

# PAINTREE PRESS



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SUPPORTERS OF DELNOR WIGGINS PARK, INC. ISSUE 31 SPRING/SUMMER 2006

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## WORKING THE FRONT GATE

The busiest spot at the Park on Earth Day was the front gate. Most everyone came with a smile on their face and a car full of people. Many were pleasantly surprised with the scheduled activities and the reduced entry fee for the day. The kids were especially attentive when we told them about the ice cream stand at area three, parents weren't as excited but pretty much resigned to the fact that they would be visiting this stand today.

It was very heart warming to hear all the favorable comments about the park and how much it means to everyone. We received many donations above and beyond the entry fees.

Art and I really enjoyed being pretend rangers at the gate. It was a very rewarding and enjoyable job.  
- BJ Esslinger

## LATEST NEWS NOTES

 Helen Zimmerman's last day was June 28th. We welcome Ranger Bryan Kaczmarek in filling her position.

 Tropical Storm Alberto flooded at least one turtle nest and ripped out some of the new sea oats.

 Coastal Dune Sandmat, (*common name*) an endangered native plant, was identified recently at the Park.

 Link to National Hurricane Center, Nation Weather Service  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/)

## VOLUNTEER EMERITUS AWARDS

Florida State Park's Coordinator, Phillip Werndli recently honored all Volunteers over the age of 80 with a Certificate and a special recognition license plate designating them "Volunteer Emeritus".

Delnor-Wiggins is proud to work along side the following named Volunteer Emeritus:

**Salty Dog Jack Shea  
Art & Kay Pelley  
Pauline Cataldo  
Kay Hadam  
Betty Gardener  
Edie Sadowski  
Ann Knowlton**

**APPLAUSE!  
APPLAUSE!**



I swear  
that fish was  
this big...

## MESSAGE FROM THE PARK MANAGER



*Summer is here  
and almost  
everyone has  
headed back  
north or to their  
air conditioned*

*abodes. We had a great winter and  
spring with Family Discovery Day  
attracting several hundred visitors per  
exhibit. You could tell it was a success  
by the smiles on the children's faces.  
On top of that we still made enough  
money to purchase a DPL projector so  
we can enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century doing  
power point presentations and review-  
ing them.*

*We are still around so if you want to  
stop by the park please do so. The  
summer is just another wonderful sea-  
son down here in the tropics with  
warm balmy breezes and the roar of  
the surf.*

*I hope you will stop by and enjoy one  
of the many colorful sunsets. If I  
don't see you this summer then I look  
for you in September*

*Robert M. Steiger  
Park Manager*



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### President's Corner

Talk about time fleeting by in a heart beat—where did this season go? In the last issue I reviewed our accomplishments from September through January. During the 3 months since then our primary focus was to put on an environmental fair that would showcase our beautiful park and bring to our local public the subject of conserving, preserving and supporting the natural wonders that reside here. We certainly did just that. The success of the event was written on the faces of the kids that had such a marvelous time hunting sea shells, creating sand critters, having their faces painted, interacting with rangers, science guys, nature preservists, and the like. They learned about snakes, alligators, butterflies and even mosquitoes. Their parents were exposed to information about water management, recycling, pine needle basketry, wildlife photography, fishing and boating, hiking and other forms of outdoor recreation. A big thank you goes out to all who made the day such a fun and successful event, including the weather man. It was a perfect day, which added all the more to the ambiance of our “day at the beach”. It truly was a family discovery kind of day. We had 25 or more volunteers working that day along side a full crew of rangers. We even took in enough donations to buy some electronic equipment for the park staff, including a power point projector (for meetings and presentations), a DVD player (for education and training sessions), and a portable hard drive (for storing and retrieval of computer data during power outages related to hurricane season). Taking just a moment to say farewell, I hope all of you who are heading north or doing some leisure traveling have a safe and wonderful summer. May you all get back to us having had a healthy and happy summer vacation with your families and friends. Thanks to all who came to the end of season picnic and brought such wonderful food to compliment the fried chicken provided by the Lidens. Congratulations to all the Volunteer Emeritus awardees who received special recognition for all that they do and have done for so many years. Hope to see you all in October!

Lois



## **THESE FOLKS WERE RECOGNIZED WITH PINS AND CERTIFICATES.**

Alicia Astorga -  
Received a pin & certificate for  
100 hours of service & serving as  
our CSO Website Webmaster.

Art & BJ Esslinger -  
received pins and certificates for  
serving 100 hours.

Sharon Eddy -  
received a 250 hour pin and a  
certificate for her Artistic Talent.

JoAnn Linck-  
for Family Discovery Day  
Coordinator & volunteering 50  
hours.

Sherry Lubic -  
100 hours service& Board  
Member

Joe Gagnier -  
The most dependable year-round  
Volunteer & Serving on the Board.

Dick Liden-  
For serving as the Financial  
Planner & Vice President of the  
CSO.

## **WE ALSO RECOGNIZED OUR NEW MEMBERS.**

Harry & Norma Reardon  
Mon. AM beach cleaners.

Jerry & Sherry Bosso

Fred & Mary Eckerd

Perry Clack

Sally Madden

Annie Piel

Fran Peterson

Lewis Johnson

Carole Kirby

Jean Fischer

Fred & Marguerita Cobelens

Linda Colvin

JoAnn & Dick Creed

## **HURRICANE SEASON**

Hurricane season is upon us again, lasting from June through November. We hear about it in the news, in TV commercials, in flyers available just about everywhere we go and look someone is telling us to be prepared. So we might as well spend a little time in this forum to have some more information and words to contemplate.

Through careful planning, we can be effectively organized for the possibility of yet another hurricane strike in our area. Despite the challenges we face in the event of one of these terrible events, some of the planning we can do for our family and ourselves can give us some peace of mind.

