

# THE IBIS



**JANUARY 2013 Jay Bushnell editor**

The IBIS is the quarterly publication of The Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

## **JANUARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

Membership in the Friends of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys NWRs continued to grow in 2012. The hard copy IBIS is mailed to those who requested it. The digital form is on our web page. We look forward to your renewal for 2013 and your help in recruiting additional members.

### **OUR MISSION**

*is to provide active advocacy and physical support for the successful stewardship of the Refuges.*

*Advocating*

*Educating*

*Volunteering*

*Funding*

*Fellowship*



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Looking back, 2012 was our first full year under the leadership of our new Refuge Manager Andrew Gude and Deputy Refuge Manager Larry Woodward. They bring a level of energy and

community involvement that make the refuges dynamic players in the quality of life of our communities.

Friends also played major roles in the communities in 2012—in helping organize the Hidden Coast Paddling Festival, in bringing attention to the region as a world class paddling venue, in organizing nature-related presentations, nature walks, guided paddles, and more.

Looking forward to 2013, Friends has an ambitious set of initiatives planned. Read the article in this issue for more details and come to the Annual Meeting to be involved in getting them underway.

This is the last *Ibis* while I am president of Friends. It has been a wonderful experience. I hope to continue in other roles within Friends. I do want to take the opportunity to say thanks for the chance to work with you as President.

Happy New Year and hope to see you March 16 at the Annual Meeting and Refuge Open House. Your President, Peg Hall

**FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING & REFUGE  
OPEN HOUSE SAT. MARCH 16TH 9:30 AM  
- 3:00 PM-REFUGE HEADQUARTERS  
OFF COUNTY ROAD 347**

Be sure to mark your calendar. This is the annual membership meeting. **Remember that lunch is provided for members.** Kenny McCain will again be preparing lunch. As many of you may remember, we missed him last year but we still had a great lunch prepared by Ada Blue. As usual, we will have an action packed day with fellowship, food, and events. This the when the Refuge staff gets to show off the Refuge.

We will have an update on refuge activities, an overview and discussion of the planned Friends initiatives for 2013, and a Keynote Presentation

by Dr. Peter Frederick, Research Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida and a member of Friends. He will talk about oysters and oystercatchers. Many of you will remember Peter's great presentation on ibis at the Town of Suwannee annual meeting. Boat rides, hayrides, nature walks, and group paddle opportunities will round out the activities.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING SILENT AUCTION**

Based on the success of last two years, the Friends will be hosting the third Annual Friends Silent Auction. It has been a great fund raiser that also shows off many talents of our members. Of course, it is also a great shopping opportunity. We are hoping that this year will even be better! So if you have something that you would be willing to contribute, please contact Donna Bushnell (352-493-1807) about your donation. We would love any art work, objects for decor, sporting equipment, gift certificates, services and other contributions, either new or used in good condition. Be sure to bring your checkbook or cash to the Annual meeting to enjoy shopping and support a good cause! We will also need help running the auction the day of meeting. Please give Donna a call if you can help.

#### **IMPORTANT FRIENDS ITEMS FOR MEMBERSHIP VOTE**

At the annual meeting, there will be two important items to be voted on by members. **First**, there are changes to the Bylaws being proposed by the Board. They are:

#### **ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

##### **Proposed new wording for the Bylaws with changes underlined**

1. Candidates for the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of the Corporation. The Board shall consist of the officers, the immediate past President, and at least 3 additional Directors but no more than 15. The President-Elect and the President shall be elected for one year. The President-Elect shall assume the President position the following year. The Past President shall also serve for one year. Other officers and Directors shall be elected for two years but

may be re-elected. To avoid a complete turnover of the Board, the Board may stagger the terms. Designated representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may serve as liaison to the Corporation and its Board as nonvoting members of the Board.

6. The Officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, a President-Elect (*previously called the Vice President*), a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may deem necessary. The same person may hold any two or more offices, except that the President and Secretary may not hold additional offices.

