



# Dune News

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

Summer 2006

**MacArthur Beach is a great place to cool off this summer!**



Junko Nomura,  
Park Services Specialist

## Regular Highlights

Thoburn's Thoughts.....	2
Volunteer Spotlight.....	2
Shorelines.....	3
Up-n-coming.....	4
Under the Hammock.....	5



Kids! Can you find me in this newsletter?

## Cool Off! Snorkel at MacBeach!

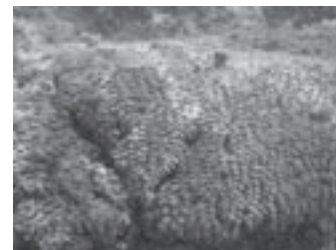
Besides being in our air-conditioned homes, the only way to cool your body in Florida's hot summers is to get in the water—namely, the ocean! On a calm day (usually the morning is calmer than the afternoon), bring your snorkeling gear and explore the Park's reef. If it's sunny, and the water is clear, it will be a breathtaking underwater tour. You will encounter many kinds of fish, nurse sharks, schools of squid and lobsters. The Park's reef is popular for boaters, too. To protect yourself from boats, you should have a dive flag with you (\$3.20 to rent in the Nature Center). If you are not comfortable snorkeling by yourself, then join the Reef Snorkeling Tour, held every Saturday morning until the end of August Call (561) 624-6952 to make a reservation. Snorkel Tours are free with Park admission.

The Park's ocean floor has groups of rocks parallel to the shoreline. These rock reefs are composed of compressed sand grains and shell fragments, therefore different from coral reef. Often you will see numerous and intricate honeycomb surfaces created by marine worms on these rocks. Many different species of marine organisms live around these reefs. This makes them excellent places to go snorkeling.

Another thing to be careful of is tides and currents. You may get scraped by the reef if you attempt to snorkel in shallow water—the reef can be sharp. To see the reef more easily, high tide is better than low tide. Please be aware that stepping on or grabbing the rocks will kill these delicate marine organisms. Go with respect and have fun!



If it's sunny calm day, the visibility is usually good.



Worms of the Sabellariidae family settle on the surface of rocks and construct a tube out of sand and build their sandy hive-like homes.



Nurse sharks are normally harmless and stay at the bottom, feeding mostly at night on crustaceans, small stingrays, sea urchins, squid, and bony fishes.



Porgyfish belong to the Grunt family. They have distinctive black bars on the head and yellow stripes on the body. They are common at the Park's reef.

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Beach State Park**

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# Thoburn's Thoughts



We are well into our summer season, and while it may appear to be a slow time for the local area, that is not the case at the Park.

Summer Camp is in full swing, and the campers are busy with their summer programs and projects. Daily, a steady flow of visitors arrive to take advantage of the beach, kayaks, or one of many other programs that are offered at the Park.

Turtle walks are scheduled to capture the amazing scene of the sea turtles' migration to the beach, building their nests and depositing eggs, which soon will hatch many baby turtles. If you have not taken a guided turtle walk, you should call the Park regarding the schedule of future walks.

With the arrival of summer comes the subject of hurricanes. Park management is busy preparing for the storm that we all hope will never arrive. With financial assistance from the Friends, generators have been acquired to assure that the aquariums will continue to operate without interruption. Generator power

to the Ranger Station and other buildings will permit the Park to recover from a storm and open much more quickly.

The Executive Board continues to prepare for a future Capital Campaign. Much work has been accomplished in the design of the new Welcome Center, Educational Center, Park staff housing, and new Nature Center exhibits. The Campaign Cabinet is in place, and preparation for the campaign is underway.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Friends and the Park staff, I thank you for your continued interest and support of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

**TED**

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

# Volunteer Spotlight



by Cee Cee Barrett,  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

**Susan Gay**

Let me introduce Susan Gay, a volunteer at MacBeach for 1.5 years. On Friday afternoons, she greets visitors with a huge smile and offers rides to the beach on the tram, while eagerly providing information about the Park. Tram driving is only one of Susan's many volunteering talents. If you come to the Park on

a Tuesday morning, Susan will lead you on an interpretive nature walk through the Park.

Susan was born in New York and moved to Florida in 1979 with her two children, via the windy soul city of Chicago. Susan's first visit to the Park was in 1991, and she fell in love with the Park immediately.

MacBeach provides a ton of things she enjoys

doing outdoors: kayaking, snorkeling, a beautiful beach, nature paths, and, of course, great people. In addition to all the grand things Susan does at the Park, she loves to hang out with her partner in crime, Sugar—her Jack Russell-wiener dog.

Thanks for all your hard work, Susan. You are gratefully appreciated!

# Shorelines

## School Tour Guides

by Art Carton, *Park Services Specialist*

The school year doesn't actually end in May. Both June and July are already booked up with visiting school groups from summer camp programs. Over my two years at the Park, I've come to enjoy coordinating and leading kindergarteners through fourth graders. This year, over 3,500 school children from Palm Beach County have come to visit the Park because of our educational tours. We couldn't have reached this many children if it weren't for the help of school tour volunteers.

