

Friends of Arthur R Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Board Meeting Minutes November 22, 2008

Attendees: Jay Brenner, Joan Davis, John Marshall, Rolf Olson, Cynthia Plockelman, Jean Poleshuck, Elinor Williams

The minutes for the October meeting were unanimously approved.

National Park Trust

Jay has spoken to Sylvia Pelizza about the Refuge becoming a part of the National Park Trust, an organization whose mission includes protecting and preserving public lands through education, partnerships, and community-building.

Treasurer's Report

Jean provided a Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2008 and a Profit and Loss statement for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. The regular checking account contains \$20,329, the exhibits checking account contains \$3,200 and the Bank of America CD contains \$25,228. Total income for the year was \$35,284 and total expenses were \$38,736, for a net income loss of \$3,452.

Membership Appeal/Recruitment

Jay gives out membership brochures on every tour he conducts. Mitch and Joan are also giving membership brochures to friends and colleagues from whom they are soliciting contributions in exchange for calendars. Joan mentioned that the official Refuge website is out-of-date; Rolf said he is finding someone to work on it.

Joan will shorten Mitch's proposed membership appeal letter in time for an early December mailing of the letter along with a calendar.

Marilyn Reich is now handling the thank you's for membership renewals in place of Sandra Brock, who moved to Arizona. We need to update the membership renewal letter with her name.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed, particularly to help with the cash register. We might consider hiring someone part-time to work in the store on weekends.

The Friends now have a volunteer coordinator, Judy Colvard. David Underwood is still responsible for new volunteer orientation. Chuck Ryan will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays to work on volunteer recruitment and other issues related to volunteers.

Refuge Report

Rolf reported that the Refuge gave tours to attendees of the Wildlife Society's annual meeting and to members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is getting input on the phosphorus discharge from Stormwater Treatment Area 1 - East entering the Refuge and converting pristine areas to cattails. To address the issue they are considering putting up a berm and possibly, but less likely, dredging the canal.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's office has conducted boat training at the Refuge.

Serena Rinker and the Marshall Foundation are conducting teacher seminars.

Plaque Honoring Arthur R. Marshall

John Marshall has been attempting to contact Greg Morrow to get the text from the exhibit currently being built, to understand the context the new plaque will be placed in and to avoid any duplication. The Friends are willing to contribute up to \$5,000 for the plaque.

Photo Contest

Approximately 7 of this year's photographers, along with their friends and family and one of the judges attended the reception November 16. Cindy Bartosek provided the food and drinks. Michael Wolf, representing the Everglades Photographic Society, discussed next year's photo contest and defended the decision to allow professional photographers to enter. Applications for next year's contest are now on display in the Visitor Center. Entries will be accepted from January 3 - March 1, 2009.

2009 Annual Friends Conference

The 2009 Annual Friends Conference will be held February 21 - 23 in Washington, DC. At next month's board meeting we should nominate 2 members to represent us.

Marshall Foundation River of Grass Gala

Evan Hirsche, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, will be attending the Marshall Foundation River of Grass Gala on December 6 at the Ritz Carlton in Manalapan. John and Nancy Marshall felt that the Friends should be represented and take the opportunity to meet him. They proposed that the Marshall Foundation subsidize the cost of a table for the Friends, Evan Hirsche, and Sylvia Pelizza and her husband. (Tickets are normally \$375/person; actual cost approximately \$150/person.) In return for the free tickets, the Friends would donate \$1500 to the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Cynthia moved that we approve the \$1500 expenditure, Elinor seconded it; the motion passed unanimously.

Everglades Coalition

The Everglades Coalition presented a vision document on restoring flows to the Everglades to several NGOs, the South Florida Water Management District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Seminole tribes. John Marshall is concerned that this document needs broader circulation, as it has not yet gone to all coalition members.

Annual Friends Meeting

The annual Friends meeting will be held at the Visitor Center on Sunday, January 18. Joan prepared an invitation for mailing to membership.

The terms of two of our current board members will expire in January - Ruth Levow and Jay Brenner. They can be nominated for new terms. If all 12 current board members remain on the board, we could still nominate 3 new members to the board. Please bring nominations for new members to the December board meeting. We could really use some younger members, particularly ones who have or work with school-age children, to bring a fresh perspective to the board!

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Saturday, December 20 at 9:00 AM.