

MacArthur Beach State Park

Spring - Summer 2009

Dune News

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

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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

Fax:

561.624.6954

Friends Office:

561.776.7449

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

The Sea Turtles are Coming

by Pat Rash, Assistant Park Manager



As temperatures rise and the days get longer, our summer reptilian visitors begin to emerge. Yes,

it is sea turtle nesting season again! The season can begin as early as February; our last recorded nest in 2008 was October 10. The female turtles mate with multiple males early in the season and store the sperm to develop multiple clutches of fertile eggs later on. As each

clutch matures, she comes ashore and may lay over 100 eggs in the carefully constructed nest. The three species of turtle that frequent MacArthur Beach are Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback. In 2008 we hosted at least one Hawksbill Sea Turtle nest.

Each morning at sunrise one of the Park staff and or volunteers patrols the beach to obtain a count of both successful nests and false crawls, when the turtle comes out of the water but does not complete the nest. Check out the chart below to compare numbers from previous years.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
Sea Turtle Nesting Totals

Year	Loggerhead	Green	Leatherback
1999	1097	21	23
2000	1037	277	12
2001	1062	7	11
2002	1031	273	14
2003	891	36	32
2004	1112	214	17
2005	1135	406	14
2006	1097	190	8
2007	1307	788	45
2008	915	305	15

If you encounter a nesting sea turtle or one that is emerging from the ocean, *please* give her a wide berth. Turtles do not like to be bothered while they are nesting and could dump the eggs at sea if a suitable nesting site cannot be located.

We offer Ranger led Sea Turtle Talks & Walks each summer, carefully following the strict guidelines of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. After a short informative program in the Nature Center, the group goes to the beach for a chance to experience a sea

turtle nesting. Children under age 8 may not attend Talk & Walks, as the event may last until midnight, depending on conditions. We cannot guarantee a turtle sighting, but we will provide a unique experience. Reservations will be accepted at the Nature Center by phone only starting Tuesday, May 26 at 9 a.m. (561)624-6952; the program is held mid-June through mid-July.

Members, watch your mailbox for your invitation to the *Members-Only Sea Turtle Talk, Walk and Cocktails*, held on June 21, July 11 and July 18.



John D. MacArthur BEACH STATE PARK

Staff

Don Bergeron, *Park Manager*
Pat Rash, *Asst. Park Manager*
Athena Tzathas, *Admin. Assistant*

Park Services Specialists

Art Carton
Kathryn Rothenburg

Rangers

Steve Desy
Scott Duncan
Charlie Hein
Rob Matriccino
Mike Watts
Bill Wilson

OPS Staff

Lynn Desy
Kelly Hall
Sarah Waddell

The Pew Family Natural Science and Education Center...

...A lasting legacy for Students in Palm Beach County.



Left to Right: Susie Fruehauf, Ted Thoburn, John and Stephanie Pew, Rebecca Doane and Bill Mech.

Stephanie and John Pew donated \$500,000.00 to name the facility, a wonderful testimony to Stephanie's love of children and science. "I have always had a great interest in science,

and look forward to presenting wonderful education programs for the students of Palm Beach County," said Stephanie Pew as she and husband John presented their check to the Friends.

The Park held a *Celebration of Thanks* event on April 21 to thank the donors who have made this the largest capital campaign by a non-profit to benefit a state park in Florida history. Governor Crist, busy with matters of state and not able to attend, sent a letter of congratulations and thanks to the entire community.

Groundbreaking is planned for August or September of this year.

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

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Martin Shiffman, *Administrator*
Lynn Desy, *Assistant Administrator*
Debbie Coyle, *Weekend Manager*

www.macarthurbeach.org

The second annual Kayak-a-Thon Fundraiser was recently conducted by students from the Jupiter Environmental Research & Field Studies Academy. High school student and Park volunteer, Dylan Doughty, conducted the very successful event. Assisted by Kris Karpinin, Griffin Fawcett and David Pritchard, Dylan raised \$493.00 for the Friends Endowment Program. These monies are used to fund the programs, equipment and supplies for the Park.

Dylan showed great leadership and follow-through as he organized, publicized, and held this most successful event, and is to be commended for the effort. Thanks, Dylan and team!



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

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.



Summer Camp – Adventure, Exploration and Fun!

