

# Tigertales



## President's Message

Charlette Roman

Nothing like a few close calls with hurricanes to make our summer even more exciting than usual! I hope Wilma was kind to you.

Wilma created a breakthrough towards the south end of Sand Dollar. The storm surge pushed sand into the lagoon and carved an opening for the Gulf waters. Beach walkers now have to cross water on their travels north at high tide.

Ted Below reported 12 dead birds on Sand Dollar after the storm, a small number considering Wilma's power. Ricardo Zambrano, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) visited the CWA and noted that Wilma improved resting and nesting areas by washing and smoothing the sand. We should have new aerial pho-

tos posted on the web soon.

FOT volunteers participated in two sessions of "Safety City," a summer program at Mackle Park for children. During the "great outdoors" portion, Ken and Susan Kubat and I led a nature walk around the lake to introduce the kids to birds, ducks and plants. The children seemed to really enjoy the program.

We also showcased nesting birds of Tigertail and Sand Dollar at the Marco Island Public Library. This is our second exhibit in the "Discover Tigertail" series.

We'll be highlighting the wintering birds in "Feathers, Flyways and Fast Food." in December. "Flyways..." is the third exhibit in our educational outreach efforts. Thanks to our partners at Rookery Bay, especially Bev-

erly Anderson, we were able to develop and print posters. Let me know if your business or condo would like one.

We also kicked-off our speaker program. The Noon-time Rotary was the first to receive "The Magic of Tigertail." This program highlights our unique shoal system, the variety of life living there, and the CWA's national and state-wide significance. If you know of a group looking for a speaker, please suggest us!

We received news this summer that Tigertail was added as a new site on the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Coastal Cleanup 2005 was a huge success, with over 70 volunteers participating. Ricardo and Kristin, FFWCC, brought their ATV and trailer to assist with hauling larger items. Twenty-one tires, trash and construction debris were removed from Sand Dollar!

Lately, we've been seeing more and more manatees visiting the lagoon. Just before Hurricane Katrina, four manatees that visited the lagoon were stranded with the changing tides. A manatee was also stranded on November 5. In each case, the manatees left the lagoon safely after several hours.

I'm looking forward to all of us having a great season!

### Board of Directors 2005-2006

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### In Memoriam



Vinnie Locascio  
February 27, 2005

Bob Rosa  
March 29, 2005

In lieu of flowers both families requested donations be made to Friends of Tigertail.

### FOT Web Site Premieres

This summer, one of our members, Lynn Livingston, volunteered to set up our web site. The site contains news, hot topics, photos and a calendar of our events. We've also posted the historical photos of the dynamic shoal system of Tigertail and Sand Dollar. Lynn has created a site worth visiting over and over again. Check out [www.FriendsofTigertail.com!](http://www.FriendsofTigertail.com!)

### December Membership Social

Mark your calendar for our holiday member social on Sunday, December 4, 3-5 PM, Belize Social Room. Invitations are already in the mail. If for some reason you haven't received your invitation, please contact our Membership Chair, Russ Colombo, 642-6845. Please be sure to return your postage paid RSVP.

### Family Fun Series—Sand, Sea, Sky

Rookery Bay and Friends of Tigertail naturalists will be leading an educational outing especially designed for families. This partnership event, "Sand, Sea & Sky: Exploring Tigertail Beach" is on tap for Saturday, January 7 10:30-12:30 AM. Registration required.

