

# PALM TREE PRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

## President's Message

Later Summer 2011



When Gene and I retired and moved to Naples, we wanted to “get involved.” We both love the out-of-doors and we love nature. The beach kept calling me and after many walks on numerous beaches we found the one we love right here at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. We attended some of the ranger led walks and

learned so much about the flora and fauna of the park. We kayaked and snorkeled and learned about the marine life in the waters. We strolled the beach in the morning and at sunset. We started filling jars at home with shells of all types. We learned about the shore birds and the loggerhead turtles, not to be confused with the gopher tortoises who hang out around the boardwalks. We wondered how the park stayed so clean and pristine so we inquired at the gate and were given a few brochures, including one about the “supporters” and what they did. So, to “get involved” in such a beautiful place seemed perfect for us. That was 2005 and here I am in 2011 the president of what is now the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park! Now that’s really getting involved! I feel very fortunate to be a member of this long-standing organization and to serve as the president this year.

If you attended the Founders’ Day Luncheon in May, you had the pleasure of meeting and honoring some of those early visionaries who started this organization in 1987. Our key-note speaker, Mrs. Lavern Gaynor, daughter of Lester and Dellora Norris, described how her mother convinced her father to put up the money so Collier County could purchase the park and save it from development. The rest is history and for that act of kindness the park derives part of its name. Mrs. Gaynor was very pleased to see the garden space that the Friends created and said that her mother would be pleased to have it named after her.

Dellora’s Garden was planted and tended over the summer months by the D-GGGs (sounds like Bee Gees) – Dellora’s Garden

Gals and Guys. It looks beautiful and the native plants are flourishing thanks to all the rain and the TLC of the D-GGGs. Thanks D-GGGs!

Another group of volunteers has been working with our event planner to make The Green Flash a huge success. Plans are in place for the November 5<sup>th</sup> event at our beach and sponsorships are being sought. The proposed boardwalk has now been approved and we can begin to raise funds for the project. The Green Flash this year will be a major kick-off fund raiser for the boardwalk so we will need the support of all our members in this endeavor. While we will need some volunteers to work at the event, we need more of you to attend and bring others along with you.

Summer months allow time in the early hours for hammers, saws, nails, and concrete work and we thank those volunteers who tirelessly maintain the boardwalks and bath houses and who keep the native growth at bay.

Looking forward to the season’s activities and events, we have a field trip planned in October to Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. More details to follow from Phil Nye. The Green Flash is November 5<sup>th</sup>. Our resident artist, Erv Krauss, will hold an art show December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the pavilion and January 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show, involving many artists.

While the Board and many volunteers work very hard to accomplish the goals of the organization, additional participation is needed and new ideas and input are welcomed. Please consider taking on a leadership role as a committee chair. Committees include publicity, events, volunteer coordinating, program, membership procurement, website, archives, and more. The work done by these committees helps transform our goals into reality. I hope you will “get involved!”

See you at the park.....

Marcia Byrd, September 2011



# Brown Bag Luncheon September 12

The pre-season Brown Bag Lunch was held at the pavilion on Monday, September 12, 2011.

Everyone had a great time looking at each of the smartly decorated lunch bags. Prizes were awarded for anyone who brought their lunch in a bag that they had decorated. We were glad to see Art and Kay Peley who arrived with MacDonald's and Subway bags. Not to be outdone, Bob Steiger arrived with a bag from Panera. Just about everybody else took the time to create an interesting decoration.

It was great to see a few of our newest members, Judy and Ron Hemond with one bag for their lunch- she decorated one side and he did the other! If there was one common method of decorating it would be STICKERS! The photos tell the story!

A good time was had by all.



Steve Shea poses with his lunch "bag"



Park Manager, Ranger Bob Steiger gave a brief presentation on the Collier County turn around at the entrance to the park. He stated that the county is going to create a drop-off point at the public access to the beach between Moraya Bay and the Park. A restroom facility is also on the plans. See Bob if you want further information on this hot topic.

# Brown Bag Lunch September 12



Marcia's bag - Thank goodness for stickers!



Millie Lucanegro and her fancy wine bag.



Pauline Cataldo and her patriotic, smiley face bag.



