

PALM TREE PRESS



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SUPPORTERS OF DELNOR WIGGINS PARK, INC. ISSUE 30 WINTER 2006

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MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS:

Your annual renewal fees are due as of January's membership meeting, so please submit your dues as soon as possible to Joan Erb, our Membership Director. You will receive an acknowledgment letter signed by Robert Steiger, our Park Manager, plus a punch card for 12 free visits for you and your family by return mail.

Also, remember to turn in your volunteer hours at the end of each month for any hours that have not been captured on the sign-in sheet that is continually posted in the conference room. The Volunteer Time Record can also be printed from our website, so click on www.delnorwiggins.org

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEKEND

is March 24-26th and detailed information regarding the schedule of activities, registration, accommodations, and things to do in the area of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is now available. Forms must be returned by March 1st and numbers of people per activity are limited. Information packets are available at the park (see Carolyn).

BOARD MEMBERS

Board members who have returned to life as a "regular" CSO volunteer should be recognized and congratulated for their years of service and dedication to our organization. They are Edie Sadowski, who has been with us for a long time, and most recently had served as VP; and Heidi Kulpa, who has done an outstanding job as our Secretary for so many years. Her skills at capturing our meeting minutes on paper and rendering them into clearly spoken words will be missed. Heidi also deserves a round of applause for the very professional job she has done in producing our Palm Tree Press year in and year out. She has truly kept us (and others who read our newsletter) informed of what is happening on all fronts. Thank you also, to Sherry Lubic for her past year of service as VP, who is stepping back from that position, but will remain active as a member.

Sherry Lubic



MESSAGE FROM THE PARK MANAGER



Well it has been a while since the last Palm Tree Press and it is time for an update. We will

miss Heidi's skill in publishing the news letter which she did for us for so many years. If you notice some changes it is because Sharon Eddy has offered to take over the duties.

If there is one thing you can count on it is change. You see it everyday around us and we are not immune to it either. Change can be good and take you in a different direction while infusing you with new motivation.

We have had a lot of changes in the last year. A new President and Board of Directors, a new staff here at the park with new Assistants and Park Rangers, Volunteers and new Supporter members.

We start this year with some new people, new ideas, and trying new things to accomplish our Mission. This is the very same mission that has guided the Florida Park Service for over 70 years. To provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Thank all of you, old members and new for helping us do that.

*Robert M. Steiger
Park Manager*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So many things have happened in the CSO and in the park since the last edition of our newsletter, that I think it best to review them on a month-by-month basis. Due to interruptions by Wilma and her aftermath, the advent of the holidays and all the planning we did for the Art Show we waited until after the Annual Membership meeting. This way we could include an update on the board election.

SEPTEMBER: Pot-luck luncheon held at the park pavilion, start-up of butterfly species project, Annual Coastal Clean-up Event, statewide CSO Conference in Tampa.

OCTOBER: Purchased 3 new ATV helmets for the rangers, approved purchase of new cabinets for ranger lounge, discontinued membership in Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, along came Wilma, participated in clean-up and recovery efforts and provided food and beverages for the work crews for 3 days.

NOVEMBER: Observed America Recycles Day, joined Friends of Florida State Parks, provided funding for park ranger's membership in Florida Institute of Park Personnel, held a small tag sale at Veteran's Park (raised a little over \$200). Visited by Carol Imbriani, our CSO Program Development Specialist from District 4.

DECEMBER: Field trip to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Christmas Picnic Meeting and presentation of volunteer hours awards and pins.

JANUARY: Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Directors, installation of new cabinets in ranger lounge (finally), designed and printed new CSO Membership Application Pamphlet, sponsored the 8th Annual Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show (raised a little over \$3300 to benefit the park).

Now, we need to look ahead to upcoming things for the next 4 months, until we recess our regular activities for the summer time. Besides our usual meetings and Work Days, there are some opportunities for a possible field trip and a tag sale in March, plus the Volunteer Appreciation Weekend at Paine's Prairie. The Easter holiday falls on the 16th of April this year, so you know what that means. We clean up the park "big time" on the 17th. April 29th will be here before we know it, so our 3rd Annual Family Discovery Day preparations have already begun. For those who are interested in participating in work groups for this event, please sign up now. When May rolls around we will have our "end of the season" picnic meeting at the pavilion on the 8th at 12:30 PM, with a traditional covered dish pot luck. And, finally, there will be the clean-up day following Memorial Week-end to bring that month to a close. The next edition of this newsletter should be coming out in early May, also, so stay tuned for further updates.

