



Winter 2012 - 2013

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:**  
561.776.7449 Ext. 101

**Friends Office:**  
561.776.7449 Ext. 111

### Websites:

[www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org)  
[www.floridastateparks.org/macarthurbeach](http://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.*

## Students Explore Park Ecosystems in Record Numbers!

"Build it and they will come" has proven to be more than true for the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center. The 2010-11 school year had an enrollment of 1068 students; in 2011-12 we served over 3500 students, and have scheduled over 4500 elementary, middle school and high school students for the 2012-13 school year.



The Natural Science Education Classroom is providing an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on activities in the classroom as well as the exploration of the Park ecosystems; Maritime Hardwood Hammock, Estuary, Beach & Dune and the Rock Reef.

The curriculum meets the Florida Next Generation Standards, providing for all facets of required science education as set forth by the Florida State Board of Education. Our programs provide the needed fundamentals through hands-on experiential learning activities, which educate, excite and involve the students in science. Children, who may never have seen the ocean have an opportunity to see, hear, feel and totally experience the outdoor lab that is our Park. Suddenly, science is fun, understanding comes with experience and learning becomes not a chore but a joy.



Why is a good science education so important for every child? Because science is everywhere, and understanding how it's a part of our daily lives can give students a great foundation for success in life.

A solid science education is essential for students of all backgrounds, talents, interests, and abilities. All children need the knowledge and skills to make sense of the world around them; by helping them learn how to observe, collect evidence, and draw conclusions, science helps students sharpen their thinking about the ideas and events they encounter in everyday life.

In particular, the lessons and skills science gives us can have an impact: more responsible citizens, a strong economy, a healthier environment, and a brighter future for everyone.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Natural Science Education Fund; if you have not as yet contributed, please join us!



## 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  
Lu Dodson

### Rangers

Steve Desy  
Scott Duncan  
Dave Gelb  
Rob Matricino  
Sarah Waddell  
Bill Wilson

### OPS Staff

Taryn Kerber  
Douglas Sutherland  
Diana Young

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Janice Kerber, *Dir. of Education*  
Pat Santy, *Outfitters Manager*  
Kari Foster, *Assistant Manager*  
Susan Kamp, *Marketing & Membership Coordinator*

[www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org)

## President's Letter

**What a year we have had!** So much has occurred during 2012, I hope all Volunteers, Friends members and supporters who have joined us are proud to be a part of the success. So much time and talent has gone into making our Park one of the best in Florida.

The list includes many accomplishments, starting with the launch of the new web site, [www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org). Then the installation of all the new aquariums and displays for the Grand Opening of the Nature & Welcome Center, what a great Center we now have to share with visitors and students.

Our classroom was filled to capacity, serving over 3500 students during the 2011-12 school year; we are 30% ahead of this number to date for the 2012-13 school year. We provide students and teachers continual learning tools by producing vodcasts, live broadcasts from the Park - questions and comments by students are fed directly to and answered by the staff. Held in cooperation with the school district, five vodcasts were shared during 2012.

Science education continued during the summer months, as the first full-day summer camps took place. We also reached out to the community by offering Indoors and Out: Connecting Classrooms to Nature, a unique and inspiring four day teacher in-service training which provides science lessons designed for use in the classroom, schoolyard or field trips.

We continued our popular Art Show and Sales with the fabulous Guy Harvey kicking off the newly renovated Theater, followed by artists Ruth Petzold and Janet Heaton. **As well:**

- The beautiful butterfly garden was completed with thanks to the Florida Native Plant Society.
- Thanks to a donation from a generous member, we have completely replaced the kayak launch and increased our fleet by 50%.
- The Friends purchased an RV for intern housing providing university students a place to live while gaining experience in their field of study.
- Twenty lockers were purchased for visitor convenience while visiting.

And, last but certainly not least, one half of the funding for the Natural Science Education Fund has been raised with our Challenge Grant!

I want to thank the numerous board members, staff, and volunteers for making all of these accomplishments come to pass; we would not be where we are without all of you.

See you in the Park,

*Stephanie Pew*

*President, Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park*

### YES, I want to support the *Natural Science Education Fund*

Please print clearly and provide name(s) as you would like them to appear on Donor Recognition.

Name(s): M \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to (Circle one) Visa MasterCard Card# \_\_\_\_\_

VC code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEDGE INFORMATION:** ☐ I wish to make a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to be paid over a period of 3 years.

