Natural Science Education – Where Science Comes Alive

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park are committed to achieving lasting change that transforms people’s lives. Our mission states our focus on present and future generations, and providing science education has always been a top priority of our fundraising efforts.

The Friends organization makes natural science education a priority, providing quality programs to Palm Beach County students free-of-charge since 2001.

Many children in Palm Beach County have never seen the ocean nor truly explored the out-of-doors.

Our Natural Science Education programs provide opportunities for students in 1st to 12th grade to see, touch and discover 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, to educate, excite and involve the students in science.

The students 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.

During the 2011-12 school year we served over 3500 students, provided programs for over 4600 during the 2012-13 school year, and are well on our way to our goal of 5200 students for the 2013-14 school year.

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

Reflections on the 2012-2013 Friends accomplishments always make me proud of my involvement with such a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers and staff. Everyone has bought into the vision of funding the Education Fund Campaign to support our teaching staff and education programming goals. These efforts included an Audubon presentation and art show, then Florida Hall of Fame artist Jackie Brice. Both were well received and successful. A new art hanging system was installed by park staff to ease the art hanging process. The first Shop til YOU Drop occurred in December 2012. Due to its initial positive reception, it has been established as an annual fundraiser. I would also like to mention and thank the wonderful donors to the Natural Science Education Fund. Approximately $1.39 million of the $2.1 million goal has been raised.

Two Board members, Ellin Miller and Pat Welch, along with Park staff developed a new Citizen Science program. A sea turtle nest excavation project was the first of many to take place in years to come. We look forward to Friends members taking part in future research projects.

The Junior Friends expanded once more to include middle school to university students. A monofilament collection bin has been placed on the bridge between Little Lake Worth and Lake Worth Lagoon. Thirty students have joined this committee to date.

Beach Outfitters sales and kayak rentals have exceeded all budget expectations. Thanks and appreciation goes out to the hard working dedicated staff.

The last area I want to write about is the Education Department. The growth and success in this program cannot be emphasized enough. This is the third school year in operation and already the classroom is completely full. The last vodcast in June reached 9500 students, truly amazing. I can only imagine what this year’s school term will bring. Busing is also available, when needed, due to a grant. This is so vital to outreach and to help a school in need. Teacher training focused on Project Wild and Project Learning Tree, interdisciplinary conservation and environmental programs are now in place.

Many more accomplishments are mentioned in recent Dune New publications. My term of office has just ended after three years. The Friends have grown tremendously as an organization. It has been a stimulating and exciting time for me. I would like to welcome Meredith Trim as the new President. Meredith brings a new perspective to the Friends, which will surely help us grow even further as an organization.

Regards,

Stephanie Pew

President’s Letter

Friends and Members:

As the newly elected president of the board of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, I want to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Stephanie Pew. I do not have space in such a short piece to fully list Stephanie’s enormous contributions to the Park of vision, time, effort, outreach, and financial support. During her service to the board, so far, Stephanie has brought to life the Friends’ education program which now provides hands-on science education to 5000 schoolchildren in Palm Beach County each year in the amazing surrounding of the Park. This gift to our community of educating our children to the nature world that surrounds them, in that natural environment, cannot really be measured.

No one person can make these accomplishments happen alone and Stephanie is no exception. Generous donors, sponsoring Foundations, hard-working Board members and staff of the Friends have all worked to create the renovated Nature Center with its new education displays, new Gift Shop with an array of new and exciting merchandise, updated fleet of kayaks, and state-of-the art education classroom. We all should be proud of our enormous accomplishments to date.

However, as far as we have come, we are not finished. As the new president of the board of the Friends, like Stephanie before me, I also cannot reach our goals alone. We have not yet fully funding our endowment to support the education program for generations to come. Only together, as supporters of the Friends and Park, can we finish this task and continue to make MacArthur Beach State Park the best state park in Palm Beach County!

Meredith Trim
Volunteer Spotlight
Lucea Keller

Volunteer Job
Assignment: Natural Science Education Instructor

Previous and Present Occupation:
Graduated from Hunter College in NYC, then worked as a medical technician at New York Hospital (pediatric cardiology). Taught Biology and Earth Science at San Leandro HS in Hayward California. Moved to West Palm Beach, in 2001, and was a school bus driver for the P.B.C. School District for 81/2 years. (Many people have asked me how I survived this ordeal for so long). Upon retirement, I began volunteering at MacArthur Beach. In addition to the education department, I also have done turtle walks for the last two summers plus doing citizen science this past summer, digging up previously hatched leatherback turtle nests.

