



Alumni Club of
Southwest Florida

THE LONGWALK

2012 EDITION

The President's Corner

By John L. Pilarski

In autumn of 2012, a new sheriff rode into town. He instantly restored order to a Big Ten that had quickly descended into chaos following the fall of the last sheriff...

Is it too optimistic to expect this to be the history written years from now about the arrival on the scene of one Urban F. Meyer. I think not, even on the heels of the worst loss total for our beloved Bucks since 1897, and not just because hope springs eternal in Buckeye Nation – especially in the fall. I just happen to know that greatness is synonymous with The Ohio State University and with our beloved Buckeyes.

And yes, I do think the new coach is pretty cool and it is not just because of the promise of gridiron greatness. The gridiron greatness would have quickly returned anyway just as sure as summer turns to fall.

No, I am a fan of the coach because the coach is a fan of us! Not only is he going to deliver big things in Columbus, he is going to deliver them right here in Lee County as well.

So let's kick off the new season with a big announcement: Coach Urban Meyer and his wife Shelley have offered to speak at a fund raising dinner for The Ohio State Alumni Club of Southwest Florida. There are many details to iron out, but it sure looks like you should mark March 12, 2013 off the calendar with the big scarlet sharpie.

The Meyers could not have been any more generous or gracious in doing this for us. It is up to us to get out in force, show them our support for them, and in the process of having a great time – fill the scholarship coffers so as to allow local scholars to fulfill their Buckeye dreams.

One thing I do know for certain about our big event: club members will get the better price and availability to see the new coach and his wife. That's a hint folks: **TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS!** And it has never been easier thanks to Jeff's great work on the website. Renew online now at www.swflbuckeyes.com.

And don't wait until spring to get involved! Jaclyn Esponda, Rich Byrnes and Abby Allen have all stepped up to support Ohio State and our club by joining our club board this summer. Melinda Shaw did the same late last year. We welcome them and thank them and welcome any help you can give, too.

So Renew your membership, but don't stop there. Get your Buckeye friends in the club. All Buckeye fans should be members. Get involved and Show How Firm Thy Friendship!

Go Bucks!



<http://www.buffalowildwings.com>
239-210-9464
9390 Dynasty Dr. STE 101
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Communications

By Jeff Fuscardo

Follow the SWFL Buckeyes on Facebook and Twitter

Everybody knows Facebook. The club now has over 110 "Like's" for our page (Search The Ohio State Alumni Club of Southwest Florida). This is a great tool for the club to pass along information quickly and efficiently. But do you know about Twitter?

Twitter is an online social networking and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets". We have set up an account for the club that allows us to pass information to you. But first you can use the web at www.twitter.com (or click on the Twitter link on the club website) or you can download the free app to your smartphone. You create a free account, then start following.

You can "discover" all kinds of subjects and people to follow. The club Twitter account (@swflbuckeyes) allows us to communicate with you, the members and fans of the club. But did you know you can also follow @OhioStateAlumni, @chris_spielman, @LukeFickell, or @BigTenNetwork? There are tons of former, current and future Buckeyes as well as Ohio State beat writers and bloggers who pass along up-to-date information on all things Buckeyes.

Be informed members, it's fun and easy.



Top Ten Reasons to Join “The Best Damn Club in the Land” at B-Dubbs

After a long, hot summer, it is time to usher in a new era of Buckeye football with head honcho, Urban Meyer! We at the OSU Alumni Club of Southwest Florida are so pumped about the upcoming victorious seasons at our beloved game watch establishment that we now refer to Buffalo Wild Wings Ft. Myers, as Buffalo Wild Wings Ft. MEYER! So here we go with another rendition of our top ten reasons to join “The Best Damn Club in the Land” at our favorite beer and wings watering hole.

