



A Non-Profit Organization

Friends of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc.

Stationery design funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

December 14, 2009

Dear Southeast Region Friends Group Leaders, Refuge or Hatchery Managers, or Friends Group Liaison:

Greetings from the beautiful state of Florida! By now you have received our Save the Date! card and have decided to join us at the Southeast Region Friends Group Conference April 9 – 11, 2010 in Crystal River, Florida. The Friends of the Chassahowitzka NWR Complex are very excited about hosting the third annual regional Friends conference and look forward to the time we will spend together.

This letter is to ask you to confirm your attendance and to provide an update on the conference. Please complete your registration packets, mailing them to the address on the form no later than **Saturday, February 20, 2010**.

Friends Groups: Please work with your refuge or hatchery manager to identify two people from your organization to register for the conference. The registration fee for each representative will be covered. These representatives will also be eligible for a travel reimbursement stipend of up to \$150 per individual to cover any additional expenses associated with traveling to and from the conference including airfare, parking, mileage, or cab fare. Travel expense forms will be handed out at the conference.

We encourage you to send more than two representatives; however, they will be responsible for paying for all costs associated with the conference, i.e. Registration package which includes, all meals (\$140), lodging (\$99/night) and all travel costs. To help save on costs, folks are welcome to share a room. Please indicate on the registration form if you are interested in doing so. Please note that the maximum number of attendees is 150. Once the two representatives from each Friends group are registered, additional attendees will be received on a first come, first serve basis. So get your registration packets in quickly to ensure your attendance at the conference.

Service personnel: You will be responsible for paying for all costs associated with the conference, i.e. Registration Package which includes all meals (\$140), lodging (local per diem) and all travel costs. Your registration packet is also **due no later than Saturday, February 20, 2010**; however, you will still need to reserve your room by calling the Plantation Golf Resort and Spa (800-632-6262). When booking your room, please use reservations code: "FRIENDS OF CHAZZ" and be sure to mention your tax-exempt status and bring your tax-exempt form to the conference. **PLEASE NOTE** - The block of rooms will be released by February 20.

We are thrilled to host what promises to be an outstanding conference. This is the single, best chance to meet with your colleagues and exchange ideas, news and viewpoints. We hope you will leave Crystal River with a renewed vigor in support for refuges and hatcheries. Your knowledge and expertise are invaluable in this effort.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact either Stacy Armitage at stacy_armitage@fws.gov/404-679-7178, Shirley Knudsen at shirleySEF@aol.com/352-382-0525, or me at [laceblue@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lanceblue@tampabay.rr.com)/352-201-0149. We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Lace Blue-McLean
President

1502 S.E. Kings Bay Drive • Crystal River, Florida 34429 • (352) 563-2088 Ext. 215



Friends of Chassahowitzka

Southeast Region Friends Conference Registration Form April 9-11, 2010 Crystal River, Florida

Please complete a separate registration form for each participant. Please return this form by February 20, 2010, to:

**Friends of Chazz, C/o Shirley Knudsen, Treasurer
28 Ageratum Court
Homosassa, FL 34446**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ PH _____

Associated with? _____

Official FG Representative? Yes No

Date of Arrival _____ Time _____

Date of Departure _____ Time _____

Driving Yes No

Airline _____

Flight No. _____

I require bus transportation to and from Tampa Airport. Yes No

NOTE: An airport shuttle will be arranged for a nominal fee if warrant. Details will be provided after conference registration is finalized.

I would like a table in the exhibit area for a display or to provide informational materials. I understand space is limited and that I will be notified if I am chosen to exhibit.

Room Reservations: Single Double

No. Nights _____

Rooming with another registered attendee **Y** **N**

If yes, name _____

Special Needs Requirements: _____

Saturday Evening Banquet-Please indicate entree choice:

- #1 - Macadamia crusted chicken w/herb cream sauce.
- #2 - Pan seared Grouper w/tequila lime sauce.
- #3 - Vegetarian - Potato Gnocchi w/spinach, eggplant and mushrooms in a creamy pesto.

Registration Package:

The Registration Package is provided for two (2) representatives from each Friends Group. It includes all meals from Friday evening dinner through Sunday breakfast, all meeting room fees, handouts, etc. This includes 2 dinners (Fri. and Sat.), 2 breakfasts (Sat. & Sun.), and lunch and 2 breaks on Saturday. All additional attendees are required to pay \$140 for the registration package. Meals are not available on individual meal basis. See page 2 for payment instructions.

