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FOCCL December 2023 Update

Welcome New Members

Miguel Gutierrez
Aida Wormington
Ingrid and Ralph Casolo
Dora H Vienes
Stuart Neail
Karen Cassidy
John & Paula Martinez
Lisa Sandmeyer
Margaret Hartsock
Joan Campbell
Lynn Fote
Catherine Bruno
David Moskowitz
Nancy Prussman
Chris Richardson
Maryanne Kondratenko

Michael and Suzanne McCleery
Elaine Weissborn
Linda & Curt Washburn
Mary Raimondo
Bill Leonhardt
Zec & Seanna Johnson
Laura Tanner
John Landreville
Daniel Coughlin
Gena Berchtold
Pamela Ikasalo
Eleanor Flannery
Anita Anderson
Karen Edmiston
Linda Meredith





November Book Sale Event

Another successful Book Sale was held this November, earning over \$7000! Many thanks to Mary Achilles for taking the helm to coordinate the book sale and to over 70 volunteers who helped make it all happen. Once again, shoppers got the best bargains in town buying books, CDs, DVDs, most for under \$2.00. Special thanks to our crafters who made a variety of beautiful items using repurposed books. (Visit www.capefriends.org for dates and times of the next Book Sale in April.)



Butterfly Garden

The butterfly garden has a beautiful new sign purchased by FOCCL. Saving paper and educating visitors this permanent display depicts the many beautiful butterflies in Cape Coral that find their way to the garden. Be sure to check it out the next time you're at the library. The butterfly garden is behind the circulation desk. Now that the cooler weather is here it's an especially nice place to relax, read or just take a breath!





Many thanks to the **Garden Club of Cape Coral** for providing an entertaining and informative presentation on using local flora for holiday decor at our December 2nd General Membership Meeting. Over 30 members and guests attended and enjoyed the hands-on instructions. Some even took home a prize centerpiece for their holiday tables.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Looking for a Book Club but don't want the responsibility of hosting the group at your home? The library offers a Book Discussion program on the first Wednesday of the month in the Conference room, typically from 11AM-12PM. Find titles of featured books and program timing on the Library online calendar. Books for next month's program are available for checkout on a shelf behind the Circulation desk.

Upcoming Titles:

January 3 Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
February 7 The Hundred Loves of Juliet by Evelyn Skye



Volunteer Opportunities

Book Sale Events - We can't thank Mary Achilles enough for coordinating the last 2 book sale events. She is ready to hand off the baton to a new organizer. Several board members are on the coordination team, we need one person to lead the team and coordinate volunteers.

eBay Sales - Loralee Hamel needs team members to assist with creating and posting listings and finalizing sales, which includes getting books from storage, prep for mailing, printing labels and taking them to the post office. A tablet and laser printer are required.

Join Our Board of Directors - The search for a Vice President continues. Full-time residents preferred but seasonal residents could participate on a "co-position" basis. It works for committees (and other volunteer non-profits), so it could work for FOCCL.

Vice President - primary duties are to attend meetings, arrange for General meeting program presentations and assist with program publicity. This is an opportunity to bring in speakers of interest to you and fellow members. The Vice President is a stepping stone to the President, so this person, (or persons), will be expected to succeed Dawn as President when her 2nd term ends in March 2024. If you are not ready to jump in now, attend a Board meeting and consider being a candidate for VP after the March 2024 transition. Visit website www.capefriends.org/newsletters for summaries of duties for the VP and President.

Contact Dawn by email at president@capefriends.org or call 734-740-0119 if you are interested in attending a board meeting, volunteering or have questions about current volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming Festivals - Volunteers will be needed at our booths at the Burrowing Owl Festival and Southwest Florida Reading Festival. See below for details on both events. Contact Alessia Leathers by email at alessialeathers@yahoo.com if interested in volunteering.



