



Dune News

Summer-Fall 2008

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John D. MacArthur Beach

STATE PARK

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Office Phone:

(561) 624-6950

Nature Center:

(561) 624-6952

Facsimile:

(561) 624-6954

Friends Office:

(561) 776-7449

Websites:

www.macarthurbeach.org
www.floridastateparks.org

Natives in the Yard • Anhinga or Cormorant?

by Dottie Williams

There are two similar birds that are found in the lakes in our community. The *Anhinga* and *Double-crested Cormorant* are frequently confused. They are both black birds that dive from the surface under the water to fish. They are also seen perched in trees with wings spread to dry their feathers in the sun. They are completely different birds. In this article, I'd like to explain the differences between the two.

The *Anhinga* has a long neck and a thin pointed bill. It is sometimes called a "snake bird" because when swimming in the water, its body is completely submerged and only his neck and head are above water. The adult's white wing feathers are easily spotted when they spread their wings to dry and the female's chest and neck feathers are lighter than the males'. The *Anhinga* has a unique technique for fishing. The bird will dive under the water and literally spear its catch. It then swims to the surface with the fish impaled on the beak. Most times it will shake its head vigorously to flip the fish into its mouth and swallow it headfirst. Sometimes the *Anhinga*'s strike is so powerful that it must swim to shore and attempt to pry the fish off his beak by rubbing it against rocks or the ground.

The *Anhinga* is found from Florida to North Carolina and west to Texas. It prefers freshwater and coastal aquatic habitats such as lakes, marshes, swamps, mangrove swamps, shallow coastal bays and lagoons. It feeds mostly on fish but it will eat other aquatic animals such as insects and frogs. Because it does not have any insulating body feathers or oil coating its feathers, it

from the *Anhinga* by its bill. It is blunt and hooked at the tip. Unlike the *Anhinga*, its body remains above the water while swimming. The adult plumage is all black with a greenish gloss and the bare skin around its face is orange. The cormorant uses a different fishing method than the *Anhinga*. It dives from the surface, chases the fish and catches it with its bill. If it is small enough, the fish is swallowed while the cormorant is still under water. Larger fish must be brought to the surface before they are swallowed.

The *Double-crested Cormorant* is found throughout Florida, too. Its range is more extensive than the *Anhinga* and is found all through North America both inland and on the coast. It has the same habitat and diet as the *Anhinga*. It also must sun itself to warm up and dry out.

You can see why it's easy to confuse these birds, but I hope you now look more carefully at the diving bird in the lake or the one sunning in the tree. Ask yourself, is the bill pointed or hooked? *Pointed bill is an Anhinga and a hooked bill is a Double-crested Cormorant*. Once you've determined that, then you can look for the other identifying characteristics.



Anhinga



Double-crested Cormorant

Ask yourself, is the bill pointed or hooked?

is necessary for the *Anhinga* to sun itself to warm up and dry out.

The *Double-crested Cormorant*, the most numerous and widespread cormorant in North America, is easily distinguished

John D. MacArthur BEACH STATE PARK

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The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Who Are We and What Do We Do for the Park?

Many people, who are not familiar with the Friends organization, ask who we are and what we do to benefit the Park. To best explain, let's start with our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park is to generate and allocate supplemental resources and support to preserve and enhance the John D. MacArthur Beach State Park and its programs.

The Friends were founded as a Citizens Support Organization in 1990, shortly after the Park was opened. We are a fully charitable 501(c) 3 organization. There is a 30 member Board of Directors and over 500 individuals and families maintain

membership in the Friends organization.

Quite simply, while the Park's volunteer organization actively participates in the Park's programs and facilities maintenance, the Friends generate financial resources to support and enhance the Park's programs and facilities.

Since its inception, the Friends has raised over \$1,000,000 for the Park Picnic pavilions, resurfacing of the boardwalk, playground equipment, trams, utility vehicles, computers, software, food for the animals, printing of Park brochures, underwriting NatureScaping, and summer camp. The majority of the annual recurring support is provided through profits generated by membership fees, the Gift Shop and



kayak rentals.

