

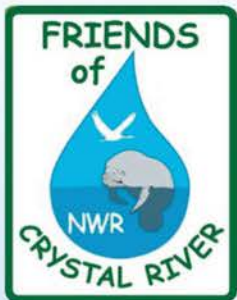
Manateeki Times

Fall 2016
Newsletter



©2016 Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc

Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc



Friends of the Crystal National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc. present:

“Meet the New Refuge Manager” and Enjoy a Buffet Breakfast with Friends “An Update for our Members”*

When:

Saturday, September 17
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where:

Sugarmill Woods Clubhouse
1 Douglas Street
Homosassa, FL 34446

Cost is \$13 per person



Register online by going to our website www.friendsofcrystalriver.org and click on the [Click Here to Register](#) link in the [Current Events](#) column on the homepage under the “Member Breakfast” information. This link will take you to a Registration Form where you can register and pay by credit card.

Or call:
Ellen Joyce
352-382-0343

Pre-registration is required and due by September 10. Seating is limited at this event. Make your reservation today.

Joyce Palmer has been the new Project Leader (Refuge Manager) for the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex, which includes Crystal River, Chassahowitzka, Egmont Key, Pinellas and Passage Key National Wildlife Refuge, since June.

For the past 5 years, Joyce served as the Deputy Project Leader of the J.N. “Ding” Darling Wildlife NWR Complex in Sanibel Island, FL, a heavily visited complex.

She brings the experience of a 17-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where she has built a career on cooperative working relationships, not only at city and local levels, but also with states, federal agencies and academia, very valuable in the critical relationship between the City of Crystal River and the Crystal River NWR.

Joyce, along with her husband and three children are thrilled to move to Citrus County and enjoy the Nature Coast.

Joyce will update our members on the current status of the Three Sisters Springs project and share her vision for the future of the Crystal River NWR Complex.

Tom Gotterup, Friends President, will discuss the Friends projects and the calendar of events for the coming year



Photo by Ross Knudsen

A view of a portion of the bank restoration project at Three Sisters Springs by SWFWMD. The shoreline around the springs will be stabilized by filling undercut bank areas with soil bags and reinforcing the shoreline with limestone boulders. In addition, a variety of native wetland plants will be installed on the restored shoreline. These plants will provide additional shoreline stabilization, help reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff and improve the appearance of Three Sisters Springs. The project is due to be completed by Manatee Season beginning in November

*If you are not a member and would like to attend this very informative event, you can include your membership dues with your online registration.

Mark your planners!

- September 17 Member Brunch,
“Meet the New Refuge Manager”
- October 22 Refuge Day at Refuge Office Property
- November 12 Bird Tour and Breakfast
- December 3 FREE Day at TSS
- January 14-15, 2017 Manatee Festival
and FREE Days at TSS
- January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting
- February 11, 2017 FREE Day at TSS

Follow us on

Twitter

@Friendsofcrystalriv

Manateeki Times is published for the members of the Friends of the Crystal River NWR Complex, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Thanks for your support!

Please notify us of any changes to your e-mail address or mailing address!

Board of Directors

President

Tom Gotterup

Vice President

Judi Matthews

Treasurer

Shirley Knudsen

Secretary

Ellen Joyce

Directors

Billy Anders

Cynthia Anders

Ross Knudsen

Mary Morgan

Ann Paul

Bonnie Rybak

**Crystal River
National Wildlife Refuge
Complex**

**1502 SE Kings Bay Dr.
Crystal River FL 34429**

Tel: 352-563-2088 Ext. 215

**Email:
info@friendsofcrystalriver.org**

**Website:
www.friendsofcrystalriver.org**

**For volunteer opportunities
visit:
www.friendsofcrystalriver.org**

President's Report

Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

WOW ... It seems it was just yesterday that the Board had its Annual Retreat at the Panther Wildlife Refuge in Naples, Florida. That was in May, with June and July being months the Board had taken off. We have now held our first meeting of the upcoming season with many exciting things in the works.

