

## **Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Refuge**

Minutes of Board of Directors, January 22,2011

Present were: Steve Horowitz, John Marshall, Lance Warley, Joan Davis, Harvey Eisen, Elinor Williams, David Lurie, Jeff Kramer, Mitch Rosenheim, Cynthia Plockelman ,and Kay Larche. Rolf Olson was unable to attend.

A quorum being present, President Steve Horowitz called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the previous December 2010 meeting, as corrected.

Steve asked for reports from the various committees as follows:

**BOD Nominations:** John Marshall reported that five positions are expiring and will be nominated at the Annual Meeting tomorrow. Steve reported that the Annual Meeting has been publicized to members through email and flyers at V.C. desk. It will take place Sunday, January 23,2011 at 1:00 pm in the Visitor Center Theater. He will deliver a brief Annual Report, the nominations to the BOD, Treasurer's report, Bookstore sales status, and Membership, followed by a Power Point presentation on Loxahatchee by guest speaker, Dr. Tom Poulson. Afterward, there will be a short social time for members with wine, cheese & crackers. Lew Hecker will lead a tour of Cypress Boardwalk for those present.

**Everglades Day 2011:**

Kay Larche and Cynthia Plockelman reported on finalization of plans for the event on Saturday, February 12. Steve will be acting as Coordinator for Transportation that day. He reported on the new double-decker buses and the mini-buses which will replace Trolleys. It is hoped that more people will be moved safely and in comfort. John Marshall reported that the EVCO canoe expeditionists in 8 canoes will arrive especially for the event. They will show visitors how to pack canoes & discuss the importance of the Everglades.

{Speaking of canoes, Jeff and Mitch interjected that as Tour Leaders, they would appreciate it if there was more complete information provided to them when they are asked to schedule "special canoe tours" for the Refuge. They feel that too short a time is allocated/scheduled for them to do a thorough canoe tour. }

**Treasurer's Report:** David Lurie Presented amounts on Checking and CDs, approximately \$34,460. Jay Brenner Memorial Fund, \$3,300. There is a problem with a Bank American debit of \$2,800 which David is discussing with the Branch official today to remedy.

Friend's Bookstore: Harvey Eisen reported that sales were slightly higher this month. For EVD, there will be a store tent with tables set up outside like last year. Harvey Oyer, author of The Last Egret, will speak at the pavilion and sign copies of his books sold through the store. Harvey praised Frank B. for his excellent ordering skills which lead to higher sales. It was also suggested to educate the Visitor Center volunteers so that they will encourage visitors to enter the shop and explain that most of the Friend's income derives from sales.

Photo Contest: Lance Warley said that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends Photo Contest is in progress and on schedule. All entries must be in by February 25.

Steve announced that Michael Rosenbaum has been generous in offering a FREE photography class in 3 sessions called "Birds in Flight" at the Refuge. He has accepted 12 students beginning classes this morning.

Long Range Planning: Elinor Williams continues to amass and compile past Friend's files and minutes of BOD and is in process of organizing them. Elinor urged that we distribute ALL 2010 Calendars by the end of February. Most will be given to visitors on EVD with the rest on counter at V.C. Our sponsors deserve that this be done in a timely manner.

New Business: Steve informed BOD that re: Everglades Headwaters there will be a series of public scoping meetings. Participants can interact through email or with written comments.

The NWR Association reminds the Friends groups that March 14 is the 108 anniversary of the first National Refuge. Thus, there will be 3 "webinars" offered on the subject. They suggest we invite all local Congressional staffers to visit the Refuge and or meet with local Representatives. Cynthia suggested that we send an email "blast" during the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>. Steve will discuss visits with Sylvia and Rolf.

Refuge items of interest:

1. New 12 passenger electric cart ordered and due to arrive soon.
2. Awaiting new benches for outdoor area.
3. Meeting this Thursday regarding "signage" for the Jay Brenner memorial.
4. New education council offices set up in Bldg.5 Contains beginnings of new library. Tom is our rep. on Education Council with Serena and Marta.
5. Bunkhouse: Loxahatchee now has five newly hired biologists on campus. Also, there are five Seasonal resident Volunteers in their own trailers. Rolf has asked for help in funding wi-fi so they can all connect by computer and phone as there is now no system set up in bunkhouse. Steve suggests that the Friends support this effort.

Donations and Membership: Elinor researched how many donations had been received through our online “Pay Pal” account? There are 9 to date and one was a \$500.00 donation. Mimi has recently sent out the second round of Friends renewal notices. To date there have been 42 renewals of Friends who were sent 2nd notices after their membership had expired.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Submitted by Kay Larche, Secretary for January 2011 meeting.