The *Island in Time Capital Campaign* was organized specifically to raise money for the construction of the new Education and Welcome Center, as well as to upgrade and expand the exhibits in the Nature Center. This \$2,000,000 campaign is well underway and we anticipate beginning construction later this year or early in 2009.

TED

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

The Raffle was a huge success!

Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to support the new Education and Welcome Center!

Total Tickets Sold

\$18,544

1st Place – \$3,709

2nd Place – \$2,225

3rd Place – \$1,483

Capital Campaign

\$11,126



Summer Fun at MacBeach

by Art Carton, *Park Services Specialist*

If you're like me, you probably can't believe that summer is already here—when life in South Florida slows down. Seasonal residents have left and won't be back until the fall. School children are out of the classroom for the summer and are looking for activities to fill their days. Here at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, summer is one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year.

Guided Reef Tours are in full swing by the beginning of July. If you are an experienced swimmer and snorkeler, then call the Nature Center to sign up for the Guided Reef Tour. It is one of our visitor favorites, and here is just one of the reasons why: imagine snorkeling in shallow crystal clear water on one of the most beautiful limestone reefs in South Florida, and suddenly you come face to face with a loggerhead sea turtle, a spiny lobster and schools of rainbow colored fish all at once. This experience and more, including sightings of spotted eagle rays, octopus, reef squid, moray eels, and schools of big snook and tarpon are common occurrences on the Reef Tours. The two-hour program begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Nature Center theater with an informative presentation. Next, participants walk to the beach to join Park staff and volunteers for an underwater adventure. The Reef Tours are every Saturday in June, July and August. Participants must be at least 10 years of age, and all participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please call the Nature Center for reservations.

Summer Turtle Walks are a must-see. Loggerhead sea turtles have been coming to



Welcome, New and Returning Members

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Mr. Ross Hackethal
Ms. Jill Toothman
Ms. Meaghan Manning
The Anthony J. Sowinski Family
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Mr. Jeffry Mann
Mr. Rob Kahn
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Ms. Deb Taylor
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Santiago Parra
Robyn & Richard Pels
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Mr. Michael J. Smith
Ms. Angela Lee Walls

the Park's shores for thousands of years. After spending 15 to 20 years maturing in the ocean, female loggerheads are ready to nest. On some nights, over 50 loggerhead sea turtles nest on the Park's 1.6 miles of beach. On the evening of a Turtle Walk, visitors first gather in the Nature Center for a short introduction to the biology and life history of sea turtles and then are guided by Park staff and volunteers along the beach to find and observe a three hundred pound, three foot long loggerhead sea turtle perform one of nature's amazing feats. The program costs \$5 per person and takes place in June and July with twenty scheduled walks throughout those

two months. Reservations by phone are required, and young children under the age of eight are not encouraged, due to the nature of the activity.

Do you want to learn to surf? Ranger Rob Matriscino will conduct his popular Introduction to Surfing class in July. Rob will teach you the proper way to paddle and stand up on a surfboard. With a little practice Rob will get you up and ripping the curl in no time. If you have a surfboard, please bring it. If you don't have a board, there will be a few available for you to try out.

Continued on page 8...

An Island In Time CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Donors as of May 31, 2008

MAJOR GIFTS

\$1,000,000 - \$500,000

State of Florida,
Partnership in Parks Program

BENEFACTOR

\$100,000 - \$40,000

The Diaz Family: Mike, Kerry, Charlie & Will
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey C. Fruehauf
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pew
The Batchelor Foundation

PATRON

\$35,999 - 40,000

Dick & Nancy Van Deuren

ADVOCATE

\$24,999 - \$20,000

The Kirkwood Fund

SUSTAINER

\$19,999 - \$15,000

Anonymous Foundation
E. L. Wiegand Foundation

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\$14,999 - \$10,000

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\$9,999 - \$5,000

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Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Grizzard
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\$999 - \$25

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Mr. John R. Carton
Mr. Terence Coulliette
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OUR GOAL

\$2,000,000

RAISED TO DATE

\$1,130,000

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Mr. Morris Zabarkus

THANK YOU ALL!