Kay Peley's bag is from MacDonaldis and Art Peley's bag is from Subway!



Sharon Eddy's bag is artistic with a statement!



Judy and Ron Hemond decorated the same bag for their lunch. One side was done by Judy and the other was done by Ron.



# Managers Message

“The Dog Days of summer.”



What better time to reflect on all that you have done this year up to now. This is a good time to sit back and think about the upcoming fall and busy time of the year. I am always amazed when I see how much

was accomplished by the Friends group over the first half of the year. I know that just about the time everyone gets back we will be gearing up for the Green Flash again. Lots of work and fun ahead of us. We recently had a District meeting and it was asked whether or not we should split the District in half and have a north meeting and a south meeting of Friends groups. As Managers we liked the idea of everyone getting together so your opportunity to meet and mingle with others in like parks and different parks are available. I am hoping the District wide meeting will be posted much earlier this year and more members can attend. Have a nice summer and see you in September as the song goes.

*BB*

**THIS SATURDAY**

September 24: 8 AM

National Public Lands Day

All Welcomed to help

Plant group (D-GGGs) and anyone else who would like to work with planting and gathering. We will be planting sea grapes and gathering cabbage palm, cocoa plum, and sea grape seedlings to start in the nursery.



## Green Flash Update

Natasha is our marketing director this year and she has put together a Sponsorship Package for Green Flash 2011. They are available online to print out or call Jo Ann if you would like one printed out and mailed to you.

Included is a sponsorship guide to assist you in your sales effort. There is a sample phone script that can also be utilized if you would like to send a personalized letter to the potential sponsor. Natasha has put her phone number on the last page of the package as a back up for any marketing questions. Feel free to call her if you have any questions. Please send your contact list to Jo Ann if you haven't done so already. Once we get it- we will put together a mini database that let's everyone know our progress.



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“Friends of Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park”



Relax



Chill Out



Enjoy Life

# Founders' Day Luncheon



Rosemary Joan Lou Edie

The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park have a luncheon every May but this year's May 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon was very special. We decided to honor our founders, those folks who had the foresight to establish a volunteer organization back in 1987. The Founders' Day Luncheon honorees included those members who signed the charter and named our organization Supporters of Del Nor Wiggins Park, Inc. Two of the original five signers of the charter were able to attend – Ludwig Erb and Rosemary Mik-tuk. Present at the luncheon and also honored for their work in those early years of the Supporters were Joan Erb, Edie Sadowski, Dorothy Atzingen, and Art and Kay Peley.



Art and Kay

Mark Nicoletti, assistant park manager welcomed the 50 or so members and guests. Brittany Smith, park ranger, wrote and read a clever poem about her love of the park and her appreciation of the Friends for the work they do. Carolyn Shaw, park specialist and volunteer coordinator presented awards to the members for hours contributed during the year. Rosemary Mik-tuk spoke about why they saw a need to organize a volunteer group in 1987 to help the park staff to maintain the park. Rosemary said that we were the seventh in the state to be organized as a CSO- Citizen Support Organization.



Alliene Dorothy Alicia

We were honored to have at our luncheon the daughter of Lester and Dellora Norris, Lavern Norris Gaynor. Mrs. Gaynor spoke to the members about how her mother convinced her father to put up the money so Collier County could purchase the park and save it from development. On April 24, 1964 acquisition of the park was made possible when her parents arranged the purchase of the land through their St. Charles, Illinois charities. In 1988 the CSO honored the Norris family by placing a plaque near the beach and at that time Mrs. Gaynor praised the efforts of the CSO in raising funds for the park amenities not funded through the state. The current Friends group has now created a garden space around this plaque and given it the name Dellora's Garden. Mrs. Gaynor said her mother would be very pleased to have the garden named after her.



Marcia Mary Ellen Lavern Shannon Mark

Also in attendance was former State Representative, Mary Ellen Hawkins, who shared remarks about the naming of the park as it changed from Delnor Park to Delnor Wiggins Pass State Recreation Area and Dr. Lois Bolin, co-founder of Naples Back Yard History. We are fortunate that Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park has such history which is woven into the fabric of the history of our community.

# Dellora's Garden

Thanks to our DGGEES for helping keep Dellora's Garden alive and well.

