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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

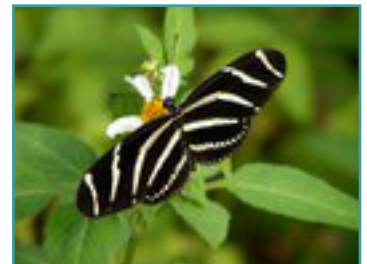
The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

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.

Butterflies at the Beach?

Yes!! Join us for a Butterfly Walk, the best choice for an up-close encounter. Butterfly Walks take place on the Park Dune Trail, which just happens to be one of the favorite hangouts of the Florida state butterfly, the Zebra Longwing. Yellow wings with black stripes and an elongated body help to identify this beautiful insect, one of the few species that seem to prefer shade. They not only sip the nectar of plants such as Spanish needles but also are one of the few butterflies that eat pollen. Due to this extraordinary eating habit, Zebra Longwings can live for 4-6 months compared with the 2-week lifespan of most other butterflies.



The Park is also home to many imperiled species of butterfly that are seldom seen elsewhere. Both the Statira Sulphur and the Florida White butterfly find a home in our Park due to the abundance of coin vine and

both Jamaica and limber caper plants; caterpillars of these species cannot survive without these plants for food.



Another imperiled species, which is

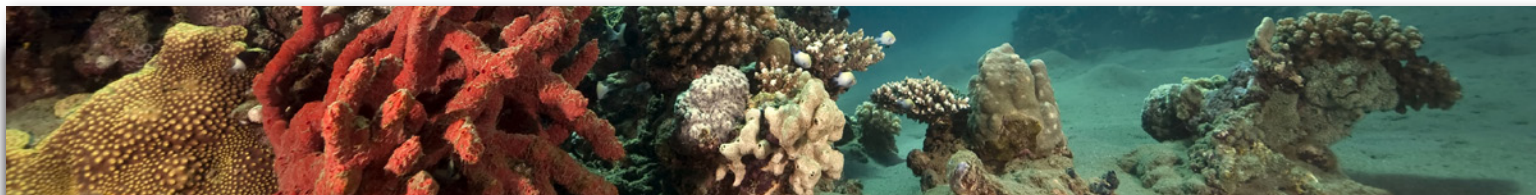
somewhat common in the park, is the Mangrove Skipper. Swiftly flying from one flower to another, this iridescent blue colored butterfly only lays its eggs on the leaves of the red mangrove which surround our estuary.



A display Butterfly Garden is planned for the area in between the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center and the Nature Center, with installation and maintenance assistance from the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Signage will suggest how one may create a butterfly garden in their own yard by using Florida native plants.

Upcoming Butterfly Walks are scheduled for September 10, October 15 and November 12 at 11:00 am, free with Park admittance. Plan to attend and enjoy Butterflies at the Beach.

Art Carton
Park Services Specialist



John D. MacArthur BEACH STATE PARK

Staff

Don Bergeron, Park Manager

Pat Rash, Asst. Park Manager

Lynn Desy, Admin. Assistant

Park Services Specialists

Art Carton

Mykl Wallrath

Rangers

Steve Desy

Scott Duncan

Rob Matriscino

Mike Watts

Bill Wilson

OPS Staff

David Gelb

Megan Harris

Douglas Sutherland

Sarah Waddell

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Administrative Assistant

www.macarthurbeach.org

President's Letter



As the end of the first year of my presidency for the Friends approaches, I would like to say that this has been a truly amazing period of time for our organization.

Membership is at an all time high and 150,000 people visited the Park last year.

The Beach Outfitters and Gift Shop is just beautiful and a joy to explore. The staff has worked many long hours doing the set up while learning new accounting and point of sale software. They are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Our new Natural Science Education Classroom is almost stocked, but this has not prevented programs from already taking place. Before the end of the school year, many students had the opportunity to use the class and they loved the experience. Campers are also benefiting from an enhanced program to their joy. In the coming year new adult and family programs will be presented monthly. This is something that the Friends has wanted to develop for quite a while and are very excited about, so keep an eye on our calendar.

The Nature Center remodel is underway and with its completion sometime in early 2012, I believe that we will be one of the best State Parks in Florida. We were already named the top CSO for the year and are very proud of that.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new employees who have joined us over the year. We also had many wonderful people come on board as volunteers for which I am very grateful. Volunteers are the heart of our organization.

