



FLORIDA
State Parks
...the Real Florida



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

Greetings Everyone

We hope you had a great summer!



A special THANK YOU to our summer volunteers for all their hard work in the summer heat! Our summer was a success because of YOU!

Upcoming Programs and Events:

All programs and events are FREE with park entry fee.

Programs

GOPHER TORTOISES

Thursday, September 4th 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.

SHOREBIRDS

Saturday, September 6th at 9:00 AM

Help us celebrate World Shorebird Day by learning about our shorebirds and the challenges they face. In addition, this birding program will help you identify the shorebirds who visit our beaches. You are welcome to bring your own binoculars and bird guides.

SEA TURTLES

Thursday, September 11th 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.

SPIDERS

Thursday, September 18th at 9:30 AM

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

NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF A BARRIER ISLAND

Thursday, September 25th at 9:30 AM

Join a Ranger and 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, and sunscreen are all recommended.

Events



Coastal Cleanup
September 20, 2014
8:00am-11:00am
Volunteers Needed!

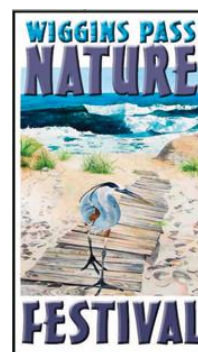
Coordinated by Keep Collier Beautiful, Inc.

For more info:

www.keepcollierbeautiful.com

239-580-8319 or e-mail:

litternot@earthlink.net

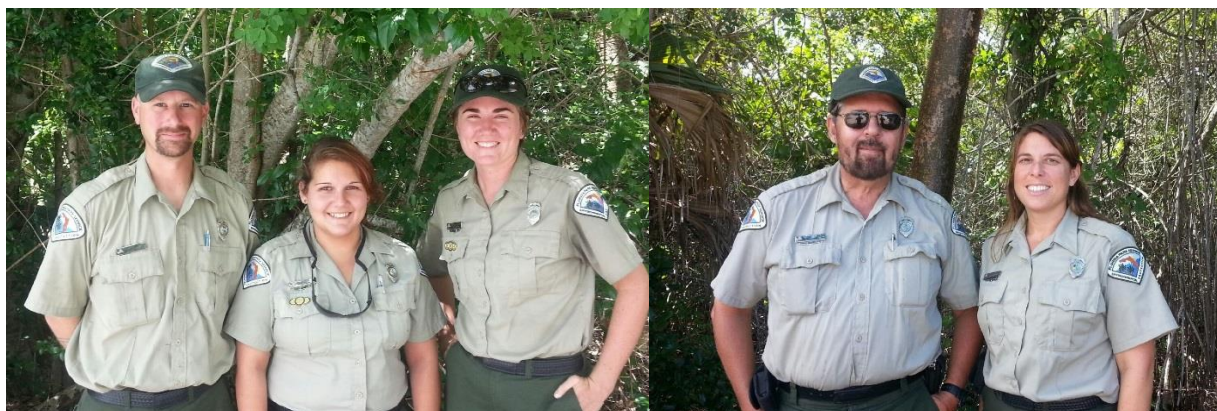


12th Annual NATURE FESTIVAL
Saturday, Nov 15th, 2014 10am- 3pm
Many volunteers needed!

If you would like to help with this annual event, please email Lori:

Lori.HeathThorn@dep.state.fl.us

Delnor-Wiggins Has New Staff Members!



From left to right: Rangers- Geoff Wasson, Rosa Simone, Amanda Adams & Dave Sidars; Park Services Specialist- Lori Heath Thorn

A Message from New Park Services Specialist Lori Heath Thorn:

I'm very excited to be working here with the staff and volunteers of Delnor-Wiggins. Conservation and environmental awareness have always been a big part of my life. This has led me to pursue degrees in Biology (B.A) and Ecology (M.S.) and jobs in the Environmental Science/Education field. For the last 6 years, I was with the Palm Beach County nature centers where I held various positions- naturalist, volunteer coordinator, and manager. Working with volunteers has been one of the most rewarding parts of my jobs. Volunteers are vital to the operations and goals of many environmental facilities and I can already see that Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is no exception. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with everyone. Please stop by and say "Hi" when you get a chance.

News and Reminders for All Volunteers:

- **Did you know** that you have the option of submitting your volunteer hours online? We've worked out the bugs in our online system and it's ready for use. Go to: www.delnorwiggins.org/form_hours.htm and fill out the form. For first time users, please send Lori an email (Lori.HeathThorn@dep.state.fl.us) when you have submitted the form. As always, you still have the option of logging your hours on the time sheets in the office or emailing them to Lori. Pick the way that works best for you!
- **Renewal of Volunteer Agreement and Annual Training:** Once a year volunteers will be asked to sign a new Volunteer Agreement and complete State required training. Lori is in the process of updating the volunteer files and will let you know when you're due for renewal.
- **New Emergency Information sheet for Volunteers:** We are asking volunteers to fill out a quick form that will contain their emergency information. This form will be used by staff in the event of a medical emergency. See Lori for details.
- **Over the last year we introduced a new volunteer position, Beach Steward.** It has been a great success and we will be continuing the program. If anyone is interested in becoming a Beach Steward, contact Lori.

Local News

Remember to protect yourself from mosquitoes when working outside. Mosquitoes can carry diseases and one such disease has been in the news lately- Chikungunya. For more information regarding Chikungunya [click here](#).

Recently there have been news reports about bacteria on Collier and Lee County beaches exceeding normal levels. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is not among them. We are a part of the Florida Healthy Beaches Program and have our water tested every 2 weeks. [Click here](#) to view our water quality testing results.

It's Not Always Raccoons That Get into Your Trash!



Taken at Collier-Seminole State Park

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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