



FRIENDS OF

MacArthur Beach State Park

Spring/Summer 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

www.floridastateparks.org/macarthurbeach

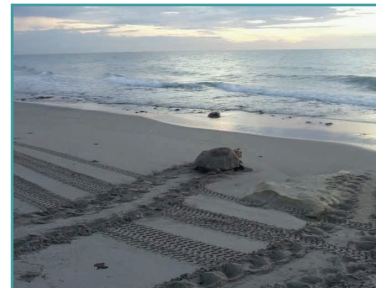
The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park

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.

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Has Begun

Each year thousands of sea turtle nests are laid on MacArthur Beach, making it one of the highest density nesting beaches in Florida. This year we broke a record for early nesting by leatherback sea turtles, who surprised us with a nest on February 27. We had 3 leatherback nests before March 8, the former record for earliest nest (2012).



The Park beach provides a safe haven for the eggs of the leatherback, the loggerhead and the green sea turtles, laid here generation after generation. In addition, our beach provides scientific data on these turtles' nesting habits and productivity. This combination of history and scientific data is the basis of the Sea Turtle Interpretation program.

The staff and volunteers of MacArthur Beach State Park are getting ready by studying, training and gearing up for

a new season of our Sea Turtle interpretive "Talk and Walks" that are presented at the Park each June and July.



Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from June 2 to July 25th, Rangers and dedicated volunteers present interpretive programs in our state-of-the-art Nature & Welcome Center theater, then lead groups of 20 people out onto the beach to witness the ancient spectacle of a female loggerhead laying her eggs in the sand. See page 7 for schedule and registration information.



If you are interested in getting down and dirty with our sea turtles, you may want to consider our Citizens Science projects, more information on page 5.

By connecting volunteers and visitors to these endangered species through the presentation of interesting information and this awe-

inspiring spectacle, the Park works to reinforce the message of conservation and restoration that is central to the Florida Park Service mission and to future generations of sea turtles.

Lu Dodson
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
Lu Dodson

Rangers

Steve Desy Rob Matriscono
Scott Duncan Sarah Waddell
David Gelb Bill Wilson

OPS Staff

Dallas Smith
Douglas Sutherland

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www.macarthurbeach.org

President's Letter

Dear Friends

On March 1, I attended the 8th Annual District 5 Volunteer Appreciation Day held in Oleta River State Park in North Miami. Each year, over 27,000 individuals volunteer in Florida state parks. Out of those thousands of volunteers, our Education Team's commitment and willingness to learn the concepts and science of the programs, their patience with students, and endless hours of teaching has earned them the title as the 2013 Volunteer Team of the Year for the Florida Park Service.



*MacArthur Beach Education Team
wins Florida State Parks
"Team of the Year."*

To win the state-wide volunteer team award in a state park system that has won the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence for an unprecedented third time says a lot! Congratulations to our Education Team volunteers for their outstanding achievement and a huge thanks for their over 1800 volunteer hours in 2013; Joy Africano, Meg Beitler, Diane Clark, Steven Dash, Vanessa Dornisch, Barber Dreyer, Fred Dreyer, Stephanie Grant, Marleen Greer, Mary Jackson, Lucea Keller, Billie Lillie, Elaine Marshall, Jerry McCoy, Elizabeth Ortman, Karen Pandraz, Igor Pavlovic, Myra Port, Mary Shipp and Karen Six.

Our volunteer team's award really highlights the accomplishments of our education program and the collaboration between so many different participants to make it the success it is today. With the State of Florida providing matching funds, the volunteers who serve on the Board of the Friends raised the money to build the Pew Family Natural Science Education Center, with the construction being managed, in part, by our Park staff. Then, the Board sought and received a three-year grant from the Quantum Foundation to allow the Friends to hire our Director of Education, Janice Kerber.

Janice revised the education program to meet the Sunshine State standards, slotting it into the public school curriculum, and greatly expanding the educational programming already offered by the Park. Janice and Park Specialist Lu Dodson recruited and trained the volunteer team for the education program who provide our high-quality, hands on science curriculum. So, over 5000 Palm Beach county schoolchildren benefit each year from the combined efforts of the Florida Park Service, Friends' staff, and the volunteers who work in the classroom and who work to raise the funds to make it possible.

Our Park runs on volunteers – tram drivers, education program assistants, nature center attendants, nature walk guides, gift shop clerks, animal care assistants, and Friends Board members. All of you contribute to our fabulous Park and the Park could not contribute so much to our community without you. Thank you for your service!

We are always looking for more volunteers, particularly those of you who live here year 'round and can work in the Park in the summer and volunteers who want to work on the weekend. If you, or someone you know is interested in joining our volunteer team, please contact Park Services Specialist Lu Dodson; Lu.Dodson@dep.state.fl.us.