If you're like me you probably can't believe that summer is upon us already. One of the challenges for parents is keeping their kids challenged, busy and entertained during summer break. We have just the solution – register your child(ren) for one of our Summer Camps. For almost twenty years the Friends of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park have been sponsoring Summer Camps that challenge your child with adventure, exploration, education and fun!

One of our most popular summer camps is the *Little Turtle Art Camp* which is designed for children 7 and 8 years old and takes place from June 22-26. This Camp offers a variety of crafts, games and stories focused on exploring and learning about the Park environment. Activities take place indoors and out, rain or shine.

Junior Ranger Camp is for students entering fourth or fifth grade, ages 9 and 10. Session 1 takes place from June



Ranger Scott and campers explore the estuary.

8-12 ; Session 2 takes place from June 15-19. Space is limited, please choose one session per child. Campers will explore the beach, maritime hammock, and rock reef in the Park as they learn about natural communities in South Florida. Children must be good swimmers, who are comfortable in ocean waters, snorkel equipment is required.

For children ages 11 through 13 years old, *Marine Biology Camp* offers a rare

opportunity to learn about the marine environment through snorkeling, beach adventures and mudflat exploration. Session 1 takes place June 29-July 3; Session 2 is July 6-10. Campers should come with an enthusiasm for learning, willingness to explore, be proficient swimmers in ocean waters and have properly fitted snorkel equipment. Due to the overwhelming popularity of *Marine Biology Camp*, both session 1 and session 2 are full. Please call and ask to be put on the waiting list - Park staff are in the process of coordinating a *Marine Biology Camp* Session 3 for this summer if there is enough interest.

Art Carton
Park Services Specialist

MacArthur Beach RecSkills.... Time for Surfing

Have you ever wanted to ride an ocean wave, to feel the push of a swell of energy that has traveled for many miles and arrives on our beach? Join me for a Surfing Clinic, one of the many water activities that you can enjoy at MacArthur Beach State Park.

I grew up in Palm Beach County, swimming, surfing and snorkeling on our local beaches, and this summer will mark my twenty-fifth year of surfing. I always enjoy seeing someone stand up for the first time with a smile on their face. This brings me back to the first time I rode a wave – I was hooked on the sport right away.

Though we don't have huge or consistent waves favored by the seasoned surfers, we do have waves suited to learning the sport and having fun. No surfing experience is necessary to participate in the clinics but good swimming skills are a must; children ages 8 and up may participate with parent supervision.

If you are interested, register now for the upcoming June or August surfing classes, as space is limited.

Aloha!

Robert Matriscino
Park Ranger



Ranger Rob surfing in Nosara, Costa Rica



Manager Matters



At John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, perhaps no other time of year is as exciting as sea turtle nesting season.

Along with the excitement comes a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work. Park staff and volunteers perform a variety of tasks to ensure the success of the many sea turtle nests recorded at the Park each year.

Before any activities relating to sea turtle nesting can take place, the Park obtains an annual Marine Turtle Permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Among the requirements for the permit is training for all staff and volunteers involved in our sea turtle program, including an FWC workshop and on-site education and instruction.

When turtle nesting season arrives and all the training has been completed, it

is time to begin the daily monitoring. Upon finding signs of nesting activity, staff determines the species of sea turtle involved, whether there is an actual nest or just a false crawl, and whether there was disturbance from predators.

Once nesting season is in full swing our very popular guided turtle walks begin (see more information on the front cover). Once again, staff and volunteers are required to attend regular training in order to conduct these walks.

Finally, staff compiles the records from the season's activity and submits a report to FWC. Then it's time to review the monitoring, training, turtle walks, etc. in order to be ready for next year's sea turtle nesting season. Regardless of the effort required, our dedicated staff and volunteers are always eager to take on the challenge in order to safeguard the magnificent sea turtles who visit our shores each year.

Don Bergeron
Park Manager



AND SHOP

Friends Members, Park Staff and Volunteers receive a **20% Discount** in the Gift Shop from May 1st to June 28th

New at the Gift Shop

Florida State Park playing cards and license plates

MacBeach coasters and jar openers

T-shirts commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Park (1989-2009)

Colorful women's floppy / reversible hats and wide brim hats

Men's gambler straw hats

Large tote bag with turtle design in assorted colors

Wooden children's puzzles with turtle or dolphin design

Porcelain collectible figures

And much, much more.....

