

Tigertales



President's Message

Debbie Roddy

This is my first newsletter as the new President and I am thrilled to report all of the exciting things that have happened since the last newsletter.

First, on behalf of our current board, I would like to thank the previous board members for all of their volunteer efforts in developing Friends of Tigertail as a strong and effective organization for the preservation, protection and education of Tigertail Beach.

In April, Charlette Roman, past president, presented her "Magic of Tigertail" for the Marco Island Women's Club. Afterwards the organization decided to donate \$500 to FOT! Thank you, Charlette!

Fifteen members of FOT enjoyed a field trip to Eagle Lakes Park led by Beverly Anderson, a bird biologist of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Center. Eagle Lakes Park, part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, has a berm system around 2 water reclamation ponds which host 149 different species of birds. Susan Kubat reported the group saw 33 different species of birds. Of particular interest were the black necked stilts which

nest there, a loggerhead shrike with a baby in her nest, roseate spoonbills, white pelicans and a wood stork.

We had the largest number of volunteers ever (42) for the Bay Days Clean Up, led by FOT's Susan LaGrotta. They collected about 21 bags of trash (plus a traffic cone).

Remember the phrase "the lazy days of Summer?" Friends of Tigertail did not rest ...

The Tigertail vegetation removal project was a top priority. Several FOT board members spent hundreds of hours in meetings, making phone calls, sending emails and planning to stop the needless removal of 3/4 acre of vegetation on Tigertail Beach. With your support, we were successful. **THANK YOU!!**

FOT hosted 3 field trips for children. The first consisted of students from PACE Center School for Girls—Immokalee. The second and third groups were from the MI YMCA Summer Camps. Ken and Susan Kubat led the nature walks.

Looking forward to seeing you at Tigertail!

Board of Directors 2007-2008

Debbie Roddy — President
Burt Robbins — Vice President
Ken Kubat — Treasurer
Susan Kubat — Secretary
Kathy Apy
Susan LaGrotta
Linda Colombo
Mary Ann Maniace
Betty Rosa
Barb Cooper

Mark your calendars for the Quarterly beach clean-up. It is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1st from 8 a.m. until noon. We will meet at the kiosk. Wear shoes that may get wet, bring sunscreen and a bottle of water. FOT will provide the garbage bags and gloves.



www.friendsoftigertail.com

Ken and Susan Kubat will be offering another free guided nature/birding walk at Tigertail on Friday, November 16th at 9 a.m. Call 642-7740 to reserve a spot. Binoculars and wading shoes are recommended.

Friends of Tigertail Guided Walk by Susan Kubat

On May 19th at 9 a.m. Friends of Tigertail conducted a free guided nature/birding walk on Tigertail. Susan and Ken Kubat, FOT board members and Conservancy nature guides, led the walk for 14 people: FOT members, part-time Marco Island residents and visitors. The osprey, still alone, continued to perch on the platform in his unused nest. Maybe next year he'll attract a mate. Although, most of our winter shore birds had migrated north for nesting, the group was lucky to see several black bellied plovers, dunlins, sandpipers and willets in breeding plumage on the exposed mudflats. Several white ibises were probing in the lagoon and the beach for crustaceans and fiddler crabs. One great blue heron and one reddish egret fished along with about 10 great egrets in the shallow water of the lagoon. The group was surprised to learn that the totally white wading bird with yellow-green legs that they saw will become completely blue when it matures to an adult little blue heron. On the beach, the group discovered fiddler crabs emerging from their burrows in the sand, periwinkle mollusks living on the mangrove leaves and stems, and salty edible sea purslane. They found crown conchs and horseshoe crabs moving about in the shallows. Pear whelk egg casings were seen anchored in the sand in about a foot of water. Ken used his net to show the group the small fish, shrimp, crabs, shells and worm egg cases which comprise the food that draws the birds to this spot on the Great Florida Birding Trail. Everyone enjoyed the diversity of wildlife within Marco's city limits.

Tigertail Vegetation Removal Project—Thanks again for your support

As background, this issue started when Commissioner Fiala met with representatives from South Seas Condominium to discuss concerns of vegetation growth in front of their beach access. At the Feb. 20th MI Beach Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, Coastal Zone Management (CZM) discussed the project and approved funding to study existing vegetation in the targeted area. The plan was to remove 100 feet of vegetation. When asked how the 100 feet was derived, the CZM representative stated it was “arbitrary.” CZM estimated that the study would be completed in 90 days and would then bring the vegetation inventory to the BAC for review. On April 2, CZM submitted a “completed” permit application to the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP). On May 3, FDEP advised CZM that the application was incomplete, citing as one of the reasons no inventory of existing native vegetation. At the June 14th CAC meeting, several FOT Board members (Debbie Roddy, Linda Colombo, Susan & Ken Kubat), Nancy Richie from the City of Marco Island and Nicole Ryan, of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, expressed concerns about the vegetation removal. By mid-June, CZM still planned to move ahead on this project. FOT contacted several MI City Council members and our own members to get support for stopping the project. Thanks to your efforts, the Conservancy, Councilman Charles Kiester and others, the MI City Council voted unanimously, at the July 16th special meeting, to request CZM apply for a variance with the FDEP to rake along the vegetation line at the most narrow pathway on Tigertail. Without this variance, CZM could not rake within 10 feet of the existing vegetation line. FDEP issued the revised raking permit on August 21. The Friends of Tigertail Board will continue to monitor this situation.

Friends of Tigertail Donates to the Marco Island Library

The 2006-2007 FOT Board of Directors approved an educational donation of \$250 for the library to enhance community education on topics related to Tigertail Beach and the local area. Charlette Roman, past president, worked with Gwen Goodman, of the library, to determine the list of books and DVDs the donation would buy for the community. The books include *The Beaches Are Moving: The Drowning of America’s Shoreline (Living with the Shore)*, *Florida’s Living Beaches—A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber*, *Shorebirds of North America*, *The Life Cycle of Butterflies* and *The Shorebird Guide*. DVDs include *PBS Nature Series: Voyage of the Lonely Turtle*, *PBS NOVA: Private Lives of Dolphins*, the complete set of the *Blue Planet Series* including *Seas of Life Parts 3 & 4* and *The Seaside Naturalist*.

Next time you are in the library, check out some of these books and DVDs. Let us know what you think. You can email me at president@friendsoftigertail.com.



Gwen Goodman of the MI Library (left), received the check from Ken Kubat, Treasurer – FOT (right) on July 23rd.

Friends of Tigertail Hosts Field Trips for Children

Future FOT Board of Directors & Members being introduced to the jewel known as Tigertail Beach



Girls from PACE learning about the horseshoe crab in the seining net under the supervision of FOT member Ray Apy.



Ken Kubat (far left with hat) getting ready to lead a MI YMCA Summer Camp on an exploration of Tigertail’s natural beauty .



Susan Kubat (with hat) showing girls, from the Y, several fish, shrimp and horseshoe crabs that live in the lagoon’s “nursery”.