Meredith Trim

*Meredith Trim (Friends Board President),
Donald Forgione (Director Florida Park
Service), Don Bergeron (Park Manager)
with the National Gold Medal Award
for Excellence.*





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 the 2013 numbers were 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.



At MacArthur Beach State Park, perhaps no other time of year is as exciting as sea turtle nesting season. Along with the excitement comes a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work. Park staff and volunteers perform a variety of tasks to ensure the success of the many sea turtle nests recorded at the Park each year.

Before any activities relating to sea turtle nesting can take place, the Park obtains an annual Marine Turtle Permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Among the requirements for the permit is training for all staff and volunteers involved in our sea turtle program, including an FWC workshop and on-site education and instruction.

When turtle nesting season arrives and all the training has been completed, it is time to begin the daily monitoring. Finally, staff compiles the records from the season's activity and submits a report to FWC. Then it is time to review the monitoring, training, turtle walks, etc. in order to be ready for next year's sea turtle nesting season.

Regardless of the effort required, our dedicated staff and volunteers are always eager to take on the challenge in order to safeguard the magnificent sea turtles who visit our shores each year.

Don Bergeron, Park Manager

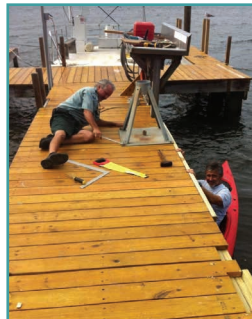


Mac Beach Migrators – Our Winter Workers

It has been a successful season for our winter resident volunteer maintenance crew and I would like to personally thank Jim Budd, Ted Leavitt, Billy Malear, and Al Perry for their contributions. Some of the projects completed to date include installation of the new ice machine, rebuilding of 40 feet of boardwalk at the entrance

to the dune trail, replacing the deck at the north residence, maintenance dock repairs, gutter repairs around the Nature & Welcome Center, installation of ceiling fans and new lighting for the amphitheater, tree trimming, and re-roofing the shelters on the pedestrian bridge. If those types of projects sound interesting to you please contact me or just come join us weekdays 8am till noon.

Pat Rash, Assistant Park Manager



Be a Volunteer at MacArthur Beach State Park... for a fun and rewarding experience!

The only State Park in Palm Beach County, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park provides visitors with 1.8 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.

It is our goal to keep you both challenged and satisfied in your volunteer position.

We will match your skills and interests to the needs of the Park, as a volunteer you will:

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

Volunteer Opportunities - Our need for volunteer services vary from season to season. For more information, a Volunteer application or the Volunteer manual go to www.macarthurbeach.org.



Give the Gift of Nature

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park was established to protect a diverse and undisturbed subtropical coastal habitat from development. Widely known as a nesting ground for rare sea turtles, including the endangered green and the exceedingly rare leatherback, MacArthur Beach State Park also offers protection to 7 species of plants and 22 species of animals designated by state and global ranking as endangered and/or threatened. Our Park provides the perfect "outdoor learning lab" to educate children, students and all visitors about our fragile Florida environment.



The Pew Family Natural Science Education Center, which opened in April of 2011, features a dedicated classroom/lab equipped with the latest teaching tools and equipment to inspire curiosity and creativity, designed to facilitate an experiential learning environment.



The Friends organization makes natural science education a priority, providing programs to Palm Beach County students free-of-charge since 2001; the enrollment is growing quickly from 1068 for the 2010-11 school year, to over 3500

during 2011-12, over 4500 for 2012-13, and a goal of 5000 for 2013-14. In order to provide the best possible programs and take full advantage of the new Center, the Friends have taken on the challenge and employed a full-time certified teacher as the Director of Education (DOE).

Our curriculum meets the Florida Next Generation Standards, as set forth by the Florida State Board of Education and required by all public school districts. Looking forward, we have updated to include Making STEM Connections to the Common Core 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.

Partnering with the PBC School District has enabled us to increase the student numbers annually and to concentrate our efforts on providing an exceptional science experience. The 2012-13 PBC School District FL Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) science results show that 60% of 5th graders scored at or above grade level. Of the 4600 students that attended our programs, 62% of the students showed improved scores with a high of 25%, a low of 1%.



A generous three-year \$150,000.00 grant from the Quantum Foundation funded the DOE position through April of 2014. The Natural Science Education Fund was initiated in 2011 by the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Board of Directors, with a goal

of \$2.3 million to fully fund the salary of the DOE by income as an endowment. As of March, 2014, over \$1,729,000.00 in donations and pledges has been received.