AN ISLAND IN TIME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

DONOR INFORMATION: *Print clearly and provide name(s) as you'd like them to appear on Donor Recognition.*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

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 (circle one): Annually Quarterly ☐ Please call me to discuss pledge period and payments

Mail to:

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Capital Campaign • 10900 Jack Nicklaus Dr. • North Palm Beach, FL 33408
Campaign Office Phone: (561) 776-7221 • www.macarthurbeach.org

Under THE HAMMOCK



Managers' Musings

It would be a ridiculous under-statement for me to say, as the new Park Manager, that I'm happy to be here. This place is outstanding—the Nature Center, beach, kayaking, snorkeling... Best of all *by far*, however, are the people I have the privilege of working with. This is an amazing place and the credit clearly goes to our staff and volunteers. The dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm is truly inspiring.

With my wife (Stephanie) and daughter (Natalie), I recently arrived from Bradenton, where I managed Gamble Plantation, Terra Ceia Preserve, Madira Bickel Mound, and Cockroach Bay Preserve State Parks. Stephanie is a new member of the Friends of MacArthur Beach and is already busy volunteering in the Park. Natalie will no doubt be volunteering with clean-ups and other activities, as she has in our other state parks.

Speaking of volunteering, my work with the Florida Park Service began as a volunteer. My wife and daughter and my parents are park volunteers. Can you guess how much I appreciate volunteers? Our Park could not possibly offer its high quality programming and recreational opportunities without our many wonderful volunteers. To all who volunteer time and energy to make John D. MacArthur Beach State Park the jewel it is—a very sincere thank you. If you have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer in a state park, please inquire at our Ranger Station about the opportunities available here. Volunteering in Florida state parks is an extremely rewarding experience.

Don Bergeron, Park Manager



It's hard to believe how time has passed so quickly. For more than six years, we have worked, laughed, shared challenges together, recovered after hurricanes, protected sea turtles, developed educational programs, art shows, concerts, work projects, user programs and improved visitor services. As all things evolve, so do our careers and lives. We move on to other opportunities and challenges, taking with us the memories.

As I move to Sebastian Inlet State Park, it is with mixed emotions. I am excited about what lies ahead, as well as saddened by the friends left behind. At Sebastian Inlet, I will be working with a large staff and volunteer corps. We will manage about three miles of Atlantic beach, extensive frontage on Indian River Lagoon, two museums, a 51-site campground, concession, marina and about 800,000 visitors yearly. Sebastian is also known for surfing and fishing. It is one of the few state parks open 24 hours a day, all year. We have a sea turtle program but not nearly the numbers of turtles that MacBeach is blessed with. Please drop in if you're in the neighborhood. You will be very welcome.

I want to thank all the staff, volunteers, CSO board members, and supporters for their continued efforts and contributions, as we have accomplished so much at MacArthur Beach over the years. It could not have been done without all of you. As you take MacArthur Beach State Park into the future, I wish you the best in all things. I know that working together you will continue to excel at sharing *The Real Florida* at MacArthur Beach State Park, with countless park visitors and each other.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Terry Coulliette

Gab of the Gifts



Remember, the Nature Center Gift Shop has everything you forgot to bring for your day at the beach: sunscreen, masks, fins, snorkels, beach towels, underwater disposable cameras, beach toys, field guides and some cool things to take home or send to some poor northern friend who has no idea that summer in Florida is really the best time of year.



When you stop by, look for Lynn Desy, our new Assistant Administrator. Lynn helps run the Gift Shop and helps Kathryn recruit and coordinate volunteers and helps me with Friends membership duties. She started volunteering in 2006 and was hired as my assistant in May, 2008. She is an enthusiast of sea turtles and volleyball. Husband, Steve, and Lynn enjoy walking, the ocean, the outdoors and nature. Lynn has previously lived in Connecticut, Florida, California and Hawaii and has traveled to at least seven countries and over 40 of the United States.

