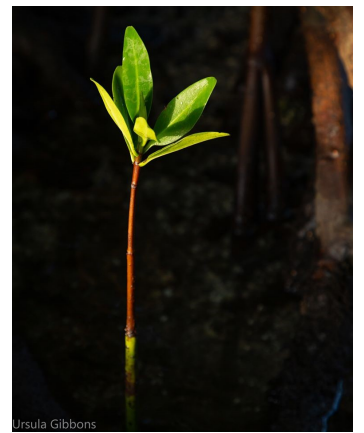


# DELNOR DAILY

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

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Ursula Gibbons

## 2020 Sea Turtle Nesting Season



Caitlin Brunk

Sea Turtle Nesting season, occurring in Florida from May 1st to October 31st, was a unique event this year. Multiple storms passing by in the Gulf of Mexico, concerns from the pandemic leading to training challenges, and an ever growing predator population in the park were just some of the obstacles staff experienced while trying to perform nest observations. And yet despite all the challenges, the park experienced a truly successful year. A total of 39 nests lead to 2,575 sea turtle hatchlings that made it to the ocean, resulting in a 60% success rate. This is up from last season (2019) where there was a success rate of 57%, with 53 nests leading to 4,334 sea turtle hatchlings. Just goes to show that no matter the obstacles encountered, life finds a way.

## Delnor's Critters



Ursula Gibbons

Many of you are familiar with the critters that are available for adoption through the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins. On the official Friends Facebook page (Facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins) you can find posts of them going on adventures with their lovely friend, and a park volunteer, Ursula. They visit the park regularly, travel to other state parks, and have even provided some coloring pages for all to try! But what you may not know is that there have been two recent additions to the critter crew. Who, you may ask? Here are a couple clues: one has paddle shaped tail, two flippers, and is a fairly slow moving creature that can usually be found in shallower waters. The other is scaly and strong, and has teeth you can see even when its mouth is closed! Have an idea? Be sure to stop by the ranger station or check out the website and see if you're right!

## How We Keep You Safe

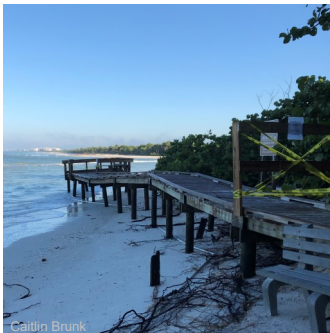


Florida State Parks Twitter

In today's uncertain times, safety is the number one priority for our community. And while this is nothing new for the Florida Park Service, some of the precautions we regularly take may look a little different. Staff still tackles projects such as boardwalk repair, bath house maintenance, and parking lot cleanup, but have added an extra layer of security. It is not uncommon to see staff donning masks, wearing gloves, and maintaining a six foot distance between each other and from park guests. Because of today's circumstances, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection continues to do the best they can to ensure that all staff and visitors remain healthy and safe. Operations are reviewed on a daily basis and may continue to change, as CDC recommendations fluctuate in order to protect public health. For more information you can visit our website:

[www.floridastateparks.org/learn/safety-updates](http://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/safety-updates)

## Storm Season Aftermath



Caitlin Brunk

As a barrier island, the ecology and topography of Delnor-Wiggins is ever changing; this is especially so during hurricane season. From June 1st to November 30th staff must be ready at a moment's notice to take steps necessary to protect the park. By sheer luck the park avoided any direct impact this season. However, Tropical Storm Eta (Ay-tah), whose outer bands flew over the park November 9th through November 11th, greatly changed the landscape of the northern point. What was once a ground level boardwalk, providing access from the parking lot to Wiggins pass, became overnight a risen platform, with the power of the seas having sucked out an area of sand at least four feet deep, twenty feet long, and ten feet wide. Due to a mixture of storm surge, coastal flooding, and unusually high tides the base structure of the boardwalk was lifted from the sand, making the entire boardwalk appear to jump and dance with the seas. Understandably, the boardwalk has since been deemed unstable and is closed until further notice. And while this may make accessing the north point a little more difficult, with a little bit of planning around the low tides, the north point is now a rather unique sight to see.

