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
239-530-5972
friends@rookerybay.org

Brandon Wolfe
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.
Soirée
First Florida Integrity Bank
Florida International University
Horizon Rentals
Naples Illustrated
Naples Daily News
Naples Reserve
Florida Gulf Coast University
Carrabba’s Italian Grill
Ray & Pat Carroll
Tom & Sue Marquardt
Stock Development
StoreSmart Self-Storage
Lavern Gaynor
Lois & Bruce Selfon
2018-2019
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
President: Tom Marquardt
Vice President: Paul Tateo
Secretary: Curt Witthoff
Interim Treasurer: Tom Wagor
  Karyn Capozzo
  Ray Carroll
  Matt Flores
  Jim Fourqurean
  Dan High
  Chris Lombardo
  Charlie O’Connor
  Michael Savarese
  Lois Selfon
  Jim Shea
  Greg Tolley
  Milda Vaivada
  Tom Wagor
  Sandi Wilson

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