The Board voted in May to implement a Point of Sales (POS) system in the Friends Gift Shop. This system will make inventory control much easier and quicker. It will also increase speed of sales in the gift shop. We have all seen a POS system: retail stores, sporting goods stores, grocery stores and many more are using this system. Having said this, I must give special kudos to our Treasurer, Shirley Knudsen. She has spent endless hours, days, weeks and months in getting this system up and running. Thank you, Shirley, for a job well done!

I would like to recognize Jo Claycomb for all her years of service to this gift shop. For ten years, Jo has served the Friends, building up our gift shop to where it is today. At this time, Jo has decided to step down from the Friends Board. We thank you, Jo, from the bottom of our hearts for your work and dedication to the Friends.

On another front, Ross Knudsen was appointed to head up the Education Building Committee. They are almost complete and the rendition will be presented as soon as possible when it is ready. Thank you, Ross, and well done!

I could name all of our Board members for all they do and contribute. Each newsletter, I will recognize a couple of Board members and their special contributions.

I would also like to recognize Bonnie Rybak for pursuing and implementing the new masthead for our newsletter, designed by Tom Rogers of Graphic Elite. Cynthia Anders has the job of Membership Coordinator. She has been great. Thank you, Cynthia!

Special dates for the upcoming season are listed in this newsletter. However, I would be remiss if I did not mention our Membership Brunch with our new Refuge Manager as our guest speaker. This will be held at Sugarmill Woods Country Club on the 17th of September at 9:00 a.m. and our Refuge Day on the 22nd of October. Watch you emails for other special events.

I am also pleased to announce that the two free Open House dates have been agreed upon with Fish and Wildlife and the City. As you know, in the past these have been very successful events and the public has enjoyed them greatly. The dates are December 3rd and February 11th. Please mark your calendar for these events.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to a wonderful Board. I am blessed and always try to remember that this is a Board united in service to the Refuge. The President does not run the Board; he/she just presides over it.

Sincerely,
Tom Gotterup
President,
Friends of Crystal
River NWR

Tom can be reached
at 352-586-7410 or
tomgo74@yahoo.com



**Tom Gotterup
President**

Refuge Manager's Message

My selection as Project Leader (Manager) of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex was announced in April by our Regional Chief, David Viker, but I didn't start my new adventure in Crystal River until June. Since then, I have been getting to know my amazing staff, the highly devoted Friends board, our passionate volunteers, and key local partners, while

engaging in and becoming familiar with local management issues and challenges.

My fascination with wildlife began as a child exploring the woods near my childhood home and my grandparents' farm. My appreciation for coastal habitats blossomed when my family moved to Florida when I was eleven. Since then, I have spent most of my career living and working along the coast in Louisiana and Florida.

I started my 17-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in Louisiana in 1999. I transferred to Fort Myers, Florida, in 2004 to be closer to my parents and sister. Over the years, I have worked on many projects from endangered species to large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, including Everglades restoration, and served as a refuge biologist, refuge manager, and deputy project leader.

My dedication to wildlife conservation has been nurtured by the Service and I fully believe in the Service mission: "Working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." Our employees, volunteers, and Friends groups are our greatest assets and we all contribute to accomplishing the Service mission.

I am lucky to work with both professionals and volunteers who embrace and are driven by a passion and commitment to wild places and wild things. Here at the Crystal River NWR Complex, we are ensuring that manatees and other wildlife will continue to flourish in the Crystal River, Chassahowitzka, Egmont Key, Pinellas, and Passage Key NWRs and the surrounding habitats for the benefit of the local communities across the 5 counties in which the refuges are located. We couldn't do it without your support.

Thank you for everything you do each and every day for wildlife conservation, for the community and the Refuge. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. I am excited to embark on this new journey, together!

Joyce Palmer

Wildlife Refuge Manager (Project Leader)

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

- Crystal River
- Chassahowitzka
- Egmont Key
- Passage Key
- Pinellas

1502 SE Kings Bay Drive
Crystal River, FL 34429
352-563-2088 x 202 office
352-436-7156 cellular



Refuge Manager
Joyce Palmer

And the Friends Keep Busy...

