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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.

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SUPPORTERS OF DEL-NOR WIGGINS PARK, INC. ISSUE 35 FALL/WINTER 2007

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20th Anniversary Celebration

The 20th Anniversary celebration for our CSO on October 18, 2007 was a wonderful event. The luncheon, held at the Naples Park Area Association, was attended by 48 members and friends. Much work had gone into setting up the linen covered tables with lovely centerpieces and the food by Joe Bob's BarBQue was delicious. There was a cake artfully decorated with our group logo to mark the occasion as well.

Present from the State Park system was Ezell Givens, Assistant Bureau Chief of District 4, Carol Imbrina, Park Program Development Specialist. Happy greetings were shared by many to see former Del-Nor Wiggins staffers Karen LaCivita, Millie Tracy and Ermin Maeh as well as past members Paul and Diane Lapham.

Following a welcome by Park Manager, Bob Steiger, lunch was served. A history of our CSO done as a slide show was created by Carolyn Shaw, Park Service Specialist and Assistant Manager, Mark Nicoletti which was very entertaining and informative. Our youngest member, Brian Drum, received his 50 hour pin award, an event enjoyed by his mother and three siblings as well as his great-grandmother and long-time CSO president, Rosemary Miktuk.

Two beautiful walnut plaques were unveiled at the event and can be seen in our Conference Room at the Park. One plaque recognizes members by their years of service and the other denotes the volunteers by their hours of service. Rose-mary Miktuk received a fall chrysanthemum in recognition of her 13 years as our President. One door prize, also a chrysanthemum, was won by Stuart Eddy. Bill North, our first Artist in Residence, donated a framed print which everyone had a chance at winning. Although he had to leave early, our CSO secretary's name was drawn as the winner of this lovely park scene. The last time our CSO secretary was absent and won something with our group, it was his position as secretary. I am sure Joe Gagnier will agree this time the winning was quite nice! And every attendee went home with a lovely beach bag bearing our CSO logo.

Much thanks goes to all the committee who planned and then worked to make this event so memorable. Many volunteer hours were spent by **Joan Erb**, Jo Ann Linck, Art & Kay Peley, Rosemary Miktuk, Pauline Cataldo, Alliene Liden, Edie Sadowski and Olga Williams.



Joan at the 20th anniversary event sits and watches to make sure all goes as planned and it did, great job!





President's Message From Lois

Our 20th season as a CSO is here! Those who attended the anniversary celebration had an opportunity to look back at our beginnings and see not only where we started, but how we have evolved over two decades. We arrived in the 21st century with the help of electronic communication, more oversight by the FPS and DEP, greater emphasis on fund raising and a whole lot of volunteer hours in the making. The beautiful plaques that were presented at the party are testimony to that. While it is nice to account for all the hours and years of service, it is also rewarding to know that we have also made the years count. Let us continue to "celebrate" our support of our wonderful park by re-dedicating ourselves to the Mission and Goals of our organization: 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 fundraising events and volunteer activities; to learn more about the park's ecosystems, inhabitants and functions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARK MANAGER



Estuary Conservation Association (ECA) October 17 and 18, brought Coastal expert Dr. Orrin Pilkey, Jr. from Duke University to Naples, to offer his opinion on what should be done to maintain Wiggins Pass as a navigable waterway in an environmentally sound way. He gave his opinions after seeing Wiggins Pass from a birds eye view (a condo unit due east) and up close from a Pontoon boat. He was joined by Collier County, Florida Park Service, Conservancy, environmentalists; and local boating interests who made up the list of stakeholders.

We were well represented from our Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, District 4, on Park level staff. Our main objective was to try and answer 3 questions:

1. How to maintain the pass in an economical and environmentally sound way, and keep it navigable for vessels with up to a 3' draft.
2. How to implement.
3. How to do this over the next 10-20 years.

The County's contracted engineers, Humiston and Moore, have done modeling studies suggesting we turn back the clock to the 1970's where nature maintained the pass in a certain way.

To do that they suggest restoring the ebb shoal on the Barefoot Beach side. The biggest question is how to accomplish with out structures temporary or permanent. One option is temporary groins, something we may or may not agree with. Dr. Pilkey suggests good sound plans built on expertise and less on computer models. I think we tend to agree with his overall premise. If you are interested in learning more about his work, read his latest book "Useless Arithmetic, Why Environmental Scientists Cannot Predict the Future".