Please bill me: ☐ Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Please call me to discuss pledge period and payments

**Mail to: Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Natural Science Education Fund**  
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
Campaign Office: 561.776.7449 Ext. 111 [www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org)





## Manager Matters



As we move into the cooler months here at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, many of our Park activities really begin to heat up. One of the things you'll quickly realize when you visit us this time of year is that we humans are not the only ones who appreciate the slightly cooler temperatures. Stroll the boardwalk or walk the beach and you are in for a real treat. Between frequent manatee sightings, great birding, and an abundance of fish, it's hard to beat this up close and personal experience of "...the Real Florida."

With the waters of the Atlantic Ocean still quite comfortable this time of year snorkeling and swimming remain excellent. Snorkelers are reporting regular sightings of sea turtles near the reef as well as the ever-present schools of beautiful tropical fish. Speaking of sea turtles, we're on the tail end of a banner sea turtle nesting year at the park. Records were set this year for Loggerhead turtle nests (1675) and Leatherback turtle nests (93), and it was another good year for Green turtle nests (227).

Other great activities at the Park include concerts, daily nature walks, recreational skills programs, and much more. John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is also Palm Beach County's premier kayaking location. Whether launching your own kayak from our public launch, renting one from the Beach Outfitters Gift Shop, or taking part in a guided kayak tour to Munyon Island, you're sure to have a great day on the water.

Don't forget to send photos of your day at the Park to friends and family up north to remind them that this time of year doesn't necessarily have to involve snow shovels and parkas.

*Don Bergeron*  
Park Manager

## NatureScaping & Dark Skies Festival - Get Set for March 16



Mark your calendar now - on March 16 we will present our 18th annual NatureScaping event, but this year we are joining with Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management to bring you the NatureScaping & Dark Skies Festival.



In addition to the importance of Florida native plants and living a green lifestyle, this free event will provide activities and information on light pollution and the impact on our local sea turtle populations.

Of course, we will have live music, astronomy activities, and presentations by a variety of speakers, native plant and craft vendors, live animal show, children's programs, food and lots of fun.

Forms are available on the web site to enter the NatureScaping photography contest - <http://www.macarthurbeach.org/special-events/>. There are separate categories for children and adults, finalists will be on display in the Education Gallery for the public vote.



If you are interested in being a sponsor or vendor for the NatureScaping & Dark Skies Festival, please contact Park Services Specialist Art Carton - 561-776-7449 Ext. 109 or [Arthur.Carton@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Arthur.Carton@dep.state.fl.us).



## Thanks to all who Shopped Til THEY Dropped!!

**Shop Til YOU Drop** was a fun-filled day of shopping and supporting an important cause, the Natural Science Education Fund. Our thanks to all who supported this inaugural event: shoppers, vendors and our sponsors.

### Gold Sponsor



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fax: 561-775-5988**



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## Give the Gift of Nature

Give a meaningful gift to friends and loved ones, a gift to the **Natural Science Education Fund** will offer students extraordinary opportunities for learning, exploring and discovering.



### Birthdays | Holiday Gifts | Graduations

- \$25 Give a child their first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean
- \$50 Give two children the wonder of looking through a microscope
- \$100 Give four children the opportunity to explore the estuary
- \$250 Give ten children the chance to understand our animals
- \$500 Give an entire classroom an up-close encounter with a sea turtle

#### Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Natural Science Education Fund

**DONOR INFORMATION:** Please print clearly.

**RECIPIENT INFORMATION:** Please print clearly.

Name(s): M \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): M \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

" Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to (Circle one) Visa MasterCard Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please mail gift card to recipient

☐ Please mail gift card to me

## Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop

Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop offers a wide variety of unique gifts, beach supplies, books and clothing to make your visit memorable. Operated by the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, all monies raised help fund Park programs.

### New Year Celebration Sale!!

January 1 thru January 31  
Members receive 15% off select merchandise\*

### Dress Well Sale!!

Feb. 1 thru Feb. 28  
Members receive 15% off all shirts\*.



### Wear Some Shade Sales!!

March 1 thru March 31  
Members receive 15% off all headwear\*.

### Get Wet Sale!!

April 1 thru Apr. 30  
Members receive 15% off all snorkels, fins, masks, combos, and AquaSocks\*.

