

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 excited about the programs we are offering January through March of next year. **All programs will start at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Marco, 320 N. Barfield Dr.**

Jan. 21st Troy Frensley, Education & Discovery Center Manager-Conservancy of Southwest Florida, presents **Alien Invaders:** Southwest Florida is under attack by land, sea and air! Invasions of non-native plants, insects, mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians and birds that now call Florida home threaten our native wildlife. Get up close and personal with some common exotic invaders. From pythons to parrots, Florida has it all!

Feb. 18th Bryan Fluech, University of Florida Marine Science Extension Agent for Collier County, presents **Local Sport Fish:** Learn about the life histories of common-estuarine-dependent fish in our region, with a focus on species commonly found in and around Tigertail Beach. Plus, the importance

of protecting coastal habitat associated with early life stages of many of these species. Come and see local sport fish!

March 18th Len Messineo, an award winning nature and wildlife photographer, presents **The Exotic Everglades:** Come and explore the unusual factors of a vast complex system of water, climate and geology unique to south Florida. Learn about the mysterious plant life of a cypress swamp and its dramatic effect on the ecology. Plus, a study of the past and present, with expectations for the future will be included. This visual presentation of facts, narrative and dramatic images provide an uncomplicated yet informative overview of the world's only Everglades.

Mark your calendars for all three of these educational programs! All programs are open to the public so tell your friends and neighbors. Admission is free and refreshments are provided.

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

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

The 5th Annual Southwest Florida Birding & Wildlife Festival on Jan. 16, 17 & 18. To register for presentations and field trips go to: www.rookerybay.org or call (239) 417-6310.

Go to: www.friendsoftigertail.com for the latest news and information about Friends of Tigertail.

Fiddler Crabs at Tigertail Beach

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 and crown conchs. The Friends of Tigertail Board has been working on the issue of people removing thousands of fiddler crabs.

We are thrilled to report that the Beach Management & Vessel Control Ordinance passed at the Oct. 20, 2008 Marco Island City Council meeting. The ordinance contains:

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

s. 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."

This ordinance clearly provides protection for the fiddler crabs (this is exactly what we needed). Now the Collier County Park Rangers and Marco Island Police Department have the clear legal backing to write citations.

Please continue to 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 is asking everyone to carry your cell phone when you are at Tigertail Beach and call the gatehouse (394-2793) if they do not cooperate with your request.

Friends of Tigertail article in the Marco Review's Holiday Issue

Our own Ken Kubat, FOT-Treasurer, has an article in this magazine about Tigertail Beach's Fiddler Crabs. This article also features fantastic pictures of these creatures taken by Susan, his wife and FOT-Secretary. If you haven't read the article, be sure to pick up a copy.

Changes on the Board of Directors

Mary Ann Maniace resigned from the Board to pursue other interests. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your efforts over the years.

Friends of Tigertail members serving on Marco Island's Beach Advisory Committee (BAC)

Three FOT members have been appointed to the city's BAC. Ken Kubat, FOT-Treasurer, is serving as the Chairperson. Susan Purvis, another FOT Board member, is on the committee along with M.A. Kline, a FOT member. Best wishes to all three.

September 20th Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Beach Cleanup

Susan LaGrotta, FOT Board Member & Beach Cleanup (Stewardship) Chair reported 45 volunteers, including 9 boy scouts from Troop 234 and their 6 leaders, filled over 25 bags of debris. The number one item, as usual, was cigarette butts followed by beverage cans, plastic and glass bottles. The more unusual items collected were a lanai screen, wooden door, 5 pieces of wood, a stainless steel table and a sewer pipe!



Susan LaGrotta registering a volunteer.



Boy Scout Troop 234



Results from the cleanup.

2009 Beach Cleanup Schedule

Susan LaGrotta, FOT Board Member & Beach Cleanup (Stewardship) Chair, has scheduled our cleanups for the upcoming year.

Saturday, March 28, 2009: Bay Days — Keep Collier Beautiful — Earth Day Beach Cleanup

Saturday, July 11, 2009 — Quarterly Friends of Tigertail Beach Cleanup

Saturday, September 19, 2009 — Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, December 5, 2009 — Quarterly Friends of Tigertail Beach Cleanup

All of the beach cleanups are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Call Susan at 239-394-1470 to register. Bottled water, garbage bags and work gloves will be provided.

Collier County Resident Parking Permits

Along with other Collier County Parks, the parking fee at Tigertail Beach has been raised from \$6 to \$8. Collier County residents pay for beach parking permits in their property taxes and may pick up a beach sticker at the Marco Island Library, 210 South Heathwood Drive. Residents are required to provide documentation proving their residency.

Full time Residents must provide the following to obtain a parking permit:

- Original Collier County Vehicle Registration (copies not accepted)
- Original Collier County Driver's License

Part time Resident Property Owners must provide the following to obtain a parking permit:

- Original Vehicle Registration or rental car agreement
- Original Driver's License (regardless of state)
- Original Collier County Tax Statement or deed or current closing paper for a property