



FLORIDA
State Parks
...the Real Florida



Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Volunteer News
OCTOBER 2013



We're the best thanks to you!!

Dear State Park Family,

I am proud to announce that Florida's state parks have been awarded a third Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association. The other finalists were North Carolina, Virginia and Missouri.



I am currently in Houston accepting our award at their annual Congress and Expo.

This is YOUR gold medal. No matter your role in the organization – FTE, OPS, volunteer, concessionaire or CSO member – this award recognizes your hard work every day to serve more than 25.5 million visitors and protect our natural and cultural resources. You have been recognized by your peers as the nation's best. Congratulations!

Thank you for all that you do to make us the best in the nation – for the third time.

Ranger First,

Donald V. Forgione
Director, Florida Park Service
Florida Department of Environmental Protection



We were invited to Costco's "Hero Event" honoring our local school employees, Medical, Fire, Police, Military, State, County, City & Charitable Organizations. Volunteers and Members of the Friends hosted our table and had a wonderful time! Thanks to **Richie & Ingrid Twiefel** and **David and Kathryn Eastlake**.



Thank you to the volunteers who helped out at the Golisano Children's Museum on September 21st. **Brian & Candy Settle, Richie Twiefel, Jackie Randal** (pictured left) and **Kaye Klug** (pictured right) What a great place! They did a fantastic job of promoting the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins and educating the children about the beach.



Coastal Cleanup was a great success! Over 100 volunteers donated their time to clean our shoreline and other areas throughout the park. The largest amount of one single item of trash found at the park was also the smallest in size.....Cigarette butts! Over 800 were found that morning! Don't even get me started....

Thank you volunteers! More pictures on

<https://www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins>



Coastal Cleanup

September 21, 2013

8:00 AM—11:00 AM



The Ranger Station "Island" & surrounding area is looking better than ever! Thank you to students from **Palmetto Ridge HS Key Club**, **FGCU** students & volunteer **Ingrid Twiefel** (who helped me organize & direct the volunteers), this area will now have flowering plants & is ready for season! I also want to thank **Assistant Park Manager, Mark Nicoletti** for coming up with the garden box idea and design and also getting it built & installed in time for the project. Looking Good!



National Public Lands Day





THIS MONDAY! Join us.....

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14th at 10am – FRIENDS OF DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS, first meeting of the season with guest speaker, author and photographer **Maureen Sullivan-Hartung**. Maureen will have some copies of her book, "Hidden History of Everglades City" at the meeting for sale and signing. Please join us to kick-off the new season and enjoy this wonderful local author.

www.maureenwrites.com

Welcome to www.maureenwrites.com, the website of writer, author and photographer Maureen Sullivan-Hartung.

In addition to her love of local history, Naples freelance writer Maureen Sullivan-Hartung is also a nature lover and supporter of our local environment belonging to the Friends of the Everglades begun by the late grande dame environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Maureen is also a Friend of Rookery Bay, a Friend of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida; a Friend of the Audubon Society, as well as a Friend of the State Parks and a Friend of the Everglades National Park. "Everyone who comes to visit me here in Naples always gets a tour of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, the Naples Pier and the nearby Everglades. Southwest Florida's climate is totally different from our northern neighbors and I want them to be able to see those differences, because we do indeed live in a beautiful paradise."



Maureen has lived in Naples since 1981 and has been freelance writing since 1994, following a year-long stint as a weekly newspaper reporter. Her articles and photographs have been published in numerous magazines throughout the state of Florida. A sampling of her [articles](#) and [photographs](#) are available at this website for your enjoyment.

Maureen's book, articles and photos are now available for purchase. She is also available for speaking engagements, book signings and writing or photography assignment. For additional information, please e-mail Maureen at mshwrites@gmail.com.



OUTREACH EVENT



Saturday, December 7th, 2013 10am- 3pm

Lovers Key State Park will host the Annual Great Outdoor Adventure Day, located at the Kayak Launch /Picnic Area of the park. Food, music, touch tanks, children's activities, as well as Ranger-led programs will highlight the fun-filled day geared towards encouraging participants to recreate responsibly while enjoying the park's unique habitats and wide variety of wildlife. The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins will host a table at this event. Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts. Come and enjoy this event while promoting the Friends! Contact Donna Young donna.young@dep.state.fl.us



Tennis anyone?

