

FDWPSP Quarterly Newsletter

October 2024



The Friends of Del-nor Wiggins Pass State Park is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Let's Become (or remain) Friends!!

Please renew your membership by visiting : https://www.delnorwiggins.org/membership_form.htm#gsc.tab=0

Membership opportunities include the following levels:

- Seagull - \$50.00
- Manatee - \$100.00
- Dolphin - \$250.00
- Osprey - \$500.00
- Sea Turtle - \$1000.00

All membership levels, receive the following:

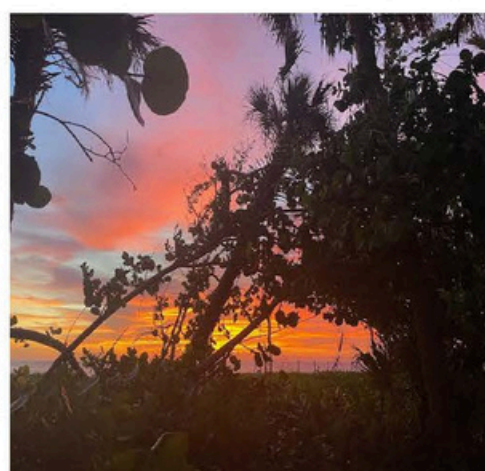
- A standing invitation to Friends events: Beach Cleanup Days, Membership Meetings, Volunteer opportunities, Member celebrations, invitation to the Friends Annual Picnic, quarterly newsletters, and regular email updates.

Your membership level determines the number of members invited to our "members only" events.

Seagull Membership allows 1 individual to attend

All other Memberships allow up to 4 individuals

Membership Card must be present at the time of event



This year, new volunteer opportunities are in the planning stages and include construction projects, plant propagation, event planning, and boutique staffing. Drop us an email (info@delnorwiggins.org) and let us know how you'd like to participate.

Park Recovery and Renewal

Concessions are scheduled to return to the park around Dec. 1st in Parking Area 2. Services will include rental of beach tents, chairs, and watercraft and purchase of pre-packaged food. Considering recent weather events, this opening may be delayed. We will update Friends as information becomes available.

Park Staffing

The Friends welcome new staff member, Lauren Hagen PSS, to DWPSP!

Turtle Nest Adoptions.

This season, we had 60 nest adoptions with an additional 16 nests coming in late in the season. Mother nature dealt us a blow in August when Tropical Storm Debbie visited the park with 1-3 ft storm surge, flooding the beach and roads with water. We lost several cages, but hopefully, unmarked nests survived to produce hatchlings.



Shortly after the park reopens (date not yet announced), we hope to celebrate our Turtle Nest Adoption donors at a beach event. We invite you to join us for refreshments on the beach and to pick up your adoption packet. Adoption information for next season's turtle nests will

also be made available at the event.

Tropical Storm Debbie, Hurricane Helene

On August 3-4, our shores received an unwelcome visitor—Tropical Storm Debbie brought wind, rain and storm surge. In preparation for the visit, park staff and some "Friends" emptied various storage sheds and transported materials off site for safe keeping. Sheds were then reassembled, and materials restored to the park on Tues. August 6th. Unfortunately, the rain and surge further compromised some roads in the park enlarging potholes and undermining the pavement. This will necessitate future rebuilding and repaving some areas in the park, particularly in the boat ramp area.

Sept 25th- 26th, BAD NEWS: Hurricane Helene moved 3-4 ft of sand from the beach to the roads and parking lots and signage was negatively impacted. GOOD NEWS: the shop area was undamaged, gopher tortoises seemed to have weathered the storm, and mangroves received limited debris deposit. Clean-up is currently proceeding.

FL State Park Foundation Grant: The MoSH

The Mobile Shade House (we call it the **MoSH**) trailer was delivered to the park on August 20th. This unit was purchased with a generous grant from the FLSP Foundation and will be fitted with shelves, trays, irrigation and shade cloth to provide a space for propagating plants to re-vegetate portions of the park. Those of you that are either construction-skilled and/or plant lovers are encouraged to volunteer your talents as we move forward with the project. Contact John or Kim Finer (kfiner@kent.edu) for more information or to volunteer your services.



Collier County Coastal Cleanup

Over 60 individuals volunteered for the Coastal Clean-up held at the park on Sept. 21, 2024. Participants included members of the Naples Princeton Club, local church volunteers, and family and friends with special connections to the park. Keep Collier Beautiful, organizers of the event, provided a t shirt for all volunteers as well as valued information on the importance of keeping our beaches clean. Five Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park staffed the check-in table and the first Pop-up Boutique of this new season. Mark your calendars for the next Great American Clean-up to be held on March 22, 2025.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

Unfortunately, Hurricane Helene (and now Milton) have made it difficult to schedule events with any certainty. Please be on the lookout for event announcements delivered in your Friends email inbox.