



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2020

### From the Desk of the President – Cindy Dolmage

As we close out 2020 and I attempt to write this note, I am wondering how many times this year I've tried to find another way to say, "wait for it.....". I fail to find the words to describe the amount of patience this year has demanded from all of us.

As for Barefoot Beach Preserve, I am pleased to say it is thriving. The wildlife seemed to enjoy a break from all the human visitors this spring. If you are able to come to the preserve you may see a baby gopher tortoise or two, several pairs of osprey busily preparing their nests and an abundance of raccoons, rabbits and armadillos, as well as a wide variety of shore birds. Additionally, we were spared any real damage from a record hurricane season.

Our annual membership drive started Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and if you have not received your renewal let us know.

Much like everywhere else we are being flexible and adapting as needed, meaning some things will be different next year, but the preserve is still there and available for you to enjoy nature at its finest.

Below you will find what we plan for 2021. Stay safe everyone.

### 2021 Naturalist Programs

This year we will be offering a limited amount of Naturalist Programs. The programs below will alternate each week on **Friday's only** hopefully starting February 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be monitoring the impact of Covid in Collier County before resuming and will update information at the end of January. Safety is our primary objective for visitors and volunteers.

#### Friday – 10 a.m. (January-April)



**Beaches Alive!** What do wrack lines, beach hoppers, ghosts, sea pork, or beans have in common with skimmers, ruddy turnstones, oats, or goatsfoot that we see on the beach? [Come find out at this walk on Barefoot Beach.](#) Meet at the Learning Center. Program sponsored by Friends of Barefoot Beach Preserve. Program Cost: Free. There is an entrance fee into the park for those who do not have a current Collier County park permit. Directions: Turn south off of Bonita Beach Road onto Barefoot Beach Blvd. and go about 1 ½ miles to park entrance. Park in the first parking area and meet at the Learning Center. Wear walking shoes and sun protection. Suggest bringing binoculars and drinking water. **Approximately a 2-hour beach walk guided by a Naturalist.**

#### Friday – 10 a.m. (January -April)



**Exploring Coastal Habitats Walk!** Barefoot Beach Preserve: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. January through April. Enjoy a guided walk to the estuary and along a sandy trail to the beach. Explore one of the most productive ecosystems in nature and the unique coastal habitats at the Preserve. Program sponsored by Friends of Barefoot Beach Preserve. Program cost: Free. There is an entrance fee into the park for those who do not have a current Collier County park permit. Directions: Turn south off of Bonita Beach Road onto Barefoot Beach Blvd. and go about 1 1/2 miles to park entrance. Park in the first parking area on the right and meet at the Learning Center. Wear comfortable walking shoes and sun protection. Suggest you bring drinking water. **Approximately a 2-hour walk through Coastal Habitats guided by a Naturalist.**

## 2021 Lecture Series

The Board has decided to cancel our 2021 Lecture Series due to Covid19. While it was an extremely difficult decision (as you know, The Friends have been doing Lectures for over 30 years) they felt this was best for the community. We are not giving up and look forward to starting up again in 2022. We do, however, want to continue our educational mission. The Lecture Committee is working on several “mini” (15-20 minute) environmental videos and slide shows that will run each day on a loop on the large TV in the Learning Center from 10 to 4 daily starting January 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, this will encourage smaller groups to watch. The videos will be changed each day, so be sure to check them out when you visit!

## Garden

The summer was good to our garden, plants are flourishing, and we are getting ready to plant some annuals. Even the weeds are few thanks to our full-time volunteer gardeners.

## 2021 Docent Program

The Docent Program will also be changing in 2021 due to Covid-19. Starting January 2<sup>nd</sup> we are asking our volunteers to sign up for a morning or afternoon opening and closing of the Learning Center shift. The morning volunteer will arrive at 9am and turn on the TV and start the video programming. They will also wipe down all the cabinets and replenish any literature that is low. The afternoon volunteer will arrive at 4:30pm and reverse what happened in the morning. We are asking our volunteers to wear mask while they are working.

Our Library will not be available, and we are eliminating the visitor logbook. Our goal is to protect all our “friends” that visit the preserve.

Be safe and protect yourself and people around you!

## Sea Turtle Report



This season we had 207 nests on Barefoot – 176 hatched.

A few of the most frequently ask questions are how many hatchlings grow to adulthood? Once in the water, hatchlings are consumed by seabirds and fish. Few survive to adulthood, with estimates ranging from one in 1,000 to one in 10,000. Sea turtles' natural lifespan is estimated to be 50-100 years.

Another question is how many eggs does the sea turtle lay? On average, she lays 100 eggs in a nest and averages between 2 to 8 nests a season.

Big thank you goes out to Deb & Jamie who worked hard to protect our Barefoot nests.



## More Thanks

Mr. Preston's North Naples Middle School Honor Students spent a Saturday in October picking up litter in the Preserve. This was extremely helpful since Keep Collier Beautiful annual September clean up was canceled. Thank you to all.



A big thank you to Chris Kardon who is retiring from her Docent position. Chris has been a valuable asset to the Friends for 30 years. In the beginning, Chris was active in early fundraising for building the learning center & clearing the brush to help build the Saylor Trail. She later served as a Docent for 25 years.

Her knowledge and enthusiasm about the preserve, hours spent listening and welcoming visitors both young (she always made children feel they could ask any question) and old will be missed. We could always count on Chris to be in the Learning Center when her shift started, ready to pitch in with whatever was needed.

As you retire from volunteering with the Friends, may you know how much you are appreciated by the people and hearts you touched.

