

**FRIENDS OF
THE LOWER
SUWANNEE
& CEDAR
KEYS
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGES**

**Annual
Meeting
2024**



Program

- **Election of officers and a brief note on our Friends activities for 2023.**
- **Andrew Gude will update us on what's happening at the refuge.**
- **Brandon Imhoff presentation about accessibility on public lands.**
- **Feature presentation by Cynthia Barnett.**
- **Terrific luncheon provided by Kenny McCain.**
- **Walk over to Vista to see the progress and changes to the site or nature walk with John Thalacker.**
- **There will also be a demonstration by Michael Dumas of accessibility equipment.**

**Terms of Officers and Directors
are from Annual Meeting to
Annual Meeting.**

**President, President-elect, and
Immediate Past President serve
for one year.**

**Treasurer, Secretary, and
Director terms are for two years.**

Slate for 2024-2025



Denise Feiber
President



Ron Kamzelski
President-Elect



Ginessa Mahar
Past-President



Pete Tirrell
Secretary

Proposed new Directors



Robin Gallup



Chuck Adams



Debbie Meeks



Boyd Kimball

Returning Directors

Continuing in Their Positions



Linda Kimball
Treasurer



Bill Dummitt



Debbie Jordan



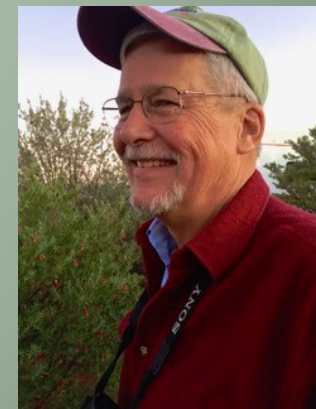
John
Thalacker



Jeri Treat



Dan Kline



Scott Wright

Leaving the Board this Year



Peg Hall



John McPherson



Paul Ramey



Barbara
Woodmansee

Although not on the board, many past members elect to remain actively involved with the Friends as “core volunteers” and “champions” of specific activities.

Core Volunteers



Peg Hall
Communications Champion



John McPherson
Vista Champion



Barbara Woodmansee
Pollinator Champion



Jay Bushnell
Advocacy Champion



Russ Hall
Science Champion

The Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys NWRs are one of hundreds of similar organizations that support and advocate for NWRs. In 2023 our organization was involved with many initiatives to assist our Refuges.

Vista – John McPherson was instrumental in getting a grant to restore the Cooks House at Vista. A RFP for the roof and other repairs has been generated. John along with Debbie Meeks have already started to refurbish the 10 antique windows in the building.

Law Enforcement – Jay Bushnell was tirelessly advocating for law enforcement at our Refuges as well as nationally. Jay's efforts led to a recent congressional visit by Kat Cammack to address the problem of little or no law enforcement at NWRs.

Outreach Trailer – Debbie Meeks was central to getting the Outreach Trailer purchased and outfitted. The trailer has already been used at several activities to draw attention to our Refuges.



The Cook's House

Friends' Outreach Trailer

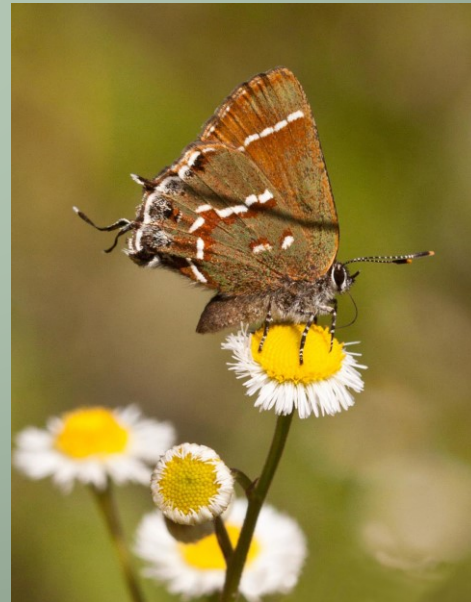
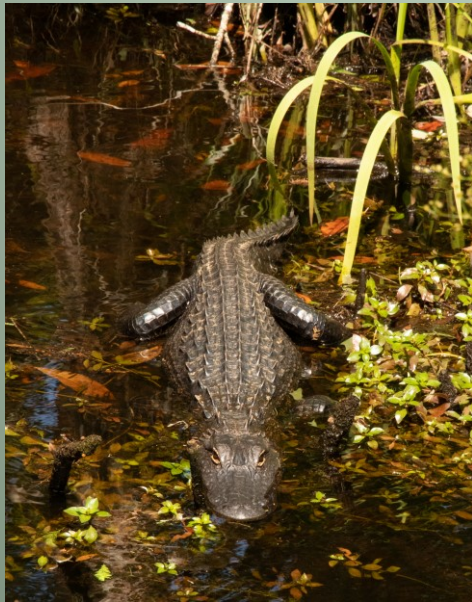


- **Communication** – Peg Hall was again in charge of the Monthly News Brief and maintaining the Friends WEB site and much more.
- **Junior Rangers** – Thanks to the efforts of many Friends volunteers and Refuge staff there were several Junior Ranger programs this year. Over 200 middle school children were taught about Junior Rangers and experienced some of what the Refuges offer.
- **Trails** – John Thalacker worked diligently to help restore the nature trails after hurricane Idalia. He also spent time surveying existing trails and proposed actions to make them more accessible for everyone.



Refuge Trail

- **Pepper Busters** – Scott Wright, Tom Simpson, Dan and Carol Wilcox and the rest of Scotts crew of merry pepper busters go out once a week to remove the highly invasive Brazilian Pepper from our Refuges risking snakes, ticks and swamps.
- **Butterflies** – Barbra Woodmansee is our pollinator expert and in addition to leading pollinator walks she is actively working to set up a pollinator garden at Vista.
- **Solstice and Sea Horse Open House events** – These activities were staffed by Friends volunteers to help Refuge personnel or promote the unique archaeological aspects of our Refuges.



- **Inventory and Sales** – Boyd Kimball, Jeri Treat and the rest of Boyd’s merchandising committee kept track of our inventory and sales. The monies generated by merchandise sales are essential to our efforts to help fund our efforts for the Refuges.
- **Also**
 - **Special thanks** to all our Donors who were key to helping us reach our goals.
- **Finance** – Finally thanks to our treasurer Linda Kimball whose knowledge and tireless efforts keep the financial records needed by our 501c requirements.

Financial Summary

	2021	2022	2023
Beginning Balance	\$23,897	\$28,211	\$40,161
General Income	11,091	26,153	33,293
Grant Income	0	0	15,000
Total Income	11,091	26,153	48,293
General Expenditures	6,672	14,416	23,921
Grant Expenditures	0	0	7,500
Total Expenditures	6,672	14,416	31,421
Ending Balance	\$28,411	\$40,161	\$57,011

Cynthia Barnett

An award-winning environmental journalist who has reported on water and climate around the world. Her latest book, *The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans*, was named one of the top science books of 2021 by NPR's Science Friday.

Today Cynthia will talk about rain and the stormy times, and give us a sneak peek at her new book in the works.

Thank You

- **Break for lunch**
- **Silent auction closes at 12:30**
- **Check out the outreach trailer**
- **Refuge merchandise is available on the porch**
- **Plan on to visit Vista or a go on a nature walk**