



Visit the Park Website for updates regarding Hurricane Ian and the Fakahatchee.
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park>

President and Executive Director Letter

As it became evident that hurricane IAN's trajectory would impact our area, Park staff turned its attention to following hurricane preparation protocol. The following is an update received yesterday.

Park staff are safe and sound!

With the exception of Jones Grade lakes areas the rest of the Park is closed - re-opening unknown.

Visitor Center still under renovation - no damage, contractor has resumed work.

Pole Barn - still standing!

All residences for Park staff are OK, only minor damages; **Other structures in the Park are OK**, only minor damages.

Jane's Scenic is flooded - Park staff are busy clearing the debris to facilitate sheet flow.

The old Boardwalk is closed and will remain closed until it is inspected by engineers.

The new Interpretive Pavilion and new restrooms are in good shape. The bridge over the canal and the new Boardwalk are also in good shape. The water was high but there's no evidence it flowed over the new Boardwalk. The crushed shell path at Heron Lake at the end of the new boardwalk washed away and the new parking area flooded, but the water drained well. Note that this is Park staff assessment. The new Boardwalk site is still under DEC contract and DEC will have their own post hurricane inspection.

And what about our members?

It is reasonable to say that the majority of our members are affected one way or another by this hurricane, either personally, family members, friends, or neighbors. We extend our heartfelt wishes for the best possible outcome to all our members who are experiencing hardship during this most difficult time.

With sincere gratitude,

Tom Maish and Francine Stevens



Tickets now available for Tours starting in November

Thanks to our fabulous Volunteers, the Friends tour program is scheduled. You can purchase tickets on Eventbrite at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-fakahatchee-4741210771?ref=eorgbtn#events>.

- The first **monthly Night Sky Experience** will be guided by Phil McGuire is on Saturday, November 12th.
- **Monthly Moonlit Tours** guided by John Kaiser begin on November 8th.
- **Friday Tram Tours** start on the November 11th, guided by Dave Boesche. This season we welcome Theresa Fabiano Schuhmacher who will guide a few morning tram tours.
- Virginia Palmer Skok will guide all the **Introduction to Swamp Walks at Six Pipe Slough** starting on Wednesday, November 30th. Assisting Guides are Ted DeGroot, Charlie Egli, Tony Schuhmacher, and Andy Skok.
- **Swamp walks at slough locations beyond gate 12** will be guided by Eric Foht. Much to our surprise and delight, Biologist Mike Owen will guide two last swamp walks before he officially retires on December 31st. Yes, he extended his retirement date to December.

We still have open positions for Guides and Assistants that we expect to fill when Volunteers confirm their return to Florida for the season.

We applaud our fabulous Volunteers for the generosity of their time, expertise, camaraderie and good cheer; they are the reason for our continued success!

Nighttime is the right time for a Fakahatchee Photo Experience



The ever popular Moonlit Tram Tours offer opportunities for great pictures. November tickets available at <https://tinyurl.com/2scsf7ft>
December-April tickets are here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s8fryxb>



The Night Sky Experiences are not exclusively for photographers. The evening is open to everyone who just wants to spend an evening under the Fakahatchee's starry night sky. Select your date and purchase tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/5h9t5c9z>.



It's always a good time to join the FOF Tours Team. Are you interested in guiding or assisting FOF Tours, but wonder what's involved?

To learn, you can join our tours as a guest and shadow a Guide or Assistant until you feel comfortable taking the lead.

For more information call Francine at 239-695-1023, or visit our Volunteer page.

News from the Strand

Boardwalk reaches Green Heron Lake

Connecting the new Pavilion to the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk seemed a daunting task, but as you will see from these photos from August, it is well underway.



Safe parking was a major objective of the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk Expansion Project. Mission accomplished! Photo by Park Staff.



The new boardwalk ambles through the foliage on its way to the original boardwalk. Photo by Park Staff.



Visitors will experience more of the ecosystems that call Fakahatchee home. Photo by Park Staff.



The end of the new boardwalk at Green Heron Lake. Photo by Jay Staton

Donation Strategies by Chris Gair

For many years I worked as a trust officer at a Florida bank holding company. On every desk for all to see was a sign that said “Do you have a Florida Will?” When the Revocable Living Trust (RLT) became the “go to” Florida estate planning technique, the sign changed accordingly to “Do you have a Florida Revocable Living Trust?” All the advantages of the RLT and Florida domicile are too numerous to mention here but for charitable bequests to Friends, whatever you can do with your Will, you can also do with your RLT.

While your attorney will insist that you need a Will along with your RLT, it is a simple, straightforward matter to include Friends as a beneficiary of your RLT. Whether it's a specific sum, a specific asset (my 100 shares of Apple common stock), or a percentage of your trust holdings, the RLT is a proven way to benefit your family and the charities of your choice.

The RLT does not apply to charitable giving from your estate for assets and accounts that require a designated beneficiary. These include life insurance and IRA's.

Today's estate planning, like all financial matters, are truly complex and require an attorney to assure your wishes are fulfilled. Your RLT, Will, IRA, insurance policies, powers of attorney, etc. all need lockstep coordination and periodic review.

However you choose to make your gift to Friends, please know how grateful we are and how committed we are to assuring your legacy insures our mission's future.

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:
#fakahatcheestrand, #friendsoffakahatchee,
#fakahatcheestrandpreservestatepark



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 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:
Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc.
PO Box 35, Everglades City, FL 34139

Members make a difference.

Welcome to new members!

Adecia Adams, Fort Myers FL; Lauren Brauer, Saint Louis, MO; Martha Dunlavy, Louisville KY; Karen Williams, Pompano Beach FL; Rudy Wilms, Venice FL; Marlene Woo-Lun, Columbus OH.

Tom & Vicki 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 & Vicki 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

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.