



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

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

Congratulations everyone! We made it to February 2021. Here at Barefoot Beach Preserve the weather is mostly warm and sunny, the flowers are blooming in the butterfly garden and there are two gopher tortoises in the cactus garden that appear to be getting very friendly. The Osprey have returned and are busy adding twigs to the nests. We continue to have some challenges with red tide, but so far only a few dead fish.



Although we are currently not able to staff the Learning Center with docents, thanks to our dedicated volunteers we are able to provide wonderful videos on the large TV every day thus continuing our mission to provide education endeavors at the preserve.

Collier county continues to make improvements at the preserve, including a new water fountain that allows for easy refilling of tall bottles and new hand dryers in the restrooms.

Currently there is no chair or food service at the beach so remember to bring everything you might need when you come for a beach day.

To keep everyone safe this year we decided to hold the annual meeting via Zoom on Monday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00AM. If you would like to attend on your phone via Zoom please send an email to: [friendsofbarefoot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbarefoot@gmail.com) and I will send the directions for calling into the meeting.

As always stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

### The Friends Purpose

- To preserve, protect and enhance natural environment*
- To foster research and educational endeavors*
- To create and distribute literature relating to the Preserve*
- To work in concert with Collier County Parks and Recreation,  
and to secure volunteers to assist the county*
- To enhance the experience of all who visit Barefoot Beach Preserve*



## Naturalist Programs

The Naturalist Programs will not be starting up in February due to the current number of coronavirus cases. We are monitoring the situation and will resume our walks and talks as soon as there is improvement. Please check our website for updated information. Safety is our primary objective for visitors and volunteers.

We have had our Trail Team working on the Saylor Trail plant markers. The survey of the markers will be completed in February, some of the photos will be replaced and we will be adding plant tags to make identification of the plants easier.

If you have a chance to walk the Saylor Trail make sure to bring your cell phone. Each plant post has a bar code and you can access the information through the camera on your phone. Also, be sure to check out the new bench overlooking Wiggins Pass.

## Lecture Series

The Lecture Committee now has several 15 - 60-minute environmental videos and slide shows running on the large television in the Learning Center. They run on a loop every day from 10 to 4. The video line-ups are always changing, so be sure to check them out when you visit!

We are positively looking forward to 2022 and planning the return of our Saturday Lecture Series – if you have a favorite speaker that you would like to see return or a suggestion for a new topic, please email the lecture committee at [friendsofbarefoot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbarefoot@gmail.com).





## Garden

Every Thursday our Gardeners are weeding, pruning and checking on our Gardens. We are happy to report two Gopher Tortoises are now calling the Cactus Garden home. Be sure and keep an eye out for them sometimes they sneak under your car.

We recently installed a night camera to check on the Butterfly garden – seems the bunnies are hungry and eating our flowering plants. We are working on a safe environmentally friendly way to discourage them.

We also hope to put the camera along the trail and share some of the nighttime activity.

## Docent Program

Every morning our Docent volunteers are in the Learning Center, cleaning off the cabinets, checking the literature to make sure visitors can still pick-up information, if they choose, and starting the “mini” videos. In the late afternoon, another Docent volunteer comes in to turn the TV off and make sure the Learning Center is secure.

We are planning a zoom gathering to replace our annual volunteer picnic Feb 12th . Our annual awards will be announced, and we look forward to being able to see and visit with our “Friends” team.

The Rangers are doing kayak (to social distance) & canoe (with two if you wish) trips once again. Trips are on Tuesday and Thursday at 9AM cost \$10 call 239-252-4060 (reservations only). \$8 Preserve entrance fee is charged when applicable. A big thank you to Collier County for adding 12 Kayaks to their fleet. This 1 ½ hour tour through the mangroves is educational and fun, you may see dolphins, manatees and many birds.

