



President and Executive Director Letter

Summer of 2022 will prove to be one of the most impressive summer in the Preserve with respect to construction activity. No lazy summer in the park; it's buzzing with activity!

The Pole barn to shelter Park equipment from harsh weather conditions is 95% complete. Soon Collier County will be called in to do the final inspection.

The Visitor Center at the main entrance of the Park was completely stripped from the outside in and down to the bare structure. This renovation, including a new roof, will finally provide the very nice Visitor Center that the Fakahatchee most certainly deserves.

The Boardwalk Expansion project is moving along nicely despite the summer rains. We are thrilled to see the new Boardwalk via Green Heron Lake under construction. Improvements in the park – such as never seen before – have been possible only because of your generosity and support. As you enjoy the pictures in this newsletter we remind you that we could not have done this without you!

With sincere gratitude,

Tom Maish and Francine Stevens



News from the Strand

Core Construction Projects Near Completion



Equipment Pole Barn

The much anticipated 84 by 72 foot pole barn to protect park equipment is near completion. Photo by Park Manager Allen Murray.



Visitor Center

A completely renovated visitor center will be ready for the return of our snowbird volunteers to welcome and orient visitors. Photos by P. White. Continued >>



The Visitor Center, rebuilt from the inside out, nears completion.

Boardwalk Expansion Project Continues

Connecting the new Pavilion to the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk seemed a daunting task, but as you will see below it is well underway!



Constructing the boardwalk is demanding work, often accomplished over water. Photo by Francine Stevens.



The project path toward Green Heron Lake as it appeared when work got underway. White rectangles show locations of flagging for boardwalk. Photo by Jay Staton.



By June 2022 the boardwalk was on its way. Photo by Jay Staton.



July 20, 2022, great progress is revealed in this shot by Ralph Arwood.

Fakahatchee Park Staff all fired up!

Park staff are trained to safely execute the prescribed burns essential to maintaining the health of fire adapted landscapes. Read about the benefits of control burns at <https://orchidswamp.org/fire-a-natural-part-of-our-ecosystem/>



Park Ranger Rebecca Thornhill and Park Manager Allen Murray monitor the burn's progress from the waterway.



Park Specialist Steven Bass is trained on use of fire to improve the health of the preserve's expansive Prairie. Fire photos courtesy of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

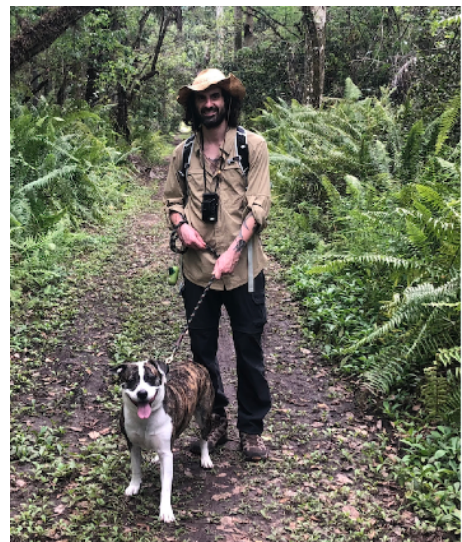


Aerial shots show the mosaic pattern of the Preserve landscape. Burned areas will soon regenerate with renewed vigor. Aerial photos by Jay Staton.



Bravo Mark Perro!

Fundraising Chair and Board member, Mark Perro, is featured on the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park website. (Photo from webpage; <https://www.floridastateparks.org/volunteer-spotlight-mark-perro.>)



Donation Strategies by Chris Gair

Two forms of charitable trusts...

The Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is one of the tried-and-true methods of charitable gifting that benefits both family members (including YOU) and your charity. Simply described, a CRT is a TRUST that pays a defined amount annually to people for a specific period of time, after which the trust terminates and distributes to one or more charities that you choose. The person (or couple) that creates the CRT can receive a tax deduction for the present value of the charitable interest. Congress adopted the tax laws governing CRT's in 1969 and they are little changed since then.

An important point about this very popular form of gifting, it's important to know that CRT's exist in two forms.

The first form is the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). With the CRUT, the annual amount paid to people is based on each and every calendar year-end market value of the trust. In this way, both the charitable and non-charitable beneficiaries share the risk of fluctuations in market value.

The second is the Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT). With CRAT, the amount paid to people is fixed for the life of the trust. So at least some of the market value risk is reduced for the non-charitable beneficiary. Interestingly enough, you can add to a CRUT and be eligible for an additional tax benefit but IRS prohibits adding to a CRAT.

