

# Tigertales



## President's Message

Debbie Roddy

The FOT Board had another exciting and productive year in 2008—2009. Here is a summary of our accomplishments:

1. Successful in getting protection for fiddler crabs via the City of Marco Island's Beach Management & Vessel Ordinance No. 08-14. This ordinance is enforced by the Collier County Park Rangers, the Marco Island Police Department, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection.
2. FOT membership achieved a new high.
3. Four FOT members are on the Marco Island Beach Advisory Committee — Ken Kubat— FOT Treasurer, Susan Purvis—FOT Board Member, MA Kline and Tony Smith.
4. In the process of donating 8 signs to help visitors identify plants and trees at Tigertail Beach.
5. Held three seasonal educational programs at United Church of Marco.
6. Ken & Susan Kubat, Board Members, wrote and provided pictures for the first FOT article, "Fiddlin' Around", submitted to the Marco Review.
7. FOT is a participating sponsor for the Community Conservation Celebration being held March 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Mackle Park.
8. Participated in the local Farmer's Market to promote the organization and raise funds.
9. Donated to the 2009 Southwest Florida Birding & Wildlife Festival.
10. Assisted in developing a Friends of Tigertail book display with Sunshine Booksellers.
11. Sponsored an award for the 2008 Shell Club Show.
12. Tigertail Beach was featured in a three-page spread titled "Foraging at Tigertail," in the Spring 2008 Marco Review.
13. FOT's website was upgraded and is more user friendly.

On behalf of the FOT Board, thank you, our members, for your support.

Looking forward to seeing you at Tigertail!

## Board of Directors 2008-2009

- Debbie Roddy — President
- Burt Robbins — Vice President
- Susan Kubat — Secretary
- Ken Kubat — Treasurer
- Linda Colombo
- Susan LaGrotta
- Susan Purvis
- Betty Rosa

**Saturday, March 28th** - Friends of Tigertail is hosting "Bay Days - Keep Collier Beautiful - Earth Day Event" from 8 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will meet at the Tigertail Beach kiosk. Bottled water, garbage bags and work gloves will be provided. Wear shoes that may get wet. Contact Susan at 239-394-1470.

Go to: [www.friendsoftigertail.com](http://www.friendsoftigertail.com) for the latest news and information about upcoming events sponsored by Friends of Tigertail.

### Fiddler Crabs at Tigertail Beach

Although FOT achieved its goal of getting protection for the fiddler crab population throughout the entire island, especially Tigertail Beach, we still need your help in protecting the ecosystem of Tigertail. Until this new ordinance is known far and wide, people will continue to come to Tigertail to collect and take thousands of fiddler crabs as they have done for many years.

For your convenience, we are again including the exact wording in the City of Marco Island's Beach Management & Vessel Ordinance No. 08-14.

"Section 54-36 Regulation of Use & Conduct on the Beach

p. The disturbance, destruction or removal of wildlife is prohibited. Fishing from the beach is a permitted activity and includes the legal gathering of bait fish. Crustaceans may not be collected from their natural beach habitat."

We are asking you to please continue your efforts in helping us protect the habitat at Tigertail Beach by informing people you see collecting live shells or fiddler crabs that they are doing harm to the beach's ecosystem. Continue to carry your cell phones when you are at Tigertail Beach and call the gatehouse (394-2793) or the Marco Island Police (389-5050) if they do not cooperate with your request.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in protecting Tigertail Beach and Marco Island's fiddler crab population.

**December 6, 2008 Quarterly Beach Cleanup**

Susan LaGrotta, FOT Board Member & Beach Cleanup (Stewardship) Chair, reported 25 volunteers filled over 12 bags of debris. Along with the usual cigarette butts, beverage cans, plastic and glass bottles there were some interesting finds. Some of the out of the ordinary items included an old seining net, a 6-inch diameter by 3-foot long piece of PVC pipe, a plastic globe from the top of an outdoor light pole, two rusted paint cans, flip-flops and a barnacle encrusted tire. (Pictures courtesy of Debbie Roddy)



Gail Fox, a volunteer, with her "collection".



Current FOT members with Jean Reiley, a founding member (first row, second from right).



Some of the results from the cleanup

**2009 Buddy Day**

Friends of Tigertail, along with Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, Big Cypress National Preserve and Marco Island Shell Club, participated in this year's event held on Monday, Feb. 16th at Hideaway Beach.

FOT Board members, Debbie Roddy and Susan Purvis, volunteered their time to help Hideaway Beach residents with eighty (80) second graders from the Guadalupe Center After School Program (G-A-P) in Immokalee. The kids had a day of activities that included Crafts, Seining, Bird and Shell programs. As you can see from the pictures below, the kids, residents and volunteers had a good time! (Pictures courtesy of Debbie Roddy)



Measuring a wing span in the Bird Program.



"Owl Ogling"



An introduction to sea life in the Seining Program.



One of the crab races.