed him as he blended so beautifully into his surroundings. As we continued on, Linda spotted a **Barred Owl** just above us in the crook of a tree. As we walked, she brought many types of plants and trees to my attention. A **Florida Bald Eagle** was visible through the trees and not too far from his massive nest. We came to a small clearing and resting on a large log was a large black **Florida Water Snake** sunning himself. At the end of the Boardwalk there was plenty of wildlife waiting to greet us. We saw two large **American Alligators**, **White Ibis**, **Great Egrets** and a **Great Blue Heron**.

As we started back, Linda pointed out a large abandoned Red Shouldered Hawk's nest that had been inhabited by a **Great Horned Owl**. You could see their ear tufts just popping out of the top of the nest. I was fascinated by the **Lichens**, in so many colors, that covered many of the trees along the Boardwalk and plan to learn more about them. Then, along the gravel path toward the parking lot we spotted a juvenile **American Alligator** relaxing on a fallen log in the water.

We spent nearly three hours leisurely walking the Boardwalk and discovered many things that I would not have seen had we not taken our time and looked all around. Look up, look down, stop, listen, and smell. Rely on your senses to help you discover the gifts that exist in our backyard. Ask questions, the volunteers are an excellent resource and happy to let you know what has been spotted that day.

I am grateful to Linda for sparking my interest to learn more about the plants and animals that this area has to offer. I had the opportunity to experience the Boardwalk in an entirely new perspective.

I plan to visit the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk at least four times a year and I am anxious to attend the "Boardwalk After Dark" in March.



Boardwalk visitor Laurie Longe was fascinated by the animals she saw and the vine winding around the Sabal Palm leaves (see report in left column).

IN THE BAG!

by Steve Koreny

Welcome to Python Patrol Training Class. The object of this class given by FWC is to train as many people as possible in the safe and humane capture and transporting of pythons. FWC uses these captures for training, research, marking and release and humanely euthanizing. We learned that live capture and transport is the preferred method which causes less stress or trauma to the snake and does not require freezing.

After an informative classroom portion, we moved outside for a hands-on experience. Freshly caught Burmese Pythons used in the class ranged from 6 to 8 feet in length. The snakes are captured by pinning down their head with a padded snake hook and placed in a bag, all of which looks easy if the captive is cooperative. Double bagging is important before placing in a box.

We learned that Pythons do not consider people as food and would rather just go away. If you see any non-native snakes, tegus, monitors, or chameleons, do not attempt to capture. Take a picture (if possible), note the location and quickly report your sighting to 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681) or online at www.IveGot1.org.



EXPLORING EAST RIVER

by Tod Dahlke

All is well down here in Fakahatchee South. Great flocks of **Egrets** have been spotted in the mornings along the prairie between SR-29 and the East River put-in. And, if you should see several cars parked on the side of the road, that means there are **Roseate Spoonbills** out there as well. I sometimes see the intrepid photographers standing on top of their cars and balancing on the guard rails like acrobats in order to get the perfect shot. Some have giant lenses on their cameras the size of a small mortar. I even saw one fellow that had a camera and lens so big it required two tripods. These are serious photographers out there so make sure to give them proper distance.

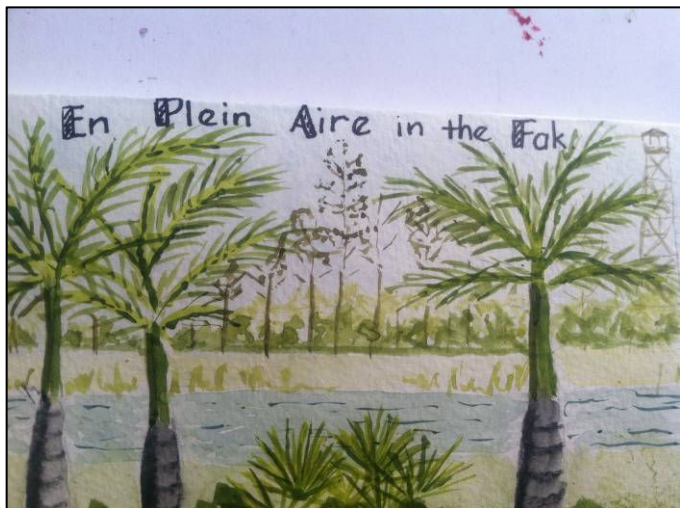
Since our daily rains have stopped the tides and winds from the Gulf of Mexico have been pushing the salt water further and further up river. Slowly mixing with the fresh water coming from the North, the brackish water line is creeping closer and closer to the boundary the Tamiami Trail.