*\*Excludes clearance items, beverages, consignment items, rentals, Ice cream products, or other products, services or fees as determined by the Friends of MacArthur Beach.*

## Exhibits Showcase Animals and Art

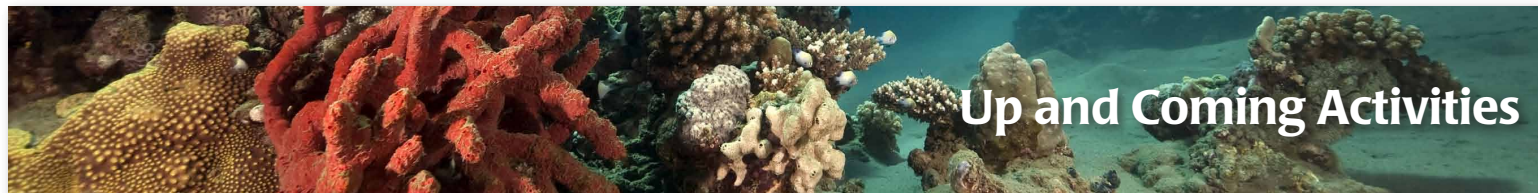
### Feathers, Fur and Pachyderms, Too! - Audubon Centennial Editions

The Nature & Welcome Center Theater currently houses the paintings of animal artist, Janet N. Heaton. The images depicted are from the many adventures and research trips made by Ms. Heaton of both birds and mammals from Africa and as close as her backyard in West Palm Beach.

January 2013, Robert Hall will be exhibiting the historic bird prints "Audubon Centennial Editions" of paintings by John James Audubon in the Nature Center Theater. Mr. Hall has the unique honor of being able to reproduce the folios of this recognized painter of the past.

All works, in both exhibitions, are available to be purchased and a portion of the sales benefit the Natural Science Education Fund.





# Up and Coming Activities

## JANUARY

05	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Natives Plants Attract Wildlife and Beautify your Landscape* Speaker Series with Gene Joyner
06	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
12	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
12	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	FUN Program: Bird Basics*
13	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
13	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
20	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
26	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Bill and Kate Isles, Folk music

## FEBRUARY

02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Dolphins: An Intimate Glimpse at an Aquatic Society* Speaker Series with Dr. Denise Herzing
03	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
09	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
10	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
10	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
16	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing
17	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
23	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Matt Wahl, Acoustic guitar

## MARCH

02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Geology of the South Florida Coastline* Speaker Series with Dr. Ed Petuch
02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
03	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
09	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	FUN Program: Sands Around the World*
10	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
10	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
16	Saturday	10-4:00 p.m.	NatureScaping & Dark Skies Festival
17	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
23	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Bluegrass Music

### Daily Nature Walks

A guided exploration of MacArthur Beach State Park daily at 10 a.m. Meet in front of Beach Outfitters Gift Shop, bring water bottle, sun screen and insect repellent. Free with Park admission.

### Animal Feeding

Join us to observe our resident sea turtles and tropical fish at feeding time and learn more about these amazing creatures. Every weekend day in the Nature & Welcome Center, free with Park admittance.

\* Call 561-776-7449 Ext 104 to register, \*\*Call 561-624-6952 for reservations or more information

## Activity Details

- All programs are free of charge except FUN (Families Understanding Nature), MacArthur Under Moonlight Concerts and some Speaker Series

**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. 561-624-6952

**Families Understanding Nature PROGRAM** - F.U.N. programs are designed for families with school-aged children to come and learn about various natural science topics through hands-on exploration. Scout groups and homeschool groups are welcome to join this program. The cost is \$5

per child, parents are free; parents must stay to participate in the program with their child(ren). Space is limited, call for reservations - 561-776-7449 Ext. 104

**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. 561-624-6952

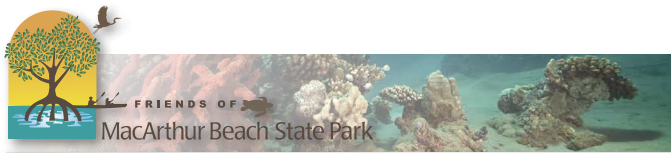
**MacArthur Under Moonlight Concert Series** - Join us for a magical night of music, gates open at 6:00 p.m. Concert 7-9:00 p.m. with a fifteen minute intermission at 8:00 with stargazing on the boardwalk. \$5.00 per person; Friends of MacArthur Beach members with one guest and children under the age of 10 are free. Refreshments sold by Junior Friends

### Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing

- Join Park Ranger Bill Wilson and learn all you need to know about kayak fishing. Bill will go over equipment and techniques to help you land the "big one". The program is on land. Reservations recommended. 561-624-6952


**Speaker Series** - We invite you to join us in the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center for great information, exciting insights and fascinating discussion on a broad scope of local topics. Offered October through March on Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon; \$5.00 per person. Space is limited, call for reservations - 561-776-7449 Ext. 104





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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 Lu at 561 776-7449 Ext. 108 to volunteer or with questions.