General Membership Meeting -

Saturday, January 20 at 9:30 am



All are invited to our next General Meeting on Saturday, January 20th. The morning will begin at 9:30 AM with coffee, tea, light snacks and social time, followed by a brief business meeting and presentation by Captains for Clean Water. This organization has united the outdoor industry, environmental groups, business community and concerned citizens around the important issues concerning the water quality of our rivers, estuaries and gulf. As a result progress is happening at a record pace. Join us for an enlightening and educational program that affects all of us living in the water paradise of SW Florida.

Burrowing Owl Festival - Saturday, February 24



The annual Burrowing Owl Festival sponsored by the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife will take place at Rotary Park in Cape Coral on February 24th. FOCCL will have a booth at the festival to publicize our organization, encourage kids ages 5-12 to learn about the endangered Smalltooth Sawfish and draw a picture to enter the 18th Annual Coloring the Earth Environmental Art Contest sponsored by FOCCL. For more details on the festival check out their website [2024 Burrowing Owl Festival](#) .



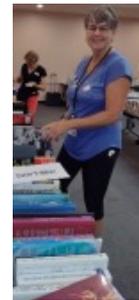
Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Saturday, March 2, 10AM - 4PM

This year marks 25 years celebrating the power of reading at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. It will be held on March 2nd at the Fort Myers Library Campus in downtown Fort Myers. There will be all kinds of activities for readers, including author presentations, book sales and a free book for every child and teen who attends! FOCCL is a long-standing sponsor of the Festival. We will have a booth to publicize our organization, encourage kids ages 5-12 to learn about the endangered Smalltooth Sawfish and draw a picture to enter the 18th Annual Coloring the Earth Environmental Art Contest sponsored by FOCCL. For more details about the Festival visit www.readfest.org.

President's Message

This has been a great year for FOCCL. We celebrated our 50th anniversary, (just a tad late due to H. Ian), enjoyed excellent meeting programs and art exhibits, welcomed many new members, sold over \$24,000 from Book Sale Events, First Dibs and eBay and provided over \$28,000 to the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library/Lee County Library System. All thanks to you generous member donors and hard working volunteers!



Please consider donating your time and talent on the Board of Directors to ensure the continued success of our organization.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2024,

Dawn LaVacque
Email: president@capefriends.org
Ph/text: (734) 740-0119



On Exhibit in Library Art Gallery

On exhibit in the library gallery **until December 27th** are the paintings and

origami of retired Cape Coral librarian Elaine Weissbon and fused glass and jewelry by Judy Van Inwegen.



IBIS DUET
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Artist: Elaine Weissborn
If interested in purchasing this painting,
please email the artist:
elaine.weissborn@gmail.com



STAR OF DAVID
Fused Glass
Judy Van Inwegen
Contact to purchase at 239-240-0193
jvaninwegen@aol.com



January through February 2024 exhibitors will be the Weavers of Char-Lee. **Mark your calendar** for Saturday, January 6 when members of the Weavers will demonstrate their crafts in the large meeting room of the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library. (Drop by between 10 AM and 2:30 PM.)

FOCCL Art Contest Chairperson Alessia Leathers has announced that the

theme for our 18th Annual Coloring the Earth Children's Environmental Art Contest will be "Let's Save the Smalltooth Sawfish!" The subject is timely since this rare, protected species has recently been spotted within the wetlands area of the proposed Redfish Pointe development near Rotary Park. The awards ceremony for the contest is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 15, 2024** starting at 6:00 PM. The twenty winning art entries will be displayed in the library art gallery alcove area for approx. six weeks.

For information about library art exhibits, contact Monica Rahman, Art Gallery Chair, email gallery@capefriends.org.

Website: CapeFriends.org

Photos from Events: CapeFriends.org/photo_gallery

Annual Calendar: CapeFriends.org/calendar

Follow us on Facebook: Friends of the Cape Coral Library

Hotline Message Ph.# 239-349-2572

Cape Coral Public Library [Calendar of Events](#).

Contact Library Ph.# 239-533-4500

Subscribe to Library newsletter: leegov.com/library/programs, go to bottom of page, click on [subscribe now!](#)

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