**Next**, the new officers and directors for 2013 will be presented for your consideration. The nominating committee of Jay Bushnell, Bob Hudson, Roger McDaniels and Greg Lang are presenting the following slate for 2013: Jay Bushnell for President, Bob Hudson for President elect, Richard Herman for Treasurer, Ed DeHaan again for Director and Jan Connors, Greg Lang and Roger McDaniels as new directors.

It is important to note that nominations from the floor will also be encouraged of people willing to participate.

#### **BOARD CHARTS AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR 2013**

Working with Refuge Manager Gude and staff, the Friends Board of Directors has identified 12 priority initiatives for 2013. These have been used to develop budgets and guide expenditures of effort. Some initiatives center on improving refuge facilities, including enhancements to the River Trail and the Shell Mound interpretive program. Several others seek to build community support for the refuges and their conservation mission, with a major emphasis on Dixie County and the Cedar Key backwater marshes. An art initiative, redoubled efforts on last years' successful paddling initiative, and an education initiative are intended to increase the visibility of the refuges and their mission. Two science initiatives will help to facilitate citizen involvement in providing the science needed for sound management of the refuges' natural resources. Leaders for each effort are being

identified, and contact information will be provided to members when more detailed plans have been developed. by Russ Hall

### **HIDDEN COAST PADDLE FESTIVAL**

The Friends' paddle initiative kicked off at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hidden Coast Paddling Festival, staged in the town of Suwannee on October 5-7. The event successfully showcased the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge; and at the same time, indirectly, gave direction to our paddling initiative. Approximately 75 paddlers from around the state enjoyed a low country boil Friday night, Friends sponsored breakfast Saturday morning and three days of workshops, activities, events and guided paddling on seven of the designated trails in our refuge. The consensus of paddlers attending was "outstanding paddling!" and "can't wait till next year in Cedar Key."

The Refuge staff was led by Manager, Andrew Gude, Ranger, Pam Darty, Deputy Manager Larry Woodward, Officer, Kenny McCain & Christina Diaz. They contributed many hours to help make the festival a success. Starting with Friday evening cooking to seminars, safety patrol and hosting paddles throughout the weekend, refuge folks were everywhere and did everything they could to enhance the enjoyment of attendees. The Refuge proved to be an enticing stage and the Friends learned a few things to help direct our paddling initiative.

- The state-wide paddling community is constantly seeking new places to paddle.
- Paddlers will travel 2-3 hours, spend multiple days and money to paddle.
- Paddlers prefer wilderness paddling.



- The Refuge(s) offer unique, authentic, untouched by development, fresh/salt, complex (ecologically), array of paddling venues.
- These paddling venues can attract paddlers from around the state. by Mark Gluckman

Check out a 2 minute video of the festival by Kay & Russ Mcallister's son <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKfp62HRwP4>

### **FISHING IN THE REFUGE**

Winter is a wonderful time to fish the waters of the Refuge for the whole family. Whether you fish up in the creeks, the waters just outside the creeks, or the islands around Cedar Key, the Redfish, Seatrout and other species such as Black Drum are usually willing to bite. Try fishing a live shrimp, piece of cut mullet or a live mud minnow on an oyster bar on the incoming tide. Chances are, you will find some action. And,



even on those rare days when the fish aren't biting, the scenery and setting are absolutely magnificent. Refuge waters are accessible from boat ramps in the Refuges at Shell Mound, McCormick Creek (small boats only) and the Cedar Key Public Marina. by Grandpa Bob Hudson