I will keep a close eye on all developments that may impact the Park and keep you informed



With Best Regards,

Bob

Robert M. Steiger, Park Manager



PARK PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Ranger Cheryse Wellman has already left the park. Several of her writings appeared in the PTP.

Ranger Cheryse Wellman

November 1st will be my last day. We will be moving to Portland, OR. My school is out there, and though I do not have anything lined up yet, I have looked into parks out there, both state and city parks around Portland, and it looks good. There are also a lot of non-profit environmental organizations, and I have talked to a couple of people looking for part-time help, so whatever route fate goes I think it will be good. I am so excited, but nervous too. I have never been there, so I'm sure I will be in "culture shock." I am really sad to be leaving our beautiful park though, and all of the amazing people that I have met along the way. It has been a phenomenal experience, one which I will be forever indebted for. As far as writing goes, I will do that where ever I am, even if it is just in my journals! If I don't see you before I go, I just want to say thanks for appreciating my work!



Took the Midnight Train To Georgia.

Esslingers Move to Georgia

Art and BJ, fund raisers extraordinaire, slipped away and moved to Georgia at the end of October. They have sold their condo in Naples and are building a new house not far from Augusta, Georgia. If you happen to be in the area going to the Masters Golf Tournament or driving North, give them a call.

This team will be sorely missed as they used to work the front gate and handled donations for the CSO. BJ especially loved working with the public. Art had a more creative side while working on signs for the Raffles and Family Discovery Day Shell Education boards for the children. The two of them sure could sell the raffle tickets as well!



Ranger Sean Janusheski

Sean has recently left the Park and taken another Ranger position at Hillsborough River State Park. We will all miss Sean but are happy for him as he is working closer to his home in Lakeland.

Shall We Dance, Ms. Lubic?

Okay okay, we all knew she was multi-talented from the get go. An accomplished photographer working with National publications. No one could sell raffle tickets as fast as Sherry, except the Art and BJ team as mentioned above. Her smile and bubbly personality was a big plus for the CSO.

Her latest adventure takes the cake. Sherry has taken a new job teaching ball room dance. Who knew? Below is the email I received in my box one unsuspecting day.

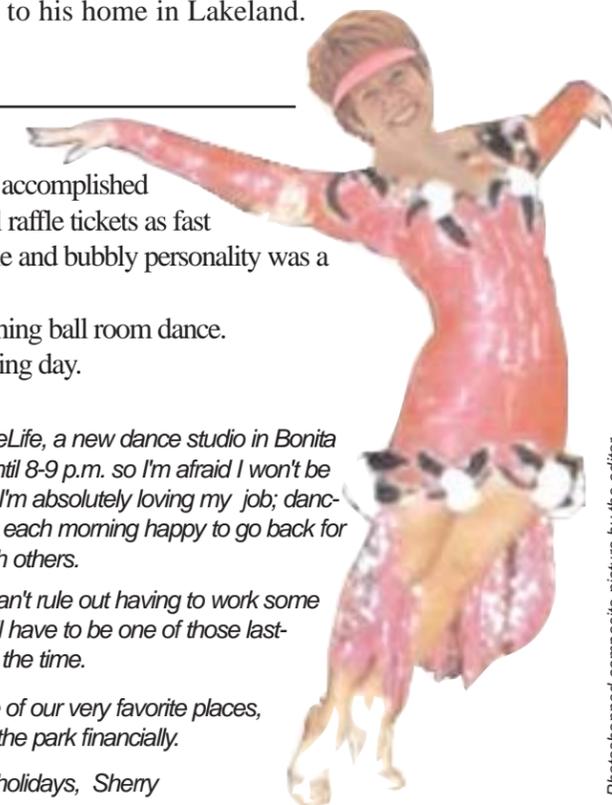
"Hi to All"

I have accepted a full-time job as ballroom dance instructor at DanceLife, a new dance studio in Bonita Springs, and I'm now working Monday through Friday from noon until 8-9 p.m. so I'm afraid I won't be able to attend the holiday party, nor many other meetings with you. I'm absolutely loving my job; dancing is a true passion, and while I come home tired and sore, I awake each morning happy to go back for more! I'm so excited to become a good dancer and be able to teach others.

I'm still willing to help during special events if I can but at this point I can't rule out having to work some Saturdays as well, so I just don't know. I suppose if I can be there I'll have to be one of those last-minute volunteers who can float around doing whatever you need at the time.

