

The Latest Park News:



Bryan's new job!

Guide To Summer



Have you seen this bird?

Tiger cubs found in Park



Boy Toys!!

Summer Reads



Lourdes Finds a Turtle!

PALM TREE PRESS

Paperless Edition



A Publication of
Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Issue 37 Summer 2010

FROM THE PARK MANAGER

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When I received a note from Sharon on it's time for a Managers message for the Palm Tree Press I had to sit and think for a moment. There have been so many changes since the last issue where do I start?

The word,"change" seems to define the one constant we have here in the park. We have lost many dear colleagues and staff members have moved on. Sad changes that have brought along some new and exciting changes. So I thought why not focus on some of those. I am sure by now you know Larry Beer is our new President and Marcia Byrd our new V.P., Diane Schwartz has taken over the Treasury and Kathryn Goerig-Eastlake is our new Secretary.

Along with that and the committee on putting together a new event for the fall with a focus on building a boardwalk through the mangroves which has been a part of our Unit Management Plan for over 10 years. Some of the faces have changed but the challenge and excitement to meet these new changes has been great. Please take the time to get to know your board of directors and thank them for the wonderful job they do.

The staff is undergoing more changes too so if you see a new person in a green uniform please take the time to introduce yourself and tell them your one of the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park.

-Robert Steiger



MEET SHANNON

Shannon Soltis is Delnor-Wiggins new Administrative Assistant. She has blended in with the staff as if she were special ordered. Her experiences at Rookery Bay makes her a natural beach enthusiast. She lives close to the park and considers this area her neighborhood. Her three lovely daughters are all college students which keeps Shannon up-to-the-minute. She is light hearted and fun to be around.



Dick Liden



Jack Shea



Fred Eckert

**WE
MISS OUR
DEAR
FRIENDS**

FROM THE BOARD



Summer is well on the way and bringing changes with it! Our new name, a new look to the Palm Tree Press and our New Event in the fall.

After our well-attended May picnic, the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park can take a break from monthly meetings – until September. But there's no taking a break from work at the park. Please check the calendar for work days and help out if you can.

Others toiling during the summer months are Sharon Eddy, your Palm Tree Press editor who has updated our

logo and given the newsletter this great new layout. Now she needs your help to fill the pages. Contact her with stories, photos, announcements, ideas or items of interest.

Alicia Astorga, our Goddess of Cyberspace, has managed the heavy work load of making name changes and other updates on the website.

Jo Ann Linck, Marcia Byrd and our hard-working New Event committee are putting together a heck of a party for November 20.

Your Board has been busy as well and I have to single out some individuals. Your Treasurer, Diane Schwartz, has been balancing our year-end financial records in conjunction with a very tedious state filing. Secretary Kathryn Goerig-Eastlake has taken on projects big and small. And New Event/Membership/Vice

President Marcia Byrd has been indispensable in handling matters on the local front while I cope with unpredictable Ohio weather.

Thanks to all of you, plus the many others who have contributed this year in so many different ways. And let's not forget Bob, Carolyn and Mark for their guidance – spiritual and otherwise.

All of these changes have been positive and rewarding as well. I've learned a lot about our organization, information that so many of you have openly and willingly shared with me. We have an enthusiastic core group with great ideas for ways to improve and expand our natural wonder, Delnor-Wiggins. Let's share this enthusiasm with the entire membership.

Everyone — have a great summer wherever you may be.

Larry

Friends Board of Directors

President

Larry Beer

Vice President

Marcia Byrd

Secretary

Kathryn Goerig-Eastlake

Treasurer

Diane Schwartz

Membership Director

Marcia Byrd

Directors

Kay Peley

Olga Williams

Phil Nye

Joe Gagnier

David Eastlake

Lois Cantwell, ex officio

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Staff

Park Manager

Robert Steiger

Assistant Park Manager

Mark Nicoletti

Park Service Specialist

Carolyn Shaw

Administrative Assistant

Shannon Soltis

Park Rangers

Luke Adams

Daniel Ambrose

** Brian Kaczmarek ★

Bruce Nichols

Lourdes Quintero

Brittany Smith

Jonathan Stokes

OPS

Marcio Oveido

Patty Hall



BRYAN GOING TO LOVERS KEY



Spring is time for change...actually, all year long things are changing here at the

park and Park Ranger Bryan Kaczmarek is finally getting his wish. On June 25th he will be transferring to Lover's Key State Park. It will be closer to his home and he's wanted to transfer for a while now. Bryan started his stay here at Delnor-Wiggins in April 2006 as a part time employee while working at Home Depot. In July 2006 he applied for an opening as a full time Ranger and got the job and soon after quit his other job. I feel we were lucky in getting Bryan. Over the years he has worn many hats; Interp Chairperson, Sea Turtle Coordinator, and has been in charge of the memorial bench/picnic table program, to name a few. He has done a great job and will be missed! The hunt is on for a new Ranger and we might have one before this goes to press. We will keep you informed. Good luck Bryan!