Lois Cantwell



BATTLING KALANCHOE BY RANGER CHERYSE WELLMAN

At one time or another, some of you may have noticed park staff rooting through the brush, or dune areas picking bouquets of “pretty” pink flowers. If so, you may have wondered “What on Earth are they doing?” Well, what we are doing is trying to control a serious problem detrimental to native vegetation, essentially in dune areas.

These “pretty” pink blooms are actually an invasive exotic plant that seems to spread like wildfire. It is a succulent native to the island of Madagascar

called Kalanchoe (a.k.a. lifeplant). Because of their low maintenance, and ability to rapidly reproduce, these nuisance plants have become a popular houseplant, and “perfect” yard foliage. Each individual leaflet on the Kalanchoe plant is capable of producing another plant, and once in bloom, each individual flower may hold thousands of seeds, which will eventually drop, and/or spread with the wind, literally infesting a once healthy ecosystem.

A primary concern we have with Kalanchoe at our park is the infliction it has had with our sea oat habitat. Sea oats play a crucial role in the health of a beach environment, their roots serving as support for dune development. Dunes, in turn, help to protect the land from the wrath of storm surge (which we all know Florida is very prone to). Sea oats are also a protected specie, which is yet another reason to conserve them.

Our battle with Kalanchoe here at Delnor-Wiggins has been ongoing for years, and with its rapid reproduction rate often seems to be a never-ending threat in which we must deal with. Florida Park Service is committed to protecting and conserving our native resources, and by simply buying and planting native Florida plants, you too can do your part in saving our precious gems as well.

ARTS AND ANTIQUES

Visit our CSO members, **Bill and Colleen North** at the Florida Fine Art Gallery in Gannon’s Antiques & Art Center in Fort Myers. His paintings feature images of Florida and several depict our very own DelNor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Since they are no longer so active in the CSO, they would enjoy seeing familiar faces and a nice visit. The Art Center is at 16521 S. Tamiami Trail on the S.E. corner of Rt. 41 & Island Park Rd. Open 10-5:30 except Sunday. (239) 489-2211. Fun to prowl around in this 20,000 sq. ft. mall. Could be a group trip, too.

RANGERS BREAK ROOM RENOVATIONS



Cabinet maker-at large,

Dick Roberts did a superb job of replacing those old dilapidated cupboards in the park ranger’s lunch room in January. With a little extra volunteer help, he managed to convert a drab looking lounge area into a bright and cheery place for our rangers to take breaks, eat meals and relax between shifts. These hard-working and dedicated individuals deserve a more attractive setting to spend their down time, which makes for a more pleasant working environment.

The CSO funded this project as part of our efforts to support and improve our park facilities. We have pictures of the “before and after” improvements for those who haven’t had a chance to stop in and see the transformation first hand.

Thanks again, Dick, for this and so many other repairs and improvements that you have made in the park during your winter stays with us.

LEARN TO SELL SEASON PASSES

Carolyn will soon have a workshop for those interested in learning how to help out at the front gate and sell season passes to the visitors. Call about it.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO!

Check it out: **The Butterfly Exhibit** at Naples Botanical Garden. Also on display there through April 23rd is the David Rogers' **Big Bugs**. See three 700 pound ants, a 2-story-high praying mantis, a grasshopper with 11-ft long legs—all out of natural materials. Go with the kids, grandkids, friends, neighbors, or fellow CSO members. Take a car load or two from the park— any interest in forming such a group, call Carolyn Shaw. A group may require reservations in advance, or call the Garden at 643-7275 for more information.



One of the many butterflies at the Conservancy Butterfly Display.

Sign up for: Attending a **Butterfly Workshop**, March 2nd, 10:00am to 11:30 AM at the Norris Center Auditorium, 755 8th Ave. South. Mike Malloy “The Butterfly Man”. This is part of a series presented by the Extension Center. For a preview, his website is www.naplesbutterfly.com.