PLEASE HAVE MEMBERSHIP CARD AND PHOTO ID AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE for

- Memberships
- Gift Shop
- Kayak Rentals

* Does not include kayak or dive flag rentals

Sandy Smiles and Park Puzzles

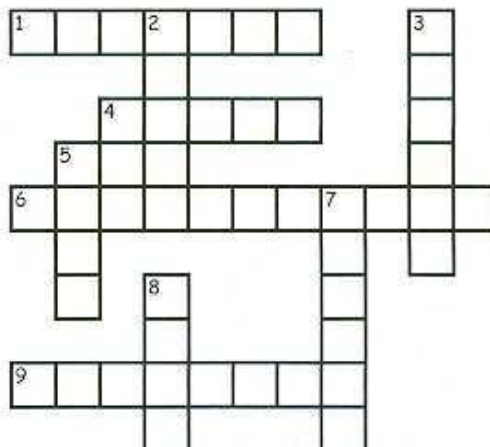
Summer Time is Beach Time

Across

1. I was in the sun too long and I have a _____.
4. I like to jump in the _____ as they come ashore.
6. My brother has a _____ to wear in the water.
9. I like to drink _____.

Down

2. I like to go to MacArthur _____ every day.
3. We usually bring a _____ lunch with us.
5. The _____ feels good on my feet.
7. _____ is my favorite season.
8. Other kids only get to swim in a ____; I swim in the ocean.



How can you tell the ocean is friendly?

New and Renewing Members

FEBRUARY 1 THRU APRIL 15 2009

Benefactor

Nancy Y. Cohen and Martin Cohen

Patron

Ms. Joyce Duke
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mix
Mr. and Mrs. Jules Romfh
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Mr. Mark Alexis
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The Timothy J. LaNoir Family
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Ms. Ruby Baird
Mr. Richard Bauder
Mr. Joseph Bogucki
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Mr. Edward Pinn
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Mr. Randy Roberts
Mr. David Rollason
Ms. Susan Roman
Ms. Susana Rubio
Mr. Mariam Salama
Mr. John Sickler
Miss Leah Staskunas
Mr. Steven Steiner
Ms. Toni Taliaferro
Mrs. Kathy Tetric
Mr. Ted Tetric
Ms. Nancy Thompson-Jones
Ms. Jill Toothman
Ms. Monica Vaughan
Mr. Adam Veal
Ms. Barbara Vernon
Mr. Brian Wilson
Mr. Derek Wolfhepe
Ms. Patricia Zeeman

Volunteer Spotlight



Get to Know –
Christopher "Chris" Halfpap

A man with many talents and interests, Chris is a great volunteer who helps with Reef Tours, Turtle Walks, occasional Kayak tours, beach cleanup / special events, surfing lessons, fish collecting and anything else that is asked of him.

Chris's real job is with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, as a Soil Conservation Technician. Born and raised in Palm Beach Gardens, he loves any and all outdoor activities, especially those he can share with others here at the Park.

Recently, Chris shared one of his favorite *MacArthur Adventures*, "One night while acting as a scout for a turtle walk, I sat down on the beach very close to the surf, all the while looking intently down the beach through my binoculars. When I finally put the binoculars down, I noticed a turtle was coming out of the water and crawling up the beach right in front of me.

I was still and quiet so as not to startle the turtle and scare it back to the water, but I soon realized that it was headed on a path that would bring it straight onto me! I wasn't sure what to do, but I figured I would sit still for a while longer to see what would happen. It came closer and closer and kept the same path until the last second it veered off at my feet and crawled along side my leg, flipping and stepping on me with its flipper. In the end it dug its body pit and egg chamber and the whole group got to see it lay.

The moral of my story...turtles are blind as a bat to non-moving things on land. Be patient, remain still, keep your voice low, and keep from making vibrations in the sand, the turtles will come."

Field Notes

by Gary Shipp, Volunteer

An ocean beach is a marvelous place, sun, sand and blue-green waters; MacArthur Beach State Park is a refuge of nature in the midst of the hustle and bustle of urban living. Walking the beach here is always interesting and surprising. The animals that live here provide a continuous and ever-changing show: osprey diving for food, mullet jumping in the estuary, needle fish stalking the mangrove shallows in search of small fish along with herons, egrets, spoonbills and ibis wading in the shallow water. The waves on the beach often reveal dolphins, sharks or manatee, while otter and raccoons search the shore.

This beautiful expanse of sand needs help to maintain its natural state. Incoming tides leave more than just the expected ocean materials – we volunteers who walk the beach picking up debris are constantly amazed at the amount and variety of items to remove. It would be an unusual day if one did not find a toothbrush, one shoe, hair clips, enough plastic forks, spoons and knives for a small party, in addition to plastic materials of all types that may take centuries to decay.