Mark Nicoletti, Assistant Park Manager

Park Managers
Mark and Bob
enjoying their
new toy.



NEW BUGGY TAKES TO THE BEACH

Bob and Mark took delivery of a new electric utility vehicle at the end of May. It is a Club Car Carryall 2...basically an EZGo with knobby tires. No, just kidding! This unit is a high tech, heavy duty electric vehicle. It is all-aluminum, has a raised body and extra traction tires.

Bob and Mark have had it on the beach and said that it navigates the sand with no problem...something that our current fleet of EZGo's cannot do. It is environmentally-friendly, can go anywhere in the park (well maybe not the mangroves) and will not rust. It is Bob's dream come true. Sadly one of our existing EZGo's will now be moved out to pasture.

The Friends are proud that we could help fund this new workhorse. Our participation was at the 40% level. Come out and see it and take a ride.

SUMMER GUIDE : RANGER PROGRAMS AT THE PARK



Snook
Size does matter

Snook salad

- 1 snook filet, the larger the better
- 3 or 4 stalks of fresh celery
- 1 onion, chopped but not diced
- 2 eggs, hard boiled
- Sweet pickle relish
- ½ cup sour cream or mayonnaise

Sauté the snook with some of the celery, chopped onion, salt and pepper until cooked through. Drain off all fluid and cool. Crumble the fish in a big bowl. Now add the hard boiled eggs, relish and remainder of the celery. Mix in sour cream and add just enough mayo to hold everything together.

Salt and pepper to taste if desired.

Chill for 24 hours before serving. Delicious!!

SEA TURTLES

Every Wednesday - 9:30 AM

Learn about the life story of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle from emergence to laying eggs as an adult.

CASTNETTING

Friday, July 2 - 9:30 AM

Become a self-sufficient fisherman by catching your own bait! Learn the basic techniques of CASTNETTING from a Ranger. Come get your feet wet. It's fun for the whole family. Bring sunscreen and a willingness to participate.



BEACHCOMBING

Friday July 9 - 9:30 AM



Join a Park Ranger for a walk discovering beach treasures. Learn about sea shells, sea creatures and tidal movement This is a great interactive event.

NATIVE PLANT WALK

Friday July 16 - 9:30 AM

Join a Ranger for a NATIVE PLANT WALK to explore a barrier island with him or her. The whole family is welcome. Learn about the Maritime Hammock plants, how they protect us, and what we can all do to protect them. Exciting discoveries are made along the beach, across the dunes and through cool, shaded hammock areas.

SNOOK FISHING

Friday July 23 - 9:30 AM

Take a look into the history of this exclusive Florida game and food fish. Why is it so mysterious and hard to catch?

MANGROVE WALK

Friday July 30 - 9:30 AM

Join a Park Ranger to learn about Florida's special trees. Discover the importance of the mangrove forest ecology.

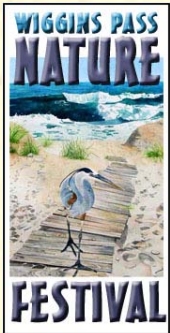
Bug spray, sunscreen, and water are good things to bring along.

Call for reservations. If you need special assistance call 72 hours in advance.

Snook are inshore fish that are frequently found in shallow, brackish estuaries and lagoons. Common snook are aggressive carnivores that eat fish, crabs, shrimps and other crustaceans that live in both fresh water and salt water. They use structures such as mangroves, reefs and rock formations for ambush cover, and usually stay near the substratum at depths of less than 65 feet. Snook are one of the most sought-after inshore game fish. Its spectacular fighting ability has given it a cult following, and a number of clubs dedicated to the species have formed.



SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT



I have just completed the State report. The net income last year (2009) for our special events was \$3733. However, in 2010 I calculate

our income from our events was \$5165.

For sure I'd say our Park economy for the CSO has picked up this year :-)

This includes both events. A 38% increase. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make this possible.