### **REFUGE FORESTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

This year has been a very productive and busy year for the Forestry Program here at the Lower Suwannee NWR. Last week we completed a habitat restoration project that started with a proposal in June 2011. The project consisted of planting 44,000 stems of longleaf pine and 60,500 stems of wiregrass plugs on 24 different sites scattered across the Refuge. Sites that were planted coincided with past timber sales with the removal of slash pine (planted by the former timber companies) to create openings to restore

the sites back to its historic longleaf pine. Williams forestry was contracted to plant the sites. A crew of 15 planted all 24 sites (104,500 Longleaf and Wiregrass stems) in 4 days with



constant supervision from Refuge Staff. The wire grass was inner planted with the longleaf pine to create fine fuels for future controlled burns that was lost after the slash pine were removed. The Project proposal was approved in June 2011, funds for the project were secured in September 2011, and seedlings were ordered in March 2012. The sites were mechanically prepped for planting in September and October 2012 and the sites were planted in January 2013.

We currently have scheduled habitat restoration projects for our staff, volunteers, and organized groups. We have purchased 20,250 longleaf pine and 27,875 wiregrass plugs to be planted on 9 different sites in Levy County this winter and summer. **We need help planting these sites.** The UF Forestry Club and the UF Wildlife Club have volunteered to plant 15,000 stems on February 9, 2013. The Refuge has planned an all staff work day to plant longleaf and wiregrass on **February 4 - 5, 2013** and **February 11, 2013**. We graciously except any volunteers for these scheduled staff work days. This is fun work and excellent fellowship. This work is fairly easy with several different tasks and we can find a use for just about anybody. We will meet at the Refuge Headquarters around 8:00 am and work till everyone has had enough, usually till about 1:00 or 2:00 pm. All tools will be provided. Boots and long pants are the preferred attire. Please contact Daniel Barrant or Pam Darty if you plan to help

with the habitat restoration projects. by Daniel Barrant

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

To enhance visitors' experience on Dennis Creek Trail, we've installed interpretive panels that tell a bit of the Refuge story. Cultural history, FWS' concern for wildlife during sea level rise and climate change, native pollinators & plants, as well as vole research, are featured. Take friends on a walk to the observation deck to see the panel on wading birds.

Cedar Key School Science teacher Raymond Powers chose the Lower Suwannee for his latest field trip funded by Learning in

Florida's Environment (LIFE), a Florida state grant program for rural schools. Ranger Pam hosted the middle school students at Fletcher's Landing for 5 hours of curriculum-based Science labs. Partner Jennifer Saranzak (FWC Fisheries) was on



hand to help with the labs. This is a continuation of the 2011 grant program initiated by Tom Devrin of Cedar Key. by Pam Darty

## **HABITAT RESTORATION**

If you've noticed a tinge of wood smoke in the air lately, it's probably because the fire crew at Lower Suwannee has been busy in the past couple weeks burning pine uplands around the refuge. To date, the refuge has burned about 670 acres in the area of the North Entrance to the Nature Drive, and the Salt Creek area in Dixie County. Forestry Tech Anthony DiMaggio has been apprenticing under FMO and Burn Boss Vic Doig's tutelage and is making great strides. The process of becoming a certified burn boss takes years, but based on recent results, Anthony will make a good one.

The refuge conducts prescribed burns in appropriate areas of fire-dependant forests and natural communities to benefit wildlife habitat



for such critters as gopher tortoises, Bachman's sparrows, pine snakes, fox squirrels, Bobwhite quail, and many other species of plants and animals that depend on regular fire to maintain their open herbaceous habitat. by Vic Doig

### **CALENDAR EVENTS**

Area conservation organizations are working cooperatively to establish a series of educational programs. Representatives of the Refuge, Cedar Key Library, Cedar Key Garden Club, Cedar Key Chamber, and Friends of the Refuges. Also participating are Florida Parks, UF and Florida Wildlife Commission. Friends of Refuges Board member John Thalacker has been actively involved with this effort and would love to hear from you for suggestions of programs-543-6738.

