

# Tigertales



## President's Message

Debbie Roddy

FOT continues to monitor the Deepwater Horizon oil leak. If you missed our E-Mail Alert in early May, FOT is working in partnership with the City of Marco Island, Collier County, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Conservancy of Southwest Florida and the Audubon Society in preparation should oil make landfall on our beaches. The Audubon Society will serve as a clearinghouse, connecting local members of the volunteer registry with oiled wildlife response leaders for the area's beaches. **So if you are interested in helping rescue Florida's coastal birds and other wildlife, your name, address, telephone, and email address need to be listed in the volunteer registry.**

Click on this link to add your contact information to the volunteer registry.

<https://secure3.convio.net/nasaud/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=833&autologin=true&JServSessionIdr004=1u5ifklvp1.app304a>

To learn more about how you can help, be sure to read "Oil Leak Alert: Cleaning Beaches in Advance of Oil Leak May Harm Wild Birds" on page 2 from the Audubon Society.

We want to let you know our Board of Directors has undergone a few changes. Burt Robbins resigned his position as Vice President due to being elected to his condo association's board. Burt will be missed in this position, but we are happy he has agreed to stay on as a Board member. A huge thank you to Burt for all of the hours he put in as VP and our Program Committee Chairperson! Susan Purvis, a current Board member, volunteered to replace Burt as VP and Harriet Tax, a FOT member, has agreed to coordinate the Programs for 2011 with Susan. Many thanks to Susan and Harriet for stepping up! Plus, Eliot and Fran Huxley have been elected to the Board.

The FOT Board wishes you and your family a safe, happy and healthy summer.

Looking forward to seeing you at Tigertail!

### Board of Directors 2010-2011

Debbie Roddy — President  
Susan Purvis — Vice President  
Susan Kubat — Secretary  
Ken Kubat — Treasurer  
Kathy Apy  
Linda Colombo  
Eliot Huxley  
Fran Huxley  
Susan LaGrotta  
Burt Robbins  
Betty Rosa  
Carole Talkowski

**Saturday, July 17th** - Friends of Tigertail is hosting a Beach Cleanup from 8 a.m. until noon. Bottled water, garbage bags and work gloves will be provided. Contact Susan at 239-394-1470 to sign up.

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

### Meet Our New Board Members

**Eliot Huxley** retired as a M.D. at the end of 2006 and now makes his home on Marco Island. Both he and his wife, Fran, share an interest in nature and have been FOT members for several years. Eliot is also a volunteer for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and a guide at the Briggs Boardwalk.

**Fran Huxley** taught environmental education to elementary school children at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee for eighteen years. She was a volunteer coordinator for the Conservancy's Good Fortune boat trips and has also been a guide on the tours. Fran is a Tigertail Beach Guide for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, as well as a guide at the Briggs Boardwalk.

**WELCOME ELIOT & FRAN!**

### **Oil Leak Alert: Cleaning Beaches in Advance of Oil Leak May Harm Wild Birds from the Audubon Society**

While waiting for official guidance from emergency response teams you can help by educating others not to harm wildlife while cleaning beaches prior to the arrival of oil. Realizing that we would all like to be out there forming a human chain against the oil slicks, as of now our beaches and marshes are still nurseries for birds and marine life.

The Audubon Society is hearing reports and seeing images of well-meaning people going into nesting bird habitats near the beaches. The concern is we don't want to see trampled what we are trying to protect.

Well-motivated but not well informed volunteers sent out to clean debris from beaches may be disturbing nesting and other shorebirds. Volunteers - eager to move beach litter above the high water line to make it easier to clean up oil that may come ashore - are putting beach and marsh nesting shorebirds at risk.

FOT and the Audubon Society are asking for your help to educate family and friends that it is nesting season for terns and plovers on Florida's beaches. Beach nesting birds camouflage their nests and are hard to spot. Volunteers wandering into the areas above the high water line may step on eggs or chicks and may chase away parent birds leaving chicks and eggs unprotected from the sun and predators such as crows.

Some people are moving beach debris such as driftwood from the beach onto high-water areas. This is harmful as beach wildlife use naturally occurring beach debris near the water line and may be harmed when debris is piled in upland areas. Traffic in dune areas can also harm vegetation.