If leading a group of smiling youngsters on an educational and fun walk appeals to you, then please consider becoming a guide. There are numerous rewards to this. The greatest is knowing that you opened a child's mind to a whole new experience. It amazes me that some students have never seen the ocean. There is nothing better than to see a child's face when he sees the ocean for the first time.

The first step in becoming a school tour guide is to speak with me. I will talk with you and give you a guidebook and take you on a tour. Next would be to attend the volunteer orientation. Finally, you would shadow one of our experienced guides. You'll learn more than you bargained for and have a good time. Please give me a call if you would like to help and make a difference in the life of an elementary school child.



## 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

## July

01	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
01	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
02	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
05	Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
08	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
08	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
09	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
15	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
16	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
19	Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
22	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
22	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
29	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour

## August

02	Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
05	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
05	Saturday	10-3:00 p.m.	Kids Reef Tour and Fishing Clinic
05	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
06	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
13	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
19	Saturday	Noon	Birding at MacArthur Park
20	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session

## September

03	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
10	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
16	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
17	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
30	Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Butterfly Walk

# Under the Hammock

## Gift Gab

Welcome my new "office partner" Cheryl Houghtelin. Cheryl is the Community Relations Manager for the Capital Campaign. She is also helping me with the recruitment of volunteers for the Gift Shop. Would you like to volunteer in the Gift Shop? We can use your help both during the week and on weekends. The shifts are: 9-1 or 1-5. If you are interested, then come in and fill out a volunteer application or call Marty at (561) 776-7449.

Have you seen the remodeled Friends office? Park staff did a super job of painting the walls, cleaning the carpet, lowering the ceiling, and installing new light fixtures. Thanks to all who did such a great job! Stop by and see the new office (same location).

### New In the Gift Shop:

- *12" Toy Sharks*—They look real!
- *Soft Puppets*—Turtles, sharks, octopuses, and more.
- *"Grow a Fish" & "Grow a Turtle" Toys*—They grow larger in water!
- *Insulated Tote Bags*—With the MacArthur Beach logo.
- *Regular Tote Bags*—With the MacArthur Beach logo.
- *Bookmarks*—With magnetic tips: fish, turtles, etc.
- *Keychains*—With turtles, etc.
- *New "Change Color" T-shirts*—"At The Bar".
- *MacBeach Aquarium Note Cards*—By Women of Watercolor Artist, "Bunny" Jones.



*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

If you haven't been to the Park in a while, I would like to invite you to return and enjoy some of the many fun activities we have to offer. Whether you prefer kayaking, beach walking, or simply enjoying the tranquility of our undeveloped beach, there is something for everyone.

The worm reef—just off shore—offers opportunities to snorkel among beautiful tropical fish. You might be lucky enough to see a rare sea turtle. You can access the reef from the beach.

With the arrival of summer, we see an increase in our turtle nests on the beach. Our morning patrols check

and record the nesting activities of the various species of turtles that return to our beach each year. If you are interested in keeping up with the turtle nesting count, or if you would like to volunteer to help with our turtle program, please contact the staff at the Nature Center.

Members of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park get special rates and discounts. Check with Marty at the Nature Center for details. Have a safe, fun summer!

*Terry*

Terry Coulliette, Park Manager

## Did You Know...

...that back in 1959, when John D. MacArthur founded his dream city of the future, as he liked to refer to it, he had every intension of calling it Palm Beach City? However, as it turned out, the powers to be at the time were opposed to this because they wanted to reserve that name for some future date. MacArthur decided to let them have their way. Instead, he decided to give his city a name that would fit into his overall garden theme which, among other things, involved naming the streets after plants, flowers, and trees. From that day on, this great city would be known as Palm Beach Gardens. It was MacArthur's wife, Catherine, who named most of the streets in Palm Beach Gardens.

...that it was John D. MacArthur who put up the entire \$600,000 bond issue that the state of Florida refused to pay to ensure an exit from the Florida Turnpike to MacArthur's city of Palm Beach Gardens? At the official opening ceremony, MacArthur, in his usual unpredictable fashion, instead of cutting the ribbon, used the scissors to cut the tie of the man standing next to him. That man just happened to be County Commissioner E.

F. Van Kessel. I met Mr. Van Kessel at one of the lectures that I presented over the years about Mr. MacArthur. I must say that he was delighted to confirm that story as fact.

...that these are excerpts from Mr. Sanford's book, *A View from the Bar*, which you can buy at the Nature Center?



# Welcome New FRIENDS Members!



**John D. MacArthur  
Beach State Park**

10900 State Rd. 703 (A1A)  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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(561) 624-6950

**Nature Center:**  
(561) 624-6952

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(561) 624-6954

**Friends Office:**  
(561) 776-7449

**Websites:**  
[www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org)  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

***More than just a beach!***

*Newsletter created by*

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