Kayak Winner Winner Larry DeLarco

of Citrus Springs gratefully accepts the inflatable Cayman II kayak from Friends VP Judi Matthews and A Crystal River Kayak Company Owner and Friends' board member Mary Morgan. Morgan's generous donation of the kayak for this



Photo by Bonnie Rybak

drawing garnered over \$3K for us to continue our many programs. A huge THANKS to Mary for her generous contribution!

Madame Secretary U.S. Sec. of the Interior Sally Jewell (in purple) made an unofficial visit to our Refuge April 16th and she enjoyed hearing about Three Sisters Springs, our education commitment, and so much of the work done at our Refuge. Shown with



Secretary Jewell (in purple) are Refuge Staff Beth Perez, Refuge Staff Joyce Kleen, Sec. Jewell, Friends VP Judi Matthews, Refuge Staff Ivan Vicente, Chamber of Commerce Rep Ardath Prendergast, Friends President Tom Gotterup and Refuge Officer

Craig Cavanna. We were honored to have Ms. Jewell request written information on our education program at the Salt Marsh Trails and Shirley Knudsen and Bonnie Rybak obliged by sending an education package onto Ms. Jewell's office shortly afterward.

Operation Freedom Outreach

Our Friends were honored to provide a tour of Three Sisters in April and serve a nice breakfast at our Refuge grounds to this group of veterans, as part of Operation Freedom. Operation Freedom was developed to help returning war veterans and military personnel transition from active duty and combat to civilian life and it was our privilege to be part of this tour for these courageous men and women.



Photo by Billy Anders



Panther Tour In May the Board of the Friends toured the operation of the Florida National Panther Wildlife Refuge and the Naples Zoo. Shown exploring the rough trails of the Panther Refuge are (standing) Billy Anders, Bonnie Rybak, our Panther Refuge tour guide, Ellen Joyce, Anne Paul, Ardath Prendergast, and Friends

President Tom Gotterup. On trucks: Ross Knudsen, Jo Claycomb, Shirley Knudsen, Bob Claycomb, Cynthia Anders, and Friends VP Judi Matthews. The Friends gathered and shared information with this Refuge's staff and used the time to plan activities in Citrus County for the upcoming year.

Friends Academy Our own Judi Matthews (3rd row 3rd from right) had the privilege of representing us at the very elite training of the 9th Friends Academy held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Sponsored by the USFWS, the academy chose only 17 attendants from all across the United



States to share their ideas and learn more about Friends organizations and the Refuge Service. The academy entailed some intense classes and seminars during its time August 8th through the 12th and Judi shares that she has made many friends from all over the USA and will be working to implement the many ideas learned at this training.



**Friends of Crystal River National
Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc**

1502 SE Kings Bay Dr.
Crystal River FL 34429

Place First
Class Postage
Here



Follow us on  @Friendsofcrystalriv

Like us on our  page:

[Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex](#)

**To become a member, complete the
form below and mail to:**

Friends of Crystal River National
Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc.
1502 SE Kings Bay Dr.
Crystal River, FL 34429

**Membership
INFO**

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Email: info@friendsofcrystalriver.org
www.friendsofcrystalriver.org
Phone: 352-563-2088, ext.215**

Membership Levels (Annual Memberships)

Sandpiper \$15.00 (Individual) Newsletter,

New Member pin and 10% Nature Shop count

Laughing Gull \$25.00 (Family) Above benefits
for a family, (2) New Member pins

Snowy Egret \$50.00 (Associate) Above benefits
plus Friends gift (changes periodically)

Brown Pelican \$100.00 (Supporting) Above
benefits

Bald Eagle \$150.00 (Sustaining) Above benefits
plus (1) complimentary field trip

Whooping Crane \$500.00 (Ambassador) Above
benefits Plus 1 ticket to a fundraiser event

Manatee \$1000.00 (Patron) Above benefits plus
guided Tour of Refuge, 2 tickets to a fundraiser
event

Donation (optional) \$ _____

Make checks payable to **FCRNWRC**