



Dune News

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

Spring 2005

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by Junko Nomura

On April 22, 1970, Dennis Hayes and Senator Gaylord Nelson held the first national teach-in to educate the US public about environmental issues. Twenty million people participated that day. Since then, April 22, now officially known as "Earth Day," has spread across the nation and the world.

Thirty-five years have passed since that first Earth Day celebration. Despite progress, we still face many of the same problems. Many environmental acts have been established; however, we should keep striving to restore and improve our environment, and most of all, we should keep questioning, "Is our environment getting better?"

NatureScaping 2005 at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park will feature many local environmental organizations like the Audubon Society, Florida Native Plant Society, and Solid Waste Authority. They are willing to answer your questions and provide information. What's going on in the Everglades?

LEARN MORE, ACT MORE!

NatureScaping 2005 — Earth Day Celebration
Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

What kind of native plants are good for my yard? Why is recycling important? You can find answers to these and many other questions at NatureScaping 2005.

Also, you will encounter unique vendors and artists who are environmentally conscious—many even use recycled materials. The spotlight this year is an "Animal Art Demonstration." Edward Royal and Renee Headings will draw and sculpt live raptors. Both are members of the Society of Animal Artists and have won various awards.

What about "saving the planet?" Isn't it a little too big? How about saving your yard? Please join us at NatureScaping! We guarantee you will have a great day.



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Beach State Park

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Barry Stevens
Rob Matriscino
Linda Gabelmann

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Thoburn's Thoughts



After much effort on the part of the Park management, the extensive hurricane storm damage to park vegetation has now been cleared. That effort completed provided time to address and update the Park's Ten Year Unit Plan that was published in 1999.

With the cooperation and assistance of members of the Department of Environmental Protection staff in Tallahassee, several changes were made to the Recreational, Interpretive, and Park Administration Goals sections of the plan. Specifically, they are as follows:

- *Redesign and replace Nature Center interpretive exhibits.*
- *Expand and improve Nature Center to provide expanded educational and meeting facilities, as well as a larger gift shop.*
- *Extend electrical service across lagoon to beach area to provide vending facilities at the beach side and electrical service to the restrooms. This enhancement will take into consideration the need for total darkness during turtle nesting season.*
- *Extend electrical and water service to the kayak launch at the southern end of the Park.*
- *Redesign Park entrance appearance and road sign.*

• *Redevelop ranger and interpretive facilities to better suit current needs of Park staff.*

The recent hurricanes placed a high degree of need to complete this enhancement in a timely fashion.

While we await the final approval of the Department of Environmental Protection for these additions to the Unit Plan, the Friends Executive Board is beginning to estimate costs, prioritize the projects, and study the feasibility of a Capital Campaign to fund them.

I am sure that you will agree with me that all of these additions will comprise valuable improvements to the Park's physical plant and programs. We are very excited about them and hope that the community will join us in contributing the funds necessary to complete them.

TED

Ted Thoburn, *President*
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Welcome New Members!

Aagerstown-Mathis Family

Mark Bates

David Brandwein

Margaret Burkhardt

Elizabeth Hall

Clair Heise

Steve Kelson

Mary Pizello

Dr. Marilyn Raymond

Lisa Somerfleck

Carol and Larry Uhlick

...

Shorelines



Thirteenth Annual Sea Turtle Naming Contest — Winner!

Congratulations, Wellington Christian School!

by Art Carton

MacArthur Beach State Park is home to a rescued sea turtle hatchling, and every year we host a naming contest for our baby loggerhead. Each elementary school from Palm Beach County is invited to submit one name to be placed on the ballot. Due to hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, this year's voting didn't take place until February. For three weeks, visitors to the Nature Center were asked to vote for their favorite name. This year the winning name is *Yoshi*, a favorite character from a popular Nintendo video game. Congratulations go to Candace Marchsteiner's fifth grade class at Wellington Christian School, who won the 13th Annual Sea Turtle Naming Contest. They will be invited to the Park to meet Yoshi and see their name engraved on the

plaque, which hangs next to the aquarium.

Yoshi was transferred here from the Juno Beach Marinelife Center on December 9, 2004 at the age of three months. At that time, Yoshi weighed a whopping 110 grams and measured 8.9 centimeters in width. Yoshi is thriving in this new environment and now weighs 270 grams.

