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Celebrating 20 Years of
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park was established to safeguard a diverse undisturbed subtropical coastal habitat from development, a protected area where children and adults can experience Florida’s natural beauty.

The Park is named for John D. MacArthur, whose generosity allowed the State of Florida to secure the land. Developed in part with funds donated by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Park opened to the public in late 1989.

Widely known as a nesting ground for sea turtles, including the loggerhead and the exceedingly rare leatherback, MacArthur Beach State Park also offers protection to 7 species of plants and 22 species of animals designated by state and global ranking as endangered and/or threatened. The 438-acre preserve, extending from Lake Worth Lagoon to the beach, is the only State Park in Palm Beach County.

More than 119,000 visitors come each year to enjoy the beach, spend time with family and friends and participate in the natural science education programs, special events, and recreation courses conducted by Park staff and our wonderful volunteers.

In this edition some of the staff will share their love of the Park and each of the four ecosystems which make up this piece of paradise; the Maritime or Hardwood Hammock, the Estuary, Beach and Dunes and the Ocean Reef.

I love the Park; to me it is magic, a haven of peace, an unspoiled slice of nature and a big part of what helps to keep my life balanced. The staff, volunteers, wildlife and plants, the wonderful programs and special events, and of course the estuary, my most favorite place. There is no place on earth better than our Park!

Leni Bane, Former Park Ranger, current Board Member and Volunteer

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.

Original Park Staff 1989

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park
Board of Directors...

...Invite YOU to attend Bark in the Park and An evening of Ragtime, Special Events To Benefit the Nature Education Endowment Fund

The Nature Education Endowment Fund was founded in 2002 by the Friends to ensure ongoing support of supplemental personnel and innovative programming such as:

The Natural Science Education Programs, which provide a wonderful outdoor learning experience, in an environment that exists no where else in Palm Beach County. The Park offers programs for all grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>K-2nd Habits and Habits Plants Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>The Florida Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th-12th</td>
<td>Beach and Dune Dynamics or Estuary Exploration</td>
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</tbody>
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BARK IN THE PARK
December 6, Noon to 400pm
Free Pet Photo with Park Admission
Fun for the Whole Family
• Demonstrations • Pet Games • Vendor Area • Silent Auction •
• Children’s Activities • Music • Food •

SAVE THE DATE!!!
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive (A1A) North Palm Beach, FL 33408
(North End of Singer Island) 561-624-6950 www.macarthurbeach.org

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): ____________________________
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.
Manager Matters

This year John D. MacArthur Beach State Park celebrates its 20th anniversary, having opened to the public in 1989. It’s amazing to see what twenty years of dedication and hard work by Park staff and volunteers has accomplished. These efforts have helped to ensure this magnificent remnant of old Florida, The Real Florida, will be preserved for all time.

The history of MacArthur Beach State Park certainly does not begin in 1989. With prehistoric Indian middens, the ruins of the lavish Hygeia Hotel on Munyon Island, and the Park’s namesake John D. MacArthur, the park has clearly enjoyed a rich history. In the Park’s more recent history, since opening to the public, there have been dramatic improvements. The Park now boasts a Nature Center, theater, amphitheater, picnic facilities, boardwalk, and gift shop. Programs such as kayak tours and nature walks are presented daily and special events are held throughout the year. Thanks to large part to Palm Beach County’s Division of Environmental Resource Management (ERM), Munyon Island has undergone extensive environmental restoration. Kayakers and other boaters visiting Munyon Island now enjoy walking paths under a canopy of native trees, kayaking through a thriving mangrove swamp, and picnicking at one of five pavilions.

Just as the Park’s history did not begin twenty years ago, history continues to be written at MacArthur Beach State Park. Thanks to the passion and commitment of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, the long sought after goal of developing a natural science education center is about to be realized. Following the Friends’ successful capital campaign which raised $2.1 million, construction of the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center is expected to begin shortly. This new facility will house a natural science education classroom with a wet lab as well as a new, larger gift shop. Along with the new facility will be improvements to the existing Nature Center which will include new exhibits and aquariums, a new audio-video system for the theater, and much more.

There are many ways to measure a Park’s success; the quality of its natural resources, community support, the number of visitors, programming, and well maintained facilities are just a few. Judging by the comments I regularly receive from our visitors, there is no doubt that by any measure the first twenty years of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park have been a resounding success.

