
PALM TREE PRESS

A Quarterly Publication of The Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc.

ISSUE 29

Message from the Park Manager

August is here and you would know it is the hottest time of the year. Things still roll along here at the park. If you come and visit you will see some brown patches of St. Augustine grass. That is because we are working hard this summer to knock back some of the exotics we didn't get a chance to work on last summer due to all the time we spent with the hurricanes. I figure we lost 3 months of work.

This year the rainy season was like liquid fertilizer causing everything to spread rapidly into the healthy dune areas.

In the north end of the park we have been attacking weedilia, a ground cover with a yellow flower that blankets everything. Also Asiatic columbrina otherwise known as lather leaf. We also treated Brazilian pepper, carrot wood, beach naupapka, Australian Pines, and ear leaf acacia. Who knows what else we will find?

Thanks to all of you who have helped us clean up after the holiday weekends. I have to tell you that with the County parking closed at the south end of Gulfshore Drive, we fill up even faster. We couldn't do it without your help.

It won't be long and it will be time for the last half of the year and lots of folks will be returning from summer travels. We have accomplished a lot especially with respect to all of the new forms and paper work that is required by the State of Florida. You can thank Lois Cantwell for keeping me on track. She has made my job a lot easier by taking on the reporting and organizing so everything gets turned in on time.

Hope you are enjoying what is left of the summer and I look forward to seeing you all back in the park soon.

Robert M. Steiger, Park Manager

President's Corner

How rapidly the summer is passing! Our first gathering of the new season will soon be upon us. A picnic meeting will be held on September 12 at 12:30 p.m. at the Pavilion. A honey baked ham will be provided. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish, salad or dessert, plus your own beverage. I will not be able to return to Naples until October 5th, so Sherry Lubic our Vice President, will organize and conduct the meeting. A reminder—a work day is scheduled for the 6th, right after Labor Day. Regular work days continue to be the last Thursday of each month.

This year, the state-wide Annual CSO Conference will be in Tampa, September 30th to October 1st. According to Carol Imbriani, our District Park Programs Development Specialist, hotel registration information and meeting schedules are being mailed. They may have already reached some of you or the park management staff by the time you

President's Corner (Cont'd.)

read this. I sent what little information I had to as many as I could reach by email. Those interested in attending should coordinate through Carolyn Shaw.

There are also other opportunities forthcoming for some training for the CSO groups in our District. These may be in the form of a personal training visit or a workshop with other CSOs.

Sounds like a great way to network with others! Further details on these will be posted as Carol makes them available.

To give you some food for thought and opportunities for discussion and input of ideas at our next meetings, here is a preview of several topics:

Renewal (or not renewing) our membership in the Chamber of Commerce (due 10/1, cost \$385).

Joining a larger environmental support organization such as Friends of Florida.

Sponsor a fall fundraiser, such as promoting our can recycling program—other ideas are welcome.

Getting a head start on our January Art Show.

Revising our membership application pamphlet.

Identifying needed items we can purchase for the park.

Advance planning of day trips to maximize opportunities for participation.

We have a lot of things to accomplish before the end of the year, so these are some opportunities for you to be involved in the process.

Lois Cantwell, President

CSO in Perspective: Social and Business Aspects

As a member of a non-profit incorporated group of volunteers, there are social aspects and business aspects which bring us together in various ways. We are "one of 79 CSOs that continually help the State Parks meet their mission of accessible, resource based public recreation." The last part comes from a letter I received in June from Mike Bullock, Director of the Florida Park Service.

In the first six months of this year we sponsored 2 successful fund raisers. A portion of this revenue was spent on a

new ice machine for the park. We developed a bilingual beach flier for the rangers to hand out at the gate. We set up our own website

(<http://www.delnorwiggins.org>) to promote our organization.

We had 2 field trips which were educational and fun. A dozen or so members attended the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Weekend in St. Augustine. We planted native plant and butterfly attracting plants in the park and removed many exotic plants that are too invasive. These are examples of activities that promote interaction of a social nature, even though some of it is work related. People get to mingle and know each other better which helps to promote teamwork.

On the flip side, there were a lot of things accomplished in those months that are mandated by the DEP as part of our CSO Agreement. Business and paperwork, not fun, but a necessity under Florida statutes. We have a Budget, a list of goals (Project Priorities) turned in our Annual Report, a Program Plan (Schedule of Meetings and Events for the year), adopted a Board Financial Policy, updated our By Laws and sent in a 13-page Financial Report.

During mid-June our park manager was contacted by Carol Imbriani (our PPDS for District4) regarding an annual assessment for each CSO. We received a checklist of 57 items. A 3-way conference call ensued and Carolyn interviewed us and recorded our answers. This was (Cont'd. on page 4)



CSO in Cyberspace!

I am a fairly new CSO member and also a freelance web designer. Since I consider Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park to be my special beach in paradise, I have created a new website for our group. Hopefully it will help us gain more members and also make it easier for the existing members to find information about the CSO. I hope you

find it useful.

You can view it at <http://www.delnorwiggins.org>

How did a 58-year old woman learn web design, you might wonder? Well, I was a high school librarian “up north” for 20 years. In the mid’90s research moved first to CD-ROM and later to online sources. What could a librarian of the 20th century do but join the latest technology to keep the kids interested and challenged?

One bleary January, I was snow bound for an entire week alone in our house with no school, my kids in college, and a husband on a business trip. I still had electricity and a phone connection and nobody to answer to but me—it was heaven. There is just so much time even a librarian can spend reading, so I surfed the World Wide Web until I found a site that explained HTML. After a few days of frustration, I finally had an “Aha! moment” and figured out how to create a simple webpage to help the kids do their research. I was up and running after that and have not stopped learning since. Every page I create whether pro bono like delnorwiggins.org or for pay, teaches me something new. What better way to keep the brain cells happy in retirement?

In future issues we will feature sections of the website. By the way, any web designer will tell you that a page is never finished, so I welcome your comments and additions. You can send them to me from the Webmaster link at the bottom of all the pages.

Alicia Astorga, Miramar Web Design

CSO in Perspective (Cont'd)

An *Excellent Exercise* that identifies important aspects of CSO governance. I was grateful that we had all the things in place that put us in compliance. Carolyn was very impressed with what we are doing as an organization. So, it is all good.

Lois Cantwell



Did you know that Florida red tide is a higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic alga (plant-like organism). This organism produces a toxin that can affect the central nervous system of fish. At high concentrations (called a bloom), the organisms may discolor the water.

CAUTION: People with severe or chronic respiratory conditions (such as emphysema or asthma) are advised to avoid red tide areas. Generally, symptoms are temporary. Once exposure is

discontinued, symptoms usually disappear within hours. Further, cooking does not destroy the red tide toxin. And shellfish should not be eaten during a red tide. If a shellfish-harvesting ban is in effect, it is not safe to eat mollusks (e.g. clams and oysters). However, edible parts of other animals, commonly called shellfish (e.g. crabs, shrimp, and lobster) are not affected by the red tide organism and can be eaten.

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11100 Gulfshore Drive
Naples, FL 34108 <http://www.delnorwiggins.org>

