

PALM TREE PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

ISSUE 41

WINTER/SPRING 2012

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2nd Annual "GREEN FLASH" Sunset Celebration DEEMED PARTY of the SEASON

There wasn't a green flash from the sun but there were plenty of green flash day-glow glasses on the horizon according to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. The second annual "GREEN FLASH" Sunset Celebration was held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. The sold out event will surely go down as one of the season's best parties on the beach!

With over 130 people in attendance, the party came to life in a casual atmosphere on the beach while maintaining an element of sophistication. The flair for the elite came from the superb service, appetizers that were passed on the beach by wait staff in black and white, and the beautifully decorated beach setting.

"What a great surprise. We entered the park and traveled to the far end where we found an oasis. We were greeted by the Green Flash fairy, promptly given a day-glow Green Flash martini glass, directed to the sunset on the beach where the catering staff surprised everyone with awesome hand passed appetizers. The event was first class and one of the best parties that I have ever attended in Naples," said Diane Westphal, party attendee and founder of Your Home Watch Professionals. "I saw the event posted by a friend on Facebook and decided to attend. I'll be back next year for sure."

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Mark your calendars:

Beach Walk with Tom & Carol — January 4th and every Wednesday

Annual Member's Meeting – January 9th (Board Election)

Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show – January 14th

Call 239-597-6196

Beach Walk with Tom & Carol — February 1st and every Wednesday

Member's Meeting – February 13th

Visit www.delnorwiggins.org

Beach Walk with Tom & Carol – March 7th and every Wednesday

Wiggins Pass Nature Festival – March 17th

Member's Meeting – March 12th

Join us on facebook @ Friends of Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park



Message from the Park Manager



Happy Holiday Friend's! I can't believe 2011 is almost over and 2012 is on our doorstep. I think back upon last

year and all of the accomplishments we have made together. All of the time and effort many of you made to help raise funds to make Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park a place all can enjoy. Even in these hard economic times you all continue to support us with your time and donations. I think about how much we would miss if you weren't there supporting us. Now we all have another challenge. To raise awareness and funds to build a board walk through our mangroves. What a great opportunity to create an experience for visitors to come and learn about one the most productive areas per square foot on our planet. I heard on NPR the other day there are 70 types of mangroves. I had no idea there were so many. It was a program to remind us that in the third world countries that are destroying mangrove areas to build temporary shrimp ponds they have already eliminated 45% of the Mangrove forest in the World. That makes ours even more important. Thanks again for all you do for us. Happy Holidays to all.

Robert M. Steiger
Park Manager

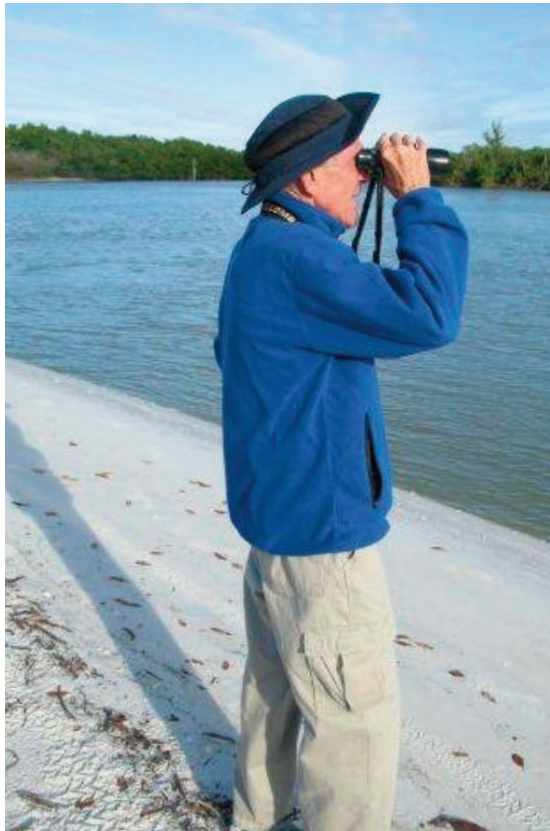


President's Message



Congratulations to our Board member, Phil Nye, who was named Corkscrew Volunteer of the year. According to an article in the **Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's Annual Update**, Phil has logged over 6,000 hours at the Sanctuary in a variety of roles. "None have had a greater positive impact than his interactions with the people he meets." Anyone who knows Phil would have to agree.

