

Palm Tree x-Press



Newsletter of the Friends of
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park



DelnorWiggins.org
April 2011

Osprey Love

by Park Manager Robert Steiger



What is ever so symbolic of human compassion and companionship? Of the turmoil's of life? The fight to survive in one's own way?

Osprey love is that symbolism.

Is it true that Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is the blessed recipient of a pair of nesting ospreys? Yes it is! For days on end mother and father have been sharing incubating and fish catching duties. It always warmed the heart to see one bring a freshly caught

fish to the other as it diligently sat on the eggs. It's almost like being up with the kids all night and then your significant other bringing home dinner.

Well, only just recently have those little eggs hatched! Mom and Dad are very protective, never straying too far from the nest. The location of the nest, just off the beach at the North end is phenomenal for the visitors. Cameras flash and fingers point all day long in awe of the spectacle so close

to them. What a treat! Ospreys will form a life-long pair bond and often return each year to the same nest.

Let us rejoice in the fact that we can watch our little osprey family grow and prosper this nesting season. Just think about those fuzzy little chicks testing out their wings and then eventually leaving the nest for the first time. This is all possible because of Osprey Love.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Each year the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park hold two events to help raise money to purchase things that the park needs. This year we added a new event called the Green Flash. The people who attended had a great time. My friends are still talking about their evening at Moyara Bay and the wonderful food supplied by the Turtle Club. One hit of the evening was the Green Flash punch and the glasses that glowed. So many people helped make this event a success that is it hard to name them all but I want to thank a few. Inga Wilson from Moyara Bay and Megan Miller from the Turtle Club worked behind the scenes. The Green Flash committee had many organizational meetings starting last February and ending in November.

Our good friend Dick Liden got us started by meeting with the owners of the Turtle Club. Later, Gene Beer was able to step in as the liaison between the Friends and the Turtle Club, Moyara Bay and Enterprise. Without the work these two members did for us, the Green Flash would not have become a reality.

Our next big hurdle was designing a Green Flash logo and promotional pieces; but thanks to Sharon Eddy this was accomplished beautifully. Once we had this everything else fell into place. We were able to order glasses and T-shirts with the logo, and place ads in the newspapers.

It was my pleasure to coordinate everything; but without the help I received from members of the committee and others like Sally Madden

who on her own planned the silent auction, this would not have been such a successful event. Thanks everyone.



Jo Ann Linck

Carolyn Returns



Carolyn returned to work last Friday after a 5 week sick leave. After two trips to the hospital and a few new doctors she was diagnosed with aspergillum fungus in her lungs. It is an organic fungus that people with suppressed immune systems pick up. Fortunately it is not contagious. She's not cured but she is feeling alot better. She had time to rest and let her body revitalize a bit. Her parents came down from Ohio and stayed with her and Dale for a few weeks. They made her rest when she needed rest and made her walk to keep up her strength. Carolyn is grateful to have such wonderful parents, the best medicine! She still has a way to go to beat off the resistant infection in her lungs. "I don't care if I ever see another Doctor" Mrs. Shaw was quoted as saying.

Good luck Carolyn, we are soooooo glad to have you back!

Website Redesign



If you lived in Naples in 2004, you remember Hurricane Charley. It made landfall as a Category 4 and badly damaged Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Specifically, it destroyed my favorite picnic table in area 3. I took it personally that my favorite spot in Naples had been affected.

So, I decided it was time to investigate how to volunteer at the park and joined the CSO, now the Friends group. I helped with cleanup after the storm and by 2005 had donated a new picnic table in honor of my father (*where you can find me most Fridays hiding from my computer*) and volunteered to create a website and E-mail group for the CSO.

Six years later, the delnorwiggins.org Friends website had grown haphazardly through the years and the CSO presidents, Lois Campbell, the late Dick Liden, and Larry Beer. Fast forward to the present when our new president, Marcia Byrd, requested a much needed redesign.

How to begin? With photos of our little piece of paradise, of course! I contacted the Delnor Wiggins resident artist of 2009, Rod Wiley, an amazing photographer from Bonita Springs. Rod graciously agreed to allow me to use any of the photos on his [website](http://www.rjwiley.smugmug.com) to use in the new layout. While it took me about a week to go through the 27 pages of photographs of beaches on his website, once I requested 15 of them, I had them in my inbox overnight. *Thanks, Rod!*

I hope you like the result. I kept the original photo ID numbers and names on each photo I used on the Friends website, so if you like any of them and wish to order them from Rod, you can do so easily. Otherwise, go to his website www.rjwiley.smugmug.com, scroll down to *GALLERY CATEGORIES*, click on *A DAY IN THE SWAMP STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY* and then *BEACHES AND WATERWAYS, SWF* to have fun looking through the 27 pages I had the pleasure to choose from.

----- Alicia Astorga

JOE WIGGINS REVISITED



In another life, could our very own Ranger Bruce Nichols have been the real Joe Wiggins? One can't be too sure. He plays the part so well by entertaining crowds with his animated antics.

Photo by Rod J. Wiley

On March 19th, 2011 Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park had their annual Nature Festival. At this event we were delighted to have a guest who set up his Trading Post in one of the areas provided. Joe Wiggins, portrayed by Park Ranger Bruce Nichols, had an array of furs, Indian shell necklaces and bracelets, animal skulls and bones, as well as many stories to tell. He was visited by adults and children who traded rocks, feathers, sea grape leaves, and other items that they had found. Joe used this opportunity to help them learn about the history of our park and give them a glimpse of what life was like along our shores in the late 1800's.



Ranger Bruce Nichols holds up the portrait taken of him while in character



Ranger Jonathan D. Stokes offers expert advice during a recent Ranger Program

From: Ranger Terry Nowak Saturday, March 26, 2011 Subject: Cast Netting Program

All,
Jonathan asked me to help get him from his Cast Netting program up to the Ranger Station for his LG duty yesterday, due to a little bit of a time crunch. When I went out to Area 3 to get him I saw about 12 people stretched over 50 yards of beach, throwing their cast nets with wild abandon while Jonathan walked back and forth behind them giving pointers and shouting encouragement. The students looked like they were really into it, having a great time, and their family members were watching eagerly. It looked to me like what a program should be all about, educational and fun for all. ----- Terry

NATURE FESTIVAL 2011 SCRAPBOOK



A Cutie and a Hootie.

Above: Ranger Brittany Smith mans the Junior Ranger table.

Below: Hootie the barred owl from the Calusa Nature Center on display at the Festival. Okay..... 2 Cuties!



"Spangles" the Clown and her side kick. Kaye Klug and Sparky were a big hit.



The Amazing Insects Maze billowing in the wind.



A Ranger from Lovers Key sits with his turtles



Mound House



Ann and her T-Shirts, poses with the Photographer from the Naples Daily News



Palm Boots with Kathy Savela

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission



Conservancy of Southwest Florida





Calusa Nature Center and Hootie



Florida Trail Association Alligator Amblers



Everglade Boat Tours



Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission



Recycle, Kathy and Edger Rasch



Join the Friends, Kathryn and David Eastlake



Rookery Bay



SW Florida Water Management



Face Painting
Rosa Simone, Pauline Cataldo



Decorate a Bag with Susan Stokes
and Valerie Thompson



Seek some Shells
Identify them, Play the Guessing Game



Get some Ice Cream
Courtesy of The Royal Scoop



Enjoy these Classic
Easter Images and
Have a Great Day!

