



Fall 2012

FRIENDS OF
MacArthur Beach State Park

Dune NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Nesting Sea Turtles	1
President's Letter.....	2
Education Update	3
Happy Trails.....	4
Speaker Series.....	5
Service Volunteer Team.....	6
Happy 2nd Retirement.....	6
Up and Coming Events.....	7

John D. MacArthur Beach

STATE PARK

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Park Office:

561.624.6950

Nature Center:

561.624.6952

Beach Outfitters Gift Shop:

561.776.7449 Ext. 101

Friends Office:

561.776.7449 Ext. 111

Websites:

www.macarthurbeach.org

www.floridastateparks.org/macarthurbeach

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

is a non-profit corporation
with a mission of generating
supplemental resources to
preserve, restore, and interpret
the natural and cultural assets
of the Park for present
and future generations

A quarterly newsletter sponsored by the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Nesting Sea Turtles Set Records

It has been a very busy nesting season for sea turtles here at MacArthur Beach State Park. As of September 18, loggerhead turtles have laid a record 1675 nests breaking the previous record of 1308 set in 1995. Leatherbacks are also having a record-breaking season with 93 nests and green turtles are consistent with 227 nests this season.



Mother Nature, in the form of Tropical Storm Isaac, did have an impact on the numbers recently. "We estimate that we lost 4% of the total number of nests due to Tropical Storm Isaac," says Park Manager Don Bergeron, "our beach held up well, the health of the plants and keeping the wrack line in place added stability to the beach. We are still thrilled with the nesting numbers this year," he adds, "and hope this will help the turtles on the road off the endangered species list. 1900 nests on 1.6 miles of beach is exciting and gives us hope for the future."



The Park had a great start to the season, which runs from March through October with the first nest recorded on March 8th. "The good news is that the season is not over," says Bergeron, "we still have about a month to go and we are hoping to finish as strongly as we started."

Nesting and weather is only half the battle for the loggerheads and leatherbacks, which both appear on the endangered species list, only one in one thousand hatchlings will reach reproductive maturity. Despite education programs and new regulations, the greatest threat to the turtles is still incidental capture in fishing gear and direct harvesting of the eggs by humans.

As the only State Park in Palm Beach County, MacArthur was established to protect this diverse habitat from development. Thank you for supporting our efforts, and be certain to see our resident loggerhead sea turtles up close; Sheldon is in the Nature & Welcome Center while Caretta's aquarium is on the Beach Outfitters Gift Shop porch.



John D. MacArthur BEACH STATE PARK

Staff

Don Bergeron, *Park Manager*

Pat Rash, *Asst. Park Manager*

Lynn Desy, *Admin. Assistant*

Park Services Specialists

Art Carton

Lu Dodson

Rangers

Steve Desy

Scott Duncan

Dave Gelb

Rob Matriscino

Sarah Waddell

Bill Wilson

OPS Staff

Taryn Kerber

Douglas Sutherland

Diana Young

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Board of Directors

Stephanie Pew, *President*

Patricia Welch, *Vice President*

Daniel Calkins, *Treasurer*

Amy Woods, *Secretary*

Paul Aleskovsky

John Appleby

Steve Bass

Steven Cohen

Victoria Craze

Gretta Curry

Mark H. Davis

Richard Ganter

Marion Gerardi

Marianne Gold

Ellin Miller

Melinda Moore

Susan Murray

William O'Brien, Ph.D.

Ruth Petzold

Adrienne Propp (Jr. Friends)

Hal Reed

Susan Sachs

Ted Thoburn

Meredith Trim

Advisory Council

Leni Bane

E.J. Crittenden

Rebecca Doane

Janet Heaton

Carolyn Stone

Honorary Directors

Larry Harjehausen

William Hyland, Jr.

William Nolan

Nancy Van Deuren

Gilda Vogel

Friends Staff

Cheryl Houghtelin, *Executive Director*

Janice Kerber, *Dir. of Education*

Pat Santy, *Outfitters Manager*

Kari Foster, *Assistant Manager*

Susan Kamp, *Marketing &*

Membership Coordinator

www.macarthurbeach.org

President's Letter



What a great time for the Friends and the Park staff. I believe that we are the only CSO in the State to conduct such an ambitious capital campaign, which has resulted in a gorgeous new Natural Science Education Center, Beach Outfitters Gift Shop, and a completely remodeled Nature & Welcome Center.