Special interests/hobbies: Tennis, snorkeling, reading, bicycle riding, hiking, traveling and volunteering in Africa. (Two years ago I was involved in a leopard research project in Namibia, with BioSphere Expeditions and last year I spent a month in Zambia involved with the African Lion restoration program).

Birth Place: Brooklyn, New York
Years in Florida: 12

Favorite Part of MacArthur: The Estuary Seineing school program with children. I am as excited to see what is in the haul as the kids are.

Looking forward to another productive school year. It is a rewarding feeling when children get enthusiastic about science and see them take an active interest in nature and nature preservation.

Manager Matters

It would seem that if you’re a sea turtle, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is the place to be. Nesting season is always a big deal here but this season’s numbers are truly remarkable; 1160 loggerhead sea turtle nests, 1395 green sea turtle nests, and 27 leatherback sea turtle nests! Apparently, we’re not the only ones who appreciate our beautiful and undisturbed beach.

Pick your outdoor activity and this is a great time for it here. Swimming and snorkeling? Water temperatures are still comfortable and our easily accessible reef is just a short swim from shore. Fishing? Tarpon, bluefish, huge jack crevalle, and snook are chasing schools of bait (and angler’s lures) along the beach and in the estuary. Kayaking? Cooler temperatures make an enjoyable day of exploring the park by kayak even better. While you’re out kayaking, don’t forget to visit Munyon Island to do a little trail hiking.

As always, visiting the Nature Center is a great way to begin or end your day at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. While you’re there, enjoy the amazing aquariums, interpretive displays, free movies in the theater, a gift shop, and of course friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers.

Don Bergeron
Park Manager
Mark Your Calendar Now for Sharing the Beauty of Nature - 2014 Art Show & Sales

Artists of the Natural World: Invitational
January 16 - March 1

PAINTERS
- Aaron Blaise  www.creatureartteacher.com
Past animator for Disney, Nominated for an Academy Award for the film Brother Bear; Animator and Supervising Animator for Beauty & the Beast, Aladdin, The Lion King, Pocahontas and Mulan.

- Guy Coheleach  www.guysart.com

- Mary Louise O’Sullivan  www.marylouiseoosullivan.com
Recognized oil painter from the Stuart, FL area, known for her bird and boat paintings. Represented in major galleries in the Northeast.

- David Rankin  www.natureartists.com/rankind/htm
Well-known watercolorist and author, has illustrated 19 books. David’s work has been collected in the US, China, India, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam.

- John and Suzie Seerey-Lester  www.seerey-lester.com
Born in England, John has been recognized by Prince Phillip for his conservation in the field of wildlife; in further recognition, John was knighted as a member of the International Order of St. Hubertus by His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Andreas of Austria. Suzie Seerey-Lester, John’s wife, is also a recognized and awarded painter in her own right.

- Wes and Rachelle Siegrist  www.artofwildlife.com
Husband and wife team, painters of miniatures, both are included in traveling exhibitions throughout the United States. Rachelle was the first American woman to exhibit in the Hilliard Society Miniatures show in England.

- Mort Solberg  www.mortensolberg.com
Watercolorist & oil painter, Mort has received 17 major awards from distinguished art societies and museums including Master and Hall of Fame. His work is in the collection of 25 museums and the White House.

- Renee Bemis  www.sculpturesgallery.com
Recognized for her game fish bronzes and most recently commissioned monuments in various states including the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach. Her work will be installed at the National Monument for War Dogs in Washington, DC.

- Tim Cherry  www.timcherry.com
National Sculpture Society award-winning artist and member in many of their exhibitions including the Gold Medal. His work is recognized in many public installations throughout the US.

- Walter Matia  www.matia.com
Recognized for his hunting dogs and birds, Walter’s fountains and frieze can be found at Blair House, Washington, DC. He is collected by distinguished private collectors throughout the US, and was a Master Artist at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

- Eric Thorsen  www.thorsengallery.com
Eric is national recognized sculptor of animals and figures… working both small and larger than life.

- Kent Ullberg  www.kentullberg.net
A native of Sweden, Kent is considered one of the world’s foremost sculptors, best known for monumental works in Stockholm, Sweden and Cape Town, S. Africa. His Ft. Lauderdale and Omaha, Nebraska installations are the largest wildlife bronzes ever done….spanning several city blocks. World leaders and celebrities collect his work.

Visitors will have the rare opportunity to purchase these works of art, which will benefit the Natural Science Education Programs at MacArthur Beach State Park.
James Hutchinson Paints Florida:
March 7 - 31

Florida Artist Hall of Fame recipient, artist James Hutchinson of Stuart, was raised on the north fork of the St. Lucie River. He explored the landscape at a very early age which certainly shaped his career as an artist with an innate knowledge of the land.

