



# Tigertales

## President's Message

Debbie Roddy

The Friends of Tigertail Board hopes you enjoyed the summer!

Although the summer has been quiet, FOT continues to be active.

The July 4th long weekend was extremely busy with two activities demonstrating the good and bad of human interaction with wildlife. The positive event was an osprey, tangled in string, rescued at Tigertail Beach by several teenagers along with Ranger Carol Buckler and Tony Smith. You can read more about this on page 2. On the other side of the spectrum was the report of several black skimmer chicks killed by an unleashed dog in the nesting area on Sand Dollar Spit. To read an update, go to page 3.

FOT hosted the Youth Group of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 9th. To learn more, go to the article on page 3.

FOT also hosted Dr. Richard Murphy, of Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures, and several Marco Island Academy staff members and students on Aug. 3rd. You can read more about this on page 4.

On July 16th, FOT had another successful beach cleanup with twenty-two volunteers! To learn more, go to Susan LaGrotta's article on page 4.

Tigertail Beach has recently received great press coverage from both the Marco Review and the Marco Island Eagle. If you missed any of these articles, go to page 5.

Carole Talkowski, Membership Chair, has written an article to remind you about providing off-season address information on the new Membership Renewal post card. You can find out more on page 7.

Included in this newsletter are an update on the ever changing status of the new boardwalk at Tigertail Beach, a cement block washing up on Sand Dollar, and a new breach on the northern end of the Spit. Plus a huge "Thank You" to members who volunteered to take care of the FOT Butterfly Garden during the summer.

Again, thank you for your support and looking forward to seeing you at Tigertail!

### Board of Directors 2011-2012

Debbie Roddy — President

Susan Kubat — Vice President

Eliot Huxley — Secretary

Ken Kubat — Treasurer

Kathy Apy

Linda Colombo — Hospitality, Butterfly Garden & Bulletin Boards Chair

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Susan LaGrotta — Stewardship Chair

Carole Talkowski — Membership Chair

Mark your calendar for the next Friends of Tigertail Beach Cleanup, Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, on **Saturday, Sept. 17th** from 8 a.m. until noon. Call Susan at 239-394-1470 to get a T-shirt. Bottled water, garbage bags and gloves will be provided. Volunteers will meet at the kiosk.

Go to: [www.friendsoftigertail.com](http://www.friendsoftigertail.com) for the latest news and information about our upcoming events.

**Update on New Boardwalk & Bathrooms:** The construction company, OAC, is in the process of pulling the required permits from the City of Marco Island. Collier County is in the process of ordering the building materials, some of which have longer lead times — pilings, structure, decking, etc. Construction is scheduled to begin the first week of September. Until the new FEMA maps are available, bathrooms are not a part of the plan.

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Friends of Tigertail wishes to thank the following members for volunteering their time and talents to take care of our Butterfly Garden during the summer months to ensure it continues to look its best.

Kathy Apy  
 Fran Enman  
 Carl & Joan Kelly  
 Brian McLaren  
 Linda Turner

**Drowning Osprey Saved at Tigertail Beach  
by Debbie Roddy, President**

On Saturday July 2nd, Tony Smith, the vendor at Tigertail Beach, received a report from several teenage customers, who were renting kayaks, that a bird was tangled in string out in the middle of the lagoon. Tony immediately checked out the situation and called Ranger Carol Buckler to report an osprey in distress. As Ranger Carol was preparing to rescue the bird, Tony graciously offered his battery powered “Thunder Chicken” boat for the rescue because Ranger Carol could not get to the scene by land.