10. Bob Shope will be there. Seriously. Why waste your eight bucks on a showing of “Magic Mike” at the cinema when you can see our hottest board member! He is often mistaken for Channing Tatum.
9. Winning prize raffle tickets sold at every game! And those younguns who pick the tickets have been through an intense training course on ticket “mixemupology.”
8. Why sit at home when you can be surrounded by fellow nuts?
7. Crying babies rattling your nerves? Or is that pesky wife of yours nagging you to get off the Lazy-Boy and mow the lawn? Perhaps it is time for you to head on down Colonial for a little “me time medicine” with the Buckeye Club!
6. It is no fun singing “Carmen, Ohio” by your lonesome. Come out and show “how firm thy friendship” is with your fellow Bucks.

Membership Corner

BY JAMI MCGARVEY

It’s that time of year again...game time. If you’re like us, you have been waiting for this since the last season ended. We can’t wait to see what Coach Meyer and the team have in store for us this year. The anticipation is thick among Ohio State fans for sure!

We want to give a proper Buckeye thank you to all that have already paid your dues for this year. Remember, our club year is now from July 1, 2012 to June 30st, 2013. If you haven’t signed up yet, please do it soon so we can have your ID cards ready for the inaugural game against the Miami RedHawks on September 1. Joining is easy. You can send in the mailer that went out in early August to the PO Box, or join online. You can reach us at www.swflbuckeyes.com and look for the PayPal symbol. The cost is \$15 for a single membership, and \$20 for a family. It is great opportunity to meet local Buckeye fans, and support our great university! Not to mention the networking you will do, and the fabulous times you will have at our game watch parties. You don’t have to be a graduate, just have the love of Scarlet and Gray in your heart. We have weekly raffles with great prizes that Brutus would put his stamp of approval on. The proceeds go towards scholarships for local kids to go to The Ohio State University, and create their own memorable experiences and opportunities just like so many of us already have.

We hope to see all of the familiar faces out at Buffalo Wild Wings, our official game watch location, as well as many new. The more people we have on hand, the better they will hear us cheering them on in the Shoe!

5. Hanging out with the Buckeye Club is a great way to budget and pinch pennies! Discount card with every membership!
4. Speaking of membership, our very own Jami McGarvey can score you a flashy 2012 edition nametag for the rock bottom price of \$20 per family or \$15 per individual. Once you have one of those bad boys, the world is your oyster. And you can only get them at B-Dubbs!
3. Tired of Obama and Romney bombarding you with approved messages? Well Urban Meyer approves of you spending the afternoon with the SWFL Buckeye Club!
2. Your next facebook profile pic should be you in a Buckeye necklace surrounded by blazin’ buffalo wing remnants.
1. Scarlet and gray go together fabulously with all flavors of wing sauce!

Community Service

BY CATHY HAMILTON

Congratulations and a big thank you to all of you who have helped to make our Community Service Project

“BUCK-EYES” Around the World such a great success! Let's see if we can do it again! Your donations are helping “BUCK-EYES” to benefit needy individuals around the world.

Please continue our “BUCK-EYES” tradition and collect more recyclable eye glasses from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to bring to our gamewatch parties at BW3’s to support our 2012 Community Service Project.

Please contact Cathy Hamilton 239-272-2897 if you have any questions.



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

BY CHAD GILLEN

Once again the Southwest Florida Buckeye's are proud to have awarded two outstanding individuals with scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year. This year we granted a \$5,000 scholarship to Tate Nordgren. Tate comes to us from a tradition of Buckeyes. Born in Poland, Ohio near Youngstown, Tate is the daughter of an Ohio State alum. Not only did her mother graduate from OSU, but so did her grand mother and older brother. Tate graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program at Fort Myers High School, where she finished in the top 3% of more than 5,100 Lee County high school seniors. At Ohio State, she plans to study in the areas of media, marketing and communications.

We also awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to returning student Chelsea Torres. An extraordinary student, Chelsea continues her involvement as a member of the Student-Alumni Council. Our contacts at the Alumni Association continually tell us how much they enjoy working with her. She has truly been a great representative of Southwest Florida. Congratulations to both Tate and Chelsea.

