



FLORIDA
State Parks
...the Real Florida



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

Upcoming Programs and Events:

All programs and events are FREE with park entry fee.

Programs

GOPHER TORTOISES RESEARCH TALK

Tuesday, Oct 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 9:30 AM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

The Herpetology Research Lab at Florida Gulf Coast University is investigating a population of Gopher Tortoises within Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Learn about this research from FGCU Environmental Studies students who will explain and demonstrate what is taking place. These weekly educational programs will raise awareness for Gopher Tortoise conservation and the importance of the parks system to wildlife and ecosystem conservation.

BEACH COMBING

Tuesday, Oct 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 1:00 PM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

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

CAST NETTING

Thursday, Oct 9 at 9:30 AM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

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.

MANGROVE WALK

Thursday, Oct 16 at 9:30 AM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

Come take a walk through the trees that help hold south Florida together! Learn about the different types of Mangrove trees and how they are vital to the health of our local ecosystem. The walk will take place in and around the mangroves so we recommend bringing shoes that can get wet, bug spray, water, sunscreen, and a towel.

NATIVE PLANT WALK

Thursday, Oct 23 at 9:30 AM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

Join us for a native plant walk to explore a barrier island. 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. Comfortable clothes, water bottle, sunglasses, sunscreen are all recommended.

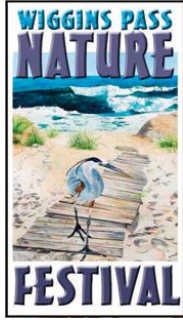
SEA TURTLES

Thursday, Oct 30 at 9:30 AM

All Ages, FREE with park entry fee

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

Events



12th Annual Nature Festival
Saturday, Nov 15th, 2014 10am-3pm



17th Annual Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show
Saturday, Jan 17th, 2015 10am-3pm

Many volunteers are needed for both events!

If you would like to help with these events, please email Lori: Lori.HeathThorn@dep.state.fl.us

News and Reminders:

Welcome back snowbirds! *Just a friendly reminder-* when you get into town, contact Lori about your annual training, the new emergency information sheet, and renewal of the volunteer agreement.



Keep Collier Beautiful Coastal Clean-up was a great success!

We had 191 volunteers come out for the event. They spent 3 hours picking up trash all over the park and beach. Some volunteers were even brave enough to go into the mangroves! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to keep our park looking beautiful.

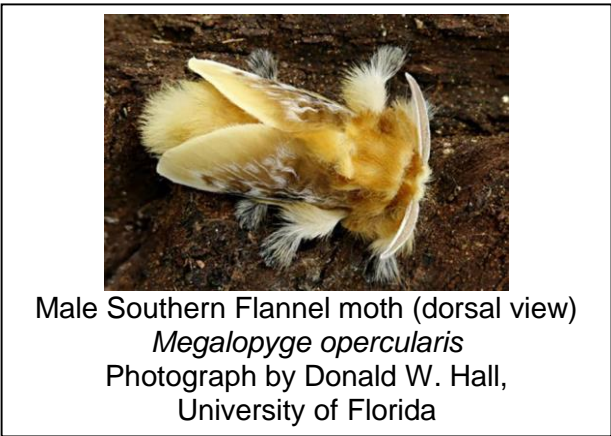
Some of the items collected were:

708 cigarette butts	200 plastic and glass bottles
400 bottle caps	83 straws
313 plastic pieces	60 plastic bags
287 food wrappers	Most strange item collected: a wig!

Fall is here and cooler weather is just around the corner! This is a great time of year to get outside and watch for birds and butterflies. Many migratory birds are making their way through South Florida as well as some of the migrating Monarch butterflies. Here are some great websites to help you get started:

- The [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) is a great source of information about birds and local trails.
- [Ebird.org](#) has a page with a map of bird hotspots from all over the world.
- [Ebutterfly.org](#) lets you share photos, submit your observations, and helps you find butterflies in your area.

Did you know that over 50 species of caterpillars can sting? Caterpillars, the larval forms of moths and butterflies, often have stinging fibers and hairs as a form of protection against predators. One example is the Puss caterpillar (larval form of the Southern Flannel moth). The Puss caterpillar is one of the most venomous caterpillars in the United States. A slight brush or sting from a caterpillar can be very painful but for most people not a serious injury. However, people with any allergy problems should pay careful attention to their reactions. To learn more about the Puss caterpillar and Southern Flannel moth [click here](#). To learn how to treat a caterpillar sting [click here](#).



Don't forget to visit our website: www.floridastateparks.org/delnorwiggins and the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park website: www.delnorwiggins.org
Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins



Any questions? Contact:
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