At the Art Show we made \$1,011 in T-Shirt and tote bag sales, \$304 in ice cream sales, \$61.50 in donations, \$60 from the food vendor.



Diane
Schwartz
Treasurer

MANGROVE CUCKOO

FROM WIKIPEDIA

Coccyzus minor, is a species of cuckoo that is native to the Neotropics.

Adults have a long tail, brown above and black-and-white below, and a black curved bill with yellow on the lower mandible. The head and upper parts are brown. There is a yellow ring around the eye. This bird is best distinguished by its black facial mask and buffy underparts.

This cuckoo is found primarily in mangrove swamps and hammocks. It usually nests 2–3 metres (6.6–9.8 ft) above water in a mangrove tree or in a fork of a tree above ground. The nest is a relatively flat platform of twigs and leaves. The female lays 2-4 eggs with both adults sharing in feeding the young bird.

The Mangrove Cuckoo is a resident of southern Florida in the United States, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, both coasts of Mexico and Central America, and the Atlantic coast of South America as far south as the mouth of the Amazon River.

It prefers caterpillars and grasshoppers, but will also take other insects, spiders, snails, small lizards, and fruit. The most common call heard is a guttural “gawk gawk gawk gawk gauk gauk”. It will also call a single “whit”.

The Mangrove Cuckoo is generally fairly common in its specialized range. This bird could be threatened by human development of mangrove habitat.

Copy and Paste this link into your browser if you want to listen to or download the call:

http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/backyard_birds/bird_id/mangrove_cuckoo.aspx

--I think they sound like frogs



If you see one of these in the Park, Bob has requested you let him know.



FOLLOW THE **YELLOW** BRICK ROAD

OK, so it's not yellow and not exactly brick but as of Friday March 5, 2010 we now have a beautiful new walkway to the Lester and Dellora Norris marker. Dellora would be oh so happy!

Due to the generous, over the top, contribution from one of our regular park visitors, who has requested anonymity, we now have a lovely curving walkway. It utilizes earth-tone paver blocks with a random pattern and was professionally designed and installed.

With this new walkway and the recent tree trimming, courtesy of our crack Ranger staff, we now have a bright inviting area for reflection, meditation or even line dancing if you prefer. And we are still looking for ideas to further enhance our benefactors' memorial.



CORKSCREW ELEMENTARY VISITS THE PARK



Fran Thompson

Kay Klug

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park has been the final destination for end-of-year school field trips for many years.

Corkscrew Elementary allows all of their third graders to come to actually enhance their studies about Florida's ecology and special environments. The field trip consists of four stations; Beach Ecology, Sea Turtles, a Scavenger Hunt and a Beach Treasure Hunt. The students are divided into four groups who do a round robin to all of the stations.

This year, two Friends members, Kay Klug and Fran Thompson assisted with the Beach Treasures Program. The school brings 80 students plus teachers and parents each day for three days. Ranger Dan Ambrose's daughter, Emily, was with one of the groups. Ranger Dan and Ranger Jonathan interpreted sea turtles to all of her school mates. That was a special treat for all of us. She was the first to answer all the questions at every program. She just might be a future Park Ranger.



Friends of Delnor Wiggins

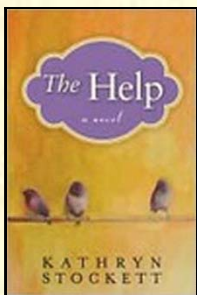
That's right folks. I just set up a Facebook Group Page under Volunteer Organizations. Nothing on it yet, but please join and start adding to it.

ALICIA'S SUMMER BOOK PICKS



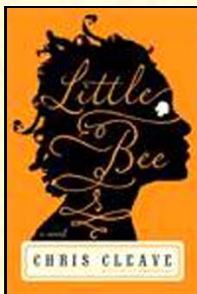
by Alicia Astorga, our Resident Librarian and Webmaster

Of all the books I have read in the past 12 months, three stand out as unforgettable. Although not light summer reading, each is engrossing and satisfying in its own unique way.



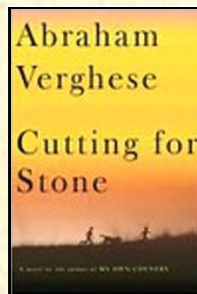
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

The author, who is white, is able to get into the minds of African American domestic workers in the South during the Civil Rights era and effectively takes on their voices. A book within a book, taking place in 1962 Mississippi that makes the reader ponder about the plight of women of both races, caught in the violent currents of the era. It is a testament to the courage of women in the face of changing times, wrapped in a suspenseful narrative.



