



Summer 2011

FRIENDS OF
MacArthur Beach State Park

Dune NEWS

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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

Beach Outfitters Gift Shop:

561.622.1525

Friends Office:

561.776.7221

Websites:

www.macarthurbeach.org

www.floridastateparks.org/macarthurbeach

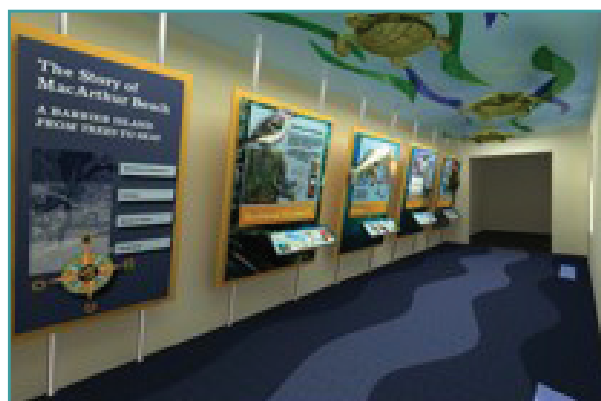
The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

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

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

Pew Family Natural Science Education Center Opens for Classes, Meetings, Speakers and Events

In early February, the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park and Park officials hosted a "sneak peek" evening to show off the new **Pew Family Natural Science Education Center** before formally fitting it out in tables, chairs, aquatic tanks, books, microscopes and educational equipment. Our generous donors were allowed the first 'peek' into what will become a premier education destination.



The Hal and Kate Reed Education Gallery, entitled *From Trees to Seas*, is a striking exhibit hall with an educational focus for students, teachers, researchers and Park visitors. The Gallery highlights each of the four unique ecosystems; Maritime Hammock, Estuary, Dunes & Beach and Rock Reef.

These important natural ecosystems have been, and continue to be, slowly replaced by development; not only is MacArthur Beach the only State Park in all of Palm Beach County, but is also the only place that you will find all four of these ecosystems in one location.

The Center and the new Education Director, Janice Kerber, have hosted members of the Palm Beach County School Board, beginning the exciting work of formatting existing education programs based on the Next Generation Science Standards of the Palm Beach County School District.

Be certain to attend one of the new MacArthur Beach Speaker Series. The first talk was by Ila Porchers on her book *My Sunset Rendezvous*, chronicling her adventures of swimming with sharks in Tahiti. This series will continue on an ongoing basis and is open to the public. The Center has held the 'Reading with a Ranger series and numerous Friends and Park meetings.



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Education Update

As the new and first Director of Education, I have to start this education update by thanking the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, the staff of the Park and the Quantum Foundation for giving me the opportunity to work in this pristine, beautiful environment. This position allows me to fulfill my passion-teaching natural science education.

As a native of South Florida and an educator, I have always been a proponent for getting children outdoors to explore natural areas. My philosophy is "a dirty child is a happy child." I am looking forward to getting children and adults throughout Palm Beach County really dirty - well at least sandy!

I began my first day on Monday, April 4th with my primary task established for me. The Palm Beach County School District offers free bussing for field trips as long as the field trip site has submitted and received approval for lesson plans based on the Next Generation Science Standards. My first weeks were spent writing or reformatting the current lesson plans in order to meet the April 29th deadline, which I did!

We are collaborating with the school district elementary science department on a grant-funded program utilizing MacArthur Beach State Park. The program is designed to bring students from Title 1 schools in the North Palm Beach area to the Park to explore our natural areas using data-sampling equipment to collect information regarding light intensity, salinity, temperature, and soil moisture. These children will visit the Park two times each year to compare the seasonal changes.

The Education Center will host our first teacher training opportunity from June 6 to 9, Project WILD Adventure Week. Utilizing our new classroom and equipment, and unique outdoor setting, we will provide training for up to 40 teachers from elementary to high school on Project WILD, an environmental education curriculum program.

The training is being co-sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Jonathan Dickinson State Park and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. By partnering with local environmental centers, we will be able to provide our participants with a comprehensive overview of the curriculum guides, as well as, some background knowledge about south Florida's ecosystems.

Janice Kerber
Director of Education



FRIENDS OF MACARTHUR BEACH STATE PARK, INC.

Membership Application

A not-for-profit Citizens Support Organization

☐ Benefactor...\$500+ ☐ Patron...\$499-\$100 ☐ Family...\$75 ☐ ...\$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 561.776.7221.



Beach Outfitters and Gift Shop... ...is now open.

