


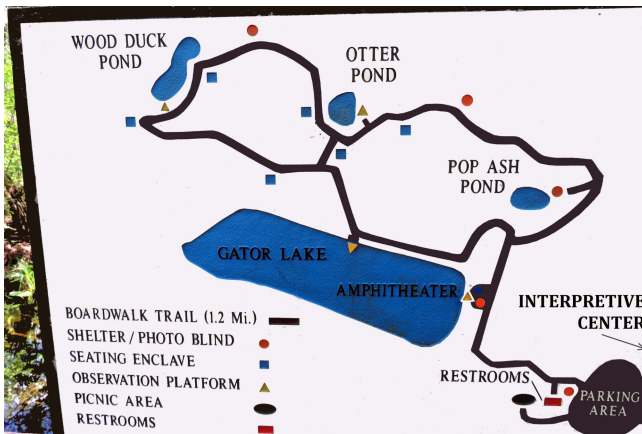
Six Mile Slough Preserve
Website: www.leegov.com/parks/preserves/sixmilecypress
Friends of Six Mile Slough:
www.sloughpreserve.org/
Where: 7751 Penzance Blvd at 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL. 33966.
Get There: I-75 Exit 131 Daniels Pkwy. West 2.7 mi to 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Right onto 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Then 1.8 mi to entrance, on right.

Admission: Free. Parking is \$1 per hour max \$5.
Trail hours: Daily dawn to dusk.
Interpretive Center: Tues-Sun 10-4. Closed Mondays. (Trail is still open.)
Guided nature walks:
 – Twice daily Jan-Mar.
 – Daily Apr, Nov, Dec.
 – Approx. once a week in other months.
Check website of Friends.



What's there:
 – 3,500 acres of protected wetlands.
 – Approx. 11 miles long, 1/3rd mile wide.
 – 2-3 feet of water in wet season.
 – Still mostly wet in dry season.
 – 1.2-mile boardwalk over the water.
 – Fully accessible.
 – Four viewing platforms onto lakes.
 – Many benches and shelters along the boardwalk.

What's there (continued):
 – Lake and three ponds:
 – Gator Lake.
 – Wood Duck Pond.
 – Otter Pond.
 – Pop Ash Pond.
 – Many rest and viewing areas.
 – Education programs and events.
Managed by Lee County Parks and Rec.



Bald Cypress Mitigation Area



Most of Six Mile Cypress Slough is 2 to 3 feet of water



**Great Egret
Six Mile Cypress Slough**



Many interpretive signs along the way



**Butterflies in the Slough
Another interpretive sign**



Gator Lake

Man-made in the 1970s

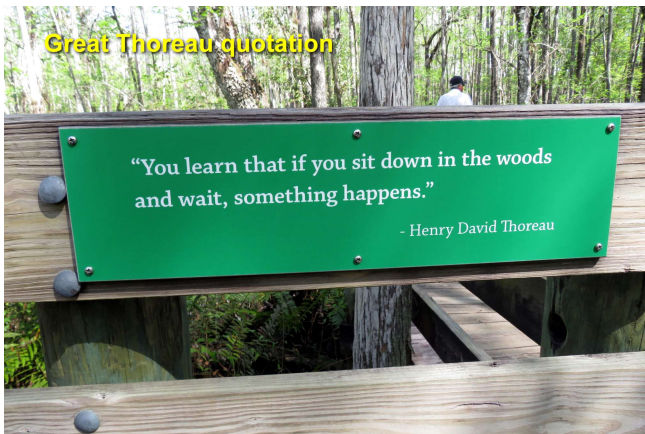
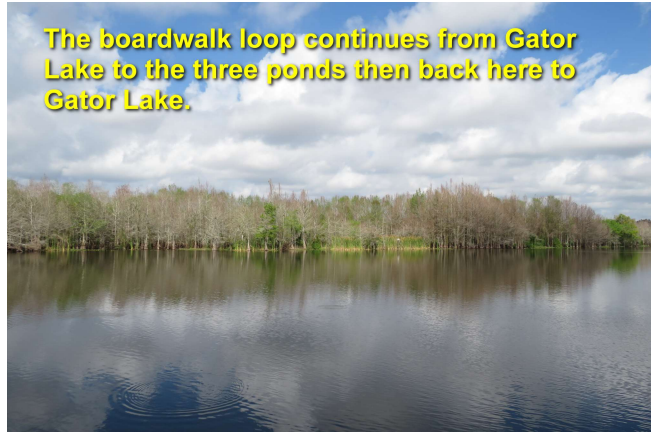