Phil has also served the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park in many capacities and is always willing to assist with our fundraisers.



You will find him at the Royal Scoop ice cream wagon at the Art Show and the Nature Festival, happily scooping and chatting with folks he meets. Phil has arranged many field trips for the Friends.

In March of 2011 he planned a fun-filled day at Corkscrew, and a private home for viewing painted buntings. In November, he planned a day at Shark Valley in Everglades National Park, followed by a visit

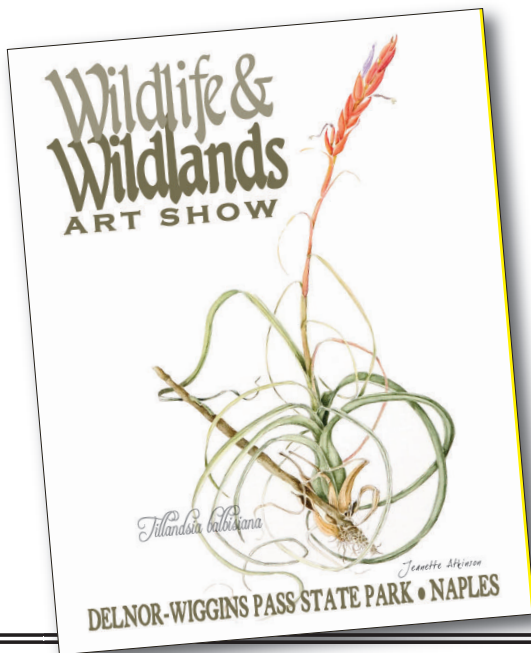
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Friends Goals & Mission

To promote public awareness, use, and enjoyment of the park.

To assist the park management and staff with facility maintenance, resource management, visitor services and recycling.

To improve the park facilities by providing amenities through fund raisers.



14th Annual Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show

January 14, 2011
10 am - 3 pm
Area 3

Volunteers needed.
Contact Jo Ann for your "Friends"
assignment

Friends of
Delnor-Wiggins Pass
State Park Annual
Members' Meeting

Monday January 9th,
10:00 am

Board Elections &
Business Meeting

Your attendance
requested

Did you know department

The facts are in, massaged, shuffled and are now available from the State. For fiscal year 2010/2011 the Direct Economic Impact Assessment for State Parks has just been published. Don't ask about the methodology (this information available) but each state park was rated for the impact that it offered for the community it served. Results for Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park:

Annual Park Attendance	460,350 up from 403,183
Direct Economic Impact	\$ 20,284,939
Local Jobs Supported	405.7



This is something to talk about when generating sponsorship and corporate interest.



Time for a party

September 18, 2012
marks the 25th anniversary
of the Friends of
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park.
We think we need a party to mark
this, our Silver Anniversary.

So sometime in 2012 we will frolic.

We need your ideas, thoughts for
the place and time and most of all
we need a Party Chairman.

So step up to the plate so we can
start planning the big event.

Marcia

Green Flash Alert

Your Board of Directors has decided to do it again.
Our third annual Green Flash will be held on November 3, 2012.
Hopefully we can improve on last year's effort...we learned a lot!
Where we need improvement is in the money making department...
after all it is a fund raising event.

We need to START NOW to contact potential sponsors. SPONSORS are
what make these events successful as fund raisers. We, the Friends
have very large dreams and need substantial funds to make these
dreams Become realities.

Our event planner, Natasha, will be putting together sponsorship pack-
ages and will be available to train us. As she says, though not in these
words, we are not looking for donations...we are looking for PARTNERS
who want to get results from their advertising dollars.

