Year in Review
2012–2013
Guy Harvey – artist, scientist, diver, angler, conservationist and explorer – served as Honorary Chair of the Friends of Rookery Bay’s 4th annual signature fundraiser, the Batfish Bash for the Bay, in March. The event included a silent auction, Olde Florida fare, band and dancing, as well as Patron Party two weeks prior. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, we raised $64,000 to benefit the Reserve’s youth and adult education programs.

In April, the Reserve celebrated National Everglades Day with dignitaries including Congressman Mario Díaz-Balart; Zach Zampella, Regional Director for Senator Marco Rubio; and Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala.

Visitors to the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center are watching a new film that provides an overview shot from land, water and sky of the Reserve’s 110,000 acres. The 10-minute “Rookery Bay – A Special Place” was shot and directed by Elam Stoltzfus with Live Oak Production Group and narrated by Peter Thomas, who both worked on the previous film shown in the Center’s auditorium. J. Robert Houghtaling of Marco Island composed the music and score. Fabien Cousteau, Guy Harvey and Clyde Butcher make cameo appearances.

A leatherback sea turtle entangled in a crab trap line approximately three miles west of Caxambas Pass on Marco Island was rescued by resource management staff in cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) law enforcement. This species is rarely found on Florida’s west coast, and staff enjoyed the opportunity to release this endangered species.

When 120 Lely High School students produced video shorts on environmental topics in partnership with Discovery Education, Rookery Bay hosted 22 of the students plus families – along with Collier County School District Superintendent Kamela Patton and other district faculty – to honor five student teams who received certificates, plaques and goodie bags. The Reserve also hosted its annual “Girls in Science Day,” where 15 middle school students enjoyed hands-on learning, a boat trip in the Reserve and science experiments.
Sponsors & Donors

Friends of Rookery Bay 25th Anniversary Campaign
Marilyn McCollister
Marco Island Marriott
See Mantees Guaranteed
John Passidomo
Rose Marina
Trucks, Inc.
Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc.

Commemorative Brick Program
Alberto Chavez
Robert Dunbar
Julie Emdister
Brian and Carly Gibb
David Gordley
Robert E. Grinnell
Harold “Skip” Lee
Amelia Horadam
Bob and Vickie Hutchins
Gina Lostracco
Mike and Linda Kropp
Gary Lyton
Marilyn McCollister
Randy and Deborah McCormick
Susan A. Miller
Bruce Robertson
Jill Schmid
Uschi Vasallo
Up a Creek Kayak

Corporations and Foundations
Bond, Schoeneck & King
Edison State College
Iberiabank
Larry Schmidt/LakeLand-Schmidt
Stewardship Fund
Leadership Collier Foundation
Marriott International
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
The Arlington of Naples
Walmart Foundation

Individual Donations
Ellen Adams
Phyllis Andersen
Judy Anderson
Robert Anderson
Dorothea Arnold
Hope Bailey
Marilyn Bartlett
William and Joanne Beach
Gene and Sandy Benevenuto
Tony Bernosky
Diny Bielher
Elizabeth Black
Troy and Lori Buhs
Susan Calkins
Richard Capiola
Cindy Carroll
Ray and Pat Carroll
John and Carolyn Chesney
Peter and Christine Connors
Andrew Cumming
Susan Dalton
Keith and Barbara Dameron
Alice Davis
Warren Drakins
Charlotte Djohn
Julie Emdister
Craig and Kathy Fenton

Terry and Vicki Fisher
Chuck Freeman
Chuck Gaman
Jim Hamburge
Roy and Betty Helms
Robin Holland
Scott Hopkins
John and Judy Hushon
Bob Jones
Allen Kassman
Laurence Kenner
Albert Knox
Mike and Linda Kropp
DeWayne Laird
Patricia Laird
Joe and Kathy Leavesley
Tara L. McGras
Jim Massa
RuthMarie Mitsch
Frank and Nancy Mores
Michael and Raleigh Morris
Nancy Mundth
Steve and Lynn Mutart
Bill and Jennifer Owens
John and Kathleen Passidomo
Edith Pendleton
Eric Price
Alex Pulling
Hampton Randolph
William Rheiner
Bruce Robertson
Edson Robertson
Peter Rotelle
Sam and Amy Saad
Emilio and Linda Sadez
Nicole Sadez
James and Joan Schwai
Willard and Phyllis Scott
Craig and Karla Seibert
Dawn Snyder
Anthony and Ashley Solomon
Steve and Sharda Spalr
Chuck and Susan Stauffer
Elam Stolzfrus
Paul Tateo
Mike and Marta Tighe
Al and Sue Turner
Maida Vavada
Mary Vertin
Michaela Vettermann-Sela
Thomas and Lorraine Wager
John and Tasha Wilson
Paul and Jory Westberry
Barry and Debbie Zvibleman