You've heard of the Bee Gees? One of their hit songs was *Stayin' Alive*

*Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin alive, stayin alive.*

*Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin alive.*

We weren't even thinking of that when we named ourselves the DGGEES – Dellora's Garden Gals (and Guys!). Anyway it seems very appropriate for our group's mission



Thanks to Larry Beer for designing the Dellora's Garden sign, to Steve Shea for getting it made and delivering it to the park, and to Gene Byrd for installing it in time for the luncheon. Mrs Lavern Gaynor had a big smile on her face when she first saw the sign which welcomed her into the garden. It was very moving to see her in that space that honors her mother.

Now, back to the DGGEES. Two days after the luncheon, the DGGEES went to the Native Plant Store in Ft. Myers to buy vines for the arch, assorted ground cover, and additional plants to fill in the area around the bench and ADA pad. We purchased native plants appropriate for our State Park barrier island, Blue-eyed Grass, Spotted Beebalm or Horsemint, Railroad Vine, Golden Creeper to name a few.

The crew consisting of Carolyn Shaw, Alicia Astorga, Ann Petrillo, and Marcia Byrd arrived back at the park in time for lunch. We decided to delay planting till Friday since the temperature was already in the 90's and we preferred *stayin' alive*. Returning to plant of May 13<sup>th</sup> were Alicia Astorga, Marcia Byrd, David Eastlake, Kaye Klug, Alliene Liden, Ann Petrillo, and two new members, the Hemonds, delivered by Millie Lucanegro.

After planting the garden on Friday we took a walk with Alliene and Alicia to picnic areas that need some work. One is clearing invasive kalanchoe plants in area #4 and the other is replanting an area north of parking lot #3 where many sea grapes had to be taken out. Alicia showed us the work that could be done there. After consultation with Bob Steiger and Carolyn Shaw, the DEEGEES will work on these areas over the summer. More information on this is coming.

The DEEGEES also set up a watering /tending schedule for June and July. The water must be set out overnight to evaporate the chlorine, hauled up to the garden and poured over the plants. It takes dedication to do this right and the DEEGEES are talking to the plants and telling them they should be *stayin' alive*!!..... Marcia



# Our Hardworking Rangers

## A Park Ranger's Prospective of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park by Brittany Smith

Some days are good, some days are bad.  
But I'm always at the beach, so I can't be sad.  
So much to do with so little time  
and trying to think of words to make this poem rhyme.  
We have turtles, and birds, and lots of plants,  
but don't get too close to the fire ants!  
Visit the osprey chicks,  
but don't stop long, there's always something to fix.  
Times are tough now, yes, times are bad.  
Money from the state is not to be had.  
Wouldn't it be nice to have some pals?  
A group of friends, both guys and gals.  
Someone to help make this park its best.  
I must start searching, no time to rest.  
Someone who cares and devotes their time,  
to volunteer, raise funds, and make this park shine!  
Oh, but wait, we do have friends you see;  
the Friends of Delnor sit before me.  
So thank you for being here, yes, thank you for coming.  
Once I'm done here, I'll be fixing some plumbing!  
But first, I want to tell you what it's like to be me.  
A Ranger's prospective is what you'll see.  
We have this thing that's called the big 5  
and it's the management strategy that makes this park jive!  
Maintenance is first and includes pipes, boardwalks,  
and the suage tanks, which are the worst!  
Administration comes next  
and that's paperwork, yuk, so complex.  
Then there's Resource Management, which is my fave.  
With plants and animals we try to save.  
Protection's no joke. Follow the rules and stay in line.  
Our DEP officers aren't always kind folk.  
Visitor Service umbrella's them all, making people happy,  
I'm a Park Ranger, I stand proud and tall!  
My life at Delnor is complete,  
working at the beach is pretty sweet.  
Thank you so much for being here today.  
Three cheers for Delnor, hip hip hooray!



Brittany recites her poem at the luncheon



### Fricassee of Early Field Ranger (A Summertime Favorite)

1. Start early in the morning with a freshly clean Ranger.
2. Coat with a generous layer of perspiration.
3. Dredge liberally in a mixture of charcoal ashes and sand.
4. Broil in the sun for 8 hours.
5. Serve with attitude.