We are collecting empty tennis ball cans as shown in the picture and making them into personal fishing line recycling containers to hand out to the fisherman at the park. They will be equipped with velcro to attach to their fishing equipment or boats. Special thanks to our local Sea Grant Extension Agent, **Bryan Fluech**, who provided the idea and recycle stickers for the containers and other helpful info to include for the fisherman. Excellent project for FGCU students.....hint, hint.



Volunteers needed for late field the weekend of **November 2nd & 3rd**. Start time would be 3:30 and stay until sunset which is 6:45 on Saturday and 5:45 Sunday (time change). If you can help our late field Ranger that weekend, please email

Donna Young at donna.young@dep.state.fl.us



We are very excited to have the first ever Gopher Tortoise survey and study being conducted at the park. Even more exciting is that it is being done by **FGCU Department of Biological Sciences** under the direction of Professor Phil Allman, PhD. Dr. Allman and several Graduate students started last Friday and found many more burrows that they ever expected. They installed radio tags on 5 tortoises and plan to visit twice per week to locate the animals. When the study is complete, a presentation will be given to staff and volunteers so stay tuned for that announcement.



Special Events Coordinator – Do you enjoy organizing events? We have several events put on by the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins and run by many capable volunteers and members. These Friends sponsored events are the **Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show** in January; our first ever **Children's Art Show** in February;

The Nature Festival in November and coming soon, our first annual "Paddleboard Festival." We have been very fortunate to have had the expertise and tireless efforts of volunteer, **JoAnn Linck** for the past 8 years as our Special Events Coordinator. Although JoAnn is "retired" as coordinator she still volunteers at the park as a Beach Steward and is on hand to assist with any event details. If you would like to help with one or more of our events, please contact Donna Young, donna.young@dep.state.fl.us



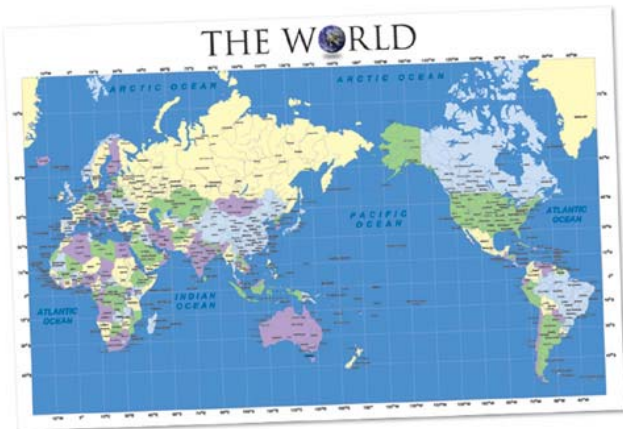
HELP WANTED

The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins - **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON** -

TFODW are looking for help with processing new memberships as well as renewals. If you like be in the A/C, are organized, appreciate spread sheets and helping our membership grow, then this is the job for you! Contact Donna Young, Park Service Specialist for more detailed information. 239-821-1618 or donna.young@dep.state.fl.us



Would anyone have a world map they would like to donate so we can display and “pin” all the countries?



All within 1 month! Volunteer Beach Steward, Richie Twiefel met visitors from the following countries right here on our beach!

Scotland, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Argentina, San Salvador, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Columbia, Phillipines, Honduras, Wales, Puerto Rico, China, Chile, Ghana, Rumania, Ukraine, Indonesia, Hungary, Luxemborg, Austria

Pretty impressive!



DID YOU KNOW.....??



The Florida Park Service is pleased to partner with ParksByNature Network™ and PocketRanger.com to provide visitors and Florida state park enthusiasts with a FREE smartphone app. .



You can download the Florida State Parks Pocket Ranger ® app today onto your personal smartphone from iTunes, Android Market and at www.PocketRanger.com.

The app will download faster if you are connected to Wi-Fi. The app is also formatted for a mobile website at <http://fl.pocketranger.com>.



*Please visit
The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Facebook Page*

<https://www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins>



New direct line to reach Donna Young:

New desk phone # - 239-821-1618



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