

Flora, Fauna, and CSE 2006—See You in Tampa!

Devora Krischer, Chair
2006 Program Committee

Tampa, Florida, is the site of the 2006 CSE annual meeting—and the city itself offers lots of adventure. Flora and fauna of all kinds abound, and the area, on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast, is the center of much aquatic research. Even the local electric utility has a Manatee Viewing Center, where the endangered giants frolic in the warm water flowing from the power plant.

Downtown, near our hotel, is the acclaimed Florida Aquarium, where you can “Dive with the Sharks” or join your kids and “Swim with the Fishes”. You can take a Dolphin Quest ecotour on a Caribbean catamaran and visit an island bird sanctuary. There are plenty of land-based animals, too, at Lowry Park Zoo, named best zoo in the country for kids by *Child* magazine. Besides the notable petting zoo, there's a free-flight aviary where you can feed the resident lorikeets.

Famed Busch Gardens offers much more than thrill rides; you can come face to face with over 350 species of animals roaming on its Serengeti Plain, or enjoy “Katonga—Musical Tales from the Jungle”, a lavish stage spectacle where stories are told through music and dance.

When it's time for a relaxing hike, try the 2.6-mile Friendship Trail Bridge, “the world's longest over-the-water recreational trail”. Other sights along the 12-mile route include the Weedon Island nature preserve and Picnic Island Park.

Tired of the great outdoors and ready for some city life? A nostalgic trolley awaits to whisk you to Ybor City, a national historic landmark district settled in the late 1880s by Cuban immigrants who worked in the



PHOTO CREDIT: TAMPA BAY CVB AND JEFF GREENBERG

Tampa skyline

local cigar factories. While workers hand-rolled the tobacco leaves, a lector read articles in revolutionary newspapers that supported Cuban independence. Some say that Ybor City played a role in igniting the Spanish-American War.

Wrought-iron balconies, old-fashioned streetlights, palm-lined brick walkways, and the majestic architecture of cigar factories and immigrants' social clubs fill the district. Here you can glimpse a bygone era rich in culture and history. If you stay after the sun sets, this Latin quarter transforms into Tampa's “party central”.

You can ride the Uptown/Downtown Connector to absorb the sights and sounds of Tampa's many neighborhoods. Stop for lunch at a waterside café on Harbour Island, wander through the shops in Old Hyde Park Village, or hunt for an out-of-print rarity at the Old Tampa Book Company.

Museum buffs will find plenty to

please them, too. The Museum of Science and Industry has more than 450 interactive exhibits where you can experience 74-mph hurricane winds or ride a bicycle across a 98-ft-long cable suspended 30 ft above the lobby (don't worry; you'll be harnessed to the bike). You can also take a 5-minute ride in a flight simulator or wander through a butterfly garden.

The Henry B. Plant Museum is not to be missed, with its 13 silver minarets and distinctive Moorish architecture modeled after the Alhambra in Spain. Inside are more treasures: art and furnishings from Europe and the Orient and exhibits that explain its history as a railroad resort and its role as a staging point for Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

Ready to make your reservations now? Save the date: 19-23 May 2006. Tampa—and CSE—will be waiting for you!