Loggerhead sea turtles are named for their large head with strong jaws for crushing mollusks, crabs and other prey. They average three feet in carapace length and weigh up to 300 pounds. They live in temperate and subtropical waters worldwide, and many come to the southeastern United States to nest from March through September. Last year there were about 1,000 loggerhead nests at the Park. That is a lot of turtle eggs, considering each nest has a clutch of about 100

eggs, and the turtles nest 2-3 times per season. Females only nest every few years. Around 60 days after the eggs are laid, the hatchlings will emerge from the sand. If the hatchlings are lucky enough to make it to the sea, they will spend the next few months camouflaged among Sargassum weed.

As for Yoshi, he (or she) will stay at the park until this fall. At that time, Yoshi will be transferred to another facility until big enough to be released into the Atlantic Ocean. Don't be sad, that might not be the last you see of Yoshi. Sea turtles return to the same beach where they were born to lay their eggs. So, if you are walking along our beaches 20 years from now and spot a familiar looking sea turtle laying eggs it might just be Yoshi... *if* Yoshi is a female.

A BIG Thank You!

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park extends a BIG *thank you* to Jaye Boswell, who, on behalf of the Boswell family, gave a generous donation to the Midge and Robert Boswell Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is for scholarships to the Park's "Touch the Earth" summer day camps (now taking registrations).

Jaye's mother, Midge, was the very first person to volunteer in the Park's Nature Center, beginning in 1989. Midge also made wonderfully tasty cookies each summer for all of the day campers to enjoy—which they and the Park's staff certainly did!

Student Artists in Residence

The students of local artist, Laurie Hein, at Lost Tree Village, will present their works of art at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park Nature Center from April 10 until May 15.

The proceeds of the sale of these paintings will benefit the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park. So, come and enjoy the view... and feel free to buy one to take home!



"Mama" ©2004

Acrylic by Susie Fruehauf

Shorelines

Awarding Volunteers

Volunteers who gave 100 hours or more of their time to the Park were invited to the annual Volunteer Awards Dinner on February 26 at the North Palm Beach Country Club. Sponsored by the Friends, this celebration is an opportunity for the Park staff to thank the volunteers for their many hours of hard work. Volunteers and their families, along with Park staff and their families, enjoyed food, friendship and laughter.

Park Manager, Terry Coulliette, presented awards to the following volunteers:

100 hours

Roucounmany Gilmore, Nature Center Docent
Kelley Hein, Animal Care
Mary Magil, School Tour Guide
Bob Severin, Tram Driver



250 hours

Phyllis Zaccaro, Nature Center Docent
Ashley Hein, Animal Care
Donna Tighe, Moonlight Concert Organizer
Dottie Williams, Nature Center Docent
Bruce Kay, Kayak Tour Volunteer Trainer

500 hours

Stanley Rubin, Tram Driver
Morton Green, Tram Driver

1000 hours

Ron Gerson, Tram Driver

1500 hours

Bill Nolan, Tram Driver
Serge Goyette, Maintenance

2500 hours

Alicia Didia, Nature Center Docent
George Southworth, Electrician

Volunteer tram drivers who have been with the Park since 1997 are Dick Weiser, Bob Lanen, Bob Frazier, Don Bottaro, John Murray, Don Russell, Larry Harjehausen, Dick Goodwin, Bill Leimbach, Bill Nolan, Garry Mansfield, Joe Hughes, Mort Green, and Ron Gerson.

Thank you to our smart, loyal, dependable, resourceful, friendly volunteers! You are the best, making us a better park!

Touch the Earth! Summer Day Camps

Marine Biology Summer Day Camp

Offers rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders a rare opportunity to learn about marine environment of our Park through snorkeling, kayaking mudflat explorations and laboratory activities. Campers must come with an enthusiasm for learning, willingness to explore, and be confident swimmers, who are comfortable in the ocean. Snorkel equipment will NOT be provided. A lifeguard will be present for all snorkeling activities. Snacks will be provided daily. Cost: \$95 per session.

Session 1: June 6-10, 8:00-Noon

Session 2: July 18-22, 8:00-Noon

Session 3: July 25-29, 8:00-Noon

Junior Ranger Summer Day Camp

Offers rising 4th and 5th graders the opportunity to learn about the biological communities in coastal southeast Florida. Campers will explore the beach, hike, and snorkel the reef in search of tropical fish. Snorkel equipment will NOT be provided. A lifeguard will be present for all snorkeling activities. Snacks will be provided daily. Cost: \$80 per session.

