**Minutes**

**Annual Meeting**

**Friends of Lower Suwannee & Cedar Keys NWRs**

**April 2, 2022**

Participants: Approximately 125 members of Friends of Lower Suwannee& Cedar Keys NWRs, including officers and directors Matt Chatowsky, Ed DeHaan, Denise Feiber, Peg Hall, Joe Hand, Debbie Jordan, Boyd Kimball, Linda Kimball, Dan Kline, John McPherson, Debbie Meeks, Paul Ramey, John Thalacker, Travis Thomas, Barbara Woodmansee.

This was the first in-person Annual Meeting in two years. It had been postponed from February because of the Corona virus Omicron variant. The day started out cloudy, warm, and threatening. Members registered, shopped for Friends shirts and the new Butterflies of the Lower Suwannee Refuge guidebooks. Seeing each other for the first time since the February 2020 meeting, conversations were warm and happy.

The rain held off until the program started about 10:00. Friends President Debbie Meeks welcomed everyone. Refuge Manager Andrew Gude gave an update on accomplishments of the past year and expectations for activities in the near future.

Debbie gave an update on the Friends accomplishments of the past year and plans for the coming one.

She presented the slate of officers and directors, whom the members elected.

Elected for a one-year term were:

* Debbie Meeks, president
* Ginessa Mahar, president-elect
* Peg Hall, past president

Elected for a two-year term were:

* Denise Feiber
* Boyd Kimball
* John McPherson
* Travis Thomas
* Barbara Woodmansee

Debbie also provided an overview of the financial status of the Friends.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2020** | **2021** |
| Beginning Balance | $25,874 | $23,897 |
| General Income | $7,694 | $11,091 |
| Grant Income | $50,000 | 0 |
| Total Income | $57694 | $11.091 |
| General Expenditures | $9,638 | $6,672 |
| Grant Expenditures | $50,000 | 0 |
| Total Expenditures | $59,638 | $6,672 |
|  |  |  |
| Ending Balance | $23.897 | $28,411 |

At the end of the lunch, catered by Ken and Rose McCain, Sandra Smith presented Andrew with a symbolic key to the Vista property. She and her sister Linda Alexander recently gave up their life estate on the property, turning full access over to the Refuge for future development as an interpretive center.

Photos and presentations are available on Friends blog -- <https://www.friendsofrefuges.org/our-blog-what-we-do/annual-meeting-back-on-the-refuge>.

*Submitted by Peg Hall*

*April 2, 2022*