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Quantum Foundation, the Friends have employed certified and experienced science teacher Janice Kerber as Director of Education. Janice has completely revamped our Natural Science Education program to provide all facets of required science education; programs include exploration of our coastal ecosystems, data collection and analysis, providing the needed fundamentals in a hands-on, experiential learning experience. Children, who may have never seen the ocean, have an opportunity to see, hear, feel and totally experience the outdoor lab that is our Park. Suddenly, science is fun, understanding comes with experience and learning becomes not a chore but a joy.

However, the Quantum Foundation funding ends in the spring of 2014. For this reason, the Friends have embarked on a fundraising campaign to sustain the educator position and to help keep the classroom supplied, the **Natural Science Education Fund**.

I would like to invite each and every one of you to come for a visit to see our accomplishments for yourselves. Call Cheryl Houghtelin, Executive Director, for a tour or more information at 561-776-7449 Ext. 111. I know that you will be inspired to support educating our children through the **Natural Science Education Fund**.

Many heartfelt thanks to all of you who support the Park and Friends.

See you in the Park,

Stephanie Pew

President

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

YES, I want to support the *Natural Science Education Fund*

Please print clearly and provide name(s) as you would like them to appear on Donor Recognition.

Name(s): M _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to (Circle one) Visa MasterCard Card# _____

VC code _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION: ☐ I wish to make a pledge of \$ _____, to be paid over a period of 3 years.

Please bill me: ☐ Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Please call me to discuss pledge period and payments

Mail to: Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Natural Science Education Fund

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Campaign Office: 561.776.7449 Ext. 111 www.macarthurbeach.org



Challenge Grant to Support Natural Science Education

Five board members of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park have stepped up to support a \$500,000 challenge grant to the ***Give the Gift of Nature*** campaign, launched to ensure children and families will continue to experience and enjoy the natural resources of Palm Beach County's only state park.

Through the challenge grant, the Friends will match -- dollar for dollar -- gifts of \$5,000 and up. Those who contribute that amount will be recognized as permanent donors, and naming opportunities are available.

Donations can be doubled, and in some cases, tripled, through employee-matching programs. See if your employer has a matching program at our website - www.macarthurbeach.org/give-the-gift-of-nature

The campaign goal is \$2 million, with \$1,126,404 raised as of October 15.

For information about how to ***Give the Gift of Nature***, contact Cheryl Houghtelin at (561) 776-7449 Ext. 111 or cheryl@macarthurbeach.org.



Education Update

The Friends organization makes natural science education a priority, providing programs to Palm Beach County students free-of-charge since 2001. Our programs provide the needed fundamentals through hands-on experiential learning activities, which educate, excite and involve the students in science. Children who may never have seen the ocean have an opportunity to see, hear, feel and totally experience the outdoor lab that is our Park. Suddenly, science is fun, understanding comes with experience and learning becomes not a chore but a joy.

We closed out the 2011-2012 school year having provided over 3500 students with a hands-on science experience at the Park, and impacting another 3700 by providing teacher training programs.

Janice Kerber, Director of Education, has a full schedule of over 4500 students who will be attending this school year, and a waiting list for any slots that may open.

We provide students and teachers continual learning tools by producing vodcasts, live broadcasts from the Park utilizing the DOE and Park Specialists. Questions and comments by students are fed directly to and answered by the staff. Held in cooperation with the school district, six vodcasts were shared during the 2011-12 school year, with seven scheduled for 2012-13. The final 2011-12 vodcast focused on sea turtles and was participated in by 144 classrooms with over 3600 students.

The web site has additional information about the Natural Science Education programs - www.macarthurbeach.org/education.



Happy Trails to Mykl Wallrath, Park Services Specialist and Megan Harris, OPS Park Ranger

Mykl Wallrath and Megan Harris have moved on from our Park to new and exciting opportunities. We wish them well in their new positions and hope they don't forget their Friends at MacArthur Beach State Park.



Megan with staff and volunteers at her going-away party.



Megan presenting 2012 Volunteer awards.



Mykl caring for Park animals.