Next time you drive across Fakahatchee on US-41 take notice of the battle line that has been drawn. As you look to the North of the road you'll see the great army of Cattails that have taken up a very robust position along the canal. In some places they go way past the hardwood hammocks as far North as the eye can see. On the South side you'll see the brave Mangrove trees marching forward, each establishing a strategic position at the edge of the road and waiting for their reinforcements. In some places you can see where they have each crossed over the battle line to invade the others domain. As you make your way down river you'll start to notice the early stages of barnacle growth on the mangrove roots just another subtle indicator that the salt water is pushing North.

The water has been so unbelievably clear the past few weeks you're able to see the **Spotted Gar** and **Sand Brim** darting around beneath the kayaks. Even the **alligators** are clearly visible while trying to hide, submerged at the bottom of the open ponds.

Around this time of year I always start hearing the legend of a huge **Crocodile** that makes its way up river with the progression of the salty water. I've heard the report from airboat drivers, fishermen, and other guides in the area. When the Croc arrives and what route it takes is murky but one point everyone agrees on is that it is BIG 13ft - 14ft. Just last month my buddy Rich said he spotted it in the third pond going towards the Gulf. I checked with park biologist Mike Owen and he confirmed that, indeed, a Large American Crocodile has been seen in East River and even in the US-41 canal. I have not yet encountered this legendary beast but I will certainly be on the lookout.

Editor's Note: Tod emailed that he spotted another **Mangrove Cuckoo** on 1/28/15 at around 8am just outside the first tunnel from the East River put-in.



EN PLEIN AIRE

ART IN THE PRESERVE

by Catherine Hatch

The sky was azure with a few clouds floating by. It was fresh with a nice breeze keeping all the artists very comfortable. We spent the day sketching and painting near the Harmon building. An old bent tree, graceful royal palms, lovely wild flowers, water, and plants of every description were the subjects for the participants. Watercolors, markers, colored pencils were used to capture the beauty and uniqueness of the Fakahatchee.

Everyone took a break at noon in the shade to visit and share ideas and encouragement. Chocolate everything was enjoyed and many, many thanks given to Karen Relish and Elizabeth Smith who have organized this event for many years.

We will meet annually now each January. Watch for us or join us next January 9.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS DUE BY FEBRUARY 27th

You can help the Friends even if you don't slog in the swamp.

Nominations are being sought to fill positions on the FOF Board of Directors. The Board meets every other month during the summer and monthly throughout the remainder of the year (usually on Sundays). The Board sponsors events, raises money, authorizes expenditures, and sets priorities and objectives for both short-term and long-term improvements to the Park. As a Board member you will get to know and work with Park staff and those with an intimate knowledge of what the Park has to offer.

The goal of the Friends of Fakahatchee is *to provide 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.* We are a Citizens' Support Group with close links to the Florida Department of the Environment.

A nominee will be a member in good standing and at least 18 years of age, verify a willingness to actively participate at Board meetings and activities during the two year term beginning in April, and be prepared to submit a brief statement of background, interests, and qualifications. All interested members are encouraged to apply, including seasonal residents.

Do not be afraid to reach outside Friends and encourage someone to join if you believe he or she will be a valuable addition to the Board or have needed skills such as a financial background or event planning. Please do not nominate anyone who has not agreed to serve. You may, of course, nominate yourself.

If you are willing to serve or know someone who is, please send the nomination on the Nomination Form, with your name and contact information and the nominee's name, address, phone and e-mail and any other contact information to:

email: jskaiser@maine.edu

postal address:

John Kaiser
3431 Lakemont Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

or phone with questions to:

(239) 949-6934 or (207) 659-1714

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, February 27**. Nominees will be invited to submit a short biographical sketch. "Bios" will be due by **Saturday, March 7**. If you need a Nomination Form, please contact John Kaiser.

We look forward to your nominations,
John Kaiser, Nominating Committee chair
Ted DeGroot, Nominating Committee member
Tom Maish, Nominating Committee member

HACKING IN THE FAK

by Dino Barone

The first four Saturdays in January, we have had a diverse group of volunteers, Fearlessly FAKA-hacking in the Park, between land owners, Ultra runners and FOF volunteers. All total, this energetic group has contributed just under 300 volunteer hours to the Fakahatchee. Approximately 14 miles of trams have been cut/cleared for the park, guests and ultra marathon runners. A temporary wood bridge was built over a deep washout. There are approximately 5 miles of trams that are still in need of some attention between now and February 14, in preparation for the race on February 21.

I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has spent time volunteering. Those shoulders and arms are getting a tremendous workout from the machetes and loppers. All the walking and dragging of materials are definitely keeping the legs in shape. Spending time with everyone during the work days are enriching experiences to me, while hopefully equally rewarding to all volunteers.