In 1962, Hutchinson received an Arthur Vining Davis Foundation grant to produce 50 paintings depicting the lives of the Seminole Indians. To fully understand the lives and culture of the Seminoles, Hutchinson and his wife moved to the Brighton Reservation, where they lived for 6 years.

The paintings have been recognized for their rare and great importance, and are in the permanent collection of the Miami Historical Museum and the Elliott Museum in Stuart.

Mr. Hutchinson has collectors from all 50 states, Canada, Europe, South America and Japan. The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park are very excited to be able to exhibit Mr. Hutchinson’s current works reminiscent of the significant historical paintings of year past.

Our thanks to Hawthorn PNC Family Wealth for their generous sponsorship of the 2014 Art Shows and Sales
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

PRESENTS

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DECEMBER 14

AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED
ADimirAL’S COVE COUNTRY CLUB

10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
$75 INCLUDES BUFFET LUNCH

Visit our website for complete details – www.macarthurbeach.org

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
http://www.macarthurbeach.org/event/shop-til-you-drop

All funds raised will benefit the Natural Science Education program of John D MacArthur Beach State Park.

Classroom and field activities are provided to Palm Beach County students free of charge through the funding of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc. With your help, we will provide a hands-on natural science education experience to over 5,000 students.

More information: 561-776-7449 Ext. 111 Cheryl@macarthurbeach.org

Thank You to our Sponsors and Donors

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What A Sea Turtle Season!

The 2013 sea turtle nesting season can be summed up very simply— we recorded more sea turtle nests in the Park this year than any time in the past! Needless to say it was another amazing year for sea turtles at Macarthur Beach State Park. In all we had 2582 nests (1160 loggerheads, 1395 greens, and 27 leatherbacks) which surpassed our old record of 2142 set in 2007. All of this action occurred on only 1.6 miles of beach!

The real story this year is the massive amount of green sea turtle nests— 1395, demolishing the old record of 788, also set in 2007. For the first time ever we actually had more green nests than loggerheads. This green invasion was not just seen here at the park, but all throughout the state beaches were seeing record amounts of green turtles coming to shore to nest. Loggerheads had another solid year at 1160 nests, after setting a new record themselves last season. Leatherbacks had somewhat of a down year, with only 27 nests. This is nothing to worry about however, nesting is cyclical, and they have set new records the past 4 years in a row.

Another exciting aspect to our 2013 sea turtle season was the first ever Citizen Science Project at Macarthur Beach State Park. We trained a team of dedicated volunteer citizens to assist scientists and biologists carry out a scientific endeavor; we focused on leatherback sea turtle nest excavations. Our team worked with Park staff and biologists, digging up the contents of leatherback nests after they have hatched to analyze the contents; counting the number of eggs laid, how many turtles hatch and made it out of the nest, just to name a few. This project is looking to expand in the future and we could always use more hands to dig!

Hopefully our 2014 sea turtle season will be even better than this one!

Ranger Scott
Summer Camp 2014

*Give your child a summer of outdoor sun, fun and exploration.*

Our goal is to help each camper appreciate and understand nature, to take an active role in the conservation of the environment and provide activities to increase independence, sportsmanship and self-esteem.

**PROGRAMS 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunshine Kids Camp** is for children who have completed first or second grade. Campers will be introduced to environmental concepts through interactive games and activities. Campers will also enjoy swimming, beach play and other outdoor activities.

*June 9th-13th*

**Junior Rangers Camp** is for students who have completed third or fourth grade, who will explore the Maritime Hammock, Estuary, Beach and Dune and the Rock Reef. Campers will snorkel, swim and kayak throughout the week.

*June 16 – 20th  or  July 7th – 11th*

**Marine Biology Camp** is for students who have completed fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, students will explore the organisms of the coastal ecosystems by participating in scientific investigations such as fish counts on the reef, seagrass survey, biodiversity of the estuary and restoration of estuary systems.

*June 23rd – 27th  or  July 14th – 18th  or  July 21st – 25th*

**Day Camp Registration Day** will be March 15th during NatureScaping.

For More Information:
www.macarthurbeach.org/summer-camp
Janice Kerber
561-776-7221 ext 104
janicekerber@macarthurbeach.org

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**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
Thanks to Cod & Capers Seafood Market!

For over 3 years, Cod and Capers Seafood Market has generously donated their fresh fish trimmings to help feed our MacArthur Beach Educational Sea Turtles and the other marine species on exhibit in our many aquariums. Located just a few miles from the Park, Cod and Capers receives daily deliveries of fresh seafood from all over the world as well as from local fisherman and many domestic fish houses. They are serious about supporting the local fishing industry as well as the overall longevity of fishing worldwide, and is the only seafood facility in Palm Beach County that is voluntarily inspected by the United States Department of Commerce.

