



FLORIDA State Parks

...the Real Florida



Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Quarterly Volunteer Newsletter

Summer 2017

Volunteer Spotlight:

Park Cleanups

There were several cleanups sponsored by the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins this spring. All the cleanups took place the day after our busiest days of the year: Easter, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. We had several volunteers come out to pick up trash, including staff from Lucky's Market.



Staff from Lucky's Market on the day after Memorial Day

Information:

Bath House 5

The boardwalks around Bath house 5 are closed and under construction. As a result, parking lot 5 has limited parking. Boardwalks will be done by early fall and will have improved accessibility.

Sea Turtles

Sea turtle nesting season has started! So far we have 24 nests and 66 false crawls. Here are some ways you can help protect sea turtles during the season:

- Minimize lights on the beach during nesting season. Lights can cause females to abort nesting attempts and can distract hatchlings, causing them to not reach the water. The following lights can affect sea turtles: indoor and outdoor home and building lighting, campfires, flashlights, and flash photography.

- If you encounter a turtle on the beach at night, remain quiet, still, and at a distance, otherwise she may become frightened and return to the ocean without nesting.
- Leave turtle tracks undisturbed. Rangers use the tracks to find and mark the nests for protection. They can also use the tracks to identify the species of turtle that nested.
- Properly dispose of your garbage. Turtles may mistake plastic bags, Styrofoam, and trash floating in the water as food and die when this trash blocks their intestines.
- Celebrate events without the use of helium balloon releases. Like plastic trash, balloons end up in the ocean, especially when released near the coast. Sea turtles mistakenly eat the balloons and die.
- When digging holes on the beach, remember to fill in the hole when done. Hatchlings can get trapped in holes when crawling to the water.
- Remove recreational equipment, such as lounge chairs, cabanas, umbrellas, and boats, from the beach at night. Their presence can deter nesting attempts and interfere with the seaward journey of hatchlings.
- When boating, stay alert and avoid sea turtles. Propeller and collision impacts from boats and ships can result in injury and death of sea turtles. Avoid running into and anchoring boats in seagrass beds and coral reefs. These habitats serve as important foraging and resting areas for sea turtles.



Loggerhead sea turtle nest and tracks



Marked sea turtle nest

Upcoming Programs:

All programs are free with park entry fee unless otherwise stated.

Programs are updated monthly on our website. Check out

www.floridastateparks.org/park/Delnor-Wiggins for more programs and details.

BEACH COMBING

Sundays at 9:30AM

Check out our website for exact dates.

YOGA ON THE BEACH

Every Wednesday at 9:00AM

All yoga classes are \$5 each plus park admission. A portion of the class fee goes to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins. To make a reservation and payment please call **Greenmonkey Yoga** at 239-598-1938 or visit:

www.greenmonkey.com.

Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Corner

Resident Artist Mary Limont's Jewelry Workshop at Delnor-Wiggins

March 30, 2017 spawned another beautiful day at Delnor-Wiggins Pass. Under the shade of trees with the Gulf as a backdrop, the Friends ushered in a new event. Jewelry Artist Mary Limont provided artistic advice and expertise to the twenty plus participants at her jewelry making workshop. The program was sponsored by the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Mary is the Friend's 2017 Resident Artist.

As a designer and creator of fantastic jewelry art, Mary provided a hands-on lesson in making earrings for her class of local regular park visitors as well as first-time out of state visitors. Participants learned techniques as well as how to make material choices appropriate for this art. Each participant made individual selections for their earrings from a myriad of materials including beads of all sizes and colors.



Jewelry making with Mary Limont

Thanks, Mary, for this unique and informative program. For those of you who missed the workshop hopefully we can get Mary back for a repeat performance. Check the Friends website calendar for this and other events.

Article by Friends of Delnor-Wiggins

A Message from the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park:

Becoming a Friend of the Park - Make a Difference

The Friends group would like to cordially invite those of you who may not already be members of Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park to become a member and receive 12 free passes to the Park, among other benefits. The Friends mission is to promote public awareness, use and enjoyment of the Park, and to assist the Park management and staff. Your annual membership fees help the Friends group accomplish our mission as well as to improve the Park facilities by providing amenities through funds raised at our annual Art Show fund-raiser. The Friends is the only organization that contributes funds directly to support the Park.

As a member of Friends, in addition to 12 free passes to the Park, you will be invited to member meetings, special events and have the opportunity to volunteer in the Park and be as involved as your time allows. Friends is a 501 (C)3 charitable organization. Your membership dues and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For membership information please contact Gabriella Miyamoto at: dwmembershipchair@gmail.com

Friends meetings will resume at the Park in the fall. All are welcome:

- October 16, 2017 *(for October only: the meeting will be on the 3rd Monday of the month)*
- November 13, 2017
- December 8, 2017- *special Friday evening event: 30th Anniversary of the Friends group, more details to come.*
- January 8, 2018
- February 12, 2018
- March 12, 2018
- April 9, 2018

Any questions? Contact:

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