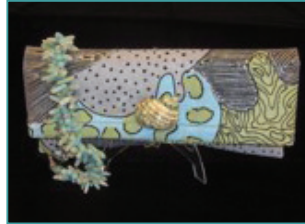
MacArthur Beach Outfitters is a new shopping experience located within John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. We recently moved into our new building located next to the Nature Center on April 14, 2011. Yes, all funds raised in the Gift Shop stay in the Park to provide education programs and enhance your visit.

New merchandise includes the latest style of ladies shirts, tote bag and hat combinations, new jewelry designs and more. The Change Color t-shirts are a hit with the kids. Our aqua shoes, in assorted colors, are great for kayakers and beachcombers.

An exciting new addition to Beach Outfitters is our Designer Showcase, which includes items by local artists and designers. Currently we have Handbags designed by Susan Tancer, Jewelry by Joan Lustig, and Photography by Melinda Moore. Stop by often to see which new designers and merchandise will be featured.

MacArthur Beach Outfitters is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Kayaks may be rented daily from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. All kayaks must be returned by 4:00 PM.

We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who assisted with the opening and operation of our new store. We owe our success to our volunteers! Thank you again.



Volunteer Opportunity

MacArthur Beach State Park, the premier recreation destination in South Florida needs volunteers!!

As a volunteer at MacArthur Beach, you will:

- Use your gifts and talents to help preserve Florida's natural and cultural resources
- Meet new people
- Do meaningful and satisfying work
- Stay active and involved
- Help improve Florida State Parks
- Gain work experience



We invite you to join our volunteer family by assisting at Beach Outfitters. All funds raised in the Gift Shop stay in the Park to provide education programs and enhance your visit.

Volunteers greet customers, assist with purchases and kayak rentals. Shifts are from 9 AM to 1 PM and 1 PM to 5 PM one or two days per week. Training is provided.

Please call Pat or Kari at 561-776-7449 to volunteer or with questions.

NatureScaping Event

On April 16, 2011, the Park hosted the 16th annual NatureScaping, a free event that has educates visitors on the importance of the use of Florida Native Plants in the residential landscape. This year we made the event even greener by also hosting the Great American Cleanup from 8 a.m. till 11 a.m.

The event was kicked off with a performance by the Duncan Middle School Show Choir. The Hitchiti Dancers, The Pink Tuxedos and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary all followed with inspiring and educational programs. Along with performers and guest speakers, there were over 50 vendors and exhibitors selling Florida native plants, artwork, birdhouses, jewelery and more.

Our first annual NatureScaping photography contest winners were on display in the Nature Center theater. The event was not only for adults, children spent most of the time creating cornhusk dolls, getting their face painted, or making a shell necklace in the kid's pavilion. For the shoppers in the crowd, the silent auction was the perfect place to bid on one of our donated items and help support the park. Thank you to our local businesses, which donated items such as gift certificates, artwork, sporting goods and more.

At the end of the day, over 1,700 visitors enjoyed the event and helped support the park and its educational programs. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and Friends of MacArthur Beach for making this one of the best events in recent history.



Stephanie Pew Honored for Outstanding Contributions to the Community

The Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce honored Friends President Stephanie Pew at the 2011 Leadership Awards Dinner on Monday, May 23 at PGA National Resort and Spa.

Stephanie received the Chamber Board's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contributions to the Community in honor of her outstanding philanthropic endeavors and dedication to the many causes she helps.



Many schools, businesses and non-profits in Northern Palm Beach County have all benefited from Mrs. Pew's work in some way. In particular, as President of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Board she dedicated over 1,000 hours of hands-on service in the last year. Her leadership in the creation of the new Pew Family Natural Science Education Center is just one example; the new center will bring cost-free education programs to 70 percent more children in the area in the first year alone.

Summer Time is Sea Turtle Time



With the approach of summer the park has scheduled sea turtle walks, an unbelievable opportunity to see these magnificent animals come out of the ocean and onto the beach to nest. After witnessing the whole nesting process of a loggerhead sea turtle you will leave the park with a better understanding of the laborious and meticulous process, and want to do your part in the conservation of sea turtles. Having healthy beaches is a vital part of ensuring all species of sea turtles continue on in perpetuity.

Taking part in a turtle walk it is very important to follow the rules that the Ranger/Staff conducting the turtle walk share with you; we have very strict guidelines that must be followed to ensure we do not jeopardize our permit from Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). If something is not followed out on the beach this

may impact the female's ability to find a suitable nesting site in time and cause her to potentially release some eggs in the ocean rendering them unviable.