See you in the Park,

Stephanie Pew

President

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

FRIENDS OF MACARTHUR BEACH STATE PARK, INC.

Membership Application

A not-for-profit Citizens Support Organization

☐ Benefactor...\$500+ ☐ Patron...\$499-\$100 ☐ Family...\$85 ☐ Individual...\$50

Name(s): M _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send this application along with your check or credit card information to:

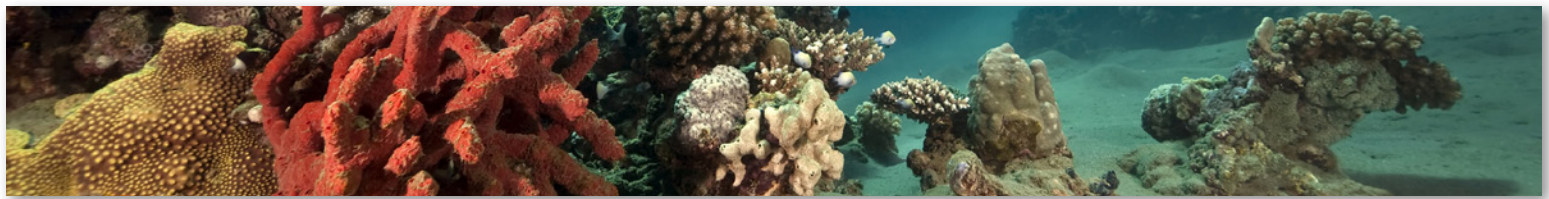
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

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.



Education Update

Birds, bees and butterflies are just a few critters observed by our summer campers as they explored the four ecosystems of our beautiful Park. This summer about 90 campers, ages 7 to 13 years, participated in one of three different programs: Little Turtle Camp, Junior Rangers, and Marine Biology. Many of our new tools arrived just in time to expand how we explored the ecosystems enhancing our campers' learning experiences.



Our new Natural Science Education Center provided a great space for the campers to escape the summer heat and weather conditions and continue to examine their collected discoveries using the microscopes and measuring equipment. Thanks to a donation from Barbara Oetzman of

sands from around the world, campers were able to see the composition of a unique collection of sands and then find each specimen's location on a map.

The summer campers helped field test some of the new opportunities the Natural Science Education Center will be able to provide to all our Park visitors.

Mark your calendar to participate in many familiar and new programs starting in October:

- 🦋 Judge Nelson Bailey will launch the Speaker Series on Saturday, October 15th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with his Florida Crackers History presentation taking place in the Amphitheatre. The cost for this program is \$10 per person for members and \$15 per person for non-members.
- 🦋 Families with children of all ages can participate in the first Art in Nature class on Sunday, October 2nd from 2p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost (includes supplies for class) will be \$30 per family for members and \$35 per family for nonmembers.
- 🦋 Arts in Nature classes for adults only will start on Thursday, October 6th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Education Classroom. The cost (includes supplies for class) is \$30 per person for members and \$35 per person for non-members.
- 🦋 The Reading with a Ranger program for families with toddlers will resume on Thursday, October 13th at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a story and related hands-on activities.
- 🦋 Our F.U.N. (Families Understanding Nature) program is designed for families with school-aged children with the topics enhancing science instruction in the classroom, but with fun, hands-on explorations. Our first F.U.N program, focusing on the "Sun", will be on Saturday, October 22nd from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the classroom.

Reservations are required for all of the above activities.

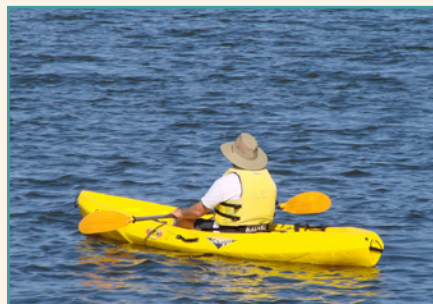
Please contact Janice Kerber at 561-622-1376.

