

FDWPSP Newsletter

January 2025

May the New Year be filled with beautiful weather, calm seas, and uninterrupted renewal of our natural landscape.



Happy New Year to all our Friends

We encourage new members along with returning members to stay in touch by regularly viewing the **FRIENDS** Facebook and web pages (<https://delnorwiggins.org>) for park updates. Also, please renew your membership when you receive notification and invite your family and friends to join us as well! If you have any questions about our organization or suggestions for programming, please contact us: info@delnorwiggins.org

Hurricane Milton's Impact



Hurricane Milton moved past the park on October 9-10 and although the park did not sustain a direct hit, the hurricane dumped a great deal of sand along park roads and in parking lots. Coupled with the sand deposited by Hurricane Helene (Sept. 25-26th), the amount of displaced sand was remarkable. Since October, park staff and contractors have been working hard to restore access to the park, which unfortunately remains closed as of this newsletter. Regular updates and communication from the park manager are available on the **FRIENDS** website. Please check the site regularly for updates. . Sand is removed from parking lots and roads and transported to the beach.

Sand piles will be contoured to replace dunes that were blown/washed away by Hurricane Milton

We Need Your Help!



We are looking for volunteers with carpentry and/or painting skills to help restore Lunetta, the large turtle that previously welcomed visitors to the park by the front entrance/gate house. Please contact the **FRIENDS** if you would be willing to help: info@delnorwiggins.org.



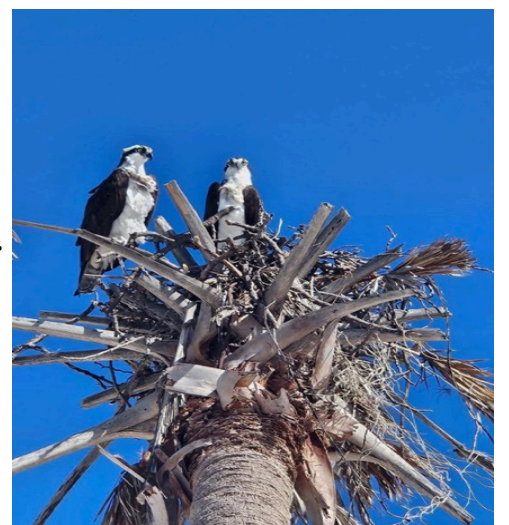
Park Clean-up

A volunteer effort to clean the mangrove area surrounding the marina and along the roads took place on November 13th. Twelve volunteers picked up lots of debris including plastics and hurricane detritus (wood, paper, metal). Volunteers were limited to cleaning up areas south of the marina access road as sand piles prevented moving north into the park.

Happy volunteers with their trash haul.

Wildlife Finds a Way!

Unfortunately, we lost our osprey nests due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. BUT now-- they're baaaaak! Pictured are a pair of nesting osprey busy building at the north end of the park. Hopefully the pair will be successful, and we'll be hearing—if not seeing— newly hatched oQspring in the nest approximately 40 days from now.



Friends Boutique

On December 16th, the **FRIENDS** held a holiday Boutique to fundraise for park restoration and future member events. The Boutique was held in conjunction with an interpretative display set-up by PSS Lauren Hagen at the south end of the park. Many visitors stopped by to shop and ask questions about park restoration and potential opening dates. We hope to hold Boutiques regularly in the same location (weather permitting) beginning in mid-January. Check your email and the Facebook page of the **FRIENDS** for dates and details.

Annual Membership Meeting

The **FRIENDS** annual membership meeting will be held Jan. 13th , 10:00 AM-11:30 AM in the Rome Room of Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church located at 625 111th Ave. N., Naples, FL 34108. Park Manager Cody Peters will provide updates regarding park restoration. We will also be electing two board members and serving refreshments. Please join us!