

# Palm Tree x-Press



Newsletter of the Friends of  
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park



DelnorWiggins.org  
March 2011



## Greetings to all the Friends.

This is the first of our revised look newsletters. We are using this new format to be more current and forward looking. As you can see it will be shorter than past PTPs and our hope is that it will be published more often and be informative and interesting. Once again Sharon Eddy, designer of all our publications, has utilized her plentiful design skills to make this an eye catching piece.

At the membership meeting on Monday, February 14, 2011, we installed our new Board officers. For the coming year, Larry Beer and I have switched roles and he now assumes the office of vice president. Larry is a hard act to follow and I am most grateful for his leadership, his organization, his dedication, and his good sense of humor. Larry assures me that he will continue to do all the paper work that he has managed so expertly this past year and at the same time tackle the financial work of the organization as interim treasurer. Kathryn Eastlake has agreed to stay on as our recording secretary and with her husband, David Eastlake, co-chair the membership committee. David put his knowledge of RVs to good use and the result is that we now have the large white trailer

known as The White House, to store our supplies for all our fundraisers and events. Directors installed at the meeting are Colleen (CC) Cleveland, Joe Gagnier, Phil Nye, and Olga Williams. Colleen is new to the Board and we look forward to her participation. Phil, our birder extraordinaire, has organized two field-trips already! One was on March 7th, a birding and boating event. One will be next fall. If you see any boardwalk repair happening, Joe will probably be in the midst of it. He has served many years as one of the foremost carpenters on whatever needs fixing. Recently he served as our representative at the Friends of Florida State Parks Conference. Olga Williams has served in many capacities on the Board including treasurer and brings much history and expertise to the organization. As past president, Lois Cantwell remains an ex-officio member of the Board. We have relied on Lois for guidance in executing our Board duties in a timely manner. Thanks to her for continued support.

We want to recognize Diane Schwartz who served most recently as our treasurer and held many other offices in past years. Diane is moving forward in her career and we wish her all the best. Thanks to Diane for the many years of

service on the Board. Kay Peley also served this organization for many years. Kay most recently was a director on the Board. While unable to continue on the Board, we want to say "thanks" to Kay for her dedication and service.

I look forward to the year ahead. It is such a pleasure working with your dedicated, energetic, and talented board. While we have a fiscal responsibility to the Friends as keepers of the purse, we need everyone's active involvement. We need new ideas and we welcome your input. Thanks in advance for your contributions to the Friends.

"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us." Flora Edwards.

(From Volunteer Appreciation Picnic Invitation)

See you at the Park.



*Marcia*

Marcia Byrd,  
President

# Welcome New Members!

The mission of the Florida Park Service is to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Volunteers help to preserve.

The above is a quotation from the Florida Park Service Volunteer Handbook. The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park is a hard working group of volunteers who dedicate time and talent to our park in support of this mission. You may find us picking up trash on the beach, repairing boardwalks, clearing foliage, raking picnic areas, planting, scrapbooking, and just about anything that can be done to maintain and improve our beautiful park. Every year we get a "wish" list from the park staff. The Board studies the requests and allocates dollar amounts for each item. Then we go about raising money. Our fundraisers include the Art Show, held in January, the Wiggins Pass Nature Festival coming soon on March 19th, and a new one we inaugurated last November, The Green Flash, a Sunset Celebration. We also have a fine recycling program so save your cans for the park!

We offer educational programs and field opportunities for our members. In recent years we have visited Myakka State Park, Gasparilla Island State Park, and Oscar Scherer State Park. Each May, September, and December we have a picnic or dinner when we celebrate the work of our volunteers and give out awards and pins. We also are offered opportunities to attend events at other state parks, often assisting with their fund raisers.

Please take time to simply enjoy one of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Take time to learn about this barrier island's habitats. Enjoy fishing, swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. Have a picnic under the sea grapes and cook out on the stainless steel grills purchased by the Friends. Watch a magnificent sunset and look for the "green flash!"