Session 1: June 13-17, 8:00-Noon

Session 2: June 20-24, 8:00-Noon



Space is limited, please register now!
Call the Nature Center to ask for a registration form.
(561) 624-6952



Under the Hammock

Gift Gab

The gift shop has new items!

- If you had fun with *Grow a Fish*, then you will love the new *Grow a Shell*. (Put it in water and watch it grow!)
- Try these on for size: sunglasses that can be used as clip-ons and rolled up into a container the size of a roll of camera film!
- The gift shop is a great place for Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts with designs that are special to MacArthur Beach and Florida.
- We have a terrific selection of t-shirts, towels, figurines, jewelry, books and even salt and pepper shakers.

From educational items and toys and knicknacks to hats and other apparel, there is something for everyone. Come on by and browse about!

Marty

Gift Shop Guru, Administrator,
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

All profits from the gift shop go to the Park to support the programs and activities that you, your family and your friends enjoy all year long.

Manager's Musings

The seasons are changing once again, bringing longer days to enjoy the wonderful weather. There seem to be more visitors every day and we are again very lucky to have such a support team of volunteers to help us provide continued service.

Strong east winds and higher tides have continued to sculpt and change our beaches. Much of the sand piled on by the hurricanes have been washed away. It is fascinating to watch as the sea brings and takes away literally hundreds of tons of sand over a fairly short period of time. One day it's surfer's paradise, followed only a few days later by glassy calm waters, perfect for snorkeling and swimming.

Our MacArthur Under Moonlight concerts continue, and I would like to remind the members of *The Friends* that their membership entitles them to a discount for some of the monthly concerts. Just show your membership card at the check-in table. Presently, your membership entitles you to 12 free days at the Park each year. The days that apply to free admission for Friends members are the first Saturday of each month—upon presentation of a valid membership card. At this time, the Friends' Board of

Directors is seeking a way to increase the opportunities for members to have free access to the Park. Otherwise, you need to be prepared to pay the regular admission fee. I regret if this causes any inconvenience.

Many Park activities are on the horizon. Besides our traditional concerts, guided walks, and ranger-led kayak tours, our recreation user program will present something for nearly everyone. Do you want to learn about kayaking, cast-netting, making art from the things found on the beach? Or have you been curious about the many native and exotic plants found in this part of Florida? Perhaps you have wondered about the abundance of beautiful birds migrating through the Park. Here is your chance to join rangers and volunteers as they share their love and stories about the REAL Florida found here at the John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Join us, as we explore the coming seasons. Please contact the Nature Center at (561) 624-6952 for more information.

Terry

Terry Coulliette, *Park Manager*

Volunteer Appreciation Day a Treat!

by Millis Keegan

A beautiful, cold and windy morning greeted us for Volunteer Appreciation Day, January 29, at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. MacBeach's Ranger Linda arranged the event and she was there to direct us—happy as always, with a cheerful smile and a joke. Some of us went for a guided nature walk, and some of us went on a trip along Loxahatchee River to Trapper Nelson's Camp.

I was a traveler on the boat trip. The scenery along the river was absolutely beautiful; I vowed to go back someday to kayak slowly through the

water and enjoy the environment again. We passed a turtle—he lifted a front leg and waved at us. The boat captain said it took them years to train him...

The birdlife was spectacular, as it typically is in Florida. The boat captain pointed out interesting plants, too, but being on a boat among Nature Guides from our Park was like being in a living encyclopedia. I learned still more from them.

Trapper Nelson Camp was shown to us by a knowledgeable JD guide, Ranger Barry; he had a lot of interesting stories and made the experience worth the trip.



After the morning activities, a great barbeque waited for our starving souls. Linda had anticipated that coffee could be a treat, too. She was right.

Volunteer

Spotlight



The Hein Family

On Sunday mornings, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., you can find three generations of volunteers from one family at the Park. My cousin, my grandmother, my aunt and I work in the Nature Center.

My name is Kelley Hein, and I have been volunteering at MacBeach for about a year. My aunt, Vicki Hein, has been volunteering for about six months; while my grandmother, Nita Hein, and my cousin, Ashley Hein, started volunteering in 2002. My grandfather, Charlie Hein, also started volunteering at the Park in 2002, and now he is a Park employee.