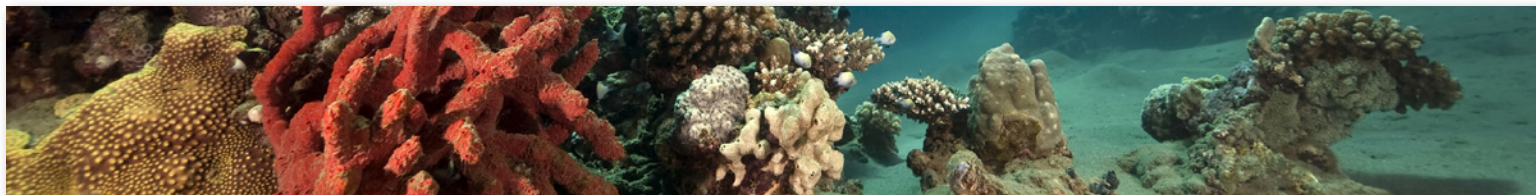
Janice Kerber
Director of Education

Don't Forget to Visit Beach Outfitters and Gift Shop

Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop is a must-see addition to the Park. We have moved into our new building located next to the Nature Center, and as always, all funds raised in the Gift Shop stay in the Park to provide education programs and enhance your visit.

- New merchandise arrives daily to take care of your beach outfitting and gift needs.
- Kayaks may be rented daily from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM; all kayaks must be returned by 4:00 PM.
- Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.





Buzz About Bees

Bees are winged, usually stinging insects, characterized by sucking and chewing mouthparts for the gathering of nectar and pollen. The bee obtains its energy by the pollen as a protein source as well as the flower nectar or the oils on plants. It's the adult females that buzz around and collect pollen, mainly to feed their larvae and create new bees. During the pollen collection bees inevitably lose some as they move from flower to flower, a vital service to the plants. Some of that pollen lands on the reproductive structures (pistils) of the other flowers of the same species. This results in what is called cross-pollination.

Bees are, in fact, the most important pollinating insects, and their interdependence with plants shows a perfect example of a symbiotic relationship known as mutualism. This interaction between bee and flower is beneficial to both insect and plant; bees pollinate about one-sixth of the world's flowering plant species! Much of the food we eat that is plant based involves bees for pollination; without the honey bee we wouldn't have broccoli, avocados, cherries, grapes, asparagus, peaches, watermelons, cantaloupes, celery and many, many other veggies and fruits.

It's my personal observation having worked around many flowering plants, that the chances of getting stung by them is not a given just because you see them around. Bees keep very busy, searching out food during their short life of weeks or a few months, and the bees do not find us as good sources of pollen. Bees are unlikely to sting when gathering nectar and pollen from flowers, but will sting in defense if provoked.

So take care when observing these buzzing creatures, as no human activity or ingenuity could ever replace the work of bees.

Ranger Rob Matriscino



The photograph is of a firebush at my residence with a bee seen doing its thing.

The Pileated Woodpecker, An Impressive and Unforgettable Bird

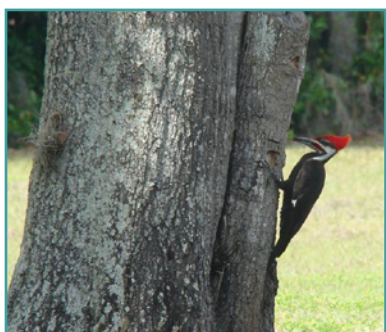


PHOTO BY JIM STRAHAN

With a call that is straight out of a Tarzan movie soundtrack the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is a beautiful animal. Pileated means having a crest covering the head and they show a bright red one, the rest of the body covered in black and white plumage. Males have red foreheads and "moustache stripe", females have a black forehead and "moustache stripe."

Due to the probable extinction of the Ivory Billed and Imperial of the species, the Pileated is considered to be North America's largest woodpecker. Nearly the size of a crow, the Pileated grows to an average length of 18 inches and wingspan of 29 inches.

