



# Friends of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 548 Copeland, Florida 34137

Telephone (941) 695-4593

## Fakahatchee Newsletter

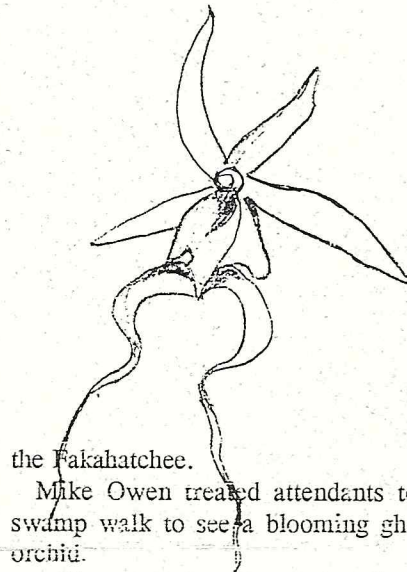
October 2000

### U-Haul Unveils Ghost Orchid SuperGraphic in the Preserve

Don't be surprised if you see a rare ghost orchid — normally found hanging around on a pop ash, pond apple or cypress tree in the Fakahatchee — trucking down the highway somewhere else in the country.

U-Haul International, Inc. has chosen the delicate epiphyte to represent the state of Florida in their new SuperGraphic program. Soon, 600 new U-Haul moving vans decorated with 10-foot-long stylized drawings of the ghost orchid and its habitat will be available for rental throughout the nation.

A prototype was unveiled outside the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve office in Copeland, Sept. 8. On hand were U-Haul staff from Phoenix headquarters, Everglades City mayor Sammy Hamilton, Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce representative Claudia Davenport, Everglades City School third and fourth graders, DEP staff and Friends of



the Fakahatchee.

Mike Owen treated attendants to a swamp walk to see a blooming ghost orchid.

The most southern sloughs of Florida are the only places in North America where the ghost orchid is found. Owen says the highest concentration of the orchid is probably in the Fakahatchee Strand.

### Annual Gathering Honors Friends

Members enjoyed lunch, an awards program and swamp buggy rides at the privately-owned Ballard-Britton camp, May 6.

Roger Dykstra was recognized with a plaque for serving as the first Friends of the Fakahatchee president.

The annually awarded "Mel Finn — Father of the Fakahatchee" award went to Harmon Brothers' Rock Company for continued long time support of preserve operations.

Also recognized for volunteer efforts were: Barbara Lewinski of Chokoloskee, Dennis Marlin of Osprey, Bill Mesce of Lee Cypress. Lee and Marilyn Russell of Port of the Islands were recognized as benefactors.

### Crocodile Expert Hosting Trip

Former Zambian crocodile hunter Cyril Marks will be leading a Fakahatchee canoe trip on the East River, Oct. 28.

Marks has been researching the crocodiles who live at the Marco Island airport for the past four years with the University of Florida and the Department of Environmental Protection.

An avid canoer, Marks has paddled the Wilderness Waterway to Flamingo in search of crocodiles.

He will be pointing out some of the habitat where crocodiles could be living along the East River as it flows into Fakahatchee Bay in the 10,000 Islands.

We will meet at the launch entrance on the south side of US 41, which is five miles north of the intersection with SR 29.

FOF is providing trail mix and water. Bring your own lunch. For more details, call Greg Toppin at 695-4593.

#### FAKAHATCHEE CALENDAR

##### OCT. 14 BUTTERFLY COUNT

volunteer effort of Picayune and Fakahatchee

call Mike Owen for more info 695-2886

##### OCT. 28 FAKAHATCHEE CROCS

Canoe Trip on the East River

8:30 a.m. to whenever

RSVP 695-4593

##### NOV. 2 BOARD MEMBER MEETING

at Pepper Ranch in Immokalee  
barbecue and wildlife viewing

##### NOV. 2-4 CSO CONVENTION

"Friends" Groups meeting in Jacksonville

##### NOV. 18 MONTHLY SWAMP WALK

10 a.m. Bring a lunch, bug spray, sun screen, camera

RSVP biologist Mike Owen 695-2886

##### DEC. 10 PHOTO SAFARI

9:30 a.m. Led by renowned Florida outdoor photographer and writer Jeff Ripple

cost: \$30 members/\$45 non-members

RSVP and call for flyer 695-4593

space is limited for 15

##### DEC. 16 MONTHLY SWAMP WALK

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#### Hellos and Good-Byes

Welcome Howard Branch, who transferred from Collier-Seminole State Park March 1, and replaced Iolen Mayberry.