You might ask what do I wear and bring on a turtle walk? We really want you to bring just yourselves. Leave all items such as cell phones, cameras, flashlights and other electronic devices at home. You should not apply any colognes or perfumes, body-sprays etc. If the night you're on a walk turns out to be a bit buggy, you can apply insect repellent, but this is to be done outside of the building. My personal recommendation is sleeves and pants, less sand sticks to your skin and you don't have to apply near as much repellent. I would recommend wearing tans, khaki earth tone type colors or black always works.

The dates MacArthur Beach will be doing organized turtle walks for the public will be from June 13th-July 23rd Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays. We will not be having a walk on July 4th. Reservations for the walks will start on May 31st and will only be taken in by phone. More detailed information about the turtle walks will be given upon reservation and then the evening of the turtle walk during the presentation. See you on a turtle walk.

Ranger Rob

How would you like to get your message out to thousands of like minded people.

Put an ad in the Dune News! The Dune News quarterly newspaper is sent to over 2,000

Friends of MacArthur Beach members. It is a great way to showcase your particular cause or business.

Ads start at \$250.00 for business card size. Please call Cheryl Houghtelin, 561-776-7221 for details.



Sea Turtle Nesting At Macarthur Beach State Park



We are right in the middle of another sea turtle nesting season here at Macarthur Beach State Park, one of the most prolific nesting sites in the state. The Florida Park Service is the largest manager of beach habitat in Florida. Macarthur beach only accounts for 1.7% of the 104 miles of beach the park service manages but has 35% of its sea turtle nests.

Mac Beach has more sea turtle nests annually than any other Florida State Park, in fact more than double the next closest park. We are also one of the highest density nesting beaches in the state. Macarthur Beach participates in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions (FWC) Index Nesting Beach Program.

FWC has handpicked 33 beaches in the state they deem as important nesting sites and have the capability to collect more specific data than standard beaches. Macarthur has participated in this program since its inception over 20 years ago. These index beaches are what FWC uses to monitor nesting trends. We are also one of only 18 facilities in the state that FWC has permitted to conduct turtle walks. Macarthur Beach received 1667 nests last year- if all of the nests were on the beach at once and spread out evenly, there would be a nest every 5.7 feet!

We had a great nesting season last year. I just mentioned that we received 1667 total nests last year- this included 1138 loggerhead nests, 480 green nests, and 49 leatherback nests. As many of you know 2009 was one of our slowest loggerhead seasons in 20 years. They definitely made a comeback last season with the second highest total since 1998. So far this year we are already well ahead of our total this time last year.

Green turtles also had a great year with 480 nests. This was our second highest total ever! Since greens are late season nesters have not seen any nests on the beach yet this season but we should see one very soon. Last but certainly not least are the leatherbacks. For the second year in a row we set a new record for leatherbacks with 49, as of May 23 we already have 52 nests and have shattered that record!

Here's to another productive sea turtle nesting season at Macarthur Beach State Park!

Ranger Scott

Manager Matters



A couple of months ago the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park hosted a supporter's 'sneak peek' of the new Pew Family Natural Science Education Center. As the Park Manager at MacArthur Beach State Park, I was honored to have the opportunity to thank many of our supporters personally for their remarkable gifts which have made this project, including the new Education Center, such a success.

It would be easy to think of this Friends project strictly in terms of the tangibles; the wonderful new center which now houses an expanded Friends-operated gift store as well as the new classroom, wet lab, and library, or the new interpretive displays, aquariums, and theater equipment soon to be in the Nature Center next door. When you think about it though, equally important are the somewhat less tangible aspects of this project. It's the thousands upon thousands of Palm Beach County students who will develop a greater appreciation of the natural sciences, as well as our park, and go on to become our future environmental stewards. It's the 130k+ annual visitors to our park who will gain a better understanding of the park's features and resources, and enjoy an even better visitor experience. It's the ever greater role we now play as part of our community.

Our generous donors didn't support this project to simply build the new Education Center or upgrade the existing Nature Center at MacArthur Beach State Park. They wanted to make a significant contribution to their community. They were aware of the issues facing our county school system and students and they wanted to help. In short, they decided to make a difference and to do it in a big and far reaching way.

So to the many generous supporters at the 'sneak peek' event as well as those who were unable to attend, I would like to again say thank you. Thank you for enabling us to better serve our visitors and for making this a model public/private partnership. Thank you for making a great place to visit even better. Finally, thank you for caring so much about our community.