Sign up for: Helping with a **Tag Sale**, March 4th (Saturday) at Veteran’s Park. Need help with gathering sale items, setting up, selling and take-down. Last one we had in November garnered about \$200, which covered the cost of the ATV helmets. The “go to” person for this will be Joan Oberton. 594-1577. We will be setting up around 7 AM and the sale runs until noon. Donations are needed as well.

Got extra stuff? The rangers can use any old tools and building supplies you happen to have extras of, or are considering getting rid of. Nails, nuts, bolts, screws, lumber, paint, electrical, etc. Bring it on down to the beach where it will be put to good use.

CSO members Alliene Liden, Joan Oberton and Jo Ann Linck work at the Tag Sale at Veterans Park last November. The next sale is March 4th. Come help out!



WORK DAY ALTERNATIVES

Remember that work days are usually on the last Thursday of the month and begin at 8 AM. When there is a major holiday clean-up, they also follow that day, such as Easter, Memorial Day, etc. On our regularly scheduled Work Days, a suggested alternative for those who prefer to be indoors, is to make this an “educational opportunity” day. The idea still needs to be approved and planned, but it could involve the rangers giving us the “interp” presentations that they give to the visitors. Meanwhile, please be in tune with the posted program schedules for each month in the park. They are usually held on Friday mornings at 9:30 AM.

Another alternative to working outdoors, is **archiving**. Carolyn Shaw has accumulated loads of articles and photos that need to be sorted into scrapbooks and albums, or filed. This is a great way to learn about nature and the environment through putting this information into a useful form for educational use by our members and rangers alike. So, on a cold morning, rainy day or if it’s too hot out there, take this up as a project.

A blooming beauty at our very own butterfly garden in area 4 north.



APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!



Thank you so much to so many people, that there isn't enough room to mention all by name. You know who you are. Your

volunteer hours are adding up and the efforts of each and every one of you who have contributed in so many ways are so greatly appreciated. However, we feel compelled to single out a few individuals and committee members that merit special mention and recognition:

Even though the **Wilma Event** took place back in October, we have yet to thank, in printed words, those who came to the park to help out with the clean-up efforts. Besides my contribution of three 8-hour days, others who came in to help rake, pile debris, buy food and feed the workers, and perform other small tasks include Dick and Alliene Liden, Art and BJ Esslinger and Ron Miner, to name a few that signed in. Joe Gagnier did an outstanding job of helping by operating heavy equipment and participating in tree and brush removal.

Thanks to all your efforts the Park opened just one week after the hurricane.



WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS ART SHOW



The ice cream team of Phil Nye, Mark Nicoletti Jr. (as the walking billboard) and Sherry Lubic.



We've got the goods! The Beach Bakery reported that cookies were among their top selling items.

The Art Show Committee.

Wow! What a splendid job this group did! Thanks to the efforts of Dick and Alliene Liden, assisted by Sherry Lubic and Phil Nye (the Super Scoopers at the ice cream cart), we garnered nearly \$2000 in sponsorship funds to support our show.

Elaine and Sam Hinkle got us free air time on WAVV for advertising; Sharon Eddy not only got us some good deals on printing, but she did a most fantastic job on posters, sales pieces, and the art show booklets, which in themselves were a work of art.

Art and BJ Esslinger held a fabulous raffle and the handcrafted signs Art made will last for years. Diane Schwartz and Dick Roberts (who also donated 2 photos to the raffle) did a great job with all the signage we needed throughout the park. Dick Liden made a contribution to that effort, as well.

The Beach Bakery group, chaired by Joan Erb and accompanied by helpers Anne Knowlton, Julie Perotta, Rosemary Miktuk, Kay and Art Peley sold a goodly sum of baked items contributed by so many of our members.

