



# **FRIENDS OF THE GTM RESERVE**

## **WWW.GTMNERR.ORG**

## **2009-2010 Third Quarter News**

### **How your donations are working for the Research Reserve**

The Friends of the GTM Reserve is a non-profit organization made of volunteers that assist the GTM Research Reserve with funding shortfalls, equipment and items that they would not otherwise be able to obtain. Have you ever wondered where your donations are used? One area is to obtain grants. In these tough financial times donations are down significantly. In an effort to offset this reduction in contributions, The Friends of the GTM Reserve has applied for and received grants that help fill the gap. While your donations still go to support education, stewardship, and research programs like education materials, stewardship expenses, visiting researchers and kiosks at the reserve they also help cover the cost of identifying, getting, maintaining, and reporting grants. The following are some grants that the Friends of the GTM Reserve were able to obtain to support the Reserve's programs.

#### Florida Pest Plant Council - \$946

Student Aided Pepper Tree Removal

To provide water, equipment, transportation, and herbicide for the student work crew.

#### The Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation - \$10,000

Trail User Satisfaction Survey and Visitor Impact Assessment

To aid in the development of a comprehensive trail plan for future changes and improvements to the trail system  
This project will also aid the participating Friends of the GTM Reserve members and NERR staff with skills that can be carried forward and used in other aspects of the stewardship and conservation of the reserve.

#### Florida Native Plant Society - \$1,355

GTMNERR Watershed / Invasive Plant Eradication Task Force "toolshed"

Address the growing impact invasive plants are having on the natural plant communities of the watershed of GTMNERR

To purchase a "toolshed" of equipment and supplies to support the eradication work of members and volunteers of a new GTMNERR Watershed Invasive Plant Eradication Task Force

#### The Nature Conservancy - \$10,000

Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Program Fund

To support the Friends of the GTM Reserve and the GTMNERR's effort in restoring 239 acres of coastal scrub in the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

We still need your help. The state and federal budgets at the GTM Research Reserve have been cut again this year. The need is greater than ever. The Friends of the GTM Reserve are gearing up for the 2010 fundraising campaign. Watch for your letter in the mail. In addition the Friends are planning exciting fundraising events and activities this year. We will send you more information as the dates get closer.

# Board of Directors Meeting Notes

## April 13, 2010 meeting

Ripple Effect representative, Danny presented the Friends of the GTM Reserve with a check for \$400, the proceeds from tours offered during the Leave No Family Inside event.



In addition to the donation of tour proceeds Ripple Effect donated a gift certificate for kayak tours valued at \$100 for the gift basket bringing the value of the basket to \$170. Other items in the basket were Nature Store items donate by the Friends of the GTM Reserve. All Leave No Family Inside attendees were entered in a raffle for the basket.

300 people attended the Leave No Family Inside event. Many of the attendees were first time visitors to the GTM Research Reserve.



Tom Barry was added to the Friends of the GTM Reserve Board of Directors by unanimous vote

The Friends of the GTM Reserve have been awarded the FLEPPC grant.

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council for Student-Aided Pepper Education and Eradication Program

## May 11, 2010 meeting

The Friends of the GTM Reserve will host a food fundraiser October 23, 2010

A core committee for this event was formed

Jonathan Katzen

Irene Kaufman

Chris Rich

Peter Difatta

Rob Matthews

Kay Henderson

In 2009 the Friends of the GTM Reserve and NERR staff used a new method of funds request and dispersal for planned expenses. The procedures have been reviewed and some will be changed for the 2010 /2011 fiscal year.

A letter of support for Florida Blueway and St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever projects was requested by the GTM Research Reserve Management and was sent by the Friends of the GTM Reserve to members of the Acquisitions and Restorations Council (ARC).

As of this meeting 7grants have been applied for under the small grants program.

2 of those grants have been funded-Of the funded grants one project has been completed and reported to the grantor the other is in progress.

Now that the Friends of the GTM Reserve have been applying for and receiving grants for a year the process we use will be reviewed and changes will be made wherever it is deemed necessary by the Board.

**June 8, 2010 meeting**

Because there was not a quorum present at this meeting all votes were tabled until July's meeting  
The following events are scheduled for this year

- August 28, 2010 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- September 25, 2010 National Estuaries Day Event
- October 23, 2010 Friends of the GTM Reserve food fundraiser – (note- subsequently named Ocean Wise / An Evening for the Estuary)
- December 3, 2010 State of the Reserve event

**The minutes for the third quarter meetings can be viewed on the Friends of the GTM Reserve website.**

**Officers**

Jonathan Katzen-President  
Nancy Schachnovsky-Vice President  
Chris Rich-Secretary  
Kay Henderson-Treasurer

**Income by significant sources for the quarter**

Membership Dues	2055
Brick Sales	450
General Contributions	712
Other Contributions	505
Partner Donations	1297
Facilities Use	<u>611</u>

**Total                    \$5630**

**Directors**

Pierre Pierce  
Peter Difatta  
Irene Kaufman  
Carl Hampp  
Anita Pierce  
Michael Timpane  
Rob Matthews  
Ellyn Cavin  
Tom Barry

Income and funds requests continue to be impacted by ongoing repairs at the EEC

**The Nature Store needs volunteers. If you have as little as 4 hours a month to give and are comfortable in a relaxed retail setting, we need you!**  
**For information about volunteering in the Nature Store or other volunteer opportunities at the GTM Research Reserve, please call Angel Gonzalez at 904-823-4500**