In the Nature Center, my grandma runs the gift shop counter

with my aunt, and they both help out with kayak rentals. When I began volunteering, I mostly vacuumed and straightened things, although now I am proud to say I also help take care of the animals with help from my cousin. We change the hermit crabs' and snakes' water, cleaning their cages, and feeding them. I also feed the fish and turtle. Ashley vacuums, cleans the display cases, and washes the windows. She also helps feed the fish and clean the tanks. Occasionally we switch tasks, so that no one gets bored with just one task. We both love taking care of the animals in the Nature Center. One of our favorite jobs is exercising the snakes and hermit crabs.

Since going to work in the

Park, we all have learned a lot about Nature that we did not know before. It's a bit like going to school, except much more fun (and interesting). As junior volunteers, Ashley and I thought that the senior volunteers and staff might find our need to ask questions annoying, but actually they love it. Everyone at the Park treats us with respect and acknowledges our importance in getting the job done. I think all families would benefit from working together as volunteers at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. As a matter of fact, both Ashley and I agree that it would be a great place to work when we graduate. Please come and visit us at the Nature Center. You will have fun there.

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Membership Application

A not-for-profit Citizens' Support Organization

☐ Benefactor... \$500+ ☐ Patron... \$100-\$499 ☐ Family... \$75 ☐ Individual...\$40 ☐ Student... \$20

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please send this application along with your donation to:

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

PO Box 32395

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420

For more information on the "Friends" please call (561) 776-7449

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the "Friends" may be obtained from The Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352

Up-n-Coming

April

02	Saturday	8-12:00 p.m.	Beach Clean-Up
03	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
09	Saturday	11-12:00 p.m.	F.U.N. Program: <i>Butterflies and Gardening</i>
10	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
16	Saturday	10-3:00 p.m.	NatureScaping 2005 – Earth Day Celebration, free admission
17	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
23	Saturday	2:30 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
23	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	MacArthur under Moonlight Concert: <i>Grant Livingston</i>

May

01	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
07	Saturday	11-12:00 p.m.	F.U.N. Program: <i>Mother's Day Card-making</i>
15	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
21	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
21	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	MacArthur under Moonlight Concert: Band TBA
22	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
31	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Turtle Walk Tours reservation begins: call (561) 624-6952

June

04	Saturday	10-12:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: <i>Introduction to Snorkeling</i>
05	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
11	Saturday	10-12:00 p.m.	Guided Reef Tour (limited space)
12	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
18	Saturday	10-12:00 p.m.	Guided Reef Tour (limited space)
19	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
25	Saturday	10-12:00 p.m.	Guided Reef Tour (limited space)

NatureScaping 2005 • An Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 16 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • FREE!

Food & Music
Native Plant Sale
Snake Talk & Florida Live Animal Shows
Presentation: *Native Plants for the Home Landscape*
Presentation: *Florida's Wacky History and Why You Should Care*
Environmental Champion Award
Animal Art Demonstration
Silent Auction
Kids' Eco-craft

Volunteer Holiday Party a Hit!



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

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Nature Center:
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(561) 776-7449

Websites:
www.macarthurbeach.org
www.floridastateparks.org

More than just a beach!

Newsletter created by
THE INKLING PATCH • (772) 285-8865

by Millis Keegan

When I first met *The Friends* administrator, Marty Shiffman and Park Manager, Terry Coulliette, both of them commented on the fact that the volunteer force at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is multicultural, more so maybe than any other park. On top of that, the American volunteers here represent a huge cross-section of this country, representing many states, and bringing to the table influences and experiences of great value.

When the Park invited the volunteers to celebrate the Holidays last winter, Park Services Specialist, Junko Nomura, wanted the event to reflect our multiculturalism, so she asked some of the volunteers to present a display, showing how Christmas and other Holidays are celebrated in their country of origin. Seven countries were represented; Roucoumany Gilmore from Vietnam, Reva Datar from India, Millis Keegan from Sweden,



Renate Fisher from Germany, Honza Rokyta from Czech Republic, Junko Nomura from Japan, and Celia Barrett from Mexico. It was a great conversation piece and brought people together from the start. And with the help of the dancing and singing students from the Department of Performing Arts of the Benjamin School, the Holiday Spirit surrounded us that evening.

After a nice dinner and an overwhelming dessert table, Junko had a small surprise up her sleeve. She brought out the *Fukuwarai* which is the Japanese version of pin the tail on the donkey!



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