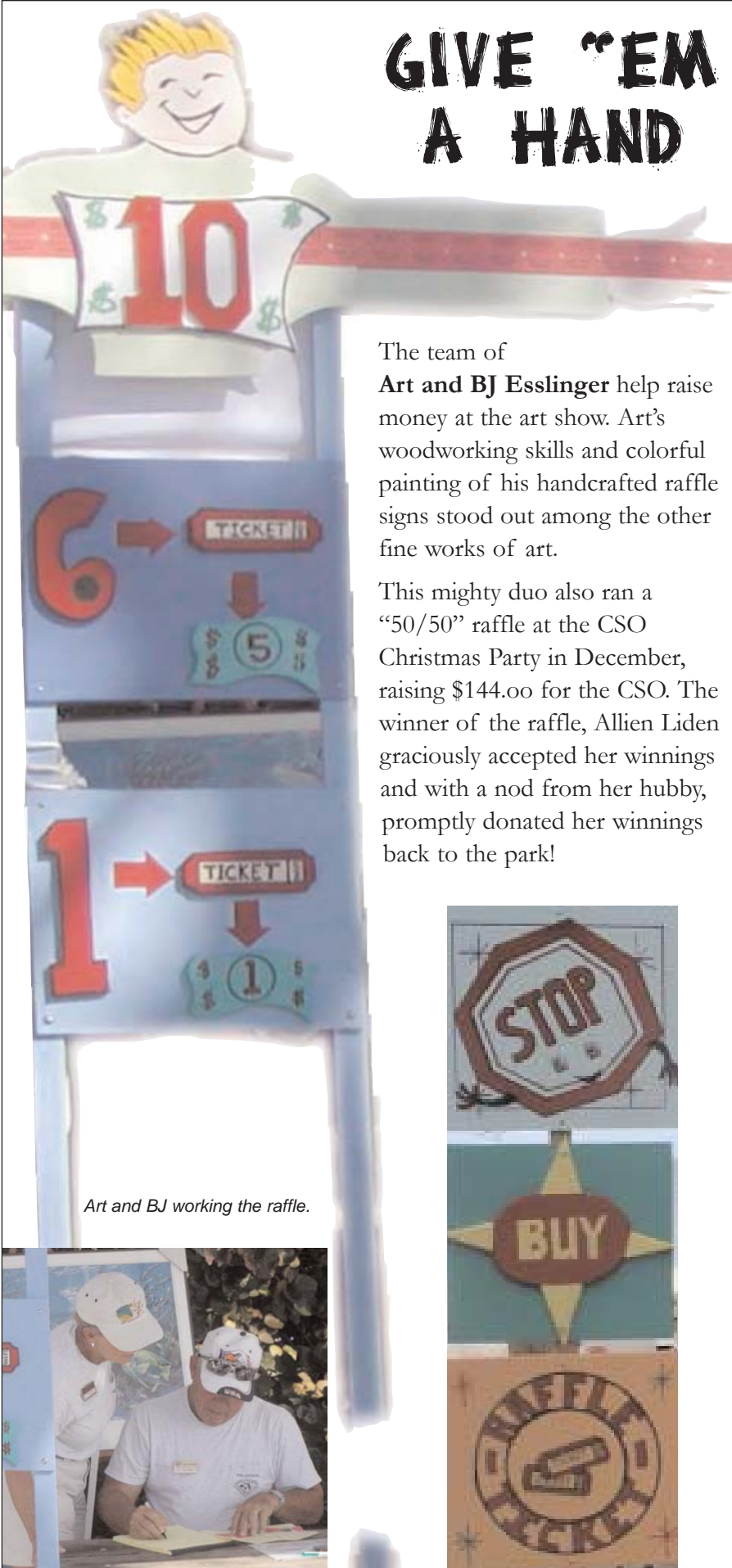
Our "meet and greet" people, included Joan Oberton, Sharon Eddy, Dick and Alliene, Jo Ann Linck, Alicia Astorga, Bill Paul, and Gordy Cantwell. This group took care of settling in the artists, handing out literature, answering questions, welcoming visitors, giving directions and assistance where needed and just made sure everyone had a good time.

Parking assistants included Maurice Astorga, Hank Linck, Dick Liden and Dick Jex, among others that were working out on the road to maximize parking availability for the show.

Thanks to their efforts and the organization provided by our managers and rangers, we had about 950 cars in and out of the park during the event (about 2900 people) and didn't have to close the park!

What a team effort this event represents!!! So, THANK YOU to ALL the volunteers who contributed in every way to the success of this really fun event.

GIVE 'EM A HAND



The team of **Art and BJ Esslinger** help raise money at the art show. Art's woodworking skills and colorful painting of his handcrafted raffle signs stood out among the other fine works of art.

