

Tigertales



President's Message

Debbie Roddy

The FOT Board had an exciting and very productive year. Here is a summary of our accomplishments:

1. Successfully stopped the removal of 3/4 acre of vegetation at Tigertail Beach, with help of the Conservancy of SW Florida and other local residents.
2. The number of household memberships is at a record high.
3. Acquired the pro-bono services of a local attorney to work on the behalf of FOT.
4. Set up an email system, with a local computer firm, so FOT members can easily email a standard message to local officials when there is the need..
5. Made a donation and assisted in the selection of books and DVDs, about our local environment, for the Marco Island Charter School's new library.
6. Collier County Parks & Recreation gave FOT access to another bulletin board located on the right side of the main boardwalk. (Check it out the next time you are at Tigertail!)
7. In the spirit of educating the public, FOT hosted four outreach events with Jennifer Rogers, FWC—Team Ocean Coordinator, at the Tigertail Beach kiosk.
8. Expanded our seasonal educational programs from three to four.
9. FOT has been invited to write articles for Marco Review Magazine. (Keep an eye out for the first article written by our board members Susan & Ken Kubat!)
10. Increased the number of publications in which FOT events are advertised with the addition of the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, Marco Review Magazine and MICA Wave.
11. Acquired a generous donation of bottled water for FOT beach clean-ups. (A huge thank you to Kinetic Water Systems of SWFL!)

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
- Ken Kubat — Treasurer
- Susan Kubat — Secretary
- Linda Colombo
- Barb Cooper
- Susan LaGrotta
- Mary Ann Maniace
- Susan Purvis
- Betty Rosa

Mark your calendar for the next Friends of Tigertail Beach Clean Up on Saturday, July 12th from 8 a.m.—12 p.m. Bottled water, garbage bags and work gloves will be provided. Contact Susan at 239-394-1470.

If you haven't checked out our newly redesigned website go to: www.friendsoftigertail.com. Our web master, Lynn Livingston, did a great job!

Update on Fiddler Crabs at Tigertail Beach

Friends of Tigertail still needs your help in protecting the ecosystem of Tigertail Beach. People are continuing to come to Tigertail to collect and take thousands of fiddler crabs. FOT is currently working with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Collier County and the City of Marco Island to address this issue. As you know, Tigertail Beach is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail and fiddler crabs are a vital part of the food chain for the birds, as well as crown conchs.

Please continue your efforts to help us protect the habitat at Tigertail Beach by informing people you see collecting live shells or fiddler crabs that they are doing harm to Tigertail and should go elsewhere. Continue to carry your cell phones when you are at Tigertail Beach and call the gatehouse (394-2793) if they do not cooperate with your request.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in protecting Marco Island's natural jewel, Tigertail Beach.

Changes on the Board of Directors

After five years of service, Kathy Apy resigned from the Board to pursue other interests. Thank you, Kathy, for your efforts over the years. FOT is pleased to announce that Susan Purvis is the newest member of the FOT Board. Welcome Susan!

Tigertail’s Great Florida Birding Trail Banner

Sometime between the afternoons of Monday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 5th our banner was stolen. Marco Island Police believe the banner was taken by “spring breakers” to hang on a dorm room wall.

In an effort to continue promoting Tigertail as part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, FOT is in the process of enlarging the trail’s logo to post on all FOT bulletin boards that are accessed by keys. (Picture courtesy of Debbie Roddy)



One of the last pictures of our banner

Tigertail Beach Article in The Marco Review—Spring 2008

Debbie Barker, publisher of the Marco Review, took a guided tour with Susan and Ken Kubat and Debbie Roddy. She was very impressed with the birds and other creatures encountered on the tour. The wildlife put on a performance for her that afternoon, including one male fiddler crab waving his big claw, in an effort to attract a mate. Debbie Barker graciously declined the crab’s amorous advances. You can read about her experiences in the three -page spread titled “Foraging at Tigertail.” Debbie’s article includes excellent pictures of the wildlife. If you haven’t read the article yet, check it out!

2008 Shell Club Show

For the third year, FOT has sponsored an award for the Shell Club Show. The FOT Trophy is presented for the most outstanding self-collected Marco Island shell of the show in the Scientific Division. Gerald Maas was the recipient of this year’s award for a rare yellow Van Hyning’s Cockle Shell. (Picture courtesy of Russ & Linda Colombo)



Gerald Mass 2008 Shell Club Show FOT award recipient

April 26th Bay Days—Keep Collier Beautiful—Earth Day Beach Clean-Up

Susan LaGrotta, Beach Clean-Up (Stewardship) Chair, reported that the event was very successful with 27 volunteers collecting 11 bags of trash. Items collected include cigarette butts, children’s floats, a rusted folding chair, part of a toilet paper holder and a ball of fishing line with barbed lures. The fishing line was of special concern because when it is not disposed of properly, birds can get tangled in it and lose a leg or wing. Every beach clean-up results in some unique finds. This clean-up will be remembered for a long time because of some very unusual items collected by our volunteers. A single man’s flip-flop, just the right size for Skunk Ape, and a pair of men’s underwear were found. (Makes you wonder doesn’t it?) One of our members brought back a bong, a homemade water pipe for smoking marijuana. Another volunteer found a geocache, part of a scavenger hunt using GPS (Global Positioning System), that is not allowed in any Collier County Park. (Picture courtesy of Debbie Roddy)



Three of our volunteers

HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE SUMMER!!