Rooms are paid for two (2) representatives from each Friends Group for 2 nights (Apr. 9 & 10). All other Friends members are required to pay room costs of \$99 per night per room or to share a room. Any additional nights will need to be charged to your personal credit card. Room rates are guaranteed for 3 days prior and 3 days after the Conference. All attendees will be required to furnish a credit card upon arrival for incidentals. Service personnel are required to call the hotel (800-632-6262) and reserve their own room. See page 2 for payment instructions.

I would be interested in an event commemorative T-shirt (\$12-\$15) Circle Yes No
Circle Size S M L XL 2XL 3XL

**Southeast Region Friends Conference
Registration Form
April 9-11, 2010
Page 2**

Schedule of Breakout Sessions (Subject to Change)

Please identify your top three choices (1 = top) you would like to attend during each breakout session.

Saturday – April 10

9:00 – 10:15 AM - Breakout Session 1

- Change as Inspiration: Fear, Frustration and Flying
- Running a Successful and Profitable Nature Store
- Developing a Strategic Plan for your Friends Group
- Reaching out to a Diverse Audience (using new media)
- Citizen Science Programs

10:30 – 11:45 AM – Breakout Session 2

- Change as Inspiration: Fear, Frustration and Flying
- Running a Successful and Profitable Nature Store
- Developing a Strategic Plan for your Friends Group
- Reaching out to a Diverse Audience (using new media)
- Citizen Science Programs

1:00 – 2:15 PM - Breakout Session 3

- Leveraging Federal Funding Sources for Land Conservation
- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- ABC's of Establishing Relationships with Congress
- DOI's Youth Initiative

2:30 – 3:45 PM – Breakout Session 4

- Leveraging Federal Funding Sources for Land Conservation
- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- ABC's of Establishing Relationships with Congress
- DOI's Youth Initiative

I plan on staying over Sunday afternoon for additional Refuge Tours.

Payment Information for Additional Friends Group Representatives and Service Personnel

For all attendees who are not official representatives of their Friends Group, payment must be made by check at the time of registration (**no later than February 20, 2010**) for all room and registration packages.

Make all checks payable to:

The Friends of Chassahowitzka Wildlife Refuge Complex, Inc. (**FCNWRC**) and mail check along with all registration forms and this payment coupon to:

**Friends of Chazz, C/O Shirley Knudsen, Treasurer
28 Ageratum Court
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-382-0525**

Check enclosed:

_____ Room nights @ \$99 per night = _____

_____ Registration packages @ \$140 per package = _____

Total enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Friends Group _____

For Service personnel, you are responsible for paying for all costs associated with the conference. This form is just for registration. Payment for registration and your room must be reserved **no later than February 20, 2010**. Please call the Plantation Golf Resort and Spa at 800-632-6262 and use reservations code: FRIENDS OF CHAZZ to reserve your room. **Complete all registration forms and mail along with this payment coupon to:**

**Friends of Chazz, C/O Shirley Knudsen, Treasurer
28 Ageratum Court
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-382-0525**

_____ Registration packages @ \$140 per package = _____

Total enclosed _____

MasterCard/Visa # _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Refuge/Hatchery _____

**Southeast Region Friends Conference
Registration Form
April 9-11, 2010
Page 3**

PROGRAM AGENDA

Workshop Purpose

To provide an opportunity for Friends organizations, Project Leaders, Refuge Managers and refuge and hatchery staff to network and think strategically about the specific contributions Friends Groups make to their refuge and hatchery.

