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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.

The Sea Turtles are Returning

Visitors to MacArthur Beach State Park love our beach, which unlike almost any other beach in the area, is left in its natural state. Human visitors are not the only ones who love our natural beach; the sea turtles who visit nightly during the summer months also love it. Every year thousands of sea turtles nests are dug on MacArthur



Beach, making it one of the highest density nesting beaches in Florida.



We are on the brink of another sea turtle nesting season, and it is one of the most exciting times of year for the staff and volunteers - we are passionate about sea turtles! The season kicks off in March when leatherback sea turtles make their first appearance of the year. Then in April our most populous nesters, the loggerhead sea turtles appear. Last but not least the green turtles make their appearance in late May to early June.

MacArthur Beach is really a significant nesting beach:

- We are part of the Florida Park Service (FPS), the largest manager of beach habitat in Florida. Of the 107 miles of beach that the FPS manages, MacArthur Beach only accounts for 1.7% of that total yet accounted for 34% of all sea turtle nesting in state parks in 2012.
- Our 2012 nesting numbers were 1675 loggerheads (new record), 227 greens and 93 leatherbacks (new record); MacArthur accounted for 31% of loggerheads, 48% of greens, and an amazing 64% of all leatherback nests in the FPS.
- If you put all of the nests laid in one season on our beach at once and spread them out evenly there would be a nest every 4.75 feet!



Overall I expect to have an amazing 2013 nesting season. If the same patterns hold true we may have a new all time record for total number of nests combined. Leatherbacks and loggerheads both set new all time records last season and I am expecting the greens to have a big year also.

We will be offering Ranger led Sea Turtle Talks & Walks, carefully following the strict guidelines of the Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in June and July. After a short informative program in the Nature Center, the group will go to the beach for a chance to experience a sea turtle nesting. Children under age 8 cannot attend Talk & Walks, as the event may last until midnight, depending on conditions.

Reservations will be accepted at the Nature Center by phone only starting Tuesday, May 28 at 9 a.m. (561) 624-6952; the program is held mid-June through mid-July.

Friends Members, watch your email for your invitation to the Members-Only Sea Turtle Talk & Walks, held on June 8, June 22, July 6 and July 20.



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 Matriscino Sarah Waddell Bill Wilson

OPS Staff

Douglas Sutherland Diana Young

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

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www.macarthurbeach.org

President's Letter

Success is about effort. To that end, I would like to take the time to thank the members of the Friends Board of Directors. The

"Friends" is a Citizen Support Organization, incorporated in 1990 with a mission to support John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Our board requires a time commitment to actively serve on a committee as well attend monthly meetings. This dedication is one reason why the Friends have been so successful over the last seven years in raising the funds needed to complete the Capital Campaign and now for the Natural Science Education Fund; the Fund is more than half way towards completion.

The board understands the value of hands-on natural science education programming. Just imagine, when peaking children's interest by connecting classrooms to nature occurs, a greater interest for science studies in the future may take place. At the minimum, a greater appreciation for the natural world surrounding us is developed.

By the end of the 2012 school year, which was the second year in operation, our classroom served 3500 students; 4500 students will participate in the current school year. This amazing growth shows a huge demand for our Natural Science Education programs. Even though the program is located in the newly completed classroom, in the state park, the state offers no funding for the program.

Please consider helping us meet our goal by participating in our Challenge Grant or in a naming opportunity. Future generations will only protect and enhance what they have learned to understand, appreciate and love.

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 IINFORMATION: ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park
□ Please charge \$to (Circle one) Visa MasterCard Card#
VC codeExp. DateSignature:
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

Campaign Office: 561.776.7449 Ext. 111 www.macarthurbeach.org





Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Build a Crossover

In late October Hurricane Sandy spared us the devastation she delivered to the northeast, but she did cause some damage and major erosion. The Park maintenance access to the beach was completely destroyed and we were left with only the pedestrian

crossovers. We were not the only ones to lose boardwalks and crossovers, all our coastal neighbors suffered the same fate, but it seemed as if all of the lumber from theses boardwalks collected on our beach.

We were left with two problems: #1 all the lumber, trees, and other debris on the beach and #2 no way to get vehicles down there to clear the beach. Staff and volunteers did a great job of salvaging usable lumber, stock piling it to build a new ramp.



