

# Tigertales



## President's Message

Debbie Roddy

On behalf of The Friends of Tigertail Board of Directors, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

We are thrilled about the quality of programs we are offering to the public January through April. **All programs will start at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Marco, 320 N. Barfield Dr.**

**Jan. 16th** Steve Carbol, Environmental Education Manager-Conservancy of Southwest Florida, presents **Latitude Adjustment-A Birder in Paradise**: Learn more about our area's rich bird life and area birding hot-spots. Plus an encounter with a live handled native bird of prey!

**Feb. 13th** Randy McCormick, Education Coordinator-Rookery Bay Estuarine Research Reserve, presents **Birds in a Changing Climate**: Birds have long been considered indicators of the health of our environment. Remember the phrase "canaries in a coal mine?" As our planet warms, what effect might this have on our local and migrating birds, and what message does this effect send to humanity?

**March 19th** Troy Frensley, Discovery Center Supervisor-Conservancy of Southwest Florida, presents **Reptiles in Southwest Florida**: Uncover the amazing world of our area's unique reptiles. Discover one of the United States' largest native snakes, learn why alligators could be called "king of the swamps," find out the truth behind our growing exotic species problem and much more! This presentation will feature live native and exotic reptiles!

**April 16th** Mary Nelson, Collier County Environmental Specialist (a.k.a. Marco Island's "Turtle Lady"), presents **Loggerhead Sea Turtles**: Learn about nesting habits of these beloved creatures on Marco Island, how beach renourishment and weather affect the success of the nests, mortality and predators.

So mark your calendars for all of these educational programs! Admission is free and refreshments are provided.

Don't forget the new location, United Church of Marco at 320 N. Barfield Dr.

Looking forward to seeing you at Tigertail and all of our programs!!

## Board of Directors 2007-2008

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Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Southwest Florida Birding & Wildlife Festival on Jan. 18, 19 & 20. To register for presentations and field trips go to [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org) or call (239) 417-6310.

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

## Fiddler Crab Crisis at Tigertail Beach

Friends of Tigertail needs your help in protecting the ecosystem of Tigertail Beach. Groups of people, carrying large paint buckets, are coming to Tigertail Beach to collect and take thousands of fiddler crabs. We suspect they are harvesting the fiddler crabs to sell as bait. Tigertail Beach is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail and a prime habitat for all types of water birds. Fiddler crabs are a vital part of the food chain for these birds, as well as crown conchs, ibises and plovers.

It is illegal to collect fiddler crabs at any Collier County Park, including Tigertail Beach. According to Chapter 18-23.007 (2a) State Buffer Preserves Prohibited Activities include:

(2) Hunting, harassing, possessing or trapping wildlife.

(3) Use of animal trapping or concealment devices.

(6) Transplantation or removal of any plant or animal, or parts of plants or animals (living or dead)."

Please help us protect Tigertail Beach's habitat, by informing people you see collecting live shells or fiddler crabs that it is illegal and that they will be cited, need to appear in court and be fined. The Friends of Tigertail organization is asking all of you, our members, 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.