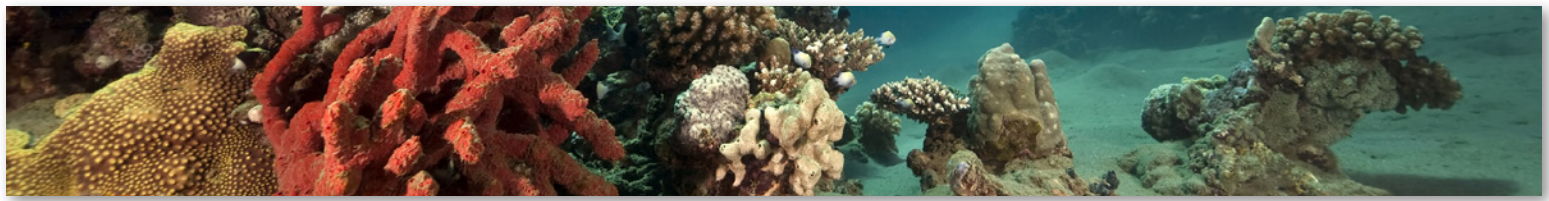
The range of the Pileated Woodpecker covers most of eastern US and Canada. They occupy mature forests that contain large trees. Their favorite food is carpenter ants but will eat most wood boring insects and occasional fruits and nuts. These birds create large excavations in trees to expose the insects and these cavities often attract other animals that may use the holes for food and shelter. Thankfully this bird is non-migratory and we are able to enjoy its presence year round; you will hear and see them in the Park year round, but they are particularly active in spring and early summer.

The Pileated Woodpecker is a very interesting creature with adaptations from the tip of their hardened bill, elongated barbed tongue, and their stiffened tail feathers right down to their zygodactyl feet. When you see them flying tree to tree or hear them call in the distance, be certain to remember what a special place the Park really is.



Pat Rash

Assistant Park Manager



To Spot a Spoonbill – Think Pink



At low tide, among the great blue herons and white ibis feeding on the mudflats, you just might think you see something pink. Yes, there have been regular sightings of the Roseate Spoonbill in the lagoon this summer.

Sometimes mistaken for a Flamingo, the Roseate Spoonbill is a true Florida native. Like the flamingo, it is believed that the inclusion

of carotenoid-rich shrimp in the bird's diet of is responsible for their bright coloring. The bird's striking colored feathers made the species a target for plume-hunters, and in the mid- to late-1800s they were driven to the brink of extinction in North America and Cuba. Their numbers also suffered with the draining and pollution of their wetland habitat; by the early 20th century, there were only a few dozen nesting pairs of roseate spoonbills on this continent. Spoonbills received legal protection in the 1940s and their numbers slowly started rebounding in parts of the southern U.S.

Beyond being pink, another distinguishing characteristic is the Spoonbill's strange and strategic bill shape. The bird's spoon shaped bill is ideal for feeling for and feeding upon small fishes, crustaceans, mollusks, slugs, and aquatic insects; while wading in the water, the bird swings its head from side to side with its bill slightly parted, snapping shut as it contacts food.

Spoonbills are very social birds. They spend most of their time in the company of other spoonbills, as well as other water birds. Not only do they feed in groups, but they nest in colonies with ibises, storks, cormorants, herons and egrets.

So the next time you are strolling across the boardwalk when the water's low, keep your eye on the mud flats and think pink.

Sarah Waddell

OPS Museum Guide/Animal Care

Manager Matters



MacArthur Beach State Park has often been described as a hidden gem in Palm Beach County. Well, it would seem we have been discovered; for the 2010/2011 fiscal year the park welcomed more than 150,000 visitors; a nearly 13% increase over the previous record. The increase in visitation couldn't come at a better time. With the recent improvements at the park, as well as additional improvements in the works, we are in a better position than ever to connect residents, students, and visitors with The Real Florida.

The Pew Family Natural Science Education Center is up and running to rave reviews. We have partnered with the Palm Beach County School District to launch a unique environmental learning opportunity for area students. Making use of the Education Center Classroom, as well as field exercises and virtual field trips, we will be maximizing student exposure to natural science education and the habitats of MacArthur Beach State Park.

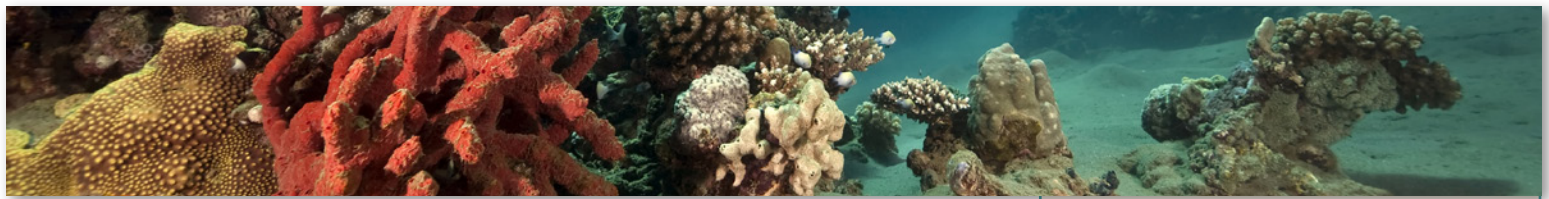
The new Beach Outfitter and Gift Shop offers visitors an expanded line-up of beach supplies, beverages, and gifts, including beautiful upscale gifts by local artists. Kayak rentals are also available at the new store.

