

Friends of Chassahowitzka

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Welcome back to the Friends of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Friends) column. Mark your calendars to join the Friends at the next Open House at the Three Sisters Springs property on Saturday, December 11, from 8:00 a.m. – noon. As Fish & Wildlife progress in the restoration and improvement of the habitat for wildlife and begin to construct visitor facilities such as a boardwalk and observation areas around the springs, a visitors center and educational facility, trails and a kayak landing area, we will hold a series of open houses so that the public may view the progress in stages until all work is completed and the refuge is opened to the public. The first open house in September was extremely well attended and received, and we anticipate another great event on December 11. Admission and parking is free. All parking will be in the lot at the Kings Bay Shopping Center behind the former Sonic Drive-In. Shuttle vans will run back and forth to the property every 10 – 15 minutes.

Looking ahead to 2011, please put Sunday, January 30 on your

calendar to join us for our annual meeting at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in Homosassa. Dr. Wayne Lynch, renowned wildlife specialist, photographer and lecturer returns to Citrus County and will talk about some of his recent work with polar bears, as well as his upcoming book about manatees. It is a presentation not to be missed! We will share more information with you over the next few weeks.

As we enter the 2010 holiday season, we would also like to take a moment to give thanks once more for the amazing event of this year: the acquisition of Three Sisters Springs. It is a legacy that will live on forever, and we thank all of you who gave – and continue to give – your support. Thank you, and best holiday wishes.

The Friends are a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting conservation awareness, appreciation of the Refuge Complex, and providing assistance to the mission and programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information, please visit the Friends' website at www.friendsofchazz.org.