



## 2025: Year in Review

### **DWPSP STAFF CHANGES:**

- Staff members leaving: We wish them the best in their new adventures.
  - Jenn Marques, Administrative Assistant
  - Lauren Hagen, PSS
  - Nelson Pino; Ranger, Dave Young; Ranger, Sean Lenick; Ranger, Todd Ray; PSS
- New Ranger: Luke King

### **FRIENDS HAPPENINGS**

- in January, **Friends** members participated in a volunteer work session to get the park ready for opening.
- Boutique fund-raisers were up and running from January through June and offered again in September, October, and December. In the new year, we will continue to schedule regularly on the beach—weather permitting. Volunteers to help run Boutiques are always welcome. Funds raised via our Boutique events are used for requested park purchases and services.
- In the spring we held a special Boutique at the Conservancy of SW Florida Earth Day celebration. Our new **Friends** canopy was proudly on display and welcomed visitors to our tent where we provided park information and made **Friends** merchandise available for donations.
- In addition to our boutiques, **Friends** members held two shelling excursions, a Native Plant Walk, two Collier County coastal clean-ups, additional Saturday beach clean-ups, and assisted park staff with annual pass sales.
- We ended the year with a Sunset Potluck on the beach in December. Twenty attendees enjoyed great food and a beautiful early beach evening. Although a cloud bank obscured the sunset temporarily, we were eventually able to see the orange orb drop into the Gulf.

### **FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

- We opened our Adopt a Turtle Nest program in January and continued to receive donations until late July. In November, adopters received a picture of their nest, hatching information, and their nest name plate. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who participated. We hope you will consider adopting again this coming season. Adopt a Turtle Nest is our major annual fundraiser—please see the section below for information regarding projects supported by these efforts.
- Robust Boutique donations continued in 2025. We now have new t-shirt and hats available. Please purchase and wear your **Friends** garb proudly!

- Throughout the year, we receive donations, big and small from many community and **Friends** members. A big thank you to all who continue to support the **Friends**.

### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

- Parking lots 1 & 2 opened on Feb. 4, 2025. Parking lots 3 & 4 became available in April.
- The mobile shade house (MoSH) was ready for operation in August (the shade house is in the shop area, please stop by to check it out). We are currently approved to propagate five species of native plants. As a pilot project, we sampled and propagated several cuttings in August and now it's time to scale up. We need volunteers to assist as we look forward to beautifying the entrance area with both propagated and purchased plants.
- Volunteers tackled the crow's foot population of weeds on the dunes. We made headway pulling plants, but plenty remains to be removed.

### **MAJOR PARK PURCHASES: FUNDED IN 2025.**

- Purchase: Friends Custom Tent/Canopy with panel: (Jan) \$1000
- Refurbishment/taxidermy of juvenile green sea turtle (Jan) \$400.00
- Purchase: Interpret signs (May) \$336.00 (for 8 A-frame inserts). Paints and supplies to refurbish Lunetta: \$108
- Purchase: Food for volunteer appreciation events in April and August \$400
- Purchase: Solar batteries to process annual pass sales (Sept.) \$1805
- Contract: Web site redesign and monitoring company (Nov./Dec) \$2000 redesign.
- Allocation and purchase, APP 2025 addendum: Interpret trailer-and generator (Dec.)\$40,000
- Allocation: APP 2026. UTV, water tank and racks for gardening supplies. Plants, landscaping materials for park beautification. (Dec.)\$34,500

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026**

- Website redesign and updates to make information and navigation user friendly.
- Hopeful: return of the 12 park passes as a member perk!
- Purchase: Interpretation trailer that will serve, in part, as a base for Friends information and activities.



**Our Mission**

- To promote public awareness, use, and enjoyment of the park.
- To assist the park management and staff with facility maintenance, resource management, visitor services and recycling.
- To improve the park facilities by providing amenities through fund-raisers.
- To learn more about the native environment of this park and other Florida State Parks.

[www.delnorwiggins.org](http://www.delnorwiggins.org)

- Purchase: UTV and accessories to help with beautification of the park.



## Our Mission

- To promote public awareness, use, and enjoyment of the park.
- To assist the park management and staff with facility maintenance, resource management, visitor services and recycling.
- To improve the park facilities by providing amenities through fund-raisers.
- To learn more about the native environment of this park and other Florida State Parks.

[www.delnorwiggins.org](http://www.delnorwiggins.org)