On Munyon Island, the long awaited completion of our public boat dock is finally here. With 20 public boat slips, the new facility will provide convenient daytime-only access to Munyon Island while helping to protect near shore sea grass by eliminating the need for boaters to beach their vessels. An additional service boat slip will allow easier access to park staff as well as local law enforcement personnel. The dock's design incorporates a rock crib structure which should provide moored vessels ample protection from boat wakes while allowing water to percolate through the structure. The design, utilizing natural rock contained within concrete piles, is intended to provide marine habitat as well as wave attenuation.

Finally, our Nature Center upgrade is underway. In the near future visitors will enjoy new interactive interpretive displays, new and upgraded aquariums and wildlife exhibits, and a new theater system.

Don Bergeron

Park Manager



Happy Retirement, Charlie!

On June 30th of this year we lost a great Park Ranger, a talented Mr. Fix-It and a good friend. Charlie Hein started as a Park volunteer after his first retirement from Palm Beach County, but soon came on staff as the handiest of Rangers.

Charlie has again retired, and we wish him well on his new adventures, but first we will share a few thoughts on his time at MacArthur Beach State Park.



Charlie was a great example of a great ranger.

Don, Park Manager

He came, he saw, he fixed!

Pat, Assistant Park Manager

Charlie was always a rainbow in my day, quick to smile and share a laugh.

Cheryl, Friends Executive Director

Charlie is a great example of how to look on the positive side of life.

Mykl, Park Services Specialist

It was a pleasure working with a person who always had a smile and never complained about any tasks on the to-do list.

Ranger Rob

Charlie was a tremendous asset to the Park and I will miss him greatly.

Ranger Scott

Charlie was a man to count on.

Marty, Friends Administrator

When Charlie retired it was like losing a piece of the Park.

Art, Park Services Specialist

Charlie's always on the sunny side and he brought us along.

Sarah, OPS

I can't wait to see him in a volunteer shirt!

Megan, Volunteer Coordinator

Join the Florida Park Service Volunteer Team

Volunteer opportunities for the following positions are available at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park:

Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop

Greet customers, assist with purchases, merchandising, kayak rentals and provide Park information as requested.

Nature Center

Provide support to Park staff by greeting visitors, assisting with maintenance of our exhibits, terrariums, and aquariums. If you are interested in animals, you may also assist in the care and feeding of the reptiles, fish, and invertebrates.

Morning (9AM to 1PM) or afternoon shifts (1PM to 5PM) are available. Volunteer one shift per week or more often if desired. Enjoy the park while working in air conditioned comfort.

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.

In Memory of Dan West

Dan West was a volunteer, a volunteer historian and a member of the Friends Board of Directors. I first met Dan 13 years ago when I was in training to conduct Park nature walks. The staff told me to go on a walk with Dan if I wanted to get the best information on the plants, trails and history of the Park.

How true that was! Dan knew every stone, plant and tree in the Park as well as the history of the area and the ships that traveled the east coast of Florida. I learned a lot that day about the Park and about the man; it was an unforgettable experience, as time spent with Dan always was.

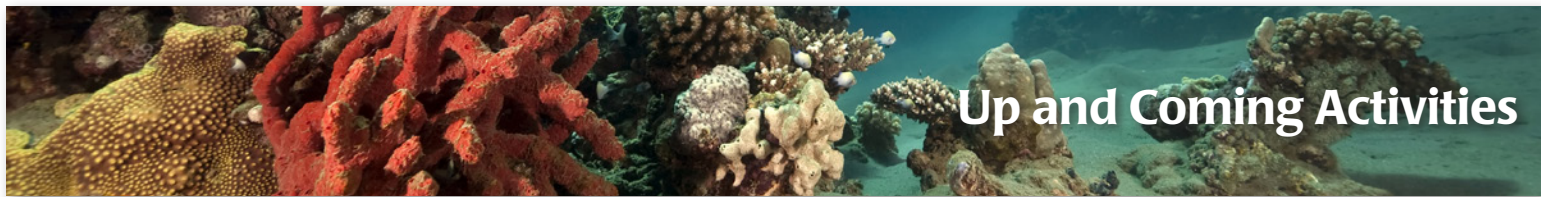
As historian for the Board, Dan gave a short talk each meeting about the many aspects of the park and naval history of the waterways. A different story each and every meeting.