**Sat., Feb. 2,** 10:30 AM, @ CK Library- "Invasive Plant Control," Drs. Cuda and Langeland

Sponsored by the Cedar Key Garden Club

**Sat., Feb. 2,** Star Party at CK State Museum, contact #543-5567

**Wed. Feb. 6,** Hayride Star Gazing @ CK Scrub off Fl 24, contact #543-5567

**Thurs., Feb. 7,** 5:00 PM @ CK Library- "Grand Canyon research," Dr. Bill Pine,

**Fri., Feb. 8,** Star Party at CK State Museum, contact, #543-5567

**Sat., Feb. 9,** 10:30 AM @ CK Library- "Waterfowl & Shore Birds" Doug Maple and Larry Woodward

**Thurs., Feb. 21,** 5 PM, Cedar Key Friends of the Library Annual Meeting Featuring singing duo Patchouli, (at the Community Center)

**Thurs., Feb. 28,** 11-1:00 PM-Tour at Shell Mound with Ranger Pam Darty, 493-0238

**Thurs., March 7,** 11-1 PM-Tour at Shell Mound with Ranger Pam Darty, 493-0238

**Sat., March 9,** Cedar Key Friends of the Library, 8:00-4:00 PM, Book Sale & Garden Club Plant Sale

**Thurs., March 14,** 10-12:00 PM, Tour at Shell Mound with Ranger Pam Darty, 493-0238

**Thurs., March 14,** 5:00 PM @ Cedar Key Library-Dolores Cribbs tells about Turpentining Storyteller Kathy Dobronyi

**Fri., March 15,** 10-12:00 PM, Tour at Shell Mound with Ranger Pam Darty, 493-0238

**Sat., March 16,** Friends Annual Meeting/Refuge Open House, 9:30AM-3:00 PM @ Refuge Hdqt

**Thurs., March 21,** 5:00 PM @ Cedar Key Library- "Restless Fires: young John Muir's thousand-mile walk to the Gulf in 1867-68", James B. Hunt, professor emeritus of history, Whitworth University, book tour

**Sat., March 23,** 1:00, PM Dr. Ken Sassaman, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Archaeology Update (at the Community Center)

**Thurs., March 28,** 5:00 PM @ CK Library-Elam Stoltzfus "Journey Though Florida's Wildlife Corridor"

**Sat., March 30,** 10:30 AM @ CK Library, Dr. Jane Brockman & Tiffany Black, Research Horseshoe Crabs

**Sat., April 6,** 10:30 AM @ Cedar Key Library- "New Paddle Trails in Cedar Key"-Mark Gluckman

**Thurs. April 11,** 5:00 PM @ CK Library, 'Restoration of a Forest for Wildlife- " Daniel Barrand, Forester at the Lower Suwannee Wildlife Refuge

**Sat. & Sunday, April 13-14,** 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Cedar Key Art Festival

### **Life Members**

#### **Swallow-tailed Kite**

Linda Roe Alexander, Toni Collins, Nath Doughtie, Dale Henderson, Ada & Greg Lang Susan Nugent, Tee Rogers, Richey & Sandra Roe Smith, David Steadman, Nancy Taylor **Bald Eagle:** LaMont Albertson, Donna & Jay Bushnell, Peg & Russ Hall, Barbara & Bob Hudson, Marianne Mc Euen, John McPherson, Joan Stephens, Sheryll Topping **River Otter:** Valerie Breil, Alan and Tywann Davidson, Ed & Joyce DeHaan, Louise Godfrey, Dan & Wanda Kline, Luz & Walter Kraujalis, Patricia Kromer, Vickie & Rick Lepore, Kay & Russ McCallister, Dawn Miller, **Allan Pither (New),** Bill Salmon, Tony Silveira, Joyce Tarnow Donna & John Thalacker