A big thanks to Neal, in charge of the back of the house, who always puts our order together quickly and has it packaged for pick-up. Even though we supplement the turtles’ diet with fresh caught crabs, shrimp and fish, we couldn’t keep up with a growing loggerhead’s appetite without the generous support from Cod and Capers Seafood.

NatureScaping 2014 – Seeing the Beauty of Art in Nature

In south Florida, March is a great month to enjoy and explore the great outdoors. This year the first day of spring is March 20 and there is no better way to welcome in the season, than to join us for our annual FREE ENTRY “Green” event, NatureScaping 2014 on March 15, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our focus for 2014 is Seeing the Beauty of Art in Nature; there will be numerous local vendors selling items inspired by nature and made with materials that are either recycled or made with natural materials.

Jim Hutchinson, Florida Hall of Fame artist, will be giving a presentation about his artwork displayed in the Nature Center Theater. Local painters will be creating works of art and talking with visitors about their artistic process. Photo buffs can enter our photo contest and take part in a photography workshop.

As always, there will be one of the largest gatherings of Florida native plant vendors selling some of south Florida’s best trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Children and adults will enjoy the live animal show and music by folk singers, Bill and Kate Isles. Kids will take part in a scavenger hunt and enjoy the many kid friendly booths.

If you want to get out on the water, visitors can take on the challenge of a kayak obstacle course. This year we have also invited several food trucks to the event. So bring your appetite to sample some of the local cuisine and remember to mark March 15, 2014 on your calendar as a day to celebrate the beauty of art in nature.
### Up and Coming Activities

**DECEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Learn to Kayak Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music with the <em>Conch Stomp Band</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Jr. Friends Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Techniques in Nature Photography Workshop***</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Beach Cleanup</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td><em>Shop Til YOU Drop The Club at Admirals Cove</em>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Moonlight Concert: <em>Roadside Revue</em>, Folk Music</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music with the <em>Untold Riches</em></td>
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**JANUARY 2014**

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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Learn to Kayak Workshop</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Beach Cleanup</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td><em>Manatee 101: Biology and Ecology of the Florida Manatee</em> Speaker Series with John Cassidy, FWC Biologist</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Moonlight Concert: <em>Staber and Chasnoff</em>, Folk Music</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
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<td>2-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jr. Friends Meeting</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>Techniques in Nature Photography Workshop***</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td><em>Marine Life in the Lake Worth Lagoon</em> Speaker Series with Anne Dupont</td>
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<td>02</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Learn to Kayak Workshop</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Moonlight Concert: <em>John Shain</em>, Folk Music</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music with the <em>Untold Riches</em></td>
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**MARCH**

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<td>Learn to Kayak Workshop</td>
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<td>3-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Birding at MacArthur Park</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Weeds &amp; Seeds: A History of Dining in South Florida* Speaker Series with Michele Williams, Ph.D., RPA</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>NatureScaping – Annual Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluegrass Music with the <em>Untold Riches</em></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Moonlight Concert: <em>Matthew Sabatella &amp; the Ballad of America</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Butterfly Walk</td>
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**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 repellant. Free with Park admission.

**Animal Observation**

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
***Call 561-776-7449 Ext 110 to register
Hammer Time

The north wind is blowing, leaves are falling, temperatures are on the decline and there is the sound of hammers in the distance. That’s right, the resident volunteer crew have arrived and we are underway on maintenance and repair projects throughout the Park.

Volunteers are our most valuable natural resource, proving invaluable for so much of what makes our Park so special. The resident volunteers returning from last year are Ted and Sheila Leavitt, Jim Budd, and Billy Maleear. New to the program this winter are Al and Karen Perry, who have already been a huge help. As a retired teacher, Karen is a “natural” to volunteer with the Natural Science Education programs.

We have an enormous list of projects to complete this winter from boardwalk repairs, trimming trees, to roofing and everything in between. If you would like to join us and are ready for physical labor please contact me at patrick.rash@dep.state.fl.us to find out what we are working on at the time.

Pat Rash
Assistant Park Manager
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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The Gift Shop, open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM., offers a wide variety of unique gifts to make your visit to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park memorable.

From sun block to snorkel equipment, t-shirts to hats, water, soft drinks, toys for children and gifts crafted by local artists, you will find that something special at the Beach Outfitters and Gift Shop.

• Kayaks are rented daily, first come, first served.
• Members always receive a discount.