

FRIENDS OF GUMBO LIMBO

A 501c3 Organization

2015 Annual Report



Mission Statement

To support coastal and marine education, conservation and research endeavors of the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

Message from our President

Gumbo Limbo set new records for attendance, gift store revenue and donations. Over 190,000 visitors came through Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in 2015. From local residents and students to visitors from as far away as Japan and China, they took with them a new appreciation for the special home we represent at our unique South Florida nature center.

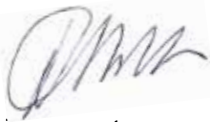
We put your donations toward some new programs in 2015 as well as continuing our support of the ongoing activities at the Center:

- Friends of Gumbo Limbo funded new, specialized treatment equipment now being used at Gumbo Limbo's on-site Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility. The new equipment includes a Catalyst Chemistry Analyzer which analyzes the blood of a sea turtle within 15 minutes. This gives the vet and staff critical information for diagnosis and treatment of endangered sea turtles.
- We continued our sea turtle satellite tracking program and the tracking information can be viewed on Gumbo Limbo's web-site. This information offers valuable insights into sea turtle migration and eating habits. It was the subject of technical presentations at various seminars and symposiums.
- We added a new two-year scholarship to assist environmentally minded students with financial needs, bringing the total to seven awards.
- We are working with the Nature Center staff and City of Boca Raton to plan, budget and build new exhibits and educational programs at the Nature Center. An interpretive plan is being prepared and is to be completed early in 2016.
- Work continues on a new master site plan for the Center to meet the requirements and expectations of the continued expansion of our local visitors and guests and those from around the world.

These programs and activities are the result of your support as well as the generous donations we receive from foundations and corporations found on our annual donors list.

I want to thank each and every one of you for helping us continue to grow and enabling us to provide the programs and services that make us all better stewards of our precious environment.

Sincerely,



President
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc.

2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

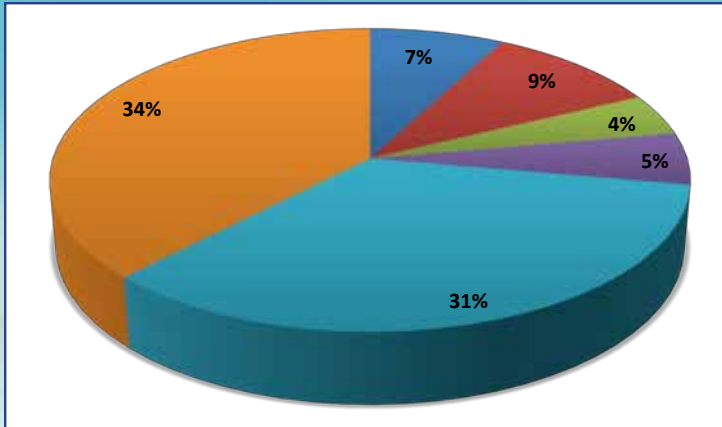
(Standing L-R): Jim Miller, Gordon Gilbert, Michele Kurucz Peel, Laura McCurdy, Ken Imhoff, Paul Homer, Susan Walker, Ross Appel.

(Seated L-R): Bronwen de Villiers, Karin Marques, Robyn Morigerato, Larry Weissman.

Not Present: Connie Thoms-Mazur

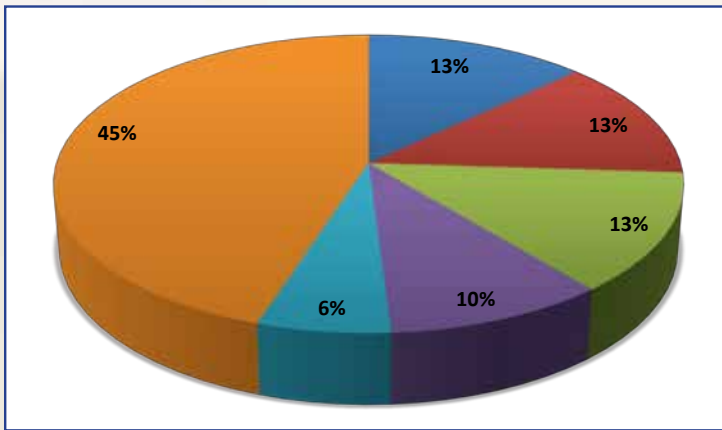


Friends Financial Report



REVENUES

	Revenue	% of Total
Grants	71,346	7%
Fundraising/Membership	101,047	9%
Programs	44,520	4%
Sea Turtle Conservation	54,039	5%
Donations	341,339	31%
Gift Store	474,524	34%
Total	1,086,815	100%



EXPENSES

	Expenses	% of Total
Administration	97,677	13%
Fundraising/Membership	100,529	13%
Programs	98,574	13%
Sea Turtle Conservation	75,836	10%
Exhibits	36,085	6%
Gift Store*	339,271	45%
Total	747,972	100%

* Includes Cost of Goods Sold.

