Connecting people with Southwest Florida’s dynamic estuarine environment in support of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
financial support

5th Annual Batfish Bash for the Bay proceeds top $100,000 Nearly 200 guests enjoyed a silent auction amidst the aquariums and art gallery, sunset and cocktails overlooking Henderson Creek, and a live auction followed by dinner and dancing on the center’s back lawn on March 15, 2014. A special auction category called “Fund-a-Need” raised a record-setting $9,300 to help purchase a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for use by the Reserve’s research and resource management staff to map the shoreline, work on prescribed fires, remove debris from the beach, and more.

Adventure Race Forty-five adventurous athletes hit the trails and waters of Henderson Creek as part of the 4th annual Rookery Bay Adventure Race, presented by Up A Creek Kayak tours on December 7, 2013. Crisp, cool air temperatures and bright sunny skies made perfect weather on the 3k kayak course and 4k run across the Observation Bridge and around the nature trails behind the Environmental Learning Center. Prizes were awarded to the top finishers in eight categories. In total, $1,466.29 was raised for the Friends of Rookery Bay.

Sponsorships and Donations The Friends of Rookery Bay celebrated a $10,000 donation from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation for the renovation of a mullet skiff used in high school education programs provided by Rookery Bay Reserve. Reps from the Foundation, together with marine science students and faculty from Lely High School, Reserve staff, and other partners, “unveiled” the boat, which was outfitted with a new motor and Guy Harvey designed hull wrap, before taking it out on the water for an education program.

Membership This year our membership has grown to over 500 strong. Over the past decade declining state and federal budgets have made this annual income critical for the preservation of some of the Reserve’s stewardship, research, and educational programs.
Friends of Rookery Bay supporters

**Batfish Bash Auction Donors**

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Trivoli Bays Reserve  
Turrell, Hall & Associates  
Up A Creek Kayak Tours  
Waldorf Astoria- Naples  
Paul Westberry  
Roger Weston  
Pam Wood

**Batfish Bash Guests**

Phyllis Andersen  
Paul & Eileen Arsenault  
Tony Bernosky  
Elizabeth Black  
Jon & Susan Bremseth  
Gary & Patty Broad  
Clay & Lauren Brooker  
Leo & Faye Bruso  
John & Judith Burke  
Jorge & Gisselle Calleja  
Len & Karyn Capozzo  
Ray & Pat Carroll  
Greg Curry  
Elizabeth D’Anjou  
Steve & Susan Dantus  
Castor & Linda Diaz  
Larry Dulski  
Monica Dwyer  
Julie Edmister  
Josh & Shelby Evans  
Sean Fedak  
John & Donna Flammang  
Patricia Forkan  
Allen & Debbie Galbut  
Robert & Pamela Galloway  
Adam & Ashley Gerry  
George & Pat Gilbert  
Shannon & Robin Holland  
Lisette Holmes  
John & Judy Hushon  
Keith & Joanne Hussey  
Kathy Hutton  
Allen & Bethann Kassman  
Jack Kenner  
Robert & Erika Klus  
Lisa Koehler  
Marianne Kramer  
John & Kristin Langeloh  
Chris & Nancy Lombardo  
Sean Lux  
Gary Lytton  
Tom & Jean Maday  
Joan Matheis
The Friends of Rookery Bay helps Reserve staff address many challenges in managing coastal lands and waters through fundraising and memberships.

Friends of Rookery Bay – a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization – gratefully acknowledges the support received from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Every effort was made to include all supporters. If you note an omission, please contact friends@rookerybay.org or 239-530-5971.

Richard & Jami McCormick
Harold & Patsy McDonald
Sara Medeiros
Margaret & Jim Mitchell
John & Cynthia Obey
John Orman
Roderick & Sue Price
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Neville Williams
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Kathleen Abraham
Lyle Ackerman
David Bower
Lou Ann Brown

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Marine Science Student Film Premiere
Throughout the 2013-14 school year, Lely High School teamed up with Rookery Bay Reserve and Discovery Education to research, develop and produce short videos about environmental issues facing their community. The Friends of Rookery Bay donated cameras for students to use to film their projects and a cash award to the winning student team in the 2nd annual film premiere on April 30.

Dr. Prager Engages Middle School Students
In celebration of Everglades Day, Rookery Bay Reserve offered lectures by nationally-renowned marine biologist and author Dr. Ellen Prager. Dr. Prager spoke to 280 students from Manatee Middle School, sharing stories and images from her adventures as a scientist, and reading clips from her about-to-be released new book, Shark Whisperer. The Friends helped sponsor copies of the new book that were provided to each student.

Exploring the Estuary
Rookery Bay Reserve staff and volunteers provide student education programs at the Environmental Learning Center and on the water. This year education programs served nearly 1,000 fourth graders, more than 500 high school students, and dozens of student groups from middle schools, colleges, universities, and other learning institutions in the community and beyond.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
The Reserve protects 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters in southwest Florida that serve as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists from around the world. It is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with NOAA.
Our Board of Directors
Craig Seibert, President; Julie Edmister, Vice President; Gina Lostracco, Treasurer; Steve Mutart, Secretary; Clay Brooker; Judith Hushon; Allan Kassman; Lisa Koehler; Robert Klus; Curt Witthoff

Batfish Bash sponsors

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