By the way, I am happy to report that our Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park membership numbers have just topped 575. You may join the Friends with the membership form in this newsletter or you may join online at www.macarthurbeach.org.

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.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Steve & Lynn Desy

By Kathryn Rothenburg,
Park Services Specialist

MacArthur Beach State Park manages nearly 275 active volunteers, consisting of tram drivers, reef guides, kayak assistants, educators, nature walk guides, gardeners, beach cleaners, nature center cashiers and coordinators, special event coordinators, writers, administrators, mechanics, computer specialists, web designers, bookkeepers, correspondence specialists, sea turtle scouts and surveyors, summer camp leaders, and so much more. With over 110,000 visitors this past year, it is a challenge to provide quality visitor services with only 15 state employees and 4 CSO employees. The fact is, we could not do as good a job without the help of these 275 faithful volunteers. Our volunteers contributed more than 15,600 hours last year!

I have to acknowledge two volunteers whom I am lucky enough to have known and worked with: Lynn and Steve Desy. Both have a huge passion for protecting and spreading the word about the precious sea turtles. Their knowledge is readily shared and appreciated. Most recently, this pair of volunteers has really stood out because, as a couple, they have shown a complete commitment to the betterment of this Park in such a variety of ways. I have not seen such a joyful work ethic ever before.

Steve has been the self-motivated mastermind and hardworking hands responsible for much work on the volunteer office, outdoor turtle tank safety features, exotic plant removal, support building improvements, mechanical repairs, kayak tours and many more than I am probably unaware of.

Lynn has been described as being "on the ball" by more than one employee and has been the saving grace in organizing many volunteer program details, gift store business and special event planning and executing. She has a tendency to think of things that no one else has in a most helpful way.

A friendly and professional approach to daily challenges makes the Desys an asset to visitors who meet them and staff who work beside them.

If you ever have a chance to chat with either of them, you will be glad you did. Both are now part time

I have not seen such a joyful work ethic ever before.

employees for the Park and are still volunteering many more hours, due to their unending passion for this beautiful place.

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Membership Application

A Not-for-profit Citizens Support Organization

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send this application along with your donation to:

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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.

Events

UP-N-COMING

JULY

05	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
06	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
10	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
12	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
13	Sunday	1-2 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
19	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
19	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
20	Sunday	10-Noon	Recreational Skills: <i>Introduction to Surfing</i>
24	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
26	Saturday	10-11 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
27	Sunday	9:30 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
27	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: <i>Beach Ultimate Frisbee</i>

AUGUST

02	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
03	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
07	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
09	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
09	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	F.U.N. Program: <i>Seaside Exploration</i>
10	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
10	Sunday	1-2 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
16	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required
21	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
23	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
30	Saturday	10-Noon	Guided Reef Tour • Reservations Required

SEPTEMBER

04	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
07	Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
07	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
13	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
14	Sunday	1-2 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
18	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
21	Sunday	1-4 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam

Every Weekend at 11:00 a.m.: Animal Feeding in the Nature Center

Every Sunday at 3:00 p.m.: Snake Talk in the Nature Center



More than just a beach!

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

NONPROFIT
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Summer Fun at MacBeach *Continued from page 3.*

For you landlubbers, try Beach Ultimate Frisbee instruction and game, taught by Administrative Assistant, Athena Tzathas. There will be 30 minutes of instruction and a pick-up game afterwards. This sport is very exciting and great for all ages and skill levels.

For those who want to relax and unwind, Yoga on the Beach with Annemarie Phelan is just what you need. Come and take part in this free program, while gazing out at the crystal clear waters of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. For more information and specific dates and times please call the Nature Center at (561) 624-6970 or see this newsletter's Up-n-Coming calendar.