The Board is very determined to complete the fund, so much so that five members came forward to support a \$500,000.00 community challenge grant; donations of \$5000.00 or more will be doubled until the challenge has been met. As of March, \$380,400.00 has been matched.

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Natural Science Education Fund; you will Give the Gift of Nature now and for generations to come.

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: _____

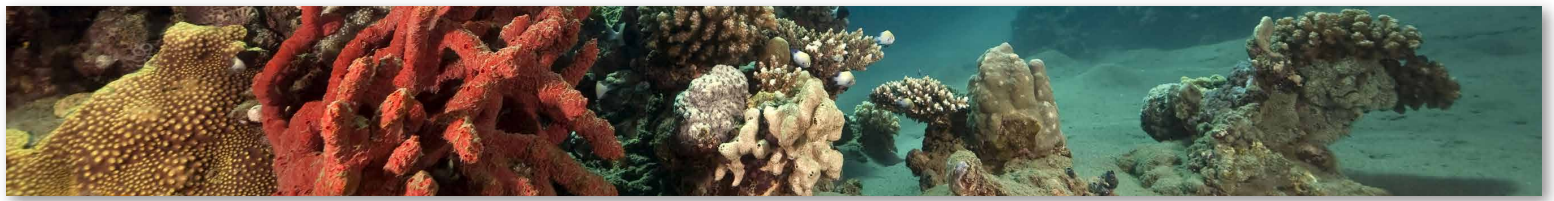
PLEDGE INFORMATION: ☐ I wish to make a pledge of \$ _____, to be paid over a period of 3 years.

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



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
561-776-7221 ext 104



What is Citizen Science?

It is a chance to have fun, learn about Park resources, and experience science in action.

Won't you join us?

Project I - June, July, August 2013 - COMPLETED!

Sea Turtle Nest Excavation Citizen Science Project

Our first Citizen Science project was a huge success, mostly because of the passionate and dedicated volunteers! Thank you!

We were able to excavate 8 leatherback sea turtle nests, and submit the data to Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Project II - June, July, August 2014

We will continue this excavation project this year; registration and sign-up will be announced soon so keep tuned to www.macarthurbeach.org/citizen-science/.

◀ Education Statement ▶

Volunteers participating in the sea turtle nest excavation citizen science project will gain knowledge and understanding of :

- the importance of MBSP to nesting sea turtles
- the species of sea turtles nesting at MBSP
- the importance of data collection to understanding population, seasonal productivity, and distribution of sea turtles
- where to find data on MBSP sea turtle populations, seasonal productivity and the results of nest excavation data collection
- threats to sea turtles
- conservation practices to protect sea turtles



Ranger Scott and volunteers excavating a leatherback sea turtle nest



Activity Details

- All programs are free of charge except MacArthur Under Moonlight Concerts, Speaker Series & Photography Workshops

Bluegrass Music - 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 Talk & Walks - A Park Ranger will guide you on a walking tour of one of South Florida's last remaining hardwood hammocks, searching out butterflies to identify and observe, and learn which plants attract these winged wonders to your own yard. Free with Park admission, call 561-624-6952 for reservations or information. Meet in front of Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop.

Educational Reef Program - Come and listen to an educational PowerPoint presentation on the Park's near shore reef. Learn about the fish and other inhabitants of the reef. After the program is over, participants will be instructed on where to snorkel in the Park. A diver-down flag is required for snorkeling activities in the Park and can be rented daily at Beach Outfitters & Gift Shop. Bring your own snorkel equipment. For more information and reservations call the Nature Center at 561-624-6952. Free with Park admission.

Introduction to Snorkeling - Learn about the basics of snorkeling including clearing your mask, proper fin and mask selection, safety, diving techniques and more. If weather permits, class may head to the beach to test the equipment in knee-deep water. Reservations required, 561-624-6952. The program is free with Park admission.

Intro to Surfing - Ranger-led course on the basics of surfing. Lessons will take place on land and in the water. Open to adults and children 10 and older (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in the water). Reservations required, call 561-624-6952. Free with Park admission.

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. Refreshments sold by Junior Friends.