On Wednesday, September 19th our club will send representatives on behalf of the University to two upcoming local college fairs. The Bishop Verot College Day will be from 9:00 to 10:30 am at Bishop Verot High School and The School District of Lee County College Night is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Harborside Event Center.

If you know anyone considering undergraduate studies at Ohio State University please contact me at 810-4231 for scholarship information. Thank you to our members who support the scholarship program that allows local students become Buckeyes. Remember you can go on-line to check out information about the Southwest Florida Scholarship Fund and see your contribution dollars at work. Please take a moment to visit the scholarship page at www.swflbuckeyes.com.

Follow the SWFL Buckeyes on Facebook and Twitter

The club continues to advance our communication network as we have recently added Facebook and Twitter pages. This will allow you to better keep up with the activities of the SWFL Alumni Club while you are on the go. Search the Ohio State Alumni Club of Southwest Florida on Facebook, or simply hit the link on the website to "Like" our page. You can also follow us on Twitter—@swflbuckeyes, online at <http://www.twitter.com/swflbuckeyes> or by the link on the website.



2012 Buckeye Football Schedule

SEPT 1	MIAMI	12:00PM
SEPT 8	UCF	12:00PM
SEPT 15	CAL	12:00PM
SEPT 22	UAB	TBA
SEPT 29	@ MICHIGAN STATE	TBA
OCT 6	NEBRASKA	8:00 PM
OCT 13	@INDIANA	8:00 PM
OCT 20	PURDUE	TBA
OCT 27	@PENN STATE	6:00 PM
NOV 3	ILLINOIS	TBA
NOV 17	@WISCONSIN	TBA
NOV 24	MICHIGAN	12:00PM

2012 Club Officers

Find Bios & Contact info at www.SWFLBUCKEYES.com

<u>President</u> John Pilarski jlpilarski@earthlink.net	<u>Past President</u> Jeff Fuscardo fuscardo@ipapilot.org
<u>Vice President</u> Jami McGarvey jatlley5@gmail.com	<u>Directors</u> Jill Klausing Bob Shope
<u>Secretary</u> Cathy Hamilton cahamilton14@aol.com	Chad Gillen Mary Thomas
<u>Treasurer</u> Dana Vidussi danav@dvcpa.com	Melinda Shaw Jaclyn Esponda
	Rich Byrnes Abby Allen

FOR SALE

Look sharp, sport the colors & support your club! We have knit polo shirts in white, red or black with our club's logo [S, M, L, XL \$35; XXL \$38] We also have the must read *BUCKEYE MADNESS* for only \$5.

Find Bob Shope at the game watch parties to get yours!

2012/13 SWFL Alumni Club Membership Renewal

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. (MEMBERSHIPS RUN JULY 1–JUNE –30)

***** ALL MEMBERSHIPS NOW RUN JULY 1 TO JUNE 30 *****

Please renew online at www.swflbuckeyes.com

or complete this card, detach, and return with payment to:

OSU Alumni Club of SWFL

P.O. Box 61381

Ft. Myers, FL 33906-1381

Name _____

Address/Phone/e-mail changes only:

New Info Requested! (Please complete for each club member)

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>OSUAA#</u>	<u>OSU Class</u>
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ \$15 Individual membership
_____ \$20 Family membership
_____ \$ Donation to the Scholarship Fund

For more information
call or e-mail:
Jami McGarvey
(239) 898-3762
jatley5@gmail.com

**Join our club each week for
game watch parties!**

Where?

9390 Dynasty Drive
Ft. Myers, FL 33905
(239) 210-9464



**The Big Game
Tailgate Party**
Saturday, Nov. 24
3 hours before
game time.
Same game watch
location!

Coming in March 2013...

*Join us for dinner with
Urban Meyer!*

More details as time draws near

Follow the activities of the SW Florida
Alumni Club

www.swflbuckeyes.com