Please do not think for a moment that we are done. After the Ultra Marathon there is plenty to do out in the Park. There is pepper – pepper everywhere that needs to be cut and treated. Ah, then there is air potato that will need to be picked up and vines treated in an effort to retard this evasive from spreading.

If you are feeling particularly energetic on a given Saturday, and want to enjoy a day out in the Fakahatchee, please contact either Melissa Miano (Melissa.Miano@dep.state.fl.us), Park ranger extraordinaire and volunteer coordinator, or myself at sunnyg8tr@aol.com. If you would let me know by Thursday before a Saturday you are available, this will ensure I coordinate with the park that we have enough vehicles.



Led on January 10 by our very own Fakahatchee Ranger Melissa Miano, the intrepid Fearless FAKA-hackers were joined by two land owners and 8 Ultra runners on a cool refreshing morning with temperatures in the mid 50's. Our work force totaled 18 and the accomplishment was immense. We successfully cleared 1.75 miles of Mud Tram from Janes west of the spur that runs into Four Stakes Prairie.

But wait, this energetic group was nowhere near being finished. We also cleared the entire spur running from Mud Tram down and into Four Stake Prairie. In total, approximately 2.75 miles of trails were cleared, benefiting both the park with easier access to the 5 wells that are monitored monthly and for preparation of the Everglades Ultra Marathons running in February 21.

A total of 153 volunteers hours were contributed to the Fakahatchee. The two FOF Kubota's along with the Park's Polaris were used in an effort to move everyone. As we had more folks than vehicle capacity, some walking was needed. Cool temperatures with low humidity, a dedicated workforce ... WOW, what a Super Duper Day it was.

Fak at MSD Festival

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival in the Museum of the Everglades at the end of this month features activities with familiar Fakahatchee names – Mike Owen, Renee Rau, Jack Berninger, Tod Dahlke, and Marya Repko. Most of the canoe and tram trips and walks are fully booked but the talks are open for attendees. For info, phone (239) 695-0008 and see www.evergladesmuseum.org for a program.

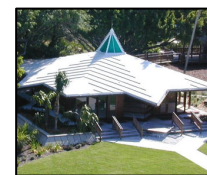


FREE TALKS IN NAPLES

Naples Preserve also features talks by Fak friends this winter. Starting off will be Marya Repko on February 10 giving an illustrated presentation "Women in the Everglades". That is followed on March 3 by Jack Berninger lecturing about "Pollinators & Plants". And, on March 10, Patrick Higgins' subject is "Fakahatchee – Northernmost Island in the Caribbean". Ron Echols (FOF member, stalwart at the Preserve, and from an old Everglades family) talks on March 31 about the "The Early Tamiami Trail in Naples & Western Collier County".

The talks are free to the public. Naples Preserve is just south of Coastland Mall on the corner of US-41 (Tamiami Trail) and Fleischmann Avenue. The startling star-shaped building was originally the home of the Naples Chamber of Commerce. There is a boardwalk behind it so come early to explore this oasis in the city.

For info, phone (239) 261-4290 or see www.naplesgov.com and click on Departments, Parks & Recreation.



New ENP Super

Congratulations to Pedro Ramos who has been appointed as Superintendent of Everglades National Park to succeed the retiring Dan Kimball. Pedro is a familiar face because he had been at Big Cypress National Preserve since 2001.



MICCOSUKEE LEADER GONE

Chief Buffalo Tiger passed away on January 7 at age 94. He was responsible for the Miccosukee people being recognized as a tribe by the U. S. government in 1962. He is quoted as saying, "We wanted land set aside for us and to be left alone." To read more, visit www.guardiansoftheeverglades.com where you can see his portrait by Nicholas Petrucci in their Guardians collection.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have 285 current memberships plus 47 in arrears from the 4th quarter. Renewals notices for the 1st quarter were emailed and will be posted to those who did not respond. Reminders were sent to the 4th quarter members in arrears.

Do not confuse membership with the Annual Fund!!!
Membership entitles you to vote for FOF directors.

Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:

Margaret Bales, Woodridge, IL
Christina Lihan, Ft Lauderdale
Ted Lock, Bloomington, IL
Steve Pitcher, Naples
Mimi Wolok & Dan Nipper, Naples

DID YOU KNOW?

We sold 404 Ghost Rider Tram Tour tickets so far this season, including 100 for the Moonlit Tours which are sold out.



Tod Dahlke found this huge dead snook that had choked on a Mayan cychlid on 1/28/15 in the East River.

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

Vice-President – Patrick Higgins
Treasurer – Jinny Ball

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Patrick Higgins
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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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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 _____
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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

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