Our beach needs daily attention from volunteers to help remove these materials and return the beach to its natural state. If you can spare the time, the effort is well repaid by time spent in this oasis of nature.

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Campaign Donors as of May 1, 2009

MAJOR GIFTS \$500,000 - \$1,000,000

Stephanie and John Pew
Florida Partnership in Parks Program

BENEFACTOR \$35,000 - \$100,000

The Batchelor Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Harvey C. Fruehauf
The Miller Family
Mr. Robert Pew
Mr. and Mrs. Hal Reed
Dick and Nancy Van Deuren

ADVOCATE \$21,000 - \$30,000

The Kirkwood Fund

SUSTAINER \$15,000 - \$20,000

Anonymous Foundation
E. L. Wiegand Foundation

CONTRIBUTOR \$10,000 - \$14,000

The D.A. Hamel Family Charitable Trust
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PARTNER \$5,000 - \$9000

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Mr. & Mrs. David Williams
Mr. Thomas Yannopoulos
Mr. Morris Zabarkus
Mr. & Mrs. Basil Zaloom
Mr. & Mrs. David Zerfoss

Up and Coming Activities

JUNE

04	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
06	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
07	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
13	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
14	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
18	Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Yoga on the Beach
20	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
21	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music
21	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
27	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
28	Sunday	Noon	Reading with a Ranger
28	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing

JULY

04	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
04	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
05	Sunday	Noon	F.U.N. Program: All About Bugs
05	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
11	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	F.U.N. Program: Scavenger Hunt on the Beach
11	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
12	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
18	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
19	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
25	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
26	Sunday	Noon-1:00 p.m.	Reading with a Ranger

AUGUST

01	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
02	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
02	Sunday	TBA	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing
08	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
08	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
09	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
15	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour

- Daily Guided Nature Walks at 10:00 a.m.
- Every Weekend Animal Feeding in the Nature Center at 11:00 a.m.
- Every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Snake Talk in the Nature Center

Activity Details

Introduction to Kayaking - Adventure Times Kayaks will teach the basic skills necessary to safely enjoy the exciting sport of kayaking, instruction on land only. Reservations required.

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

Butterfly Walk - Join a staff Naturalist on a mile long walk identifying the butterflies that inhabit our Park. Reservations recommended.

Bluegrass Music - Come down and join us October thru June for foot-stompin bluegrass music in the amphitheater. Free with Park admission.

Introduction to Snorkeling - Join volunteer Bruce Kay to learn the basics of snorkeling; proper technique, safety, all about equipment and more. The program is for all ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Instruction is on land and in the water, weather permitting, snorkeling gear is available for use. Reservations required.

Guided Reef Tour - Bring your own equipment to take a guided snorkeling tour of the Park's spectacular near-shore reefs, and learn about the species that inhabit MacArthur's waters. Participant must be experienced swimmer and snorkeler and at least 10 years of age. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in the water as no lifeguard on duty. Reservations required.

Recreational Skills Lessons: Introduction to Kayak Fishing - Join Park Ranger Bill Wilson to learn all you need to know about kayak fishing, equipment and techniques to help you land the "big one." This program is on land and reservations are recommended.

Recreational Skills Lessons: Introduction to Surfing - Park Ranger Rob Matriscino will lead you through the basics of surfing. This program is on land and in the water, good swimming skills are a must; children ages 8 and above may participate with parent supervision. Reservations required.

Park Volunteer Orientation - Come join our team and help visitors appreciate the importance of preserving this beautiful place by volunteering. Reservations required.

Yoga on the Beach - Certified yoga instructor, Annemarie Phelan, leads one hour yoga sessions on the beach for beginners and experienced participants. The program is free with park admission of \$4.00 per carload. Reservations recommended.

F.U.N. Program, Families Understanding Nature: All About Bugs - Great for children and their families, join Park staff and learn all about the insects around us through activities and games. Reservations recommended.

F.U.N. Program, Families Understanding Nature: Scavenger Hunt - Join Park staff and explore the beach identifying and searching for various shells, drift seed, plants and more. Great for children and families; reservations recommended.

MacArthur Beach
State Park

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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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
- 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 Gift Shop
- Produce the Park quarterly newsletter, *The Dune News*

Thanks!