*Note: Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10 AM during season and at 1 PM the rest of the time. We do not meet during June, July, and August. The last Thursday of each month is a workday at 8 AM.*

## Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Field Trip March 7, 2011



Florida Red-Bellied Turtle



A 12 foot Florida Gator cruises along the calm swamp water



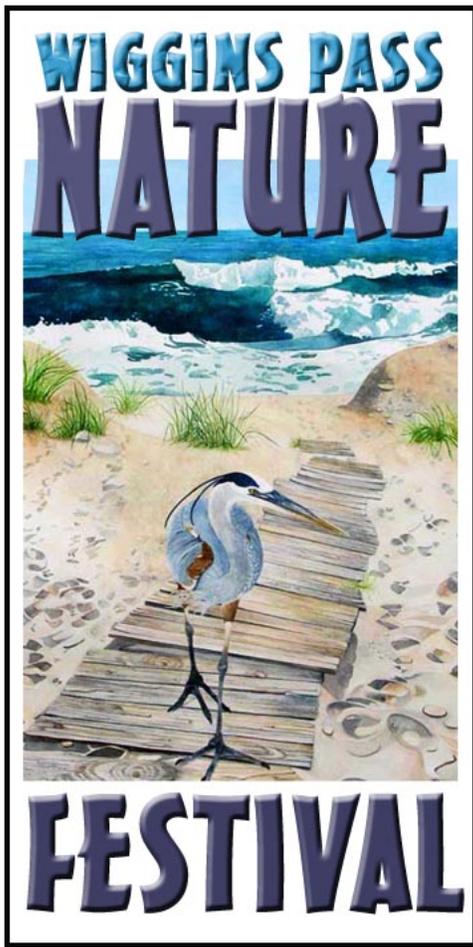
Our personal tour guide, Phil Nye . Phil has volunteered at Corkscrew Swamp Bird Sanctuary for 17 years.

Phil Nye, our birder extraordinaire, planned a wonderful field trip for the Friends on Monday, March 7, 2011. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was first on the list with highlights being a limpkin and barred owl sighting. Lunch at Trafford Lake and more birds and alligators viewed from an hour-long airboat ride. A final stop at a private bird sanctuary in Immokalee provided views of the painted and indigo buntings. A great day.. Thanks Phil.



An "uncommon to rare" sighting in March, a Limpkin sunned and preened near the boardwalk. Limpkins are in the Crane family.





New "logo" features art by Sandra Galloway.



Family Discovery Day artwork.



Buttons designed by Lois Cantwell. 2006

## How the Nature Festival Evolved

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park will once again hold the popular Wiggins Pass Nature Festival, on **March 19, 2011 from 10AM – 3 PM**. The event offers opportunities for adults and children to learn more about the environment and how to protect it, enjoy creating crafts from native materials, fish with a park ranger, and much more.

The first event of this type was associated with the National Parks, "March-for-Parks" in the year 1989. Participants pledged money for a 2-mile walk on the beach and in return could spend the day at the park. The National Parks provided event agendas and advertising for all parks who registered. All the proceeds stayed in the park to for use by the Supporters to enhance visitor services.

"A Celebration of the Outdoors" in 1997 was the first event in which other environmental agencies were invited. In 1998 the March-for-Parks became an "Ole Tyme Music Festival" with square dancers, banjos and Barbershop Quartets. This festival drew 3500 people and the event generated \$3,300. Earth Day, 2001, began with the March-For-Parks and offered environmental displays and programs about animals and insects that enjoy the park's coastal habitat. Millennium Kids, an organization promoting the protection of the Earth's wild places, provided support and educational materials for the Earth Day event.

Family Discovery Day was launched in 2006. Incorporating all the best of the previous events, Family Discovery Day opened up opportunities for more hands on participation. Adults and children could build sand sculptures, find and identify shells, learn how to fish by cast netting, create artistic masks from palm boots, and more.

Previously called the Supporters, the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park continued to sponsored this event to promote the use and enjoyment of the park for all ages. In 2010 the name was changed to The Wiggins Pass Nature Festival but the purpose of the event remained the same. This year the Festival will be held on March 19th from 10 to 3.

In summary this spring event has had its roots growing since 1989. "Hats Off" to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, who sponsor this event every March and continuously try to improve it. All proceeds go toward improvement of park facilities ultimately benefiting the public.

"Ole Tyme Music Festival" with square dancers, banjos and Barbershop Quartets





Join us on facebook  
 "Friends of Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park"

We have a facebook page.  
 Not much on it now, but the more people who submit to it, the more interesting it will become. So join and add photos, videos or anything else of interest.  
 If you can't figure out how to do it, ask your grandkids to help.

**Monday, March 14,  
 Members Meeting CSO room**

**Saturday March 19,  
 Nature Festival, 10 to 3**

Contact Jo Ann for work assignment.

Marcia's Photo Album