I'll miss seeing all of you, but know that Delnor Wiggins remains one of our very favorite places, and even if you don't see us often, Bill and I will continue to support the park financially.

Wishing each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and the happiest of holidays, Sherry



Photoshopped composite picture by the editor.



Holiday Party 2006 was well attended and a good time for all.



Chow line 2006, and below, uninvited guests hit the showers.



Right: **Montgomery Ward's Catalog, 1961** Classic Brentshire shirtwaist, the popular style everyone loves to wear. In silk, Dacron polyester and cotton or pima cotton. Monogram design decorates bodice front. Nore smart convertible collar, roll-up sleeves. Buttons close on front tab to below the waist. Silk \$17.98, Dacron cotton \$12.98 Pima Cotton \$9.98



Holiday Party 2007

At our CSO meeting we talked about the menu for our annual Holiday Party/Picnic at the Pavilion. It will be on December 10th at 5 PM.

There will be no gift exchange this year.

2 Turkeys Bob will deep fry one turkey and Jo Ann Linck will cook one at home.

People who have signed up for the "main dish" items are as follows:

Mashed potatoes: Alliene Liden-- we will need a couple more people for this item

Sweet potatoes: Kay Peley-- about 10 or so

Stuffing: Pauline Cataldo, Joan Erb, Sharon Eddy

Gravy: Diane Schwartz-- need a couple more in this category, too.

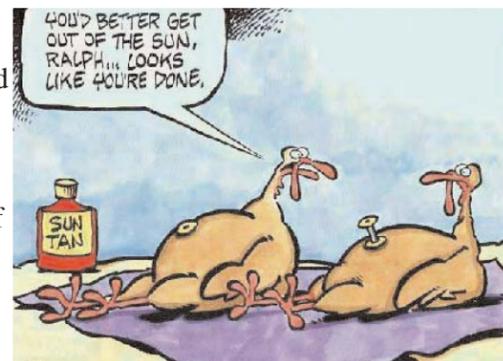
Rolls and Butter - JoAnn Linck

Brownies - Alicia Astorga

Tangerine Tree - Joan Oberton



Everyone else who doesn't sign up for the above items, bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert item to compliment the menu. If anyone wants to bring beverages, that would be great. We will make coffee, also. If you think of anything else, let me know.
- Lois



Poison Ivy, Jewelweed and the Shirtwaist Dress

When I was very young my siblings and I were shipped off to our Grandparents home while my mother recovered from a very bad case of Poison Ivy.

Living in a valley in West-by-god-Virginia at the time, Mom had decided to weed out an overgrown area "down by the creek". What she thought was a patch of scraggly blueberry bushes while wearing her fashionable shirtwaist dress. Just in her 30's in 1960, wearing Shirtwaist dresses was all the rage. The Dick Van Dyke Show had not yet aired and Laura Petrie had not yet popularized the Capri pant for everyday wear. Shirtwaist dresses were like a uniform for Mom.

So there's Mom weeding and squatting-in and digging and pulling out those bushes by their roots. Of course you can tell by the title of this story that the blueberry bushes turned out to be a prolific patch of Poison Ivy! It got its revenge on her and her Shirtwaist dress in a big way. It was one bad case of Poison Ivy in all the wrong places. House calls by Doctors were still popular then and Cortizon shots were brand new. The Doctor waited a week or more before finally agreeing to give her a shot of the new practically experimental drug Cortizon. In the meantime the neighbors came with Jewelweed. Indian Folk medicine at it's grandest. The bulbous red roots and watery stalks carried within them a soothing slimelike gel. It worked wonders for her and she used it on me as a child as well. When she became a Girl Scout leader and worked at Camps she spread the word of the Jewelweed. Funny thing about Jewelweed, it loves growing "down by the creek" right next to the Poison Ivy.

-- Sharon Eddy



Poison Ivy at the Beach

When poison ivy grows near the ocean it tends to have curly, waxy looking leaves.

A day at the beach could result in weeks of agony if you don't realize that poison ivy grows - often in huge lush stands - at the beach.

The one good thing about poison ivy at the beach is that it seems to do a good job of holding the beach together against erosion. And it keeps people away, which always makes the local wildlife much happier.

Banded Sphinx Moth

Caroline found this moth and did a little digging to find out more about the species.