Safe Tips for Cleaning Litter off Beaches:

For those who want to clean litter from the beaches in anticipation of oil coming ashore, Audubon recommends the following:

- Use approved access points and avoid walking or hiking through marshes or seagrass beds.
- Stay below the tidal line.
- Leave natural debris in place because it provides nesting benefits to shorebirds and other wildlife.
- Only remove man-made litter.
- Do not place litter in the dunes or above the high water line.
- Don't use equipment such as rakes, shovels or tractors.
- Do not bring ATVs or other motorized vehicles onto the beach.
- Do not bring dogs onto the beach (dogs are a primary source of beach bird disturbance and mortality.)

### **Websites for more information on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Leak**

If you are interested in learning more about the Deepwater Horizon oil leak, you may find these websites helpful:

[DEP's "Deepwater Horizon" news and information site](#)

[FWC's "Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico" information site](#)

[USF Marine Science Dept. predicted trajectory maps](#)

### **Important phone numbers & e-mail addresses**

- If you see or smell pollution related to the oil leak, call the Environmental Protection Agency's National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.
- If you see injured or sick wildlife due to this leak, call the wildlife experts who are authorized to help at Tri-State Rescue & Research at 302-737-7241 or e-mail [hstout@tristatebird.org](mailto:hstout@tristatebird.org).
- If you see dead birds in Florida, contact the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission by filling out this online form: <http://myfwc.com/bird>.

### **April 10th Bay Days - Keep Collier Beautiful - Earth Day Beach Cleanup by Susan LaGrotta, Beach Cleanup (Stewardship Chair)**

Our beach cleanup was very successful with 40 volunteers collecting 17 bags of debris. Unusual items collected include automobile tires, a large buoy, a 12-foot-long dock, a crab trap, a broken fishing rod, a mangled pop-up tent, abandoned signs, and several large wood posts. In addition, the volunteers picked up the usual beach towels, plastic straws, cigarette butts, flip-flops, candy wrappers, plastic grocery bags, two bags of human feces, aluminum cans, glass bottles, clothing, brown paper towels, a tangled fish net, price tags, plastic bottle caps, dryer sheets, potato chip bags, napkins and broken beach chairs.

April 10th Bay Days - Keep Collier Beautiful - Earth Day Beach Cleanup by Susan LaGrotta, Beach Cleanup (Stewardship Chair) - Continued



Susan LaGrotta helping volunteers register. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)



Ken Kubat, FOT Treasurer, with his collection of debris. (Photo by Debbie Roddy)



Results of our volunteers work! (Photo by Debbie Roddy)

Friends of Tigertail Award—2010 Marco Island Shell Club Show

Amy Tripp, of Marco Island and a FOT member, received the Friends of Tigertail Trophy for the Most Outstanding Shell of The Show - Best Self-Collected Shell Found on Marco Island. The prize winning shell was an Alphabet Cone (*Conus spurius*) selected for its rare color band, the result of an injury to the cone's mantle.



Amy Tripp with Friends of Tigertail Award and her prized shell. (Photo by Burt Robbins)

How Tigertail Beach Was Named

For our local and out-of-town members who may have missed the following article written by Craig Woodward, President of the Marco Island Historical Society, that was published in the March 11-25, 2010 issue of the local newspaper Coastal Breeze.

People wondering why Marco Island's Tigertail Beach is located where it is and how it got its name usually reach the wrong conclusions that: 1) that the property was given to Collier County to be a public beach by the Deltona Corporation because of its environmental issues related to the lagoon, protected wildlife, etc. and, 2) its given name has something to do with the shape of the existing beach.

