

ATTRACTING

INTERNATIONAL INTERNS

YOU and Friends of Rookery Bay funded 6 college interns, including 1 from South Africa and 1 from Puerto Rico

Assisted Reserve staff with shark, fisheries, bird, water quality and sea turtle work

First time for field & lab experiences, reinforcing their science career paths



Hear thanks from South African master's candidate and future biologist Amy Arendse





SEA TURTLES

The Reserve had 307 nests and 13,300 hatchlings – 3rd highest ever!

YOU adopted 113 nests to protect them against raccoons and coyotes

Researchers say this hot summer likely produced more female turtles



Watch hatchlings adorably make their way into the Gulf!

FRUIT FARM CREEK

Florida's largest mangrove restoration project – more than 200 acres

New pipes under road to Marco Island reconnect mangrove forest to Gulf waters

The number and variety of fish and plants has already increased and will expand much more over the next few years

NOAA biologists join Reserve staff every six months for continued monitoring





PLANNED

GIVING LEGACIES

A \$160,000 estate gift from a long-time Rookery Bay volunteer established the Sue Miller Memorial Scholarship and will fund interns for decades

Retirement funds, life insurance policies, stocks, bonds, real estate and other appreciated assets can be gifted to charity and provide tax benefits

Speak with your professional financial advisor about securing your family's needs and then leaving a legacy at Rookery Bay



Learn more about Planned Giving

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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YOU'RE THE BEST!

Thank **YOU** for such outstanding interest and support!

BEST attendance at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center **BEST** number of membership purchases and renewals **BEST** amount of Adopt-a-Sea-Turtle-Nest donors **BEST** engagement numbers for educating youth and adults BEST amount raised during Give Where You Live Collier



HOW YOU

CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Make a year-end donation today
- Renew your Friends of Rookery Bay membership
- Purchase Friends of Rookery Bay membership for your friends/family
- Adopt an animal or sea turtle nest on behalf of yourself or a loved one
- Honor a loved one with a tribute brick in the butterfly garden
- Shop for holiday gifts in our Nature Store or at rookerybay.org
- Celebrate your child's birthday party at the learning center
- Attend our 15th annual Bash for the Bay and other upcoming events
- Volunteer with education, research and outreach programs
- Include Friends of Rookery Bay in your estate plan



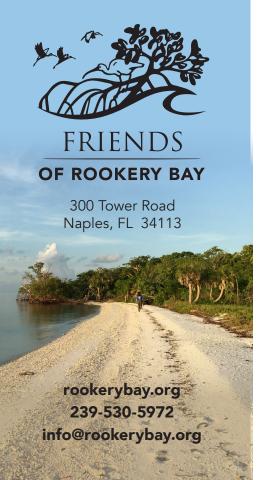
Make YOUR Year-End Donation now.

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Doubling **YOUR** Impact... the first \$25,000 will be **MATCHED** by Julie and Mitch McLeod!

"Julie and I fully support Rookery Bay and its mission to protect the 110,000-acre reserve through their research, education, conservation and training programs."



2023-2024

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

BOAT AND KAYAK TOURS
Daily

LUNCH & LEARN LECTURES
Monthly through April

20TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BIRDS plus
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
FILM FESTIVAL NEW!
January 12-21

BASH FOR THE BAY
March 14

MONTHLY PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Art & Photo Classes Birding Workshops Forest Bathing