Little Bee by Chris Cleave

This is not a book to read at bedtime. It starts at the end and does not address the crucial event that defines the story until the middle of the book. Very unusual plot about a refugee in London from Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region and its ethnic oil war during the last decade. I learned a lot about this little known war and the plight of refugees in England. It is a story about women facing choices that will define their lives, and is amazingly written by a man.



Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

An epic saga about twin boys growing up in Ethiopia and their complicated relationship, the unusual circumstances of their birth, their adopted family and especially to the study and practice of medicine. It is a powerful story about the relationship between doctors and patients, as well as the trials of exile and the differences in cultures. It is a deeply satisfying book you will not soon forget.

FORMER RESIDENT ARTIST STILL DONATING: ART TO HELP THE OIL SPILL



Carol McArdle is once again a finalist in the Birds in Art 2010. Last year's painting in the finals was "White Hope", this year's piece is "Movement and Stillness in the Swamp"

The oil spill breaks my heart. I love nature and I love the gulf coast where I live. The mangroves, the birds, the fish, the crabs and hundreds of other little and big things in our eco-system are being harmed. Nature is my life. I want to help.....

I can help with your help. 10% of all purchases of paintings or prints from me will go to the Audubon Society's fund to help rescue birds. If you have been thinking of freshening your art collection or just want new prints for your walls NOW is a great time to go for it!

Go to my website <http://www.carolmcardle.com> and enjoy looking at the beauty of the gulf. All of it is now in danger of being damaged by the spill but I know we will be doing all that we can to save our fabulous coast and wildlife. Thank you for helping!



Message to the Friends of DW from Carol.

You will love this update to the Wildlife & Wildlands Art show. I went to a potential customer's house after the show so they could see a painting on location in their house. They loved it and bought it. It was a \$4,250 painting so my total for the day is \$4,600. The 20% for the Park will come to \$920 :o)

This one sale makes all the Wildlife and Wildlands shows I have attended worth it financially. It can be so disheartening to put so much work into our art and setting up for shows and end up selling too little to make it worth it and I have gone home discouraged from many shows but as you can see today was a good one. Check will be in the mail as soon as my checks clear!

No matter what, the park is always the most beautiful place to have an art show and all of you Staff members and Volunteers are just the best.

CUB SCOUTS TAKE A HIKE



On February 20, 2010, Cub Scouts from Pack 168 took a hike with Park Manager, Bob Steiger. As luck would have it, at the beginning of the hike, a gopher tortoise emerged from his den and welcomed the scouts and their families. Bob answered a lot of questions about the tortoises and explained the differences between them and our loggerhead turtles on the beach.

Next Bob showed them an aerial map of the park and where they would be walking. The hikers learned why certain trees grow on one side of the boardwalk and not on the other. They learned about poison ivy, too. The boys and most family members scaled the steps to the lookout tower to enjoy the views.

At the beach the scouts began shelling and trying to identify their treasures. Ranger Bob pointed out the shore birds that commonly visit the beach. He showed the boys how the sea oats help to keep the dunes from eroding and talked about other important plants, such as the mangroves.

While walking along the pass shoreline, there were quite a few fishermen and of course, the boys wanted to peek in the buckets to see the catch of the day. The scouts got a big surprise when one of the fishermen caught a bonnet-head shark. That was really exciting! They even got to touch it!

The last requirement for the Tiger Cub Badge was to take a hike with their den. It was more than just a hike. Thanks to Bob Steiger for arranging this hike and making it interesting for 7-year olds.

Marcia Byrd, Grandmother to a Tiger Cub

LEATHERBACK TURTLE STRANDED AT DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

By Ranger Lourdes Quintero

I was doing beach patrols on Monday, January 4 when I found a Leatherback turtle stranded on the beach. It was early in the morning, around 7:30. I could hardly believe my eyes. It took more than a double take to grasp the implications of such a sight. I called Robert Steiger, my park manager, who in turn called a coalition of agencies to come and assist. Among those called were Sally Braem our district 4 biologist, FWC and Collier County Environmental Specialist, Maura Kraus.

The turtle was doing orientation circles on the dunes and beach, yet would not go into the water. With strong determination on our part to guide her back into the water, we literally pushed her towards the water with every stroke of her flippers. The leatherback turtle swam off into the gulf. We had mixed feelings in seeing her go, we feared she would return.