**2013 Annual Members: Great Egret:** Jim & Marilyn Clugston, David & Debbie Meeks, Frank & Mandy Offerle **White Ibis and Gopher Tortoise:** John & Joanne Andrews, Betty & Gene Baker, John & Marcella Bamford, Lonna Bear, Sherry Beauchamp, Judy Buchanan, Mary Ann Burdett, Libby Cagle, Evonne Cline, Jane Connors, Mac & Nita Cox, Jim & Linda Curtis, Karen & James Decker, Paul & Laurie Dietrich, Molly Dougherty, Carmelo & Maria Echevarria, Thomas & Lori Fackler, Robert Farmer, Dick Ferraro, Andy Fischer, Daniel Gouge, Craig Grant, Marilyn Grossman, Jack & Tina Hardee, Leroy & Sandra Harmon, Richard & Anne Herman, B.J. Hodge, L. Clark Hodge, Allan Hodgkins, Jean & Jack Holbrook, Jim & Marjorie Hoy, Susan & Kent Hudgens, Stephen Patricia Hurd, George & Janice Johnson, MD, Ann & Ron Kamzelski, Beth Colaner & Don Kenney, Ron Lagueux, George Leath, Roger McDaniels, Clare McGuinness, Robert & Carol McKinstry, William & Dawn McKinstry, Bill & Terry Merkel, John Moran, Sandy & Ted Palfy, Michael Pfaller, Bob & Debbie Piscura, Beverly Ringenberg, Duffy & Anita Roesch, Art & Edda Ross, Jerry & Nancy Salaman, Cyndi Sandlin, Theresa Schefstad, Cathy Simpkins, Jean Skaife, Douglas Smith, George Sresovich, Mary Stone, Cheryl Thacker Jim Tomkins Bob & Jeri Treat Barbara Winter

**FRIENDS OF THE LOWER  
SUWANNEE & CEDAR KEYS  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES  
P.O. BOX 1306  
CHIEFLAND, FL 32644  
WEB PAGE  
[www.friendsofrefuges.org](http://www.friendsofrefuges.org)**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Peg Hall, President, 352-335-0162, [peg@peghall.com](mailto:peg@peghall.com) , John McPherson, Secretary, 352-543-5682, [jkmcperson@att.net](mailto:jkmcperson@att.net) , Jerry Salamon, Treasurer, 352-543-5897, [salamon@indiana.edu](mailto:salamon@indiana.edu), John Thalacker, 352-543-6738 or 515-573-8398, [johnthalacker@gmail.com](mailto:johnthalacker@gmail.com) , Bob Hudson, 352-332-6373, [bobhudson@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobhudson@bellsouth.net), Ed DeHaan, 612-590-4414, [cdrkey@gmail.com](mailto:cdrkey@gmail.com), Richard Herman, 352-542-9075, [raherman@bellsouth.net](mailto:raherman@bellsouth.net), Mark Gluckman, 352-331-6279, [markgluckman@att.net](mailto:markgluckman@att.net), Russ Hall, 352-335-0162, [randphall@cox.net](mailto:randphall@cox.net) , Carmelo Echevarria, 352-486-2543, [cecheva@hotmail.com](mailto:cecheva@hotmail.com), & Kirby Alexander, 904-412-9280, [ckirby.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:ckirby.alexander@gmail.com), Directors, and Jay Bushnell, Immediate past President, 352- 493-1807, [djbushne@bellsouth.net](mailto:djbushne@bellsouth.net)

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUE IN JANUARY**

**NAME/S:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE: EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Species of membership--please check level of membership: \* \_\_ Swallow-tailed Kite--\$1000 or more, *Life membership*; \* \_\_ Bald Eagle--\$500-999, *Life membership*; \* \_\_ River Otter--\$250-\$499 *Life membership*, \* \_\_ Great Egret-\$100-249 *Life membership***

**\* \_\_ White Ibis--\$20 annually *Family membership*; \* \_\_ Gopher Tortoise--\$10 annually *Individual membership*; \* \_\_ Other--annual plus any additional contribution.**

**I understand and agree to abide by the Friends' Code of Ethics: available on our webpage.**

**Signature/ Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one of the follow: \_\_ 1. Send my IBIS in printed hard-copy through the mail or  
\_\_ 2. Send my IBIS digitally in an email**