Nature Photography Workshop - Join us each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for technical and artistic instruction by two local professionals. Appropriate for all photographers from beginners to advanced; bring your own camera equipment – point and shoot or SLR. Wear light clothing, bring sun block and mosquito repellent. Drinks and light snacks provided. Fee is \$35.00, does not include Park admittance. For more information visit www.macarthurbeach.org

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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NOVEMBER 22, 2014

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PALM BEACH GARDENS

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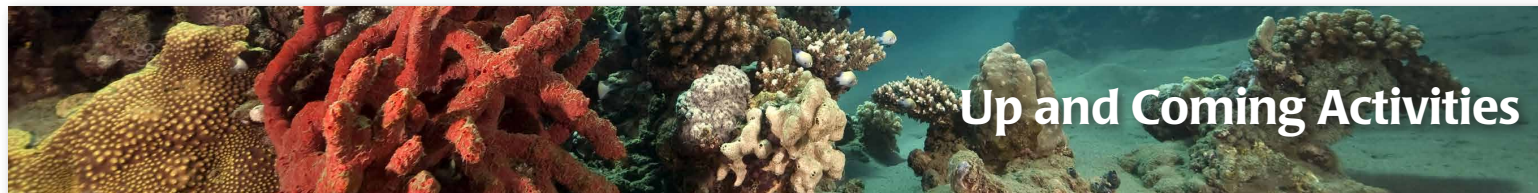
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Natural Science Education Fund
Co-chairs Holly Maisto and Kathy Villablanca
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www.macarthurbeach.org/event/shop-til-you-drop/

PRESENTING SPONSOR





Up and Coming Activities

APRIL

05	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Florida Hawksbill Sea Turtle Project
06	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
12	Saturday	8-Noon	Great American Cleanup
12	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Sonny Russell
13	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park*
13	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
26	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
20	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
26	Saturday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Techniques in Nature Photography Workshop***
27	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing*

MAY

04	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
04	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling
10	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
10	Saturday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Advanced Photography Techniques Workshop***
11	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling
11	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
18	Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
18	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling
18	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
24	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
25	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling

JUNE

01	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
07	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
07	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Educational Reef Program
08	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
14	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
14	Saturday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Landscapes Photography Techniques Workshop***
15	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
21	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
21	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
28	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
29	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park

JULY

05	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
06	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
12	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
12	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Educational Reef Program
12	Saturday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Outdoor Portrait Techniques Workshop***
13	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
19	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
19	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing
20	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
20	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
26	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
26	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk

AUGUST

02	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Educational Reef Program
02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
03	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing
03	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by <i>Adventure Times Kayaks</i>
09	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
09	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
09	Saturday	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lighting in Nature Photography Techniques Workshop***
10	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
16	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
17	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
17	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
23	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Reef Program
23	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk

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 561-776-7449 Ext 110 to register

**Call 561-624-6952 for reservations or more information

The Sea Turtles are Returning to Nest at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park 2014 Turtle Talk & Walks Sea Turtle Habits & Habitats Presentation—Sea Turtle Nesting Observation- Open to the Public

TIPS & INFO for ALL Turtle Talk & Walks

- 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. or later.... depending on the turtles
- Program is not for children under the age of 8.
- All MUST be quiet, patient, and able to walk up to two miles of beach.
- Bring INSECT REPELLANT, water, wear walking shoes and comfortable DARK clothing.
- No flashlights, flash photography nor cell phones allowed.
- Rain or shine presentation will be held.

\$10.00 Per Person

Each Walk is Limited to 20 Attendees

Limit of 8 tickets per purchase

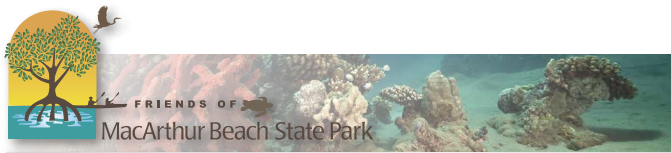
Tickets may be purchased on-line starting May 28th at 9:00am

<http://www.macarthurbeach.org/shop/turtle-walk-tickets/>

June 2, 4, 6, 10, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 23, 25, 27 and 30

July 2, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25

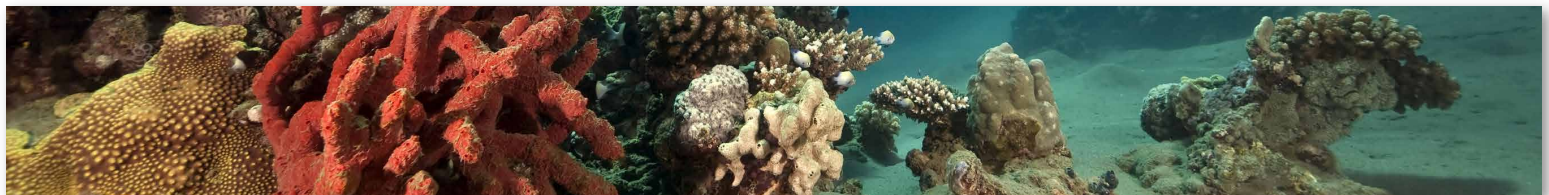
For Information Call the Nature Center
561-624-6952 9:00am - 5:00pm



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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.

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!

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.

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