First, its location is solely a factor of it being the least desirable beach that Deltona owned (in contrast to "Resident's Beach" which was the best area - dead center of the beach and accessible by two major roads). The reason the Tigertail Beach area was the poorest beach had nothing to do with its condition or any environmental issues, nor did anyone have the vision to foresee that someday there would be a lagoon formed in front of this beach. But, it was the least desirable beach because at the time it was the most inaccessible beach that Deltona owned. In 1969, this portion of beach was bounded to the south by water rushing directly through the beach into Clam Bay (the bay between N. Collier Blvd. and South Seas Condos) which was the only means that Clam Bay had of flushing. In the 1960s and early 70s, one walking along the beach could not walk north of the future South Seas Condo Tower 4 (which was not yet built) without forging through the water in Clam Pass which, at high tide, was deep and rushing. Also, to the north of the future Tigertail Beach was the

### How Tigertail Beach Was Named - Continued

large parcel of land not controlled by Deltona - 211 acres of land owned by the Marco Island Corporation (the Ruppert family heirs) which would become part of the future Hideaway Beach. So, the future "Tigertail Beach" was not accessible for development by Deltona from either the north or the south and really only accessible from the east - over a future bridge on Hernando Drive built to cross the waterway to the west of Spinnaker Drive. In the early Deltona "Master Plan" of Marco Island, the area of Tigertail Beach, is shown on the development maps as an "island" for these reasons.

Later, Clam Pass filled with sand and closed, so today no one would know there was once a pass cutting through the beach and it is now possible to walk the full length of the beach. The closure of this Pass required Deltona to eliminate several platted home sites to construct two unplanned bridges: the flat bridge on N. Collier Blvd. and one on Hernando Drive to flush Clam Bay and keep it from stagnating.

Second, the shape of the beach had nothing to do with the naming of it as there was no "tail shape" of a beach in those days. I camped on this part of the beach in the late 1960s (when I was in Boy Scouts) and there was an off shore sand bar that we often swam to, but was totally under water, and was so full of sand dollars that we could pick them up with our feet. "Sand Dollar Island" later rose up and after a few years, connected itself to the main beach, creating the lagoon and beach as it is now.

In February of 1969 the Marco Island Development Corporation (the joint venture between Deltona and the Collier Family) deeded to the County approximately 32 acres of beachfront property as part of the legal obligation of Deltona to provide public beach access. The property deeded was rectangular in shape and had no "tail". At the time Collier County took title to this area of beach, the adjacent Marco Beach Unit 11 had already been platted (in late 1964), with the first street coming off of Collier Blvd. heading toward this beach being Tigertail Court. The County Commission named the beach for this street avoiding other possible names of "Kendall Beach" or "Hernando Beach," other major roads in the area when, clearly, Tigertail Beach sounded the best. Other county beaches are also named by their locations.

The street was named "Tigertail" by James Vensel, Deltona's chief land planner who named all of the streets on the Island. As a longer street, it received a longer name (so that the names would fit on the maps), and the street fits the name "Tigertail" as it runs northwest and then loops to the right. Vensel chose Indian names for some of Marco's streets, such as Arawak, Algonquin, Calusa, Seminole, and Osceola. Tigertail is also an Indian name, being the nickname of a famous Florida Seminole Indian leader during the Second Seminole Indian War, whose real name was Thlocklo Tustenuggee. Tustenuggee being an honorary title as a "war leader." He was the Chief of the Tallahassee Indians who lived near Florida's present day capital. Tigertail received his nickname from the U.S. Army soldiers because he wore a long strip of panther skin from his waist (note that while it was quite a fashion statement at the time, but it is not politically correct today!) "Tigertail," while perhaps an unusual name in other parts of the country, is a common street name along the east coast of Florida including Miami, where Vensel lived most of his life.

Copyright © 2010 Coastal Breeze Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission of Coastal Breeze.

### Update on September 29th Fish Kill at Sand Dollar Island

In our Winter 2009 issue of Tigertales, FOT reported on this fish kill that involved nine Bonnet Head sharks, two Black Tip sharks, four Gaftopsail catfish and one dead Southern Stingray. Water samples and fish tissues were collected at that time. As reported then, the kill was not related to the *Guinardia flaccida* (a non-toxic silica-based algae) bloom found on Naples beaches. Test results of tissue samples were inconclusive so the FWC was not able to determine the causes of death.

### Beach Parking Stickers

Did you know there are now three locations on Marco Island to distribute beach parking stickers for residents and non-residents? You can get the County beach passes at the following locations:

Marco Island Library 210 S. Heathwood Drive

Caxambas Park 909 Collier Court

Tigertail Beach 490 Hernando Dr.



Seminole Indian - Thlocklo Tustenuggee who received his nickname "Tigertail" by wearing a strip of panther skin around his waist.