Regardless of the method you choose, the Friends have the hands-on knowledge, experience, and commitment to make every dollar of your gift count.

Mr. Chris Gair of Fort Myers is providing the FOF with thoughts and ideas in the ever-changing world of charitable giving. Mr. Gair is retired after 48 years as a Trust Officer in Southwest Florida and is a member of the FOF Fundraising Committee.

As with all matters financial, always consult with your attorney or tax advisor.

**To Donate via the Friend's website, visit
www.Orchidswamp.org**



If you haven't yet opened your free AmazonSmile account, please take a few minutes to do so. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com>, then choose the Friends of Fakahatchee as your charity to receive the donations from your purchases. This works for your shopping all year round, and when more FOF members join in the donation parade, we'll see more money for our Park. Thank you!



You can now donate to FOF via your Fidelity Investment account with a Charitable program called the Fidelity Giving Marketplace. Follow this link for more information: <https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/>

“Matching Gift” programs

Several of our members have taken advantage of their employer's matching program (General Electric, Exxon Mobil) for donations to not-for-profit organizations by sending us the “matching” form. We do the rest – it's that easy!



Visit the Fakahatchee via FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM

Follow us!

<https://www.facebook.com/orchidswamp>
<https://www.instagram.com/friendsoffakahatchee/>

Share your pictures and stories about your
visit to the Fakahatchee.

E-mail your shots to connect@orchidswamp.org

Add hashtags to show up in existing collections:
#fakahatcheestrans, #friendsoffakahatchee,
#fakahatcheestransandpreservestatepark

Members make a difference.

Welcome to new members!

Mark James, St Petersburg FL; William Shaw, Marathon FL.

*Tom & Viki Johnson, members since 2016,
transitioned to Lifetime Family membership.*

Membership total is 372.

Continued thanks to our Lifetime Members:

Lifetime Preservers

Bruce & Janet Bunch

Lifetime Protectors

Kit & La Raw Maran
Dr. Michael Rohovsky

Lifetime Family Members

Jan Bachrach
Eric & Laura Foht
Richard & Sue Jagels
Tom & Viki Johnson
John & Polly Kaiser
Tom & Judy Maish
Noel Nation
Nick & Linda Penniman
Jim & Peggy Phillips
Van & Jane Saylor
Glen & Laura Stacell

Lifetime Individual Members

Mary Aronin
Karen J. Berkley
Rita Bleasdale
Warner Blow
Elsie Caldwell
Mina Doener
John Elting
Carolyn Ginther
Peter Haffenreffer
Don Harmon
Greg Hauze
Susan Hauze
Terry Heaps
Patty Huff
Richard Mizer
James Nici
Randy Parks
Wendy Becker Payton
Mark Perro
Ken Shapiro
John Spengler
Carol Vartanian

Board Members

President – Tom Maish
Vice President – John Kaiser
Treasurer – Phil McGuire
Secretary – Glen Stacell

Tom DesFosses
Eric Foht
Zach Lombardo
Virginia Palmer Skok
Mark Perro

Ex-Officio

Bruce Bunch
John Elting
Dennis Giardina
Glen Stacell
Andrew Tyler
Francine Stevens
(Executive Director)

Board of Directors meeting schedule

Sept. 18, 2022
Oct. 16, 2022
Nov. 20, 2022
Dec 17, 2022

2023
Jan. 15, 2023
Feb. 19, 2023
March 18, 2023

Meetings are scheduled
for 10:30 AM

Contact the Friends of
Fakahatchee at
FOF_90@hotmail.com or
call 239-695-1023.



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.

The Ghost Writer, named after the endangered Ghost Orchid which blooms in the Preserve, is currently edited by Next Steps Collective, LLC, which also manages the [Orchidswamp.org](http://orchidswamp.org) website. Contributions to Ghost Writer that relate directly to the business and purpose of the Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc. are welcome. Please write news@orchidswamp.org, subject line: Ghostwriter.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE FRIENDS OF FAKAHATCHEE, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH9223), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE HERE (<https://csapp.800helpfla.com/>)

Become a Friend of the Fakahatchee!

<https://orchidswamp.org/support/memberships/>

Miss an issue of the Ghostwriter? Visit the archives at
<http://orchidswamp.org/about-fof/the-ghost-writer-archives/>.

Our mailing address is:
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