When the Ranger and Tony arrived at the site they found the osprey had climbed onto a life jacket, thrown by one of the teens, and was resting on it! They quickly found the source of the bird’s problem — string wrapped around one wing in two different places. As Ranger Carol and Tony worked quickly to remove the string and free the wing, both realized they were face to face with a beautiful but exhausted osprey. After successfully getting the wing free, they noticed the osprey’s talons were stuck in the life jacket. They pulled the osprey, stuck on the life jacket, to shore and placed a towel over its head to help keep the bird calm and to minimize any risk to themselves. Ranger Carol and Tony both reported the osprey remained calm during the rescue, even when the Ranger was holding him and Tony was separating the talons from the life jacket! Ranger Carol commented “It was as if the osprey knew we were trying to help.” Upon further physical inspection of the bird, the Ranger saw no evidence of injuries so they left the osprey to rest in a roped off nesting area on Sand Dollar Spit. Ranger Carol thanked Tony for all of his help and noted “What a great experience!”

This osprey was tangled in line used to mark off nesting areas in the Critical Wildlife Area. The situation was reported to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Collier Audubon Society, Department of Environmental Protection, Collier County and the City of Marco Island. All of these entities recognize string needs to be kept taut so birds will bounce off of it. Birds getting entangled in string occur due to breakage from sun degradation and sun weakened string being pushed up by people to duck under. FOT expects there will be more string inspections in the very near future to avoid another situation like this.



Osprey climbed onto a life jacket thrown by one of the teen heroes. (Photo by Tony Smith)



One tired and wet osprey. (Photo by Tony Smith)



Tony Smith pulling the osprey, stuck on the life jacket, to dry land. (Photo by Ranger Carol Buckler)



Wet, exhausted but alive and left to rest on Sand Dollar. (Photo by Tony Smith)

### Shorebirds Killed in Posted Area on Sand Dollar Spit

FOT has confirmed that seven dead Black Skimmer chicks were found July 5th in the Critical Wildlife Area on Sand Dollar, where dogs are prohibited. Based on the paw prints and type of kill, evidence shows this was a dog attack.

According to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Black Skimmers are listed in Florida as a species of special concern. Their population is declining due to development along the coastline.

FWC issued a press release, that FOT sent as an e-mail blast, reminding the public that shorebird nesting areas are protected and disturbing nests, eggs or chicks is illegal.

There have been reports that dogs are coming on to Sand Dollar with their owners by boat. If you see any dogs on the beach, please report the violation to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922 and be sure to include the entire boat registration number with your report. Those who report violations may remain anonymous.



One of the casualties of a dog roaming Sand Dollar Spit.  
(Photo by Mary Nelson)

On a positive note, the FWC estimates there are approximately 200 adult Black Skimmers with about 65 chicks and about 600 adult Least Terns and 85 chicks in the posted areas.

### FOT Hosts Local Youth Group

Friends of Tigertail hosted the Youth Group of Naples based Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 9th at Tigertail Beach. Alexa Turino and Desiree Robles, Youth Group members, were accompanied by Margie Carr, the group's leader, and Rev. Dr. Douglas Wahlberg.

The morning started off with the first highlight of the day – Collier County Park Ranger Carol Buckler's "What Is This?" presentation. Both the teens and adults enjoyed the informative talk that covered just about everything you can find at Tigertail Beach, from sea stars, sand dollars, lightning whelks, egg casings, pelicans, osprey to manatees and loggerhead sea turtles. Ranger Carol even had a sample of manatee pool!

The visitors then embarked on a guided nature walk led by Friends of Tigertail's Dr. Marty Roddy, and his wife, Debbie, FOT President. During the walk, teens and chaperones learned about the red, white and black mangroves, Muhly grass, coin vines, FOT's butterfly garden, Sabal palms, marine worms, fiddler crabs plus other flora and fauna of Tigertail Beach. The nature walk provided another highlight of the morning - our guests had a unique opportunity to see seven adult Roseate Spoonbills napping on the lagoon side. This was the first time any of the visitors had ever seen Roseate Spoonbills, a Species of Special Concern and the only large pink bird common to the peninsula of Florida.

Another highlight was meeting Marco Island's own Turtle Lady, Mary Nelson, as she was coming off the beach after her morning rounds, checking for new loggerhead sea turtle nests and inspecting those already laid. The group received a brief summary report on several nests on Marco Island and Sand Dollar Spit.