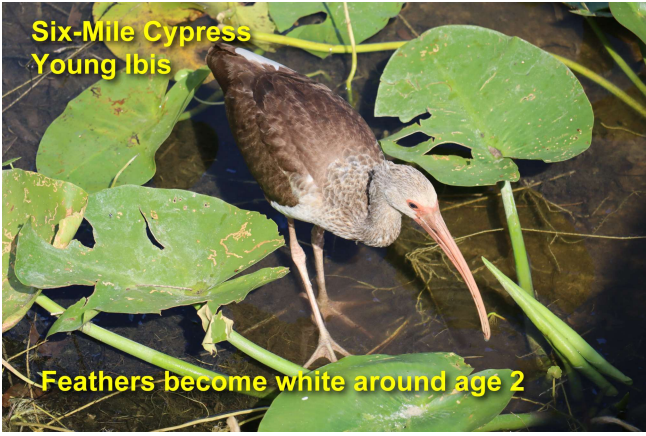
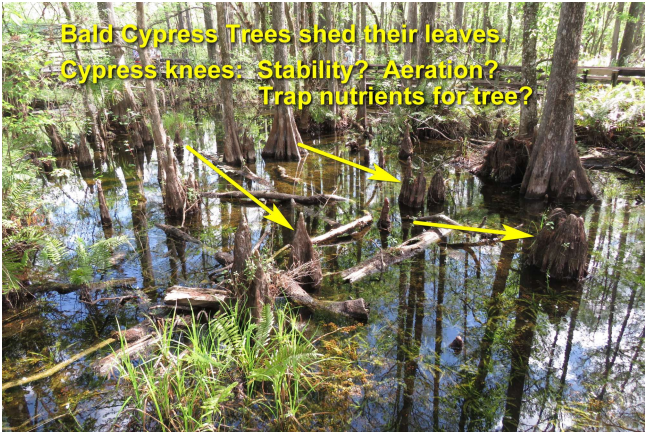
Gator Lake - Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



Six Mile Cypress Slough is a birder's and photographer's paradise

Each pond has a viewing platform



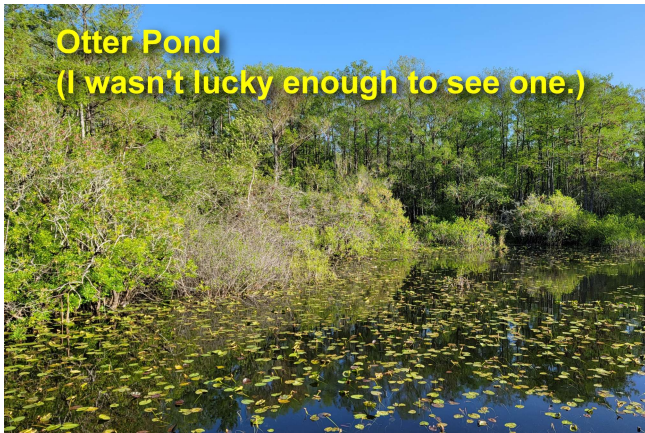




**Yellow-crested
Night Heron**
Sleeps in trees
during the day.



Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Ft Myers, Lee County, Florida



Otter Pond
(I wasn't lucky enough to see one.)



**But I did see
several peninsula
cooter turtles.**



We've now looped back to Gator Lake.
The lake got its name for a reason...



American Alligator

**1.25 million in Florida. 5 million in USA.
No longer endangered.
Adults 10-13 feet long, 440-770 pounds.
Sometimes longer and heavier.
Eat fish, turtles, birds, small mammals.
Adult's only predator is humans.**



American Alligator



American Alligator
One out of 1,250,000 in Florida