

FREE
NATURE POSTER INSIDE!



FRIENDS
OF ROOKERY BAY

2018-2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Connecting people to Southwest Florida's dynamic coastal environment
in support of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Join or Renew Today!

rookerybay.org

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friends@rookerybay.org



A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Our two organizations are tightly linked, but each has its own role. Both organizations are committed to protecting Southwest Florida's coastal environment for generations to come.



Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Florida International University, the Reserve is responsible for managing wildlife and habitat within its 110,000-acre boundary, which stretches from downtown Naples east through the Western Everglades, encompassing 40 percent of Collier County's coastline!

The Reserve operates programs in coastal research and monitoring, land and water resource management, and environmental learning and decision-maker training at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center.



Friends of Rookery Bay

The 501(c)(3) non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay helps Reserve staff address many challenges in managing our coastal lands and waters. We connect people to Southwest Florida's coastal environment through an active volunteer recruitment program, outreach efforts, advocacy, and fundraising activities.

Through these efforts, the Friends provides vital monetary and in-kind support for Reserve programs, operations, and improvements. Our members and donors enable us to be a reliable partner to the Reserve and an advocate for preservation and coastal protection.



OUR 2018-19 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Fundraising

Established the Lavern Norris Gaynor Scholarship with a \$150,000 gift from Lavern Gaynor to support and fund education and research internships at the Reserve. The gift is invested in our endowment at the Community Foundation of Collier County and open for anyone to contribute.



Advocacy

Increased federal funding by \$2 million for Rookery Bay Reserve and across the National Estuarine Research Reserve system through the voice of members, volunteers and friends. Funding supports a national Graduate Research Fellowship program, placing one graduate student at each of the 29 reserves.

Outreach & Volunteer Recruitment

Connected with community leaders, business owners and the general public through eco-tours, art receptions, lectures, and special events at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center as well as outreach events across Collier County, inspiring stewardship and volunteerism at Rookery Bay Research Reserve. We also bestowed the inaugural Lavern Norris Gaynor Environmental Champion Award upon Lavern Norris Gaynor, in recognition of continuing her family's legacy of environmental stewardship.



Sponsors

The Isles of Collier Preserve
Woodward, Pires & Lombardo, P.A.
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Naples Daily News
Naples Reserve

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Stock Development
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Lavern Gaynor
Lois & Bruce Selfon



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Milda Vaivada

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2019-2020 FRIENDS EVENTS

November 14

Painting Annual Exhibit Opening Reception

November 16

Classic Car Show

November 30

Holiday Shopping Event

January 17

Festival of Birds Keynote Presentation

January 23

Photography Annual Exhibit
Opening Reception

January 30

Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest
Appreciation Reception
(invitation only)

January 31

Featured Artist Reception
with Dora Knuteson

February 11

Cleveland Reception

February 18

Annual Meeting (Members and their guests)

March 13

11th Annual Bash for the Bay