

FDWPSP Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL 2025



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

WELCOME TO 2025

The new year kicked off with our annual Friends meeting on January 13th. Approximately 30 attendees listened to a presentation by our park manager, Cody Peters, detailing park recovery plans. Members also re-elected Kim Finer and Donna Graham to board terms. Following the meeting, BOD officers were chosen including Janice Kmetz as President, K. Finer as VP, Valerie Thompson as Secretary, Eric Cosentino as Treasurer, and Donna Graham as Membership Chair. Next year we anticipate board and officer vacancies; please consider standing for election/office.

WORKDAYS AND PARK OPENING

During the week of Jan. 29, two volunteer work sessions were organized by PSS Lauren Hagen. Members helped install the rope fence in areas one and two, cleaned park signs and iron rangers, installed area one's Mobi mat and trimmed vegetation. The Park was ready to open on Feb 4, 2025.

On Feb 11th and Feb 14th, several members attended volunteer orientation. The session communicated volunteer procedures/guidelines. Important points presented included reminders to do the following:

- Sign in/sign out on volunteer sheets when carrying out volunteer activities.
- Use the State Park's volunteer portal to sign up for volunteer activities.
- Take/use a provided 2-way radio to ensure safety during volunteer activities.

TURTLE TAXIDERMY



The friends donated funds to restore the Park's loggerhead turtle specimen which had incurred heat and moisture damage. The turtle is now housed in a climate controlled environment (Cody's office) and will be used in interpretation efforts.

Do we think it needs a name?!!

A BEAUTIFUL NEW CANOPY

In late January we received our new logo canopy. We are proudly displaying our location and information on the beach during our pop-up Boutiques and should be easy to spot at the upcoming Earth Day event to be held April 13th at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Watch for email announcements regarding our pop-up Boutique schedule for the rest of the spring and summer.



TURTLE NEST ADOPTIONS.

The Adopt-A-Nest program has gotten off to a great start. Many thanks to those who have already donated. Adoptions and sponsorships continue to be available. Please access the Friends web page for more information (https://delnorwiggins.org/adopt_nest.htm#gsc.tab=0). We are hoping for an abundant laying and hatching season!

COLLIER COUNTY COASTAL CLEAN-UP

On March 22, 2025, over 30 individuals volunteered for the Coastal Clean-up held at the park. Keep Collier Beautiful, sponsor of the event, provided shirts for all volunteers as well as valued information on the importance of keeping our beaches clean. Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park helped staff with check-in and held an adjacent Pop-up Boutique. A few of our new clean-up volunteers had never been to the beach before and it turned out to be a memorable day for these young visitors.

PACK IN AND PACK OUT INFORMATION

The Friends purchased and installed a new information sign at the front entrance in March. The sign encourages visitors to pack in and pack out their supplies and all trash. Less garbage left on the beach and in trash cans means fewer racoons in the park. While racoons are "cute" they will prey on turtle nest eggs effectively reducing our hatch yield. Packing out trash is an easy way to do your part to keep racoon numbers manageable.