FOT's guests then ventured over to Sand Dollar Spit where they learned about the nesting areas, for Black Skimmers, Least Terns and Wilson Plovers, posted in the Critical Wildlife Area and loggerhead sea turtle nests. At the end of the guided nature tour, everyone enjoyed time cooling off in the Gulf of Mexico.

The busy morning made the entire group hungry so they headed to the Tigertail Café for lunch. In no time the delicious hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chicken tenders and cold drinks were devoured.

The visit at Tigertail Beach was topped off with a fun time of kayaking! Alexa and Desiree were not alone in the lagoon for long; Pastor Doug paddled out to join them!

As the group left the beach, leaving only their footprints behind, they also left with wonderful memories of all Tigertail Beach has to offer.

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**FOT Hosts Local Youth Group (continued)**



Collier County Park Ranger Carol Buckler presenting her "What Is This?" program. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)



Left to Right: Pastor Doug Wahlberg, Alexa Turino and Desiree Robles kayaking. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)

**FOT Hosts Dr. Richard Murphy & The Marco Island Academy**

Friends of Tigertail hosted a tour of Tigertail Beach for Dr. Richard Murphy, Director of Science & Education for Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, as well as staff and students from the Marco Island Academy on August 3rd. Susan and Ken Kubat, FOT Officers, led the nature walk accompanied by Dr. Marty Roddy and his wife, Debbie, FOT President. Ken kicked off the tour by explaining why Marco's sand, that contains silicon dioxide, allows us to walk barefoot on the sand no matter what the temperature without burning the bottom of our feet. He also showed our guests the marine worms, fiddler crabs and flora of Tigertail. Susan discussed the different types of birds that live in our area, as well as those that migrate. Although the quantity of birds was lacking that morning, she was able to point out a Reddish Egret dancing around for breakfast to the delight of our visitors. The group then headed over to Sand Dollar Spit to check out the wide variety of shells along the shore line.



The group with Dr. Murphy (center with camera), Ken Kubat (in green shirt) and Susan Kubat (second from the right). (Photo by Marty Roddy)



Ken Kubat explaining the silicon dioxide in our sand. (Photo by Marty Roddy)

**Quarterly Beach Cleanup by Susan LaGrotta, Stewardship Chair**

Friends of Tigertail hosted their second beach cleanup of the year on Saturday, July 16th. Twenty-two (22) volunteers participated, including the FOT Board, members and visitors to the beach. The youngest volunteer was 4-year old Gavin Pascale accompanied by his mom, Jean.

Volunteers collected eleven (11) bags of debris. The most unusual items found were burned remains of a stairway, wood boards, a large chunk of a Styrofoam buoy, two cigarette butts next to an unopened pack of Nicorette gum, and remnants of fireworks including nosecones from small rockets.

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### Quarterly Beach Cleanup by Susan LaGrotta, Stewardship Chair (continued)

The usual cigarette butts, straws from juice boxes, juice boxes, plastic bags from grocery stores, cans, bottles, small pieces of paper, and plastic food wrappers were also collected.



Barbara and Joe Parisi, FOT members, registering at the cleanup. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)



Results from the morning's work. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)

### A Strange Thing Washed Up Onto Sand Dollar Spit

On the morning of August 2nd, Mary Nelson, Marco's Turtle Lady, reported a huge cement block washed up on the shore of Sand Dollar, north of the lagoon crossover access. The City of Marco Island's Environmental Specialist, Nancy Richie, worked with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Collier County, the Marco Island Police Department and Collier County Sheriff's Office to get the debris removed. Sgt. Dave Bruening, from the Sheriff's Office — Marine Bureau, followed up with Nancy Richie to let her know the block had been pulled off of the beach and towed back to the Jolley bridge area. The Sheriff's Office contacted the bridge crew and they were happy to help. The cement block was last spotted on the North East side of the bridges waiting for the Road & Bridge Department to dispose of it. Kudos to all who helped this get removed quickly!



The huge cement block that washed up at Sand Dollar. (Photo by Mary Nelson)

### Tigertail Beach in the News

Tigertail Beach has received excellent publicity over the summer. People continue to learn what a jewel Tigertail is — something FOT members already know! If you have been traveling or missed any of these articles, this is the perfect opportunity to read the great press Tigertail Beach has received.

