

**Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Friends Board”) met on Saturday, April 25, 2009 in the Conference Room at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”).

Attendees: Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Jay Brenner, Joan Davis, Cynthia Plockelman, Lance Warley, Elinor Williams, Mitch Rosenheim, Herb Teitler, and Kim Edoff. Absent were Tom Poulson and Judy Colvard. In attendance were special guests Jake and Jay Paredes from the Everglades Photographic Society (EPS).

The meeting opened at 9:00 am. A quorum was established.

John Marshall asked the Friends to fund a request to help finance the summer intern program at the Refuge in the amount of \$2,500. The Marshall Foundation fundraising efforts over the last year have been focused on the new exhibits fund and not their regular operating fund, therefore they cannot fund the summer intern program in full as they have in previous years.

Mitch Rosenheim moved to fund the \$2500 request from the Marshall Foundation to help finance the summer intern program. Cynthia Plockelman seconded the motion.

Board discussion followed. We have additional requests to fund—National Wildlife Refuge Association (we have all year to fund this request), Everglades Coalition (EVCO), etc. A financial discussion followed led by Herb Teitler who gave part of the Treasurer’s report. Our store sales are starting to slow down in the store and will continue downward through the summer. We currently have a net \$18,000 in our checking account as well as our 2 CDs totaling around \$28,000. Herb indicated that we have not been able to keep up with our expenses. When the exhibits come in, we may see an increase in store sales depending on the amount of publicity the new exhibits receive upon opening. Future expenses (exhibit opening and EVCO Conference) were discussed, however, the costs are unknown. Some discussion occurred around the possible need for a budget going forward.

A vote was taken on the motion and the motion was approved 8 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

John Marshall gave the Friends a book entitled An Everglades Providence as a thank you for funding the request.

Steve Horowitz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2009 meeting. Herb Teitler moved to approve the minutes. Joan Davis seconded the motion. The minutes as circulated for the March 14, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

Lance Warley discussed the photo contest and reception. Some of the successes of this year's contest were:

- Electronic submission
- EPS availability during the contest period to give tips and techniques to potential entrants

For next year's contest the EPS hopes to incorporate:

- using the Marshall Foundation children's photography workshop as automatic entries in the youth category
- addressing technical issues such as cropping and what resolution should be submitted (high only)
- requiring model releases for those entries that have people in them

For 2011, the EPS hopes to initiate automatic electronic submission with on-line entry payments but security issues among other things will need to be addressed.

The Board also discussed with EPS members in attendance whether more categories should be added for next year (point and shoot to get more amateurs involved), fee structure for entries, need for electronic frames for display once the hallway space is used for the new exhibits, and who can enter the contest (Refuge staff will be allowed next year).

Lance Warley moved to increase the entry fees for the 2010 photo contest as follows: \$10 for Friends members and \$20 for Non- Friends members. Joan Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried 7 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

The EPS agreed to provide the Friends with a timeline for the 2010 photo contest.

Lance Warley discussed the Gator Tales. A few articles still need to come in but Katie, who is doing the layout, is working on the set-up. The timeline is still uncertain but the issue will be coming out over the next couple of months.

Kim Edoff reported on the successful Earth Day event at Morikami Park Elementary and described the great job that the Refuge staff (Rolf, Chuck, and Jean) did there. Morikami will have a Refuge outing on May 30 and there are around 20 families signed up for that event. The Reading program in April is finishing up this weekend. The largest attendance day was Easter Sunday with 15 kids. Pollinator Day is scheduled in late June and a flyer provided by David Underwood will be circulated around the community.

Jay Brenner remarked on the recent airboat rides given to some of the volunteers who have served the Refuge for a long time and he thanks the Refuge staff for such a great opportunity.

Elinor Williams discussed the calendar and tri-fold brochure which are both in process. More information to come at a later date. At some point in time, we need to discuss our policy for memorials to certain people. Regarding membership, we need to consider how we want to keep in touch with our members in ways other than email.

The Board discussed the need for an advertising committee or Board member to handle publicity for Refuge and Friends' events. It was suggested that this person (when we are able to find someone) meet with Serena Rinker at the Refuge and Nancy Marshall at the Marshall Foundation as both individuals have good contacts to help publicize their events.

Mitch Rosenheim will be doing an advanced scout canoe trip this summer for one leg of the EVCO Conference canoe trip scheduled during the conference which is to be held January 7 – 10, 2010. The Friends hopes to work to get canoes up to at least the last leg of the trip and get some publicity out of this event. Jay Brenner commented that the tours we do (the Friends) could be one of our flagship programs. We do a great job with this and if we could get more publicity on our tours, it will benefit the Friends and the Refuge.

Herb Teitler continued with the Treasurer's report. A letter was recently sent to approximately 30 vendors asking for a 2% discount if we paid on time. Our 2 largest vendors (for publishing and t-shirts) will honor our request and this initiative should save us some money over the coming year.

Steve Horowitz discussed the need for a consistent and/or new Friends logo. We have 2 unofficial logos currently. Board discussion followed regarding designing a new logo and why we need something that identifies us as the Friends of Loxahatchee. Lance will contact Katie about some graphic designs for a new logo.

Rolf Olson gave the Refuge update:

- airboat recently caught on fire and started a 75 acre wildfire
- helicopter crashed in the interior last week
- Deputy Secretary of the Interior was here for a visit.
- Reading program did well
- bird nesting is good this year, wood storks are nesting here for the first time since early 2000
- we have had a few recent car burglaries
- we hired Jacque Pelt to be the YCC leader heading up the 4 high school kids working here this summer
- Fox news was out recently to talk to the exotic staff about our exotics
- German reporter was out recently here with John Marshall
- Soon to arrive are Chinese and Finnish environmental delegations

Cynthia Plockelman announced the dates (May 21 – 24) of the Florida Native Plants Society Conference.

Mitch moved to adjourn. Steve Horowitz adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Edoff

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