



FRIENDS OF

MacArthur Beach State Park

Fall/Winter 2014

# 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)

## 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.*

## Making Science Come Alive - Natural Science Education

At no time in history has improving science education been more important than it is now, as a scientifically informed citizenry is critically important to understand and take part in current and future decisions. To understand and take part in discussions and decisions about concepts such as international epidemics and alternative fuels will require scientific knowledge as never before in our nation's history.



Sadly there are many children in Palm Beach County who have never seen the ocean nor truly explored the out-of-doors, for whom science is simply a subject at school.

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park make natural science education a priority, providing quality programs to Palm Beach County students free-of-

charge since 2001.

Our programs provide hands-on experiential learning activities, which educate, excite and involve the students in science. The curriculum delivers all facets of required science education as set forth by the Florida State Board of Education, and provides STEM Connections to the Common Core Standards.



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 as students in 1st to 12th grade see, touch and discover the Park ecosystems; Maritime Hardwood Hammock, Estuary, Beach & Dune and the Rock Reef.

During the 2011-12 school year we served over 3500 students, provided programs for over 4600 during the 2012-13 school year, 5000 for the 2013-14 school year, and we are well on our way to our goal of 5500 for 2014-15.

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



## John D. MacArthur BEACH STATE PARK

### Staff

**Don Bergeron**, *Park Manager*  
**David Dearth**, *Asst. Park Manager*  
**Lynn Desy**, *Admin. Assistant*

### Park Services Specialists

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Lu Dodson

### Rangers

Heather Dale    Rob Matriscino  
Steve Desy    Sarah Waddell  
Scott Duncan    Bill Wilson

### OPS Staff

Dallas Smith

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

## President's Letter

Welcome to the beginning of "season" at MacArthur Beach State Park! As the new President of the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, I would like to thank all of you who have been supporting and enjoying the Park throughout the summer and fall months. MacArthur is such a special place in Palm Beach County, it's exciting to see how many of you recognize that and enjoy spending time here year round!

Our Natural Science Education programs are off to a great start this year and we are thrilled to once again offer amazing programs for Palm Beach County schoolchildren grades 1 through 12. November 22 is our major fundraiser, Shop 'Til YOU Drop, at The Country Club at Mirasol. With over thirty vendors, this jumpstart on your holiday season plays a much more important role for us in the Park. "SHOP" provides much needed funding for those educational programs. Thanks to an amazing array of sponsors, funds from ticket and a percentage of sales can go directly into our Natural Science Education Fund – a fund set up specifically to pay for our Director of Education and supplies for the program.

On behalf of the Friends, I would like to thank all of our sponsors – particularly Florida Power & Light, Meredith Trim and Jim Robo, and Mark and Holly Maisto. It is the support of area corporations, small businesses and individuals that enables us to grow this fund and our educational programs!

Thank you all so much for your support! I look forward to a fabulous, active season in MacArthur Beach State Park! See you there!

*Ellin Miller*

President, Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park.



## Manager Matters

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is much more than just a great swimming and snorkeling beach, and the cooler months are an ideal time to experience everything else the Park has to offer. Set out on an adventure aboard one of the Park's rental kayaks, or bring your own kayak, paddleboard, or canoe, and explore the park's shallow and calm estuary. While on the water, keep a sharp lookout for manatee, a common cool weather visitor. Paddle out to Munyon Island for a great picnic location and do a little hiking while you're there. This is the time of year kayakers regularly see massive schools of mullet cascading across the surface of the water being pursued by large snook, jack crevalle, tarpon, and the occasional dolphin; it's a thrilling site.

If you're looking for something a bit more terrestrial, beachcombing, sightseeing, and birding are great reasons to get out on the beach. The northern portion of the Park's beach is a good spot to see more large schools of mullet being harassed by any number of large game fish. In the face of approaching waves you're likely to see tarpon, bluefish, jack crevalle, and Spanish mackerel as they chase migrating mullet. The higher wave energy this time of year also makes for good shell and sea-glass collecting; also a bit better along the northern portion of the Park's beach.