#### Breaking Discoveries!!!

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Seminole State Park, March 1, and replaced Jolen Mayberry,  
who's pursuing a teaching career in Everglades City School.

Welcome David Henley, who transferred from Bahia Honda  
State Park, April 3, to replace Tom Beman, promoted to  
assistant park manager of Myakka River State Park.

### Breaking Discoveries!!!

FLORIDA MASTIFF BAT --- a rare South Florida bat not  
known to be as far north as the Fakahatchee until this year.

SEVERAL LIVERWORTS --- Karen Relish of Sarasota has  
been collecting and identifying new finds, stay tuned



## Friends of Fakahatchee Finish Active Year

The Friends of the Fakahatchee (FOF) citizen support organization had its busiest year ever.

During the June 1 to May 31 1999-2000 year, we increased membership, expanded our presence at the Preserve's office on Janes Scenic Drive, hosted a variety of events and began networking with other organizations.

FOF is getting the word out about the unique qualities of the Strand and its inhabitants. Our web site has been up and running since early summer. The newsletter — which keeps members up to date on our activities — was also inaugurated last year.

We purchased a photo display system and installed it at the visitors center on Janes Scenic Drive. Visitors are now enticed into the Strand by exquisite pictures of orchids and landscapes.

FOF became affiliated with the Friends of Florida State Parks and four members represented FOF at the annual state CSO meeting in Tampa.

We co-hosted a barbecue in the Preserve with the Friends of the Panther Refuge as the culmination of a Florida panther poster contest for Collier County school children.

FOF also held the first annual Board of Directors' Retreat, an overnight camp-out hosted by board member Dennis Marlin, who has a private cabin in the Preserve.

Members put in a full day dismantling

a donated trailer for salvage. Aluminum and other recyclable materials were sold and monies added to the general fund.

We hosted several "Photo Safaris" with the help of board member and natural landscape photographer Jeff Ripple. One, geared for Florida journalists, generated a front page article in the outdoor section of the Palm Beach Post.

Two of the photography workshops were conducted by Ripple as fundraisers to support a grant application to the Florida Humanities Council for a photo exhibit.

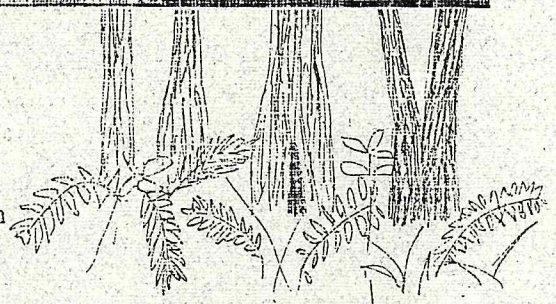
### Fakahatchee to Travel

A comprehensive photo exhibit featuring the natural and cultural history of the Fakahatchee Strand, photographed by artist and writer Jeff Ripple, will go on tour in Florida this winter.

The 15- to 20-piece show will open, Feb. 5, 2001, at the University of Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville and close, July 2, 2001.

A local showing will be held at the Everglades City Museum, April 3 through the end of April. The Board will host a reception in conjunction with the show, details to be announced.

The Friends hope this exhibit helps residents and visitors better understand this unique environmental resource.



### Friends Host Ghost Orchid Walks

About 20 people took advantage of the June 10 and June 17 swamp walks led by Fakahatchee Strand biologist Mike Owen to see the rare blooming ghost orchid.

Cost was \$15 and the Friends made \$300, which was added to the general fund.

### Special Thanks for Contributions

Spencer and Barbara Doty for postage for the last newsletter issue.

Susie Griffith for updating our web page

Dr. John C. and Lisa M. Klimes Dental Clinic for postage for our membership renewal notices.

Lee and Marilyn Russell for keeping our Big Cypress Boardwalk stocked with brochures.

Local Walmart for donation of bug spray for use on our Big Cypress Boardwalk on US 41.

### CONTEST

The Friends of the Fakahatchee (FOF) are holding a contest to name our newsletter. The winner will receive a photo safari with Jeff Ripple, a \$45 value, choosing between three dates. The name must fit within the white space within the black box on the top of this page. All entries must be received by Nov. 14. Mail ideas to Friends of Fakahatchee, address above.