In-Kind
Naples Daily News
Southern Wine & Spirits

Batfish Bash for the Bay Sponsors
Aggressor Fleet
Artistic Science
Arthrex
Fifth Third Bank
Guy Harvey, Inc
Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club
Iberiabank
MarineMax
Mintar

Batfish Bash Auction Item Donors
Aggressor Fleet

Jerry Alajajian
Alex Alexander
Bay Lady Boat Tours
Bob Berlam
Frank Berna
Black Diamond Golf Club
Elizabeth Black
Bricktop’s
Clyde Butcher
Calusa Pines Golf Club
Camelina Street Grill
Capri Fish House
Captains Lodge and Villas
Ray and Pat Carroll
Any Cason
CJ’s on the Bay
Cedar Bay Yacht Club
Joe Conforti
Donald Day
Lee Edmiston
Everglades National Park Boat Tours
Terry Fisher
Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge
Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
Golf Club of the Everglades
Dennis Goodman
Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Guy Harvey Foundation
Hair Design by Avangarde
Hair on the Bay
Jack Hanna
Havana Bar & Cafe
Hawthorne Suites
Hideout Golf Club
Patrick Higgins
Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort
Hilton Naples
John and Judy Hushon
Hyatt Place
Isles of Capri Marina
Ivey House
Chris Kelly
Jack Kenner
Kara Lauter
Charlie Lostracco
Rebecca Maddox
Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort
Marco Island Sea Excursions
Marco Island Sunshine Booksellers
Marco Island Water Sports
Doug McLarty
MiraMare Ristorante
Steve and Lynn Mutart
Naples Bay Resort Boat Rentals
Naples Harbour – Florida Marina Club
Naples Kayak Company
Naples Outfitters Company
Naples Players
Naples Soap Company
Old Naples Surf Shop
Debra Parfitt
James and Ronald Peterson
Robert of Philadelphia
Bruce Robertson
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Russell’s Clambakes
SCUBA Adventures
Emilio and Linda Sadez
Keith Sahm
Jose Sanchez
Ted Sanchez

Dona Schulte
Craig and Karla Seibert
Scott Smith
Stock Development
Elam Stoltzfus
Summerfields
Tarpon Bay Explorers
The Arlington of Naples
The Clay Place
The Golf Club at Fiddler’s Creek
Nancy Thorsen
Treviso Bay Golf Club
Transon Hotel Old Naples
Todd Turrell
Up A Creek Kayak Tours
Vergina
Joseph Wendt
Randy Wayne White

Members
Membership in Friends of Rookery Bay offers many benefits to our supporters while ensuring that these contributions help the Friends support the scientists and educators working at Rookery Bay Reserve. Members at our highest support levels are recognized in our annual report. Learn more about membership and renew online at rookerybay.org/support/membership.

Panther
Barry Berg
Jennifer Kayne
Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort
Marine Industries Association
John Passidomo
Frankie Willis

Manatee
Ellen Hill
Pelican Bay Rotary Club, Inc.
William Rheiner
Rose Marina
Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc.

Patron
Robert Davidson and Lynn Yaeger
John Epifano
Allen Kassman
George and Lynn Sarkus
Mary Shevlin
John and Marge Tunnell
Timothy Webster

Contributing
Al J. and Kelly Baldwin
Mary Noc and Kevin Castel
Kathy Cookman
James Cronin
Craig and Kathy Fenton
Linda and Mike Kropp
Robert and Coyeen Lawton
Jon and Marilyn McCollister
Steve Mutart
Albert and Pat Nolan-Knox
Janet Price
Gary Thomas
Richard Walker
Tom and Joyce Watts-Fletcher
Paul Westberry
Tom and Shirley Woolaway

Friends of Rookery Bay – a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization – gratefully acknowledges the support received from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Every effort was made to include all supporters. If you note an omission, please contact friends@rookerybay.org or 239-417-6310 x409.
Rookery Bay Quick Facts

- Manages 110,000 acres from Gordon Pass through the Ten Thousand Islands
- Home to 150 species of birds and many threatened/endangered animals
- One of 28 national estuarine research reserves
- Promotes informed stewardship of the coast through research and education
- Field trip spot for all Collier 4th graders as well as students up through university level
- Managed by FL DEP’s Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas in cooperation with NOAA
- Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is visited by 35,000 people annually

Board of Directors

President
Bruce Robertson

Treasurer
Harold P. “Skip” Lee

Secretary
Steve Mutart

Clay Brooker
Cheffy Passidomo

Julie Edmister, Ph.D.

Bob Galloway
Walmart SuperCenter

David C. Gordley
Iberiabank

Judith Hushon

Allen Kassman

Gina Lostracco
Fifth Third Bank

Craig Seibert

Michael Tighe
Marco Marriot

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Administrator
Gary Lytton

Annual Report Editor
Robin DeMattia

Cover photo credit
Alberto Chavez

Connecting people with Southwest Florida’s dynamic estuarine environment through education, engagement and stewardship by supporting the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.