*Mykl and Pat Rash presented with **Golden Turtle Awards** for their work on the Nature Center/ Education Center Building Projects.*



How would you like to get your message out to thousands of like minded people.

Put an ad in the Dune News! The Dune News quarterly newspaper is sent to over 2,000 Friends of MacArthur Beach members. It is a great way to showcase your particular cause or business. Ads start at \$250.00 for business card size. Please call Cheryl Houghtelin, 561-776-7221 for details.



say hello

TO PRESERVING OUR STATE PARK

TODAY, WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE FRIENDS OF
MACARTHUR BEACH STATE PARK

say hello
TO A MORE HUMAN WAY TO BANK
800.706.9991 | SEACOASTNATIONAL.COM

Seacoast
NATIONAL BANK
Member FDIC



Speaker Series

Join us in the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center for great information, exciting insights and fascinating discussion on a broad scope of local topics. Offered October through March on the first Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. to noon; \$5.00 per person. Space is limited, call for reservations – 561-776-7449 Ext. 104 or Janice Kerber

2013 Speaker Series

January 5 - Native Plants to Attract Wildlife and Restore Beauty in your Landscape - Gene Joyner

February 2 - Dolphins: An Intimate Glimpse at an Aquatic Society - Dr. Denise Herzing

March 2 - Geology of the South Florida Coastline - Dr. Ed Petuch



CONTACT DOANE & DOANE, PA FOR YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS

2000 PGA Blvd., Ste. 4410 N. Palm Beach, FL
561-656-0200 www.doaneanddoane.com

*Doane & Doane are proud supporters of the
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park,
Donors and Members are provided a discount*



Doane & Doane, PA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Thank you for your membership in the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park!

All funds raised by the Friends through memberships, the Gift Shop and kayak rentals stay in the Park. YOU assist the Friends to -

- Purchase equipment and supplies for the Natural Science Education Program
- Care for Park wildlife including the resident sea turtles
- Provide funding to purchase Passenger Trams and other equipment
- Fund volunteer training and recognition
- Provide funding for Picnic Pavilions and Playground
- Purchase and maintain the kayak fleet
- Fund Park printing, supplies and technology needs
- Provide funds for Park Staff Training
- Operate the Beach Outfitters Gift Shop

FRIENDS OF MACARTHUR BEACH STATE PARK, INC.

Membership Application
A not-for-profit Citizens Support Organization

☐ Benefactor...\$500+ ☐ Patron...\$499-\$100 ☐ Family...\$85 ☐ Individual...\$50

Name(s): M _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send this application along with your check or credit card information to:

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

**10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408**

Or join through the web site - www.macarthurbeach.org

For more information regarding the "Friends" please call 561.776.7449.



Join the Florida Park Service Volunteer Team

Volunteer opportunities for the following positions are available at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park:

Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop

Greet customers, assist with purchases, merchandising, kayak rentals and provide Park information as requested.



Nature Center

Provide support to Park staff by greeting visitors, assisting with maintenance of our exhibits, terrariums, and aquariums. If you are interested in animals, you may also assist in the care and feeding of the reptiles, fish, and invertebrates.

Morning (9AM to 1PM) or afternoon shifts (1PM to 5PM) are available. Volunteer one shift per week or more often if desired. Enjoy the park while working in air conditioned comfort.

Training is provided; volunteers enjoy free Park admission and free participation in Park activities. Please call Lu at 561-776-7449 Ext. 108 to volunteer or with questions.

Happy 2nd Retirement!!

Long time Volunteer Mort Green has decided to retire a second time; this time from his "retirement job" as a Tram Driver here at MacArthur Beach. Mort started his volunteer career in 1991, shortly after the Park was opened to the public, and has braved the heat, rain and loud children to serve us well.

Park and Friends staff shared a cake and some great memories at Mort's Retirement Party. Thanks for your dedication and friendship, Mort!

Art Carton and Mort at his Retirement party.



Don't Forget to Visit Beach Outfitters and Gift Shop

Holiday Shopping Sale!!

**November 18
thru
December 30th**

*Members receive 20% off**

Open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM., Beach Outfitters offers a wide variety of unique gifts, beach supplies, books and Park memberships to make your visit to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park memorable. Operated by the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, all funds from Beach Outfitters help fund Park programs and make your visit more enjoyable and fun.

