



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



## ***Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Volunteer Newsletter***

**June 2015**

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### **Upcoming Programs:**

**All programs are free with park entry fee unless otherwise stated.**

#### **YOGA ON THE BEACH**

**Wednesday, June 3, 10, 17, & 24**  
**from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Class fee is \$5 plus park entry fee.**

Join yoga instructors from Green Monkey Yoga (formerly Bala Vinyasa Yoga) in the morning for an all-levels gentle yoga class. Bring your yoga mat, water, a towel, and bug spray! To make a reservation and payment please call the yoga studio at 239-598-1938 or visit their website:

[greenmonkey.com](http://greenmonkey.com).

#### **SEA TURTLES**

**Thursday, June 4 at 9:30 AM**

Learn about the Loggerhead's life story and the role our park plays during nesting season. Turtle carapaces and skulls will be on display.

#### **NEW PROGRAM!!**

#### **BEGINNING PADDLEBOARDING**

**Wednesday, June 10 & 24 at 9:30 AM**

**Ages 12 years and older**

Join Park staff in learning the basics of paddleboarding. You will learn all about the different styles of paddleboards, the basics of paddling and paddleboard safety and will have an opportunity to get out in the water and test your new found knowledge! Space is limited, **reservations required**. Boards will be supplied courtesy of [Naples Beach Adventures](http://Naples Beach Adventures) and will be available for rental

after the program. Program is weather and water condition dependent.

#### **SPIDERS**

**Thursday, June 11 at 9:30 AM**

Spiders everywhere!... Even at the Spider presentation! There's an abundance of spiders found in Florida, about 900 species! Most people will be happy to know that the majority of them live outdoors, away from our homes. Just remember, spiders are beneficial and have a place in the ecosystem. Please join us and learn!

#### **NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF A BARRIER ISLAND**

**Thursday, June 18 at 9:30 AM**

Join a Ranger and explore our barrier island. Learn about the Maritime Hammock plants, how they protect us, and what we can do to protect them. Exciting discoveries are made along the beach, across the dunes and through cool, shaded hammock areas. We suggest wearing comfortable clothes and bringing a water bottle, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

#### **GOPHER TORTOISES**

**Thursday, June 25 at 9:30 AM**

Learn about the park's shy, shelled, terrestrial friends, their habitats and why they are referred to as a "keystone species." Learn how they protect their neighbors and how you can protect them.

## News and Information:

The Park has been a host site for several Keep Collier Beautiful (KCB) clean-up volunteer groups over the last few months. Volunteers from the Doubletree Inn, Girl Scouts, and the U.S. Army Recruiting Centers in Naples & Ft Myers made a major contribution to Collier County and our Park in April and May. Volunteers spent several hours on the beach and throughout the park picking up trash and recycling. Check out this [video](#) made by KCB of the U.S. Army Recruiters at work.



U.S. Army Recruiters picking up trash at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park



**We did it again!** For a second year in a row, Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park made Dr. Beach's top 10 list of beaches in America. We moved up a spot to #9! [Click here](#) to check it out.

## Volunteers! Please Read:

**The end of our fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup> and I will need everyone's volunteer hours by then.** Please submit your hours by 1 of 3 ways:

1. Online at [www.delnorwiggins.org](http://www.delnorwiggins.org) and fill out the form.
2. Through email (send email to [Lori.HeathThorn@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Lori.HeathThorn@dep.state.fl.us))
3. Time sheets in Lori's office

## Sea turtle nesting season has started!

Our first nest was recorded on April 30<sup>th</sup> and as of today we have a total of 20 nests recorded!! This season is shaping up to be another record season for us.



Loggerhead sea turtle



Loggerhead sea turtle tracks and nest

### How you can help protect sea turtles:

- Minimize lights on the beach during nesting season. Lights can cause females to abort nesting attempts and can distract hatchlings, causing them to not reach the water. The following lights can affect sea turtles: indoor and outdoor home and building lighting, campfires, flashlights, and flash photography.
- If you encounter a turtle on the beach at night, remain quiet, still, and at a distance, otherwise she may become frightened and return to the ocean without nesting.
- Leave turtle tracks undisturbed. Rangers use the tracks to find and mark the nests for protection. They can also use the tracks to identify the species of turtle that nested.
- Properly dispose of your garbage. Turtles may mistake plastic bags, styrofoam, and trash floating in the water as food and die when this trash blocks their intestines.
- Celebrate events without the use of helium balloon releases. Like plastic trash, balloons end up in the ocean, especially when released near the coast. Sea turtles mistakenly eat the balloons and die.
- When digging holes on the beach, remember to fill in the hole when done. Hatchlings can get trapped in holes when crawling to the water.
- Remove recreational equipment, such as lounge chairs, cabanas, umbrellas, and boats, from the beach at night. Their presence can deter nesting attempts and interfere with the seaward journey of hatchlings.
- When boating, stay alert and avoid sea turtles. Propeller and collision impacts from boats and ships can result in injury and death of sea turtles. Avoid running into and anchoring boats in seagrass beds and coral reefs. These habitats serve as important foraging and resting areas for sea turtles.



Green sea turtle eating jellyfish



Any questions? Contact:  
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