

## **Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Board Meeting Minutes August 23, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge ("FLR") was held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the Administration Offices of the Refuge. In attendance were the following directors: Jay Brenner, Julie Muolo, Jean Poleshuck, Tom Poulson, Mitch Rosenheim, Sid Rotter, and Elinor Williams. Also in attendance was David Underwood, Visitor Services and Public Use Team Leader of the Refuge, and Jay Paredes, Kevin Barry, and Lance Warley all of the Everglades Photographic Society. Cindy Bartosek also attended a portion of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The first order of business was a discussion with members of the Everglades Photographic Society ("EPS") regarding their involvement with managing the Refuge photo contest (Tom Poulson, Sid Rotter, and FLR's webmaster, George Berman would also be involved). Jay Paredes of EPS discussed the goals of EPS: want to run it together as a group; wants to know what the goals of FLR are. EPS not a formal group yet, their goal as a group is educational outreach program, keep people outdoors and then get them interested towards conservation.

Cindy Bartosek then spoke about her background as contest coordinator: made changes based on participant feedback, likes idea of group taking it on because it's not a one person job, timeframe - link it to Everglades Day - raised awareness - gallery opening night before Everglades Day and thousands of people see the pictures on Everglades Day to spark interest; this year's show will be with grand opening of Visitor's Center (possibly Nov./Dec.) - then maybe do during Refuge Week (1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct. and generally leave up for 6 - 8 weeks. Judging done in January so photos can be displayed on wall for Everglades Day in February. Announce contest in Sept. or Oct. EPS participate in web forums and can get the word out that way. Also discussed was having a photo workshop in the Fall to promote contest and how to present photos for competition. EPS would work out all details to promote, judging, presentation and displays (work with one on one - Cindy will help with that) After details worked out then announce contest. Will split group from EPS to work on contest. Also promote events that occur at refuge like owl nesting, etc. EPS would not enter contest but would like some of their images taken at the refuge displayed at the Refuge. Cindy mentioned other exhibits showed at other times.

There was a suggestion to form a committee to finalize details and report to Board of progress. Cindy or EPS will send a representative to report to Board. EPS to send updates to board periodically.

There was also discussion of making prints available for purchase and to put order forms at show. Board has covered prize money (approx. \$1400) other costs with printing, mailing, food for reception, cost of ribbons - was Cindy's personal donation (\$200). Approximate total of everything is \$2,200. EPS would set up committee to do prescreening of entries, contact photographers to tell not qualified; judging ahead of time of event and announce winners during event - show all qualifying images; if want critique can maybe do that separate; panel of 3 judges - 1 from Refuge, 1 from EPS, and 1 from FLR. They would also set up judging criteria for scoring

Next Jean Poleshuck reported on finances: Our Bank of America Account and Bank of America Exhibit Account totals approximate 25,200 (less bills to be paid) and Bank of America 4 month CD of \$25,000 totals approximately \$50,000. Profit and Loss was not calculated for August because of adjustments have to be made due to installation of new cash register. Jean reported the following financial obligations and other

costs: \$20,00 pledged for exhibits; sales in the store have decreased considerably, cost of new cash register, and the hiring of store consultant, Jacque Pelt store, Jean expressed the desire that the store should be fixed up before the grand opening - new cabinets, offices are difficult to work in, need new shelving.  
. Store Committee to meet with Rolf to see how much money is available to fix up. Suggested budget committee be formed - Mitch, Jean (and possibly Herb).

Insurance Report: Jay read Steve's report: has one quote \$1 million liability and \$20,000 for store contents for \$1500; many companies decline to insure us.

Annual Luncheon - Joan Davis agreed to coordinate. Need to reserve a place now. There was a brief discussion regarding combining the annual luncheon with the annual membership meeting.

Theatre Video Script: Tom will review; Mitch to email to all board members

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2008.

There being no further matters to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Julie Muolo, Secretary