



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



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

**The Friends are out and about.....**

**The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Outreach**

**Location:** Golisano Childrens Museum of Naples

**Occasion:** Celebrate Earth Day

**Purpose:** Promote membership for the Friends; promote the park; have fun!



Volunteers **Ingrid & Richie Twiefel**, **Sally Madden** and **Su Walbridge** hosted the table as well as a craft for the children. Children visiting the table were able to make shell necklaces while their parents learned more about the park and the Friends. Thank you!

## Sea Turtle Nesting Season has begun.....



Rangers **Cheryl Metzger** and **Mike Odom** take measurements for the location of the very first turtle nest of the season. In fact, Delnor-Wiggins had the first nest in the county!



For more photos about Sea Turtle Nesting and other important park news, please visit....

**The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins State Park**

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



## How You Can Help Protect Sea Turtles

- Minimize beachfront lighting during the sea turtle nesting season by turning off, shielding, or redirecting lights.
- Close blinds and draperies in oceanfront rooms at night during the nesting season to keep indoor lighting from reaching the beach.
- Do not construct campfires on the beach. Sea turtle hatchlings are known to be attracted to the light emitted by campfires and crawl into fires and die.
- Use your natural vision when walking on the beach at night. The use of flashlights and flash photography can deter turtles from coming ashore to nest or cause them to abort nesting attempts.
- 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 the tracks left by turtles undisturbed. Researchers use the tracks to identify the species of turtle that nested and to find and mark the nests for protection.]

***continued.....***

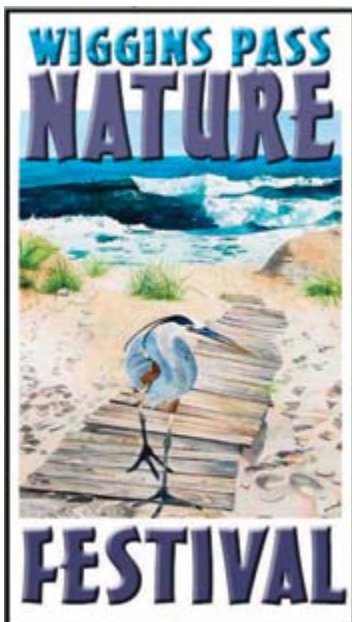
- **Properly dispose of your garbage. Turtles may mistake plastic bags, styrofoam, and trash floating in the water as food and die when this trash blocks their intestines.**
- Celebrate events without the use of helium balloon releases. Like plastic trash, balloons end up in the ocean, especially when released near the coast. Sea turtles mistakenly eat the balloons and die.
- 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.
- Protect beach vegetation that stabilizes sand and the natural coastline.



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. Also, stay in channels and avoid running in seagrass beds to protect this important habitat from prop scarring and damage. Avoid anchoring boats in seagrass beds and coral reefs, which serve as important foraging and resting habitats for sea turtles.



## 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)

## School Field Trips...



Three days of Third graders learned all about Sea Turtles; Ranger Mike Odom set up a



mock nest to demonstrate the entire process. They also learned about Native Plants, Leave No Trace, Gopher Tortoises and how to be a Steward of the Beach. 104 students and 20 adults over 3 days. Everyone was great!

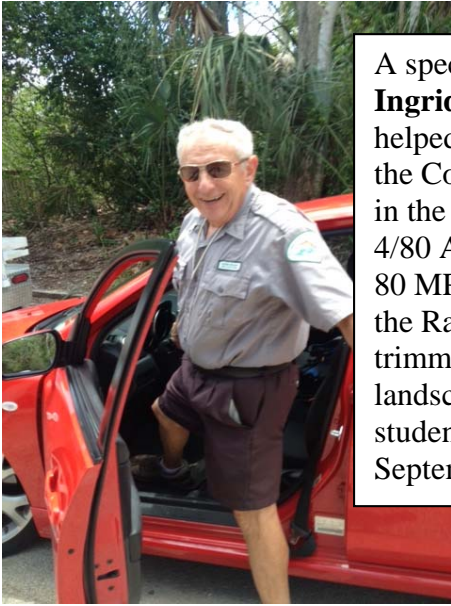
# Manatees on Mother's Day.....

<http://www.nbc-2.com/story/25496464/manatee-mating-season-underway>



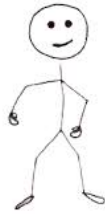
Here are the pictures from the mating pod that was on the beach at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, in Collier County, Sunday, May 11th. There were a total of 14 at the peak of activity. They began inside the pass and moved around to the beach. The one with the largest of the prop scars seemed to be a female, while the rest were apparently males.

Present were Lt. Mark Mahoney and Lt. David Barrett on the beach, and Officer Brian Barringer on a patrol vessel, along with State Park staff. Large crowds were on the beach at the time, but the officers kept people from interfering with them for approximately 2 hours, before they moved off to deeper water. We had the opportunity for between 200 and 300 educational contacts with most of those getting their closest experience ever to a Florida Manatee.



A special shout out to volunteers **Ira Rubenstein** and **Ingrid Twiefel**. Ira is a year round beach steward and helped us on Sunday by taking an injured Cormorant to the Conservancy. I snapped his picture as he was getting in the car with the very smelly bird. What a good sport! 4/80 AC was needed for this trip; 4 windows open going 80 MPH. Also, Ingrid is such an amazing help keeping the Ranger station island, front and back, cleaned, trimmed, mulched and basically looking perfectly landscaped. She is pictured here with some of the students she helped direct during Public Lands Day in September.

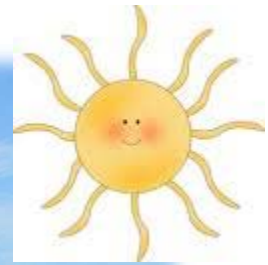
This is  
my  
thank you  
dance!



*Exotic plant  
workday....May 7<sup>th</sup>*

Rosa Simone,  
Ranger; Cheryl  
Metzgar, Ranger;  
Donna Young, Park  
Services Spec.;  
Rosalind Rowe,  
Environmental  
Specialist from  
Oscar Sherer SP;  
Frances Folkers  
from Americorp,  
Robert Steiger,  
Park Manager;  
Terry Nowak,  
Ranger; Mark  
Nicoletti, Assistant  
Park Manager  
Not shown; Brittany  
Petit & Robert Hughes  
of Lovers Key





*On Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the day after a very busy Mother's Day at the park, Guest Services, Inc employees ([www.guestservices.com](http://www.guestservices.com) 1004 Collier Center Way, Suite 201, Naples FL 34110) came out to clean the park from 10am – 12:00. What an amazing job they did! Mother's Day is one of the busiest days of the years at Delnor-Wiggins so having this group come the day after was a tremendous help. They combed the beach, checked the dunes, went through all the picnic areas as well as all the parking lots picking up any signs of trash. They also enjoyed a light breakfast and coffee in the pavilion where we were able to show them the park map and thank everyone.*



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.**

## PHOTO CORNER.....



**Picture of Lubber Grasshopper in the park taken by Ranger Rosa Simone. Thanks Rosa!**

**Share your photos!**

PLEASE SHARE YOUR PARK PHOTOS WITH US! WE WILL POST THEM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER





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

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



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

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