Let me start by asking the question, "Where are you gonna go?" No one can make 100% accurate predictions on the path of neither any storm nor its intensity when it hits. No one should hang out at the beach waiting for the storm to hit. We can start planning ahead on some of the possible locations where we might want to go to ride out the storm. Networking with family and friends within the State or in nearby states can give you some possibilities on where to stay. Doing some research on some inland hotels and keeping their phone numbers handy incase you need to start making reservations. Although we may not know for sure the path of the storm we can plan appropriately to ensure we have a few possible locations inland and to the north of here.

We also hear about making preparations to prevent damage to our homes. Here's another question "Have you cut back some of your trees?" Cutting back our trees will not only cut back on some of the hazards associated with wind damage, but it will stimulate new growth to give us fuller and more fruitful trees in the summer. New growth branches will also flex quit a bit more than the older branches that can readily break during high winds.

What about storm shutters? Has the maintenance been done to them? Lubrication, test operation, are all the parts there? We see it time and time again, in Haines City, Orlando, Tampa, New Orleans, and even here. Everyone trying to find everything they need hours before the storm. Many people say things like "It only happens once every 20 or 30 years." "We just had one last year it won't happen this year."

During the 2003-2004 hurricane seasons, I had just returned to Florida with my family, we were staying at my parents' house just outside Orlando while they were in New York. Charlie can buzzing through central Florida, then it was Francis, Ivan threatened us as it came through twice, and then there was another hurricane that came through. It seemed like every other week we had a storm. Hurricanes like bombs can land close enough to create damage and havoc to the same place.

How about 2004-2005 hurricane season, Dennis and Katrina came through the Gulf, although they didn't make landfall here in Southwest Florida they did create higher winds and seas along this coast and they sent most of us into action. The actions taken prepared us and may have saved some homeowners from extensive damage when Wilma hit.

Be prepared, know where to go, and don't wait till the last minute to leave.

Submitted by Ranger Sean Janusheski

# FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY

by Ranger Cheryse Wellman

Our annual Family Discovery Day, in celebration of Earth Day, held Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> went phenomenally. Nineteen environmental organizations from Lee and Collier counties, as well as park staff, and our beloved CSO set up on the beach with displays and exhibits. The purpose being to promote appreciation and educate the public on what their specific agency is and does to advocate environmental awareness, and defend and protect precious natural and cultural resources.

Certain exhibitors brought live animals, others held scientific experiments, and one even came dressed in 19<sup>th</sup> century attire. Children were delighted with activities including contests, sand crafting, shell collecting, and the Junior Ranger program, in which they received a certificate and badge as they became new-found stewards of the environment. They were also enticed with face painting and everyone's favorite, ice cream. Local vendors even took part in the festivities with environmental artwork, native plants, and organic jewelry and baskets for sale.



The staff at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park would like to thank and send our utmost appreciation to everyone who participated and attended this extraordinary event. We hope each and every one of you had the opportunity to learn something new and interesting.

On a personal note, this was my first Family Discovery Day, and I take great pride and honor in having been a part of it. I was given the chance to learn, and have interest sparked in a variety of things that I may not otherwise be exposed to in my everyday life. It was my pleasure to meet and talk with different people of all ages, from all walks of life, with one common interest; preserving, conserving, and nurturing all things natural.

Remember this; Earth Day doesn't just come around once a year. It should be celebrated, promoted, and honored each and every day of our lives!



*Smokey Bear from Picayune State Forest thrilled the children.*

## Participating Vendors

- Florida Fish & Wildlife
- Florida Trail Association Alligator Amblers
- Naples Fishing Club
- Bonita Shell Club
- Carribean Gardens/Naples Zoo
- Picayune State Forest & Smokey Bear
- Florida Panther
- Bonita Basketeers
- Rod Wiley, A Day In The Swamp
- Cordage Making
- Master Gardeners Program
- Super Science & Amazing Art
- The Conservancy
- Collier County Mosquito Control
- Native Plant Society
- Snakes by Dale Grubbs
- South Florida Water Management
- Collier Seminole State Park
- Butterfly Guy - Mike Malloy
- Royal Scoop Ice Cream

# FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY



Art Pelley, Volunteer Emeritus, welcomes visitors to the event with cold drinks.



Dick Liden and Photographer Rod Wiley enjoy a break under the big top.



Ranger Carolyn Shaw helps the children with their Junior Ranger Activity Booklets.



We had a little Georgia Peach visit the park with her grandmother, B J Esslinger. Kaylee Morris, age 6, from Atlanta, really enjoyed cleaning up in the park using her picker. She got very good at it. Kaylee was surprised at all the trash that people leave behind. Hopefully it set a good example for her and others. People on the beach seem to think so and many complimented her on a job well done.



## WEB SITE UPDATE

**Did you know that now you can submit your volunteer hours online?**

Our web site [www.delnorwiggins.org](http://www.delnorwiggins.org) has been updated with a new navigation menu. Under: FOR MEMBERS ONLY there is a link to: SUBMIT HOURS. When you fill out and submit the form, Carolyn will get an email with your volunteer hours information. This should help some of us who are not very good about submitting our hours on paper (myself included).

For those of you that are technically savvy and might worry that somebody might hijack your email address from the form, it has built in spam and security, so do not hesitate to use it.

Alicia Astorga --- Webmaster

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.**  
11135 Gulf Shore Drive North, Naples, Florida 34108  
Phone: 239-597-6196, Fax: 239-597-8223,

[www.DelnorWiggins.org](http://www.DelnorWiggins.org)

*Note new mailing address*

**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	\$ _____



**PALM TREE PRESS**

Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc  
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