Highlights

Friends of Gumbo Limbo celebrated another record year in 2015. Friends reached a new high-water mark for revenue, with great success from the gift store, while the Center set attendance records once again. During 2015, Friends initiated work with an investment manager and began publishing its quarterly financial reports online. Friends contracted and is funding an interpretive plan that will lead to new and exciting updates to the Center.

Friends continued its support of the annual Sea Turtle Day, the Eco-Watch lecture series and the Center's volunteer award luncheon. Friends also funded more scholarships than ever before for graduating high school and college graduate students pursuing degrees in relevant scientific fields.

Friends has no debt and maintains \$200,000 in a reserve account for emergencies.



DiveBar Receives CRESTT™ Award at Sea Coast Toast

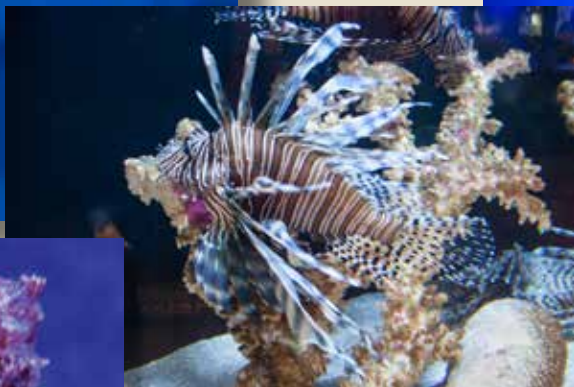
Friends of Gumbo Limbo celebrated its 6th Annual Sea Coast Toast cocktail party and auction in January. This benefit evening afforded the community an opportunity to celebrate the Center's achievements in coastal and marine environmental education, conservation, preservation and research.

Nearly 200 guests, the most ever for this event, helped us raise over \$17,000.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the annual CRESTT Award. This recognizes those individuals and groups who are devoted to protecting and conserving coastal and marine ecosystems. DiveBar is an association of legal professionals who transform their interest in fishing and diving into a passion and action for conservation and preservation. In conjunction with others, DiveBar planted more than 1,000 staghorn coral fragments to a once barren stretch of coral reef. Researchers will now study the change in fish populations and coral reef restoration.

CRESTT™ stands for Conservation, Research, Education, and Stewardship for Today and Tomorrow.

Pictured are representatives from Dive Bar accepting the CRESTT award.



Conservation and Rehab for 2015

In 2015, the 5 miles of beaches in Boca Raton saw 25 leatherback sea turtle nests, 718 loggerhead sea turtle nests, and 298 green sea turtle nests for a total of 1041, almost 100 more nests than 2014. Gumbo Limbo's dedicated team of professionals and volunteers combed the beach daily at dawn during the nesting season. They laboriously staked out nests and posted warning signs alerting beach goers to stay clear of the nests.