Don Bergeron
Park Manager
The Beach and Dune System

Have you ever wondered how beach dunes develop? The answer is a combination of wind, waves and vegetation. When the ocean is calm, the gentle wave action brings in sand from the near-shore sand bars, which accumulates along the shoreline. Onshore winds blow the dry sand toward the land where vegetation capture and collect the sand. Over many years this develops a tall dune system and begins to stabilize the barrier island.

The dunes at MacArthur Beach State Park are some of the tallest dunes you will find in Southeast Florida. These tall dunes help protect everything that lies west of the dune from storm winds and storm surges.

One of the main stabilizers of the primary dune system is the sea oats (Uniola paniculata). This species is protected by law and has a complex root system that keeps sand from blowing away. With a good contiguous system of sea oats above that, you begin to see taller plants such as Spanish bayonet; the plant that really fills in the gaps is the Sea grape (Coccoloba uvifera). The Sea grape has large paddle-shaped leaves, which shields those plants from winds and salt spray.

The Sea grapes grow tall, producing copious amounts of leaf litter that decomposes and creates fertile soil matter. Sea grapes protect the top of the primary dune and allow a whole host of other native dune plants to survive on the backside of the dune, which is where our maritime hammock begins.

The beach and the primary beach dune is an incredibly harsh environment with the constant sun, sand, surf and salt spray. I focused on plants in this article, but one can not overlook the food source and habitat that many of these plants provide. The beloved sea turtles need healthy beaches such as ours for suitable nesting habitat. The various shorebirds, crabs, butterflies and countless things we often don’t see need these areas for their survival.

What can we all do to help keep these beach and dune systems healthy? Always use dune crossovers and don’t walk on emerging vegetation. Participate in beach cleanups to not only make the beach look better, but prevent litter from being mistaken for food by various animals, mainly birds. We are all so fortunate to have such a wonderful resource as our playground.

I invite you to take a walk on the Park boardwalk toward the ocean; be certain to notice the sun’s warmth, welcome the cool breeze, and listen for a chirping osprey overhead.

No matter what time of year you take this walk, you will see shallow waters with mangrove trees skirting the edges of what seems to be a constant and calm environment. Looks are deceiving; what seems to be calm is actually very dynamic, productive and fluctuating. The expanse of water you are crossing is a salt-water estuary, a semi-enclosed system fed by incoming ocean tides and fresh water draining from the land.

The mangrove trees surrounding the cove continuously drop their waxy leaves, giving life to the estuary. The waxy leaves crack in the water, allowing bacteria and fungus to feed the grazers and shredders such as snails, amphipods and crabs.

In the changing tides and temperatures of the estuary, sea grasses thrive; these submerged plants stabilize the sandy bottom and provide shelter and food to many invertebrates, from small fish and juvenile green turtles to the Florida Manatee.

As you walk across the boardwalk, you will probably glimpse fish leaping from the water. Mullet acquire nutrients from the sand and muck on the estuary floor. If you are lucky, you may see an osprey diving down to catch a mullet or other fish.

Reaching the east side of your trek, you may hear oysters scrape shut as the tide retreats. Vital to the estuary, oyster colonies filter the water while they are consuming plankton and nitrogen.

Most fish and invertebrates (oysters, shrimp, crabs) that we eat have relied on an estuary at some point in their life cycle. This productive and varying environment is as it should be, protected for the folks who admire it and the plants and animals that depend upon it. How fortunate we are that we can take a walk experiencing Florida in its natural state right here at John D MacArthur Beach State Park.
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2009

MAJOR GIFTS $500,000 - $1,000,000
Stephanie and John Pew
Florida Partnership in Parks Program

BENEFACCTOR $35,000 - $100,000
The Batchelor Foundation
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Mr. Robert Pew
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The Kirkwood Fund

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CONTRIBUTOR $10,000 - $14,000
The D.A. Hamel Family Charitable Trust
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Mr. Christian Ahrens
Ms. Barbara Alker
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(Ms. Leni Burrow)
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Batts
Ms. Claire Bauman
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Beaman
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Mr. Morris Zabarkus
Mr. & Mrs. Basil Zalom
Mr. & Mrs. David Zerfoos

What Type of Reef is That?
by Pat Rash, Assistant Park Manager

Ask five people familiar with the ocean reef at MacArthur Beach State Park this question and you will get five different answers. Here is my interpretation: the reef is made of Anastasia formation outcroppings that are exposed and covered by the shifting sands of the beach. Parts of the formation seldom covered by sand are covered with living organisms such as invertebrates, sponges, and coral.