The next day, Tuesday the 5th, she was discovered on the beach on Big Hickory Island. She was then transported to M.O.T.E.



Bob



Lourdes with her find.

marine research center in Sarasota for evaluation and recuperation from her long journey in the unusually cold water.

After the leatherback was strong enough to swim, she was taken out to the Gulf Stream, 20 miles off shore to continue her journey to Costa Rica where she should have been laying her eggs.

On May 10, 2010, the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park held the annual spring picnic. Keynote speaker, Joe Foster, candidate for Collier County Commissioner in District 2, shared his views on governing and answered questions. He was the third of three candidates to speak to the Friends.

There was no formal meeting of the membership. Carolyn Shaw handed out 50-hour award certificates to Gene Byrd, Kathryn Goerig-Eastlake, David Eastlake and Annie Piel, 100-hour award certificates to Moureen Bedall, Marcia Byrd, Kay Klug, and Sally Madden. A well-deserved 1,000-hour certificate went to Larry Beer, who became president of the Friends after the untimely death of Dick Liden. Congratulations to all the recipients. Bob Steiger thanked the Friends for contributing to the purchase of the new club car.

Joe Gagnier masterfully conducted the 50/50 which raised \$50 toward the cost of the food and awarded the lucky winners, Kathryn and David Eastlake, the other \$50. Congratulations to Kathryn and

SEASON END PICNIC

Susan Stokes (right) decorated all our tables with tableclothes and floral arrangements. Just beautiful!



David, our newest couple to serve on the Board.

Our newest member, Susan Stokes, donated beautiful table decorations. People at each table tried to guess the number closest to the one on the bottom of the vase and the winner took home the arrangement. What a deal!

A yummy lunch of Publix chicken, side dishes and desserts brought by the members was served to the enjoyment of everyone. Guests and members continued to mingle and talk after the meal. A good time was had by all!!

Thanks to Gene and Marcia Byrd, Kathryn and David Eastlake, Joan Erb, Joe Gagnier, Anne Knowlton, Alliene Liden, Tony Manes, Diane Schwartz, Susan Stokes and the staff for all the help organizing, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards. And thanks to all the members for bringing such fabulous sides and desserts. Don't miss our next picnic in September. Date to be announced.

Story and photos by Marcia Byrd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BEACH OIL PATROL



What a mess in the Gulf! Let us hope and pray that this oil slick stays where it is and doesn't venture to southwest Florida to our pristine beach. But one storm could change the whole dynamic and send it our way. After talking to

Bob I would like to put together a list of volunteers to be beach responders for possible oil remediation efforts. I am still a little fuzzy about actual tasks but Bob assures me that it would not include picking up any hazardous materials. That will be done by outside contractors not even park staff. It may include spotting oil debris on the beach or cleaning up the beach prior to an imminent oil event. There would be other tasks as well but what we are trying to do right now is be proactive and create a call list.

I will coordinate the list. Please email or write me with name, phone number and at what date you will be available. Since we have no idea of the timing of a possible event that includes you snowbirds as well. I would like to have this list in Bob's hands by the 4th of July.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of your Summer.

BLACK SAPOTE

Diospyros digyna
Chocolate Fruit, Black Persimmon

Although called a Sapote, the Black Sapote is of the Persimmon family, as is the Ebony tree. Persimmon shaped, the fruit has a green skin, and the flesh is chocolate-brown. The flesh tastes chocolatey also, but only when perfectly ripe. The taste is otherwise bitter. .

What Does An Unripe Persimmon Taste Like?

This is another area in which a good many articles and books confuse an issue. Literature commonly refers to unripe persimmons as "bitter" or "sour". This isn't really the case, though the real effect isn't easily explained. Persimmons are full of tannins.

When you eat an unripe astringent persimmon (American or Asian) the mouth immediately draws up. Sometimes you'll get a hint of sweetness (if it is near-ripe) but the mouth-feel is immediate. Tannins in persimmons make your tongue, cheeks, and gums feel as though you're chewing on a cross between aspirin, alum, and chalk. Your tongue almost feels like a fine sandpaper. It isn't nearly as hazardous nor debilitating as you often see in print. The effect is temporary...but does last a short while. You will still be able to talk, eat, & drink. Since this astringent effect wears off shortly, other food and/or drink helps the feeling pass fairly quickly. Unripe persimmons are foul, but they are nothing to fear.



Art Peley is just as famous for his Chocolate Pudding Fruits as he is his Ice Tea!



Working at the Art Show

