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rookerybay.org



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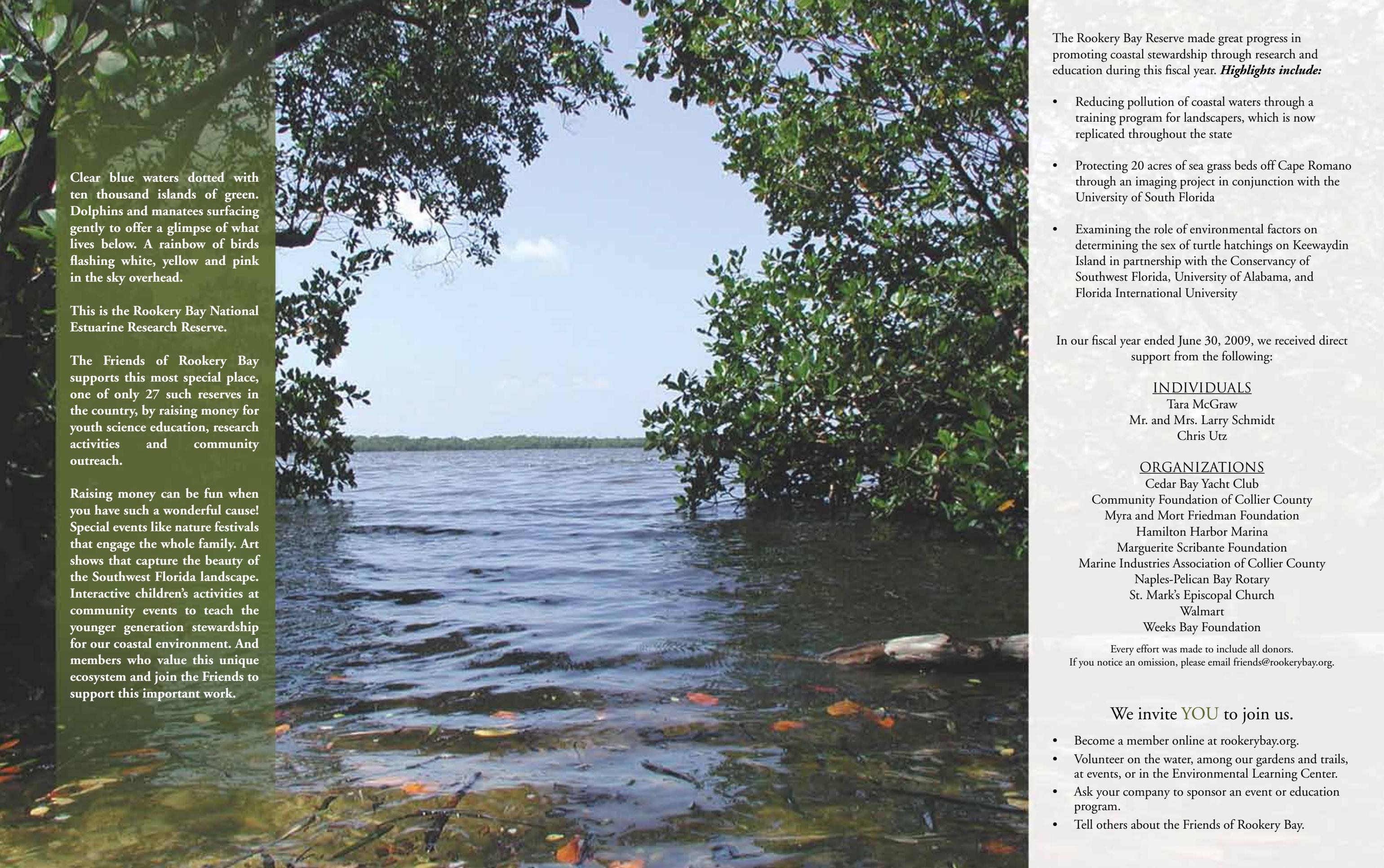
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*Rookery Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve Director*

THE FRIENDS OF ROOKERY BAY

YEAR IN REVIEW

2009





Clear blue waters dotted with ten thousand islands of green. Dolphins and manatees surfacing gently to offer a glimpse of what lives below. A rainbow of birds flashing white, yellow and pink in the sky overhead.

This is the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Friends of Rookery Bay supports this most special place, one of only 27 such reserves in the country, by raising money for youth science education, research activities and community outreach.

Raising money can be fun when you have such a wonderful cause! Special events like nature festivals that engage the whole family. Art shows that capture the beauty of the Southwest Florida landscape. Interactive children's activities at community events to teach the younger generation stewardship for our coastal environment. And members who value this unique ecosystem and join the Friends to support this important work.

The Rookery Bay Reserve made great progress in promoting coastal stewardship through research and education during this fiscal year. *Highlights include:*

- Reducing pollution of coastal waters through a training program for landscapers, which is now replicated throughout the state
- Protecting 20 acres of sea grass beds off Cape Romano through an imaging project in conjunction with the University of South Florida
- Examining the role of environmental factors on determining the sex of turtle hatchings on Keewaydin Island in partnership with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, University of Alabama, and Florida International University

In our fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, we received direct support from the following:

INDIVIDUALS

Tara McGraw
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schmidt
Chris Utz

ORGANIZATIONS

Cedar Bay Yacht Club
Community Foundation of Collier County
Myra and Mort Friedman Foundation
Hamilton Harbor Marina
Marguerite Scribante Foundation
Marine Industries Association of Collier County
Naples-Pelican Bay Rotary
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Walmart
Weeks Bay Foundation

Every effort was made to include all donors.
If you notice an omission, please email friends@rookerybay.org.

We invite **YOU** to join us.

- Become a member online at rookerybay.org.
- Volunteer on the water, among our gardens and trails, at events, or in the Environmental Learning Center.
- Ask your company to sponsor an event or education program.
- Tell others about the Friends of Rookery Bay.