Field Trip Report

Shark Valley and Clyde Butcher Photography Studio

By Sally Madden



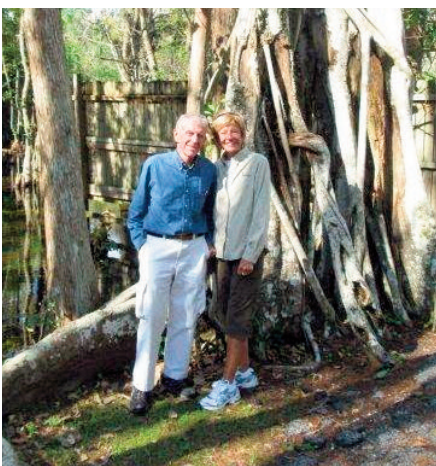
Kaye Klug and Sally Madden bundle up



Lookout Tower and ramps leading to it



Phil and Joanne



November 11, 2011... it was a cold, blustery, windy day; not exactly Florida style weather, but weather doesn't matter when the "Friends" experience another Phil Nye designed field trip.

Our journey began in a parking lot, where about a dozen Friends carpooled on our 95 mile adventure over to Shark Valley. We were greeted by a delightful and well-informed tram driver and park guide. With hoods and jackets zipped up on the open tram, our eyes searched for plant life and waterfowl in the "river of grass". The tram travels along a 15 mile loop road, open only to hikers, bikers and the park trams.

The valley was more river than grass, thanks to a couple of heavy rainstorms that reached the Everglades over the past couple of weeks. The abundance of water is good for the aquifer, but not a great day for viewing alligators.

Although we saw just a few alligators basking in the sun, thanks to the eagle eyes of our guide, and our own personal tour guide, Phil, we were treated to views of many lovely water and shore birds. Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Lesser Herons, Anhingas, and Cormorants were all enjoying the warmth of the sun while getting their feet wet.

The sloping walk up to the observation tower provided spectacular views of just a part of the massive Everglades. A total of a million and one half acres, the Everglades are the largest national wetland park in the United States. Amazing!

After a break for picnic lunch, we headed back down the road to the Clyde Butcher photography gallery and gift shop. His compelling black and white landscape photography brings to life the natural beauty surrounding us.

What a delightful day! Thanks to Phil Nye for once again providing a unique experience, observing our Florida flora, fauna and bird habitat.

President's Message *(continued)*



to Clyde Butcher's Studio where we saw amazing photos of the Everglades. At every location, Phil enthusiastically shared his knowledge about birds and other animals, the local yore, history...you name it.

Interested in birds at an early age, Phil had the opportunity to learn a great deal about ornithology from a college professor at Ohio University. Then life got in the way and until he moved here in 1980, he had not studied birds even though his interest remained. After realizing that there were so many birds here in Southwest Florida that he did not know his interest was rekindled and he started studying these new birds in earnest.

Donned with his binoculars, Phil can be found on our beach quite regularly. On a beautiful morning this December when the tide was out, yours truly had the pleasure and honor to walk with him as he sighted birds and talked about their characteristics and habits. With low tide, the sandbar in Wiggins Pass looked like a bird convention. terns, cormorants, willets, black-bellied plovers, snowy egrets, laughing gulls, skimmers, royal terns, and more were hanging out on the sandbar. Brown pelicans flew over and did their dives into the water for fish. He pointed out an osprey perched in a tree all the way across the pass. Suddenly all the sandbar birds took flight. Phil said that eagles were flying overhead and they scatter when that happens. He handed me his binoculars and provided a detailed description of the immature eagles I was observing, three of them flying in the sunlight with golden feathers glistening. As quickly as they arrived they left and the sandbar birds returned. Truly amazing.

We are so fortunate to have Phil Nye "that bird guy" as a long-time volunteer here at the Park. He is a Friend and a friend to all. Congratulations and thanks, Phil.

By Marcia Byrd, President.

Ranger's Corner

Park Personnel on the Move



Shannon Soltis came to us from Rookery Bay and was the park's capable Administrative Assistant from February 5, 2010 to November 10, 2011. Too

short a time! She is moving up the career ladder to become Assistant to the Director of Rookery Bay.

She was a special asset to the Friends as she was involved in all of our events especially both of our Green Flash parties. Many photographs of the events as well as her special Walk thru the Mangroves slide show were provided by Shannon.

Thank you Shannon and we wish you well in your new endeavor and continue to be a cheerleader for Delnor-Wiggins.