Debbie and Stephen Barker, owners of the Marco Review and FOT members, wrote a fabulous article, "From Crabs And Conchs To Turtles and Terns ...", about Tigertail Beach in the Summer Fall 2011 issue. The article also features fantastic pictures of the wildlife that live at Tigertail. To read this article go to: <http://view.digipage.net/?id=marcoreviewsummer2011&page=22>

The "Marcophiles" column written by Don Farmer and Chris Curle, FOT members, in the July 15th edition of The Marco Island Eagle included "Don't fiddle around with the fiddler crabs; it's illegal." This article further educated the public about preserving the fiddler crab population at Tigertail Beach. To read this article go to: <http://www.marconews.com/news/2011/jul/14/marcophiles-lady-named-curie-helps-ailing-people-h/>

The Marco Island Eagle's July 27th edition featured a wonderful article by Lance Shearer about serious bird photographers at Tigertail. This article also features fabulous pictures of Roseate Spoonbills. To read this article go to: <http://www.marconews.com/news/2011/jul/26/photos-tigertail-beach-draws-serious-wildlife-phot/>

### The Ever Changing Sand Dollar Spit

The low pressure system that came up the southwest Florida coast late in the week of July 4th caused high tides, inundated and washed out sea turtle nests, and created a new breach on the northern end of Sand Dollar, across from Hideaway Beach. The breakthrough is now about thirty (30) to forty (40) feet wide, with sand constantly on the move — coming in and going out with the tide.

The current is reported to be very strong, especially at high tide. So if you decide to venture over to see the newest change at Tigertail, please proceed with caution in the area.

Here are photographs of the new addition at Sand Dollar. A huge thanks for these pictures to Mary Nelson and Marty Roddy. Plus a special thanks to Burt Robbins, a FOT member, who boated to Sand Dollar on August 11th so Marty could provide water views of the breach.



A view of the breach walking north on Sand Dollar.  
(Photo by Marty Roddy)



A close-up of the new breach.  
(Photo by Marty Roddy)



A view of the new breach from Hideaway Beach.  
(Photo by Mary Nelson)



A view from the boat including the wave action.  
(Photo by Marty Roddy)



A perspective of the new breach's size with a person standing in the water on the right.  
(Photo by Marty Roddy)

From Your Membership Director — Carole Talkowski, Membership Chair

Those of you who will be renewing your membership in FOT for 2012 will see a new look to our Membership Renewal post card this December.

We've chosen a bright, neon pink color to help bring your attention to the change. The new addition is in the boxed in area in the center of the card, titled "Alternate address for seasonal member." We are asking for your mailing address for the months you are away from Marco Island. This information will allow us to send all mail including the Membership Renewal Card, FOT's Tigertales Newsletter, and any alerts to the addresses where you reside at that particular time of the year. Please don't forget to give us your current e-mail address, as well, since changes can frequently occur. Your updated contact information will ensure all of FOT's correspondence will be received in a timely manner.

I welcome your comments and questions regarding your membership at any time.

Thank you for your support of Friends of Tigertail Beach,  
Carole Talkowski, Membership Director  
[cattalk6@yahoo.com](mailto:cattalk6@yahoo.com)  
239-643-2157

Membership Application

Friends of Tigertail is always looking for new members. If you know of anyone interested in joining, here is a Membership Application to pass along. Thanks in advance for helping to get the word out about our organization and the good work we do!



**Friends of Tigertail Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate address for seasonal members:

From: (date) \_\_\_\_\_ To: (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership and annual dues (tax deductible):

\_\_ 1 Year (\$20.00)    \_\_ 3 Years (\$50.00)

\_\_ Total number in family or household

\_\_ New            \_\_ Renewal

Please remit this form with your check  
(payable to Friends of Tigertail) to:

Friends of Tigertail Beach, Inc.  
P.O. Box 722, Marco Island, FL 34146