When Dan passed away, his family generously requested that contributions in his memory be donated to our Park. These funds were used to purchase the four rocking chairs which now reside on the porch of the Outfitters & Gift Shop, each chair bears a plaque in his memory.

Please sit a spell, enjoy the Park and our surroundings. Dan would have enjoyed it so.



Marty Shiffman
Friends Administrator



Up and Coming Activities

SEPTEMBER

04	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
04	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Oldies Music in the amphitheater
08	Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Reading with a Ranger
10	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
11	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Bluegrass with the Conch Stomp Band
11	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
17	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	The International Coastal Cleanup
18	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
18	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing

OCTOBER

01	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Introduction to Kayak Fishing
02	Sunday	10:00 a.m.- Noon	Art in Nature for Families
02	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
06	Thursday	10:00 a.m.- Noon	Art in Nature for Adults
08	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Roy Schneider, "Folk"
09	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
15	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
16	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
22	Saturday	9-10:00 a.m.	Families Understanding Nature
23	Sunday	Noon	Birding at MacArthur Park

NOVEMBER

06	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
06	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Art in Nature for Families
10	Thursday	10:00 a.m.- Noon	Art in Nature for Adults
12	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
12	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Speaker Series
13	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
19	Saturday	9-10:00 a.m.	Families Understanding Nature
20	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
20	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
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 programs are free of charge except Art in Nature, MacArthur Under Moonlight Concerts and some Speaker Series

Art in Nature, Families - For families with children of any age, a different art activity will be completed each month under the instruction of Brenda Nickolaus, artist and photographer. \$30 per family for Friends members and \$35 per family for non-members. Call for more details and to register at 561-622-1376.

Art in Nature, Adults - For adults only, each month will focus on a different art style under the instruction of Brenda Nickolaus, artist and photographer. \$30 for Friends members, \$35 for non-members. Call for more details and to register at 561-622-1376.

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.

Families Understanding Nature (F.U.N.) Program - Families with school-aged children can participate in fun, hands-on science activities designed to enhance classroom instruction. Our topic for October will be about the "Sun" and November's topic is on "Water". All classes will be held in the Natural Science Education Classroom from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Call for more details and to register at 561-622-1376.

International Coastal 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.

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.

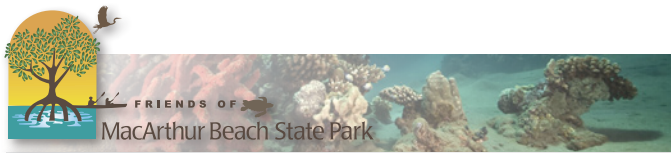
Reading with a Ranger - Story time for pre-school aged children with an age-related craft. Reservations required, space is limited.

Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing - Join Park Ranger Rob Matriscino 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.

Speaker Series - Join us in the Amphitheater on October 15th at 10am for an adult storyteller, Judge Nelson Bailey as he shares the history of the Florida Cracker.

On November 12th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., our speaker will be Kathy Malone with a presentation in the classroom on Community Butterfly-scaping. Call for more details and to register at 561-622-1376.



FRIENDS OF
MacArthur Beach State Park

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Bring Your Next Event to the Beach!

If you are looking for open space to enjoy a family gathering or company picnic in a natural setting, consider reserving a pavilion at the Park! We offer our North and South Pavilions (both \$100/day +tax) for rent, available from 8:00a.m. until dusk.

Amenities include charcoal grills, electrical outlets, wooden picnic tables, access to restrooms, trails and playground.

Pavilions and restrooms are ADA accessible, and seat 60 people comfortably. To reserve a pavilion, call 561-624-6950 or visit the Park office (located at the Ranger Station), from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Payment may be made by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, personal check or cash.