Named after the Great Sphinx of Egypt also called Hawk Moths from the shape of the wings and strong flight hovering ability. They can attain speeds of up to 25 mph. Their wings beat as fast as a hummingbird. It's disruptive marks hide it from predators during the day. The caterpillars have a large horn at the tip and are naked without hair. Tobacco and tomato hornworms are of the sphinx moth group. They extract nectar while hovering in front of the deep-throated flowers, usually pale in color. The tongue is extremely long sometimes twice the length of the body. They have amazing sense of smell for mating perfumes detecting the smell from several miles away. This petrified Sphinx Moth is on display in Caroline's office. Admission is free to CSO members.



Poison Ivy

By

Ranger Bryan F. Kaczmarek

One of the better parts of my job is endlessly learning new things about the world around us, like what effect we have on it, and what effect it can have on us. Well, let me tell you, poison ivy can have quite an effect.

As I write this, poison ivy is doing nasty things to the back of my left leg and a small area of my right arm. I have a blistering rash that has been driving me nuts for two days now. As a park ranger it's one of the job challenges along with the ever present "farmers tan" and swarms of bug bites.

In the research inspired by my recently acquired rash, I discovered that poison ivy is in the same family as poison oak, poison sumac, and the Brazilian pepper-tree. Most of the members of this particular family contain some amount of urushiol oil, which is the substance that causes the rash. Somewhere near 90% of us are allergic to this oil, so don't fool yourself into believing that if you've never had poison ivy, you never will. I've spent a lot of time in forests and woods, from here to Ohio, and not once broke out from it before. There are commercially available soaps made specifically for breaking down the urushiol oil, one being a product called "Tecnu." Yes, we do keep a supply for our rangers to use, but as I've said, it's never bothered me before...

Also in the poison ivy family... would you believe mango? Some people are apparently very sensitive to oils in the skin of the fruit. How about cashews? That one surprised me but sure enough, it's in there too.

As I'm looking at the family of plants listed in front of me I can't help but notice how much it resembles most families I've known; some of it's members can be irritating, some are really sweet and at least one of them is nuts. Although, I'd have to say, I've probably got an overabundance of cashews in my family.

The Brazilian pepper-tree is known to cause rashes, although not as severe. However, some people claim to be more sensitive to it than its kin.

Unlike some of its more potent family, the Brazilian pepper-tree is an exotic species here in Florida. In fact, it's long been classified as an "invasive exotic" which means it quickly takes over large areas of land, driving out native plants and with them the native birds and other animals that use native plants for a food source or shelter.

One thing I've noticed about Brazilian pepper-tree is that it and poison ivy seem to get along pretty well. Whenever I find a pepper-tree, the ivy is happily climbing up into its branches and/or all through the neighboring foliage. It's a family thing I guess, "You mess with the pepper, you go through me" says the ivy, menacingly.

So, there I was, restoring and protecting our natural resources by taking on the pepper and its cousin the ivy (a native.) The ivy will be just fine I'm sure. The pepper, however, won't be messing around here again. I think the ivy and I got in a few good hits today. But I'll be out there fighting the good fight again tomorrow. It's part of my job, but next time I'm using the soap!

Ranger Bryan Kaczmarek



Park Ranger Bryan Kaczmarek has been selected to represent District 4 and the Florida Park Service for articles to be written for a National Park Brochure Company. Six Regional brochures will be created to highlight 20-40 parks each. Our Region 4 will have two brochures at a production of 100,000 each. Bryan will be responsible for Welcome Messages in these brochures. Congratulations, we know you can do it!

Check out Bryan's creative writing skills in this newsletter, "Poison Ivy", "Doodlebug?" and on the CSO website "Rain Turtle". You will see why with his wit and knowledge he has been selected for the job.

Ranger Greg Toppin



No, he's not leaving and he's not new. Just an interesting guy who, with his wife JoAnn enjoy the beach, hiking, backpacking, and travel. Definitely not new to the Florida Park Service he has worked at Hillsborough River, Myaka River, Lignumvitae Key, Jonathan Dickenson, Hobe Sound, Cayo Costa, and Fakahatchee Strand. Still he calls Delnor Wiggins "the most beautiful beach" he has ever worked. Quite an experienced Florida Ranger!

Ranger Josh Conly



Josh used to volunteer here at Delnor Wiggins before being hired on as a Ranger in September. He has lived in Naples for 20 years. He holds a BA in Biology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He enjoys field research and species identification of flora and fauna.