This mighty duo also ran a "50/50" raffle at the CSO Christmas Party in December, raising \$144.00 for the CSO. The winner of the raffle, Allien Liden graciously accepted her winnings and with a nod from her hubby, promptly donated her winnings back to the park!

Art and BJ working the raffle.



New VP Dick Liden working parking detail at the Art Show.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Board members who were elected at our Annual Membership Meeting in January are as follows: Dick Liden, VP, who will serve out the remaining 2 years of that position; Kay Peley, who has remained with us as a board member; Olga Williams, who will be our new Treasurer; and Joe Gagnier, who will assume the office of Secretary. I wish to thank these people for making the commitment to serving on the board, upholding our mission and goals, as well as their fiduciary responsibilities to our members. They will be cutting their teeth on the budget preparation process as the first order of business for this fiscal year. We hope to maximize the amount of funding that we can provide in order to purchase as many items as possible on park management's Needs List. Special mention of the **Nominating Committee** members: Dorothy Atzingen, Anne Knowlton, and Alliene Liden. Thank you ladies for your contribution to this effort.





ALUMINUM RECYCLING

Your aluminum cans, as well as your friends, relatives, neighbors, local businesses, clubs, etc., are valuable to us as a source of revenue. Through heightened awareness we can continue to promote this project. In 2005 we earned about \$2600 for our recycling efforts, which is about \$1000 more than the previous year (equivalent to about 2½ extra trailer loads).

Please continue to bring your cans to the recycling area when you come to the park and encourage others to do the same.

How many aluminum cans does it take to make a pound ?

At present there are nearly 32, 12 ounce (333 ml) beverage cans in a pound (72 per kilo) . This is up from the original 23 per pound because the cans have gotten thinner as technology improved.

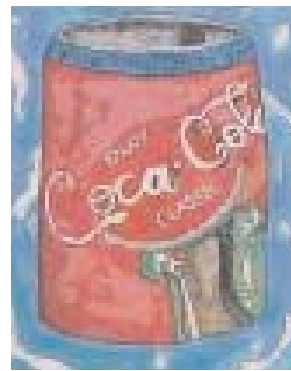
RECYCLING SOME MYTHS



My husband and I have collected pull tabs for several years and donated them to the Lyons Club, as we were requested to do by our Uncle Walkie. I can't drink a soda without snapping off the pull tab. I don't even think about it. I find them in my pockets, at the bottom of beach bags, and purses. Our neighbors now save them for

us. We were told that the pull tabs are "of a higher quality" and are worth more than the cans themselves. I had always questioned how that could be, but never looked into it until recently.

Now I have learned that the tabs are made of the same materials as the cans and are not worth more. In fact, in some areas they are worthless, because some recycling centers will not take them. Much more money could be raised by recycling the whole can and donating the funds .Collecting tabs is less cumbersome than collecting cans but they are not worth very much. A million tabs are only worth about \$300. That means that you would



have to take the tabs off 100 cans to collect 3 cents worth. That's a lot of cans. I still have a big bag of

them in my kitchen. Probably 5 cents worth but I will bring them to the Park. It will be a hard habit to break, snapping off pull tabs. I may still pull them off but I'll place it back into the can.

Sharon Eddy

Your story here.

Please contribute your articles or thoughts to the newsletter.

Email them to:

Newsletter@DelnorWiggins.org
or give to Carolyn at the Park

Life-Cycle of the Aluminum Can



Join and receive our newsletter to keep updated on the Park even when you're not here. Also get 12 free beach passes!

Name _____

Contact person, if Corporation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Out of State information: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

I reside in Florida from _____ to _____

Checks payable to: **Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc.**

11100 Gulf Shore Drive North, Naples, Florida 34108

Phone: 239-597-6196, Fax: 239-597-8223,

www.DelnorWiggins.org

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CSO

MISSION AND GOALS

To Promote Environmental Awareness, use and enjoyment of the Park.

To assist Park Staff with resource management, facility maintenance, recycling and visitor services.

To improve the resources and facilities through fund raising events and volunteer activities.

To learn more about the Park's ecosystem, inhabitants and functions.

Join this fun group of people.

“Helping the Park Achieve its goals since 1987”

Membership Categories

Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Corporate	\$ 35.00
Donation	\$ _____



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