Don Bergeron
Park Manager

New and Renewing Members

FEBRUARY 1, 2011 THRU MAY 25, 2011

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Mr. Peter Ahwesh
Mr. Steve Allison
Mr. Justin Aloneftis
Ms. Jenna Anderson
Ms. Emalee Andre
Ms. Carol Anello
Ms. Sylvia Ansay
Ms. Marcy Anshen
Mr. Craig Aquart
Ms. Maria Armstrong
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Mrs. Carol Barnhart
Mr. James Barnoske
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Ms. Anne Barrero
Mr. Yenny Barrero
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Mrs. Valerie Bass
Ms. Miranda Beadles
Ms. Cathy Beals
Mr. Kevin Beck
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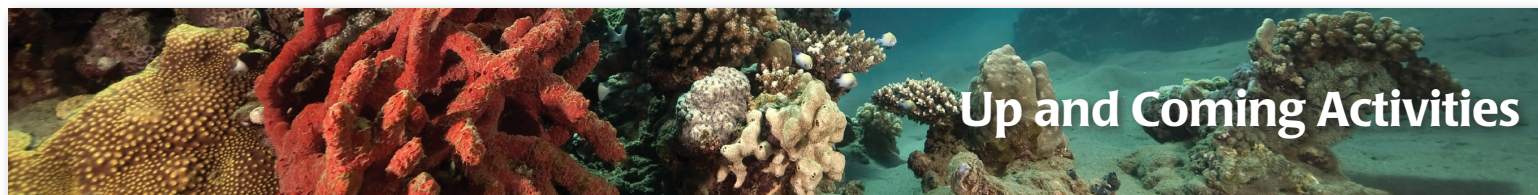
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Up and Coming Activities

JUNE

04	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
04	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
04	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
05	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
11	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
18	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
19	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
25	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
26	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing

JULY

02	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
03	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
09	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
10	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Folk Music
16	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
17	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
23	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
24	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park

AUGUST

06	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
07	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
07	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
13	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
14	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Folk Music
20	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
21	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
27	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Reef Tour
27	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk

- 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, followed by a snake feeding

Activity Details

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

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

Bluegrass - Listen to some of the best bluegrass music in South Florida; The Untold Riches and The Conch Stomp Band will be playing bluegrass music in the amphitheater.

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

Great American Cleanup - Come join one of the largest community litter reduction events. Help cleanup the beach at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Participants will receive snacks, refreshments and free giveaways. For more information and to download a participation form, go to the website, keeppbcbbeautiful.org.

Incredible Edible Bugs: Entomophagy - For hundreds of years insects have been eaten by many cultures around the world. This program

discusses science, home economics, world cultures and participants will be able to sample bug products. Live specimens of insects and arachnids eaten in their native lands will be on hand to see up close. The program is free with park admission. Please call (561) 624-6952 for reservations.

Introduction to Snorkeling - Join volunteer, Bruce Kay, and learn the basics of snorkeling. The program will start on land and participants will learn how to choose the right equipment, diving techniques and safety. The program will also be in the water if the conditions allow. Bring your mask and fins if you have them, otherwise the park has equipment for use. Participants must be 9 years old and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in the water. Reservations required.

Learn to Kayak - Adventure Times Kayaks teaches the basic skills necessary to safely enjoy the exciting sport of kayaking; instruction

on land only. Reservations recommended.

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; Friends of MacArthur Beach members with one guest and children under the age of 10 are free.

NatureScaping 2011 - Come down to the park and take part in one of the areas biggest "Green" events. There will be over 50 vendors and exhibitors, guest speakers, a silent auction, photography contest, live animal show, kid's crafts, music, food and more. There will be free entry to the park all day.

Reading with a Ranger - Story time for pre-school aged children with an age-related craft. Reservations required, space is limited.

Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing - Join Park Ranger Bill Wilson and learn

the techniques and equipment needed to go kayak fishing in South Florida. The program is on land and reservations are recommended.

Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing - Join Park Ranger Rob Matricino and learn the techniques and equipment needed to go surfing in South Florida. The program is on land and in the water. For ages 10 years old and up. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by their parent. Surfboard not required to participate. Reservations are required.

Yoga on the Beach - Join a certified yoga instructor for a one hour yoga session on the beach. This class is for beginners or experienced participants. Reservations recommended.



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John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

The only State Park in Palm Beach County, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park provides visitors with 1.3 miles of beautiful beach to explore and enjoy.

We invite you to join our volunteer family. Opportunities include the Gift Shop, Visitor Services, Education Programs, Tram Driving and other activities. Training is provided; volunteers enjoy free Park admission and free participation in Park activities.

Please call Megan at 561 624-6952 to volunteer or with questions.