Ranger Dan Ambrose



Dan is new and is thrilled to be here. He loves people and is considered mechanically inclined and a capable builder. Dan is married and has lived out in the Estates for 11 years with his wife and 3 children, all under the age of 8. (his children are, not his wife, that is.) He has bears that frequent his yard out there and has two Bearded Dragons as pets. Before coming to Naples he was raised in South Jersey. Say "they" to Dan when you see him!

Never Ending Boardwalk Repairs

The Rangers are currently working to rebuild the railings and pilings on the South Boardwalk between Areas 3 and Area 2. The wood was purchased using Facilities Repair money and they have been working on this area for 2 weeks so far to make it safe once again.



The long and winding road... la lala lalala
hey, how many rangers does it take to pile a piling in a piling
Just a joke folks!



Dick overlooking the gallons and gallons of paint to be spread. Last year the Rangers kitchen remodel, this year.....read on.....

Known to some merely as "Beach Dick", Dick Roberts is back from his summer furlough in Mattawan, MI. He's at Camp Wiggins filling his position as Campground Host. Already hard at work on the overwhelming project of repainting the stripes on the parking lot pavement. This is something he is doing by hand with a small roller and a chalk snap line. Painstakingly he has hand cut masks as outlines as you can see below, the handicap emblem. Good luck with the painting Dick and we'll see you in Area 1, or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5! Not to mention the Boat Ramp lot that is now being brought up to ADAAG code, making Florida State Parks handicapped accessible. This is where I meet up with Dick today. Check out the newly installed handi-cap lane for boats, trailers or motor homes in the boat ramp parking lot. You too will be amazed.



* Doodlebug * ? by Ranger B.F.Kaczmarek

Nobody likes Fire Ants, right? Actually, that's not true. There are some out there that absolutely love them - for dinner.

The antlion is a voracious predator of ants and other insects, and it has a very crafty way of appeasing its appetite. The antlion, more specifically the antlion larvae, (also known as the "doodlebug"), is fearsome looking, with a large thorax, tiny head and an imposing pair of mandibles. Hiding just below the surface it digs devious little traps. Starting with a ring about 1.5 inches across, and pushing itself backward, it spirals in and down until it has come to the center of a conical pit. The digging takes less than 20 minutes. See the doodlebug in action, and you will soon understand how it got its name: (A bug doodling in the sand) Once complete, the pit, now as deep as it is wide, has steep sides of loose sand. It hides itself there so that only its opened jaws are exposed, and there it waits for its meal. The trap is set.

Ants, or any other small insects walking along the ground, need only step over the edge and will find themselves sliding into waiting jaws. If the initial slide doesn't work, the doodlebug, sensing a get-away, will flip sand up the slope above the prey, creating a little land slide, bringing lunch back to them. The traps can be found in dry spots, often in the shelter of houses or other buildings, safe from wind and rain, and usually on south-facing slopes. The doodlebug will live this way for over a month. Once ready, the doodlebug will start work on a cocoon of sand held together with a fine silk produced solely for this job. The cocoon will remain buried for about a month, until the completion of the transformation into the sexually mature insect, which then emerges from the case, digs to the surface, then flies off in search of a mate.



Antlions are found on every continent except Antarctica, and, like any other creature, distance, evolution and environment created slight differences. For instance, all antlion adults supposedly eat only plant nectar, but the adults of some species have strong chewing jaws similar to those of the dragonfly or damselfly, and, like damselflies, aren't really strong flyers. Antlions are also easily distinguished from damselflies by their longer, prominent, clubbed antennae and different type of wing pattern. The largest adult, an African species, can have an imposing wingspan of almost 7", and the smallest is a species found in the Middle East, which has a wingspan of less than an inch. In all species the adult antlion is rarely seen, however, because in the wild it is only active just after sundown. Throughout the day, it finds safety from its worst enemy, birds, by resting on tree trunks, where it's near transparent wings and brownish body make excellent camouflage.

Consider the antlion a good friend. Look for them, or at least their traps on your next nature walk. And wish them bon apatite.

Sleeping bugs, Do Not Disturb



Ever see one of these contraptions hanging in the trees around the Boat Ramp and Ranger Nick says there are plenty more, especially around Area 4 parking lot by the pump station. They track fruit flies and mosquitoes and are placed there by the Department of Agriculture. If you ever wanted to read they type close up without disturbing the bugs within, see photo below.

