



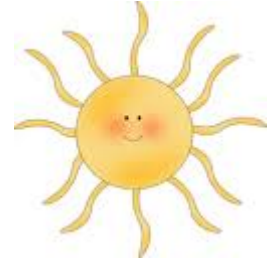
**FLORIDA  
State Parks**  
...the Real Florida



*Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Volunteer News*  
JUNE 2014



Herpetology Research Lab at FGCU  
Phil Allman and John Herman  
June 2, 2014



Research description of Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) work at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Florida's coastal habitats are home to many threatened and endangered species that are under increasing pressure of habitat loss resulting from human development in the region. The Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is one such species that is dependent on coastal dune and pine flatwoods habitats. Unfortunately, wildlife managers have very little



*Tortoise with radio*

information regarding tortoise ecology and population structure in coastal dune habitats. Therefore, the Herpetology Research Lab at FGCU is investigating a population of tortoises within Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park (Collier County, Florida). This research includes: a tortoise burrow survey, a mark-recapture study and genetic analyses to help us determine the population structure; as well as a radio telemetry study to better understand habitat use and behavior of these individuals.

**\*Additionally, we will be offering weekly educational programs to raise awareness for Gopher Tortoise conservation and the importance of the parks system to wildlife and ecosystem conservation.** Our findings will be used to not only describe this population but will also be compared to several other populations, which we are also currently studying, to determine unique management considerations for coastal dune Gopher Tortoise populations.

**Please join us!**

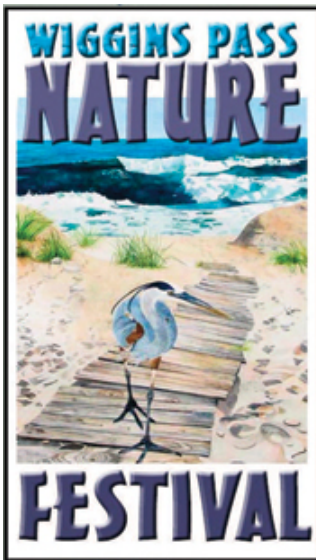
**\*EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING June 10th @ 9:30**

**FGCU Environmental Studies student, Christopher Tesmer** will explain and demonstrate this on-going research. Meet at the Pavilion in area 5.

We are very pleased to have FGCU students **Christopher Tesmer, Gabbie Ruffalo, Lewis Barrett and Nicole Fuller** at the park each week throughout the summer continuing the Gopher Tortoise study as described above. They will be working with radio telemetry every Tuesday and Friday at 8:30 am. On Tuesdays at 9:30, Christopher (left, green shirt) will give a Gopher Tortoise program beginning at the Pavilion. Come on out and find out everything you didn't know about Gopher Tortoises and what this team is up to!







Save the Date.....



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NATURE FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 10am-3pm

**Many volunteers needed.** If you would like to help with this annual event, please email me. Informational meeting & email updates to follow. [Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us)



bala vinyasa yoga

Sunset Yoga on the Beach is back brought to you by **The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins** and **bala vinyasa yoga!** Sign up directly with the studio at [www.bvyoga.com](http://www.bvyoga.com)

\$5.00 per class plus (does not include admission to the park) \$1.00 is donated to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins .



**CLASS TIMES:** One hour before sunset on Thursday evenings, **Paddleboard yoga** is Saturday, one hour before sunset

**Volunteers wanted to help sell our beautiful yoga shirts before each class. Please contact Donna Young for more info.**



*Have a wonderful summer! I will be starting a new position at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve as of June 6<sup>th</sup>. It has been an absolute pleasure & a privilege working with all of you and being part of this beautiful state park. I will have the same email and will forward any correspondence until a new PSS is hired.*

*-Donna*



FOR MORE INFO AND PHOTOS, Please visit  
*The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Facebook Page*

<https://www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins>



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239-597-6196 239-597-8223 fax  
[Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us)

**New direct line to reach Donna Young:**

New desk phone # - 239-593-2658  
Park cell phone # 239-821-1618