Friday, April 9

5:00 – 9:00 PM Registration
7:00 – 9:00 PM Buffet Dinner, Networking and State Meeting Opportunities

Saturday, April 10

7:00 AM Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 AM Welcome Session
9:00 – 10:15 AM Breakout Session 1 (select one)
10:15 – 10:30 AM BREAK – Refreshments Available
10:30 – 11:45 AM Breakout Session 2 (select one)
12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch – Buffet Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 PM Breakout Session 3 (select one)
2:15 – 2:30 PM BREAK – Refreshments Available
2:30 – 3:45 PM Breakout Session 4 (select one)
4:00 – 6:30 PM Field Trips to Refuge
7:00 PM Dinner Celebrating the Southeast Region's Friends Groups
 Keynote Speaker

Sunday, April 11

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 AM Conversation with Regional Chief of Refuges and Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries
9:00 – 10:15 AM Celebrating Our Successes and Cool Friends Group Projects
10:15 – 10:30 AM BREAK
10:30 – 11:30 AM Your Friends Support Network
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Closing Remarks
12:00 PM Field Trip Opportunities – **to be announced** or safe trip home

A meeting room with space for Friends displays will be available during Conference. Space is limited.



Southeast Region Friends Conference

April 9-11, 2010

Hosted by

Friends of the Chassahowitzka NWR Complex

Co-sponsored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Crystal River, FL

SUMMATION OF HOTEL: The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa offers *202 rooms, including 12 villas and 6 condominiums along with 12 meeting rooms totaling over 13,000 square feet. Amenities at this 232-acre resort are numerous, and include fine dining, golf, spa, tennis, and heated outdoor 96000 gallon swimming pool with sundeck, dive shop, boat rentals and more!

Location/ Airport: 70 miles from Tampa Airport and 95 miles from Orlando

Ratings/Awards: Green Hotels Association, AAA 3 Star, Mobile Diamond Property, Home of the Florida Women's Open

Total # of Rms: 202	# of Suites: 10	# of Condos: 6	# of Villas: 12	# of Dbl/Dbl: 128	# of Kings: 45 (incl. suites)	# of Handicap: 10
Total # of Mtg Rooms: 12	Total SF: 13,000	Largest Ballroom: 3,000	Unique On-Site Venue: The "Point" (for weddings)			

DATE OPENED / RENOVATIONS:

The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa was built in 1962 along the banks of the pristine Crystal River. In 1975, W.W. Caruth Jr. purchased the property, impressed with its natural setting and Old South charm. The resort underwent an \$8 million dollar renovation & expansion project completed in January 2008, which added 60 guest rooms & suites and 3000 square feet of additional meeting space in addition to new paint, carpet & soft goods in all existing rooms & suites.

On-Site Spa – ext 364:

The Spa at Plantation – full service Spa (featuring *Aveda Hair Care*)

On-Site Golf – ext 333:

27 Holes of Golf – 18 Hole Championship Course and 9 Hole Executive Course

On-Site Dive Shop – ext 322:

Full service Dive Shop - Featuring Manatee Snorkel Tours and Boat Rentals

ON-SITE GOLF COURSE & DESCRIPTION: The Plantation golf course starts with a par-72 18-hole championship course designed by Mark Mahannah in 1955 (opened in 1957). We also offer a nine-hole executive course specifically designed for training and practice purposes. On property we have a golf school hailed as "America's most successful teaching program". If you just crave more, then 10 other outstanding local Florida golf courses are within 30 minutes.

We also feature an 18-hole Championship *Disc Golf* course called "Red Hawk" laid out among our existing short course. Red Hawk was the home of the 2005 Discraft, Player's Cup. It is a very challenging course featuring holes with 200 foot water carry and many dog leg holes that require precision accuracy. The course was designed by Mark Barnett and Dennie Ritner, and has been featured in Disc Golf magazine because of its natural beauty and challenging holes.

OTHER AMENITIES: Heated Lagoon Style Pool; Meeting & Event space; Tennis; Volleyball; Horseshoes; Shuffle board; Lawn Croquet; Full Service Restaurant; Pro Shop with food and drink service; Pool-side Tiki Bar; Lounge

UNIQUE FEATURES: Close to Home...Far from Expected! A once-in-a-lifetime experience can only be had with us – Crystal River is the only place in the world where you can swim with the manatees! Additionally, we are conveniently located near a wide variety of activities on the "nature coast" such as the Homosassa Wildlife Park, numerous Nature and Hiking trails, Fresh & Saltwater fishing, Gulf Island Beach and a State Archaeological Site. You can spend a leisurely hour driving up from Tampa and find yourself encompassed by nature, or the same hour fighting traffic only to find yourself encased in stress.

The Plantation Inn Golf Resort & Spa, 9301 W Ft. Island Trail, Crystal River, FL
800-632-6262 - www.PlantationGolfandSpa.com