New Rangers



Alyssa Rothstein comes to us from Boca Raton, Florida. She is a graduate from Florida Atlantic University. She spent a year and a half with AmeriCorps and volunteered at both Jonathan Dickinson and Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Parks in Hobe Sound, Florida.



Brittany Petit and her family live in Bonita Beach. She graduated in Environmental Studies from Nevada's U and L University. She has a bit of traveling under her belt from Illinois to New Orleans, up to Providence, Rhode Island and then back to Florida. She worked at Lover's Key as an OPS Ranger before joining us at Delnor-Wiggins.



Wendell Vaught is our Renaissance Man. He grew up on a farm in St. Louis, Missouri. He began his Forest Ranger career in 1989 in Everglades City, promoted to Goethe State Forest, then to the Withlacoochee as Senior Ranger. His career led him to the Conservation & Recreation Land Use Trust where he managed eighteen properties. In 2005 he transferred to Picayune Strand to help in the Everglades Restoration Project and in October of 2006 he retired from forestry and began his Eco-Quest Nature Tours. Wendell is also a Master Naturalist Instructor.

Unsung Volunteers

Tom and Carol Belfiori lead the Wednesday morning Beach Walk Adventures during season. Although they are new Friends members they are not new to our park. They have been providing their interpretive programs for several years both here at Delnor-Wiggins as well as at Lovers Key. They are both Master Naturalists and love to share their experiences. And for good measure they coordinated the Ghost Walk at Koreshan. Thanks, Tom and Carol, for all that you do. The Friends thank you and appreciate your efforts. And members, be sure to join them Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am on the beach by the south end of parking lot five.

Green Flash (continued)



Attendees enjoyed sunset cocktails and appetizers on the beach including a souvenir “GREEN FLASH” glow glass. The evening continued with tropical music, silent auction, and a sunset photography demonstration. The night included a fully catered dinner that was elegant and delicious. Guests sat at picnic tables that were covered with fine white linens with seashell centerpieces – it was a casually elegant night of sun, fun, food and entertainment. Guests were overheard talking about the uniqueness of the event and the ‘fun factors’ involved.

The event ended with special guest guitarist, Russell Tuff, leading the group in songs around the beach bonfire. The sold out event was made possible by the sponsors, the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, and the park rangers.

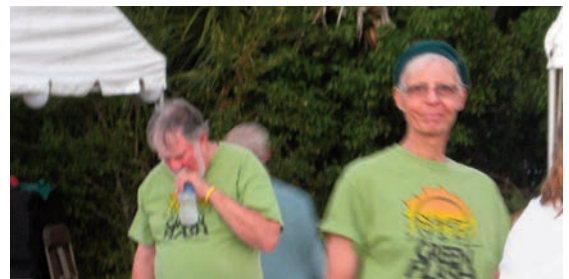
Funds raised will be used for upgrades in the Park including a new Boardwalk to be built through the mangroves to Little Turkey Bay. This will provide access to the largest undisturbed areas of the Park and allow guests to experience various eco-systems through the mangroves to the Estuary.

Sue Huff

Editors note: Sue is the publicist for the Friends and operates E. Sue Huff & Associates, Inc.



The Friends would like to thank our sponsors and ask that you patronize them. Scott Lowery Landscape, Brooks Insurance Services, E. Sue Huff & Assoc., The Friends of Florida State Parks, Moraya Bay, The Turtle Club, Fleur de Lis Event Designs, New York Pizza & Pasta, Specialists in Urology, Naples Computer, Edison State College- Collier Campus, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Daniela’s Restaurant.



Join and receive our newsletter to keep updated on the Park even when you're not here. Also get 12 free beach passes!



Become a member of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Join this fun group of people.

"Helping the Park Achieve its goals since 1987"

Membership Levels

Individual	\$ 25.
Family	40.
Corporate	250.
Patron	1,000.
Donation	_____

The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is a 501 (C) 3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



www.DelnorWiggins.org

Name _____

Contact person, if Corporation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Out of State information: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Check /Credit card (*accepted on our website*) payable to:

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

11135 Gulf Shore Drive North, Naples, Florida 34108

Phone: 239-597-6196 Fax: 239-597-8223



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