- New merchandise arrives daily to take care of your beach outfitting and gift needs.
- Kayaks may be rented daily from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM; all kayaks must be returned by 4:00 PM.
- Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

** Excludes clearance items, food/drink items, services.*



Up and Coming Activities

NOVEMBER

03	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Fall Family Fun Day
04	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
10	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	FUN Program: Plants Plus*
11	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Birding by Kayak**
11	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
18	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
24	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Roy Schneider, Blues and Folk Music
25	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur

December

02	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
09	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Bluegrass with the Conch Stomp Band
16	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
29	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Tracy Sands & Rod MacDonald, Irish and American Songs
30	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur

Nature Walks & Programs

Daily Nature Walks

A guided exploration of MacArthur Beach State Park daily at 10 a.m. Meet in front of Beach Outfitters Gift Shop, bring water bottle, sun screen and insect repellent. Free with Park admission.

Animal Feeding

Join us to observe our resident sea turtles and tropical fish at feeding time and learn more about these amazing creatures. Every weekend day in the Nature & Welcome Center, free with Park admittance.

* Call 561-776-7449 Ext 104 to register

**Call 561-624-6952 for reservations or more information

Activity Details

- All programs are free of charge except FUN (Families Understanding Nature), MacArthur Under Moonlight Concerts and some Speaker Series

Birding - Learn the names, characteristics and behaviors of the common and rare wading birds that browse the exposed mud flats at low tide.

Bluegrass - Listen to some of the best bluegrass music in South Florida; The Untold Riches and The Conch Stomp Band will be playing bluegrass music in the amphitheater.

Butterfly Walk - Join a staff naturalist on a mile long walk identifying the butterflies that inhabit the park. Reservations recommended.

Families Understanding Nature PROGRAM - F.U.N. programs are designed for families with school-aged children to come and learn about various natural science topics through hands-on exploration. Scout groups and homeschool groups are welcome to join this program. The cost is \$5 per child, parents are free; parents must stay to participate in the

program with their child(ren). Space is limited, call for reservations - 561-776-7449 Ext. 104

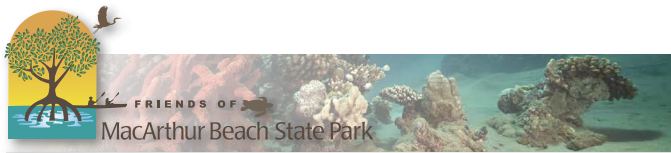
Learn to Kayak - Adventure Times Kayaks teaches the basic skills necessary to safely enjoy the exciting sport of kayaking; instruction on land only. Reservations recommended.

MacArthur Under Moonlight Concert Series - Join us for a magical night of music, gates open at 6:00 p.m. Concert 7-9:00 p.m. with a fifteen minute intermission at 8:00 with stargazing on the boardwalk. \$5.00 per person; Friends of MacArthur Beach members with one guest and children under the age of 10 are free. Refreshments sold by Junior Friends

Recreational Skills: Birding by Kayak - Take a guided kayak tour with a Ranger, paddling through Lake Worth Lagoon

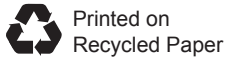
to Munyon Island, with your sights set on spotting estuary birds and migratory songbirds on the island. The cost for the two-hour tour is \$25 for a single kayak and \$40 for a double kayak (2 people). Bring your water bottle, binoculars, and favorite birding guide, keeping in mind they might get wet. Binoculars are available for rent at an additional charge. Reservations required, space is limited, call for information at 561-624-6952.

Speaker Series - We invite you to join us in the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center for great information, exciting insights and fascinating discussion on a broad scope of local topics. Offered October through March on Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon; \$5.00 per person. Space is limited, call for reservations - 561-776-7449 Ext. 104



10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT NO. 4941



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

The only State Park in Palm Beach County, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park provides visitors with 1.3 miles of beautiful beach to explore and enjoy.

We invite you to join our volunteer family. Opportunities include the Gift Shop, Visitor Services, Education Programs, Tram Driving and other activities. Training is provided; volunteers enjoy free Park admission and free participation in Park activities.

Please call Lu at 561 776-7449 Ext. 108 to volunteer or with questions.