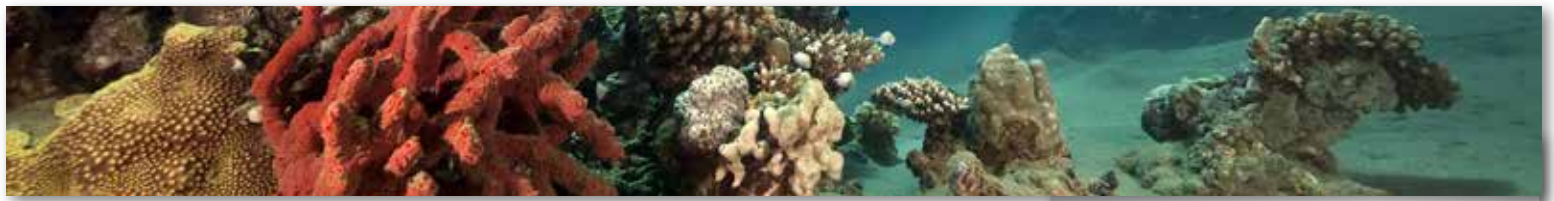
Of course the Welcome & Nature Center is a must see, featuring free videos in the theater as well as beautiful aquariums and other interpretive exhibits. While there, you'll learn all about the Park's natural habitats before setting out on your adventure. Friendly and knowledgeable Nature Center volunteers and staff are always happy to answer questions or provide information about the park's numerous programs and events. Next door to the Nature Center, the Outfitters Gift Shop and Kayak Rental has all the supplies you'll need to have a great Park adventure.

For more information about the park, programs, events, or volunteer opportunities please visit <http://www.macarthurbeach.org/>.

*Don Bergeron,*  
Park Manager







## Sea Turtle Nesting Season and Citizen Science Project II - Success!

Sea turtle nesting season here at MacArthur Beach State Park has come to a close as we celebrate a very good year.

Green Sea Turtle nests were way down from our 2013 record-breaking high of 1395. Our total this year was 238, but green nesting is cyclical and green nesting overall is increasing. As recently as 2011 our record number of green nests was 488, so it seems the species is doing well.



The Leatherback Sea Turtles broke nesting season records this year, as on February 27 we had the earliest leatherback nest on record and tied for the latest leatherback nest on record on July 29. The number of nests was not our highest, but 66 nests is more than double the 27 nests we had in 2013.

The second highest total on record, we had 1562 Loggerhead Sea Turtle nests, just behind the record of 1675 set in 2012. We did break a record for the latest in the season, with a Loggerhead nest on September 28.

The high number of Loggerhead nests also helped us to have a full-scale Citizen Science Sea Turtle Nesting Excavation Program. This program was a huge success which could not have been done without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

We brought together Park staff, Regular Service Volunteers, and members of the community to research and collect meaningful data on sea turtle nests. Our beach is one of the highest density nesting beaches in Florida; in 2013 we had a total of 2582 nests laid on our 1.6 miles of beach. As a part of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Index Nesting Beach Program, nest excavation provides very important information on the health and productivity of sea turtles.



Park staff marked 73 nests and our hard-working volunteers excavated 56 of those nests 3 to 5 days after the turtles have hatched out. This is hot, smelly work done in the early morning hours on our beach, as they locate the specific nest to be excavated, find the clutch, dig up nest contents by hand, inventory nest contents into specific categories, record data and then re-bury all contents.

Early estimations of our project are exciting - 164,197 loggerhead eggs laid on our beach, producing an estimated 127,897 loggerhead hatchlings this season! If you take that a step further and apply our best guess of how many hatchlings make it to adulthood, we produced about 100 adult loggerhead sea turtles this season. **These numbers are truly amazing!**

*Ranger Scott Duncan*



## Volunteer Spotlight:

**Mike and Jennifer Chapman** are one of the handful of couples who volunteer together here at MacArthur Beach State Park.

While Mike assists in the Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop and drives a tram, Jennifer is busy making the Park more beautiful by working in the greenhouse, gardens, and native plant propagation and sales. Both generously assist with Park special events, such as Moonlight concerts, beach cleanups and NatureScaping.

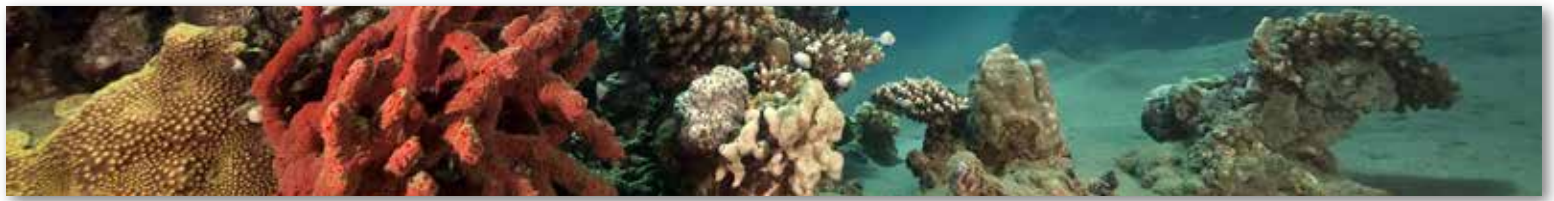
Jennifer was born in White Plains, NY and Mike in Buffalo, NY. They met while working at an adhesive label shop and have been "stuck" together ever since as husband and wife.