Anastasia formation of this area is a sandy coquinaid limestone, sedimentary in nature and formed in the Pleistocene period about 100,000 years ago. This limestone, also called coquina, is a mixture of sand and shells cemented together by calcite. It occurs along the east coast of Florida from St. Johns through Palm Beach counties and was named by E H Sellards in 1912 for Anastasia Island. Early in the history of our state, the Spanish quarried the rock to build Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine.

Sabellariid worms can dominate areas of these reefs and form a unique reef type known as worm reef. Phragmatopoma caudata, the species most common in our area, attach to the limestone and build tubes of sand and other particles for protection. Millions of worms build on top of and beside their neighbors forming masses tiny tubes. Walking or standing on the reef crushes the tubes and kills the worms. In fact, impact to the reef by any means can damage or kill various types of organisms so please don’t touch it with your hands, feet, or anchors.

Whether you call it Anastasia formation, rock reef, coquina, worm reef, or limestone reef: corals, sponges, invertebrates, crustaceans, sea turtles, and fish of all colors and sizes call it home. The near shore reef system at MacArthur Beach is an awesome place no matter who you ask. Grab a mask and flag and dive in; you are in for a treat.
Appreciating Trees – The Rare Maritime Hammock
by Art Carton, Park Services Specialist

One of the most overlooked and underappreciated habitats in MacArthur Beach State Park is the maritime hammock. Hammock is a word of Indian derivation, meaning shady place. These communities occur near the coast and extend all the way to Virginia, where they are dominated by huge live oak specimens. Maritime hammocks that stretch from Palm Beach County south to Cape Florida differ from those in that they contain a larger variety of tree species. This is due to the influence of the sub-tropical climate and a different soil structure. The dominant trees at the Park are tropical species of West Indian origin, such as the Mastic, Guamo Limbo and Paradise tree.

Within the Park, the hammock can be experienced and enjoyed by walking along the dune trail or taking a stroll on the Satinleaf Trail. This threatened habitat consists of 125 acres of land inside our boundaries; outside the Park there was already bulldozed and slated for development.

The next largest tract of sub-tropical maritime hammock cannot be found until one travels south to Miami-Dade County and Cape Florida State Park. Other local parks which have remnant stands of maritime hammock are Guamo Limbo Nature Center, Ocean Hammock Park and at the Bartlett Estate, just south of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale.

Besides development, invasive exotic plant species are the biggest threat to the hammock. These non-native species have no natural enemies, and can quickly reduce biodiversity and take over an area almost completely. Brazilian pepper-tree or “Schinus terebinthifolius” is the major species of concern for our Park; we are currently in the process of eliminating this plant from our hammock area. From October 2008 through August 2009, 11.5 acres of Brazilian pepper have been removed from the Park, either by hand-pulling or chemical removal.
## Up and Coming Activities

### NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pioneer Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga on the Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga on the Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Butterfly Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bark in the Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>F.U.N. Program: Seaside Treasures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music Jam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga on the Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>MacArthur Under Moonlight Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
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### JANUARY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Yoga on the Beach</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music Jam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>F.U.N. Program: Estuary Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga on the Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>MacArthur Under Moonlight Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Activity Details

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

- **Bluegrass** - Music Listen to some of the best bluegrass music in South Florida; Nathan Rich and Friends will be playing bluegrass music in the amphitheater.

- **Bluegrass Music Jam** - Join us for foot-stompin bluegrass music in the amphitheater. Acoustic musicians are welcome to join in and jam.

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

- **Estuary Exploration** - Explore the Park’s estuary up close and personal! Participants will get wet and dirty, please wear closed-toe shoes and shorts. For ages 8 years old and up, reservations required.

- **F.U.N. Program, Families Understanding Nature: Seaside Treasures** - Explore the beach, identifying and searching for various shells, drift seeds, plants and more. Great for children and families; reservations recommended.

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

- **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; members and children under the age of 10 are free.

- **Pioneer Day** - Join us for a trip back to the era of Henry Flagler and the Barefoot Mailman. There will be a civil war encampment, storytelling, children’s games, wood carver, old time books for sale, palm frond weaving, vendors, guest speakers, food demonstrations, music, native plants for sale and more.

- **Recreational Skills Lessons: Introduction to Kayak Fishing** - Join Park Ranger Bill Wilson and learn the techniques and equipment needed to kayak fish in South Florida. The 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 10 and above may participate with parent supervision. Reservations required.

- **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. Reservations recommended.

- **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**

- All activities except MacArthur Under Moonlight concerts are free with Park admission –
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!