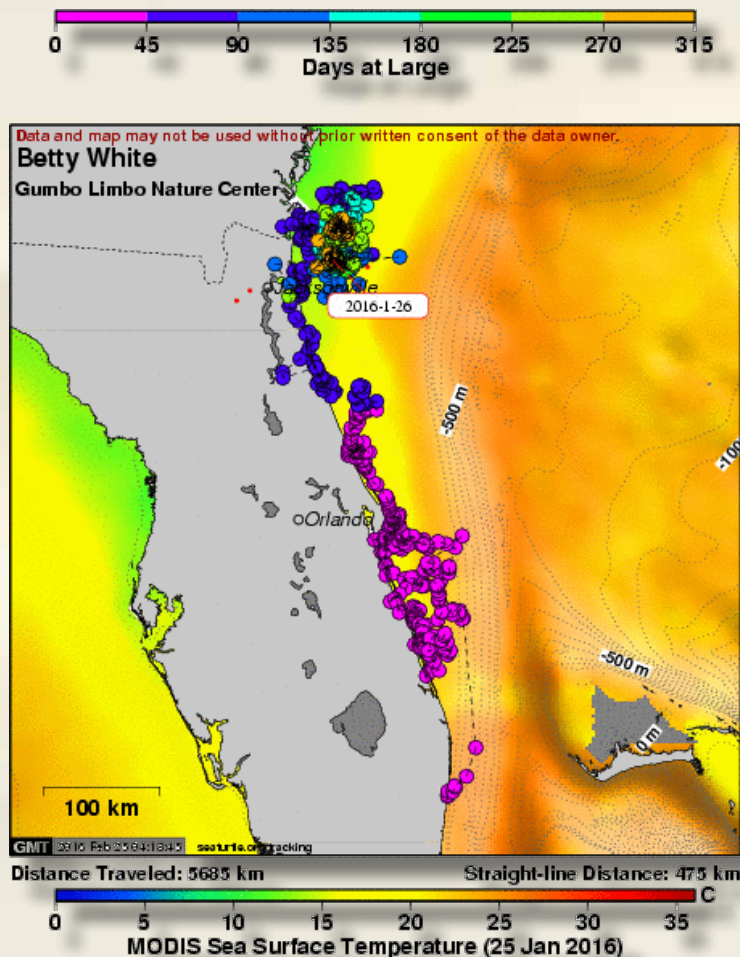
Rehabilitation

There were 78 turtles admitted to rehab during the course of the year. Our goal is to release each and every turtle, but we know that's not realistic. Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, our survival rate was quite high at 82.3%. Your donations help us achieve these great results.

Satellite Tracking

Since June, 2014, we have released 6 turtles with satellite tracking tags. The one who has transmitted the longest is our "Golden Girl". She came to Gumbo Limbo's Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility from Hollywood, Florida on November 22, 2014, and was affectionately named, Betty White, after the famous actress. She had a severe coelomic cavity infection which left her positively buoyant, but antibiotics, fluids, and a healthy seafood diet have helped her regain her health. Her infection cleared and she gained a healthy 20 pounds during her stay with us. She was released on March 19, 2015, off of a Boca Raton Beach with hundreds of lucky bystanders wishing her a safe bon voyage and has since been transmitting for 315 days as of 2/25/16.

Current Map of Betty White



Scholarships

Friends has established high school senior scholarships named to honor Gordon Gilbert and a need-based Charles N. Kurucz scholarship.

The Gordon J. Gilbert merit-based scholarship awards two \$2,500 scholarships to high school seniors who plan to continue their education in a marine-related major that ties into our mission. In addition to the high school scholarships, we have established a \$2,500 scholarship exclusively for previous or current Gumbo Limbo volunteers. This scholarship is eligible to be awarded to a high school senior who has volunteered at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center AND who plans to continue his/her education in a major related to our mission.

The Charles N. Kurucz Memorial need-based scholarship awards one high school recipient with \$2,500 for their freshman year of college, and grants eligibility for \$2,500 in their sophomore year of college if the student maintains full time student status (24 credit hours or equivalent) with a GPA of 3.0 or greater (or equivalent) for the first year.

Selection of recipients is made by our Scholarship committee.

The High School winners of the Year 2015 are Jeffrey Keene (FAU Honors College), Camila Mirow

(Mount Holyoke College), Rachel Halpert (FSU) and Amanda Olson (FAU).

Graduate awards were given to Beth Bowers (FAU), Jacob Lasala (FAU) and Kyle Newton (FAU).



Scholarship Winners

From top left Jeffrey Keene, Kyle Newton, Jacob Lasala, left second row Rachel Halpert, Camila Mirow, Amanda Olson (winner of the CNK Memorial scholarship) and Beth Bowers.



2015 Supporters

30,000 +

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10,000 +

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Firestone Foundation
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Scholarship

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Leslie and Jacob Sweeney
Whole Foods Market

100 +

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Jacqueline LaPiana
Jeff and Donna Luggen
Jason Mansuy and Anna Benjamin
Laura McCurdy
Deborah Payson
Alexander Padden
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Tony and Pat Nastase
Hillel Day School
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Vicky Bednarczyk
Jack and Diane Blackin
Rita Bollinger
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Dylan Bradley Balassiano
Garett Lips
James Heverin
John Ward
Robert 'Bob' Grieser

Friends of Gumbo Limbo

1801 North Ocean Blvd.
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

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d/b/a FRIENDS OF GUMBO LIMBO
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