They vacationed in Florida for many years and enjoyed visiting Jennifer's mom, when it came time for retirement they knew where to make their new home.

Mike loves the people he meets at the Park in the Gift shop and on the tram as well as all of the staff. Jennifer loves the natural surroundings and beautiful scenery here at the Park.

Avid travelers, Mike and Jennifer are looking forward to their big trip this year to Montana in June. They plan to visit Yellowstone, Glacier and Grand Teton National Parks. They always look forward to visiting with their kids and grandkids.





# SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP



## Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

### Presents SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

The Shopping Event of the Season  
Top Fashion, Accessory & Home Décor Vendors  
Great Holiday Gifts For The Entire Family

**November 22, 2014**

The Country Club at Mirasol  
11600 Mirasol Way • Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

**Over 30 Select Vendors**

**Shopping from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Buffet Lunch served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Complimentary Mimosas**

\$75 Per Person Admission Fee

View our current list of Boutique Vendors and  
purchase ticket online at

[macarthurbeach.or/special-events/shop-till-you-drop/](http://macarthurbeach.or/special-events/shop-till-you-drop/)

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



## Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors

### Presenting Sponsor



### Manatee Sponsors

Meredith Trim & Jim Robo

### Green Sea Turtle Sponsors

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Ellin & Bruce Miller

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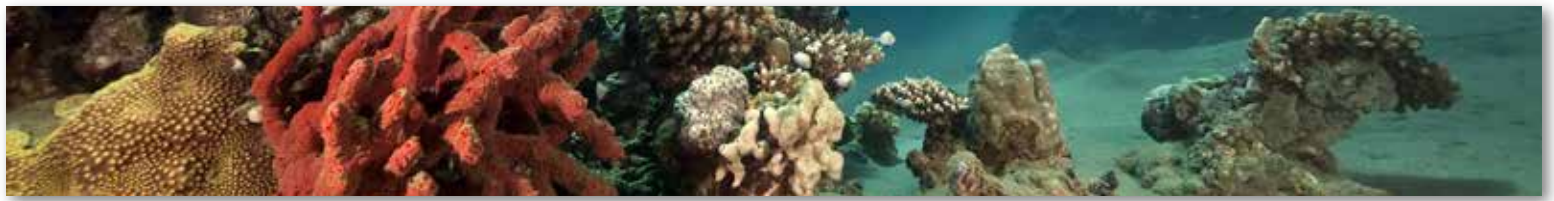
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Holly Maisto, Co-Chair, Phyllis Maas, Marketing Chair,  
Kathy Villablanca, Co-Chair



## All funds raised will benefit the Natural Science Education Programs of MacArthur Beach State Park.

Field experiences and 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 5000 students.



## Thanks to our Raffle Donors

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*Gunster proudly supports  
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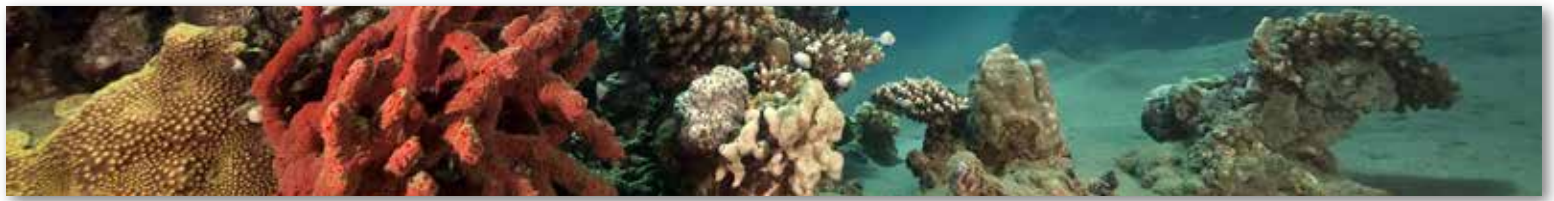


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# NatureScaping: An Outdoor Festival

Saturday, March 14, 2015 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Free Admission**

## John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive North Palm Beach, FL 33408 (561) 624-6950  
[www.macarthurbeach.org](http://www.macarthurbeach.org)



*The Quartet* by Deborah Moroney—2014 Photo Contest Best of Show

Food Truck Invasion ☼ Live Animal Show ☼ Music  
Native Plant Sale ☼ Kayak Obstacle Course ☼ Photography Contest  
Kids Activities ☼ Geocaching

Contact Art Carton for details—561-776-7449 X109  
[Arthur.Carton@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Arthur.Carton@dep.state.fl.us)



**Welcome David Dearth, Assistant Park Manager, to our Park Family**

On board with us for a few months, David is native New Englander, who came to Florida in 1994 and began his career with the Florida Park Service in 1997. He came to us from Gasparilla Island State Park on Florida's west coast, his duties include supervision of Park staff and daily Park operations.

Welcome David!

**1st United Bank**

*We are proud to support **Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park** and your dedication to the **Pew Family Natural Science Education Center** and the **Natural Science Education Fund.***

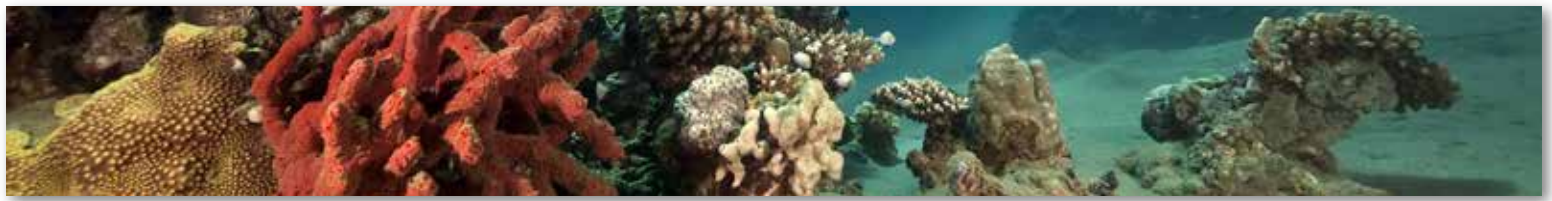
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## Summer Camp 2015

*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.

**Summer Camp Programs - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunshine Explorers Camp** (ages 6, 7 and 8) - Campers will be introduced to environmental concepts through interactive games and activities. Campers will also enjoy swimming, beach play and other outdoor activities.

**June 15 - 19**

**Junior Rangers Camp** (ages 9 and 10) - Campers will explore the Maritime Hammock, Estuary, Beach and Dune and the Rock Reef. Campers will snorkel, swim and kayak throughout week.

**June 22 - 26 or June 29 - July 3**

**Marine Biology Camp** (ages 11, 12, 13, and 14) - Snorkeling, kayaking and daily swimming as campers explore our coastal ecosystems by participating in scientific investigations such as fish counts on the reef, seagrass surveys, biodiversity of the estuary and restoration of the estuary systems.

**July 6 - 10**

**Marine Champions Camp** (ages 12, 13, and 14 who have attended Marine Bio Camp) - If your child has enjoyed Marine Biology Camp, this is the next step - more adventures, more kayaking, more snorkeling and more fun!

**July 13 - 17 or July 20 - 24**

**Counselor-in-Training** (ages 15, 16, 17, and 18) - Must be at least two years older than the group they are working with for the summer.

**Summer Camp Registration Day:**

**March 14, 2015 at NatureScaping:An Outdoor Festival**

For more information contact Veronica Frehm at 776-7449 ext. 104 Veronica@macarthurbeach.org or visit our website at [www.macarthurbeach.org/summer-camp](http://www.macarthurbeach.org/summer-camp)



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

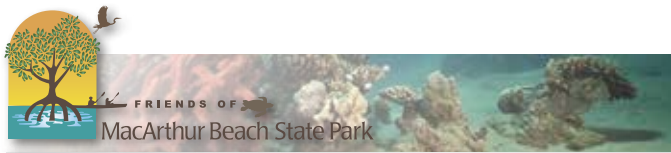
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Please bill me: ☐ Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Please call me to discuss pledge period and payments

**Mail to: Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Natural Science Education Fund**  
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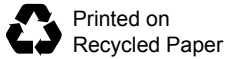






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## Beach Outfitters Gift Shop & Kayak Rentals



Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., offers a wide variety of unique gifts to make your visit to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park memorable.

Looking for gifts? Toys for children, books, coastal home decor, jewelry and hand-crafted art created by local artists just to name a few.

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

From sun block to snorkel equipment, t-shirts to hats, water, soft drinks, beach towels and mats, we will make your day in the sun more fun!

The gift shop also manages equipment and locker rentals. Make sure to stop by!