Volunteers Billy and Ted help Pat complete new crossover.

Rangers David and Steve along with Intern Vanessa recycling hurricane debris.

good amount of sweat equity, a few weeks later we once again had access to the beach built with 80% recycled lumber. We cleaned up the beach, rebuilt the ramp, saved the Park a lot of money and reduced the amount of lumber headed to the landfill all in one project.

Special thanks to volunteers Ted Leavitt, Billy Malear, Jim Budd, Vanessa Dornisch, and Dallas Smith.

Pat Rash Assistant Park Manager

Volunteer Spotlight: Tony Roman

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Originally from Long Island, NY, Tony spent over 30 years in Los Angeles working as an IT Specialist for the Wall Street Journal and teaching computer classes as a volunteer. He relocated to Florida five years ago and began volunteering for MacArthur Beach State Park in 2009. Last year Tony bravely took on the challenge of Volunteer Tram Driver Coordinator; Tony sets the schedule and communicates with the drivers in addition to driving the Wednesday afternoon shift.

Tony's favorite part of our Park is visiting with folks from all over the world and fishing on the beach, and he is looking forward to sea turtle nesting season when he can include being a turtle scout in his volunteer duties.

Thanks, Tony, for all you do!

Manager Matters

At John D. 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. Upon finding signs of nesting activity, staff determines the species of sea turtle involved, whether there is an actual nest or just a false crawl, and whether there was disturbance from predators.

Once nesting season is in full swing our very popular guided turtle walks begin (see more information on the front cover). Once again, staff and volunteers are required to attend regular training in order to conduct these walks.

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



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, and an expected attendance of over 4500 for 2012-13. 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).

The DOE has updated the curriculum to meet 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.



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) testing in science begins in the fifth grade; the Palm Beach County School District reports that in 2010-11 only 58% of fifth graders and 51% of eighth graders tested at or above grade level in science. It

is obvious that a better understanding of the fundamentals of science is needed to serve as a basis for continued comprehension. This provides us with an opportunity and a responsibility to make a great difference, and the underserved students in Title 1 schools are a focus of our efforts.

We provide students and teachers continual learning tools by producing vodcasts, live broadcasts from the Park utilizing the DOE and Park Rangers. Questions and comments by students are fed directly to and answered by the staff. Held in cooperation with the school district, six vodcasts were shared during the 2011-12 school year, with seven scheduled for 2012-13. The final 2011-12 vodcast focused on sea turtles and was participated in by 144 classrooms with over 3600 students.

Natural Science Education continues during the summer months with Summer Day Camp Programs; our goal is to help each child appreciate their natural surroundings, take an active role in the stewardship of our environment and to provide activities that develop a sense of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



A generous three-year \$150,000.00 grant from the Quantum Foundation will fund 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 million to fully fund the salary of the DOE by income as an endowment. As of February, 2013,

\$1,388,600.00 in donations and pledges has been received.

The Board is very determined to complete the fund, so much so that five members came forward in April of 2012 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 February, \$240,000.00 has been matched.

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



Experience Science In Action ... Become A Citizen Scientist!

School children participating in programs at the Park identify fish and record their findings.



Park summer campers identify and quantify plants found in the dunes along the beach. Visitors to the Park report what they see on a nature walk or post an unusual sighting at the nature center.

All of these activities are examples of how everyday people can contribute to scientific research by collecting data. With a little bit of added structure, all of these activities are examples of good citizen science projects. Citizen science is a term describing the process of participatory scientific research which involves the pubic, professional scientists, the collection of meaningful data and education. Citizen science connects people to hands-on, memorable experiences in nature, engages people interested in making a productive contribution, increases understanding of scientific process, expands the capacity of scientists to address many research questions and data needs and strengthens attitudes towards the natural environment.



Citizen science projects are taking place all over the United States and a great majority of them feed data into national clearing houses on topics covering a huge range of research to include mammals, birds, invertebrates, plants, invasive species, water quality, air quality, weather, and astronomy. These enormous data sets help scientists understand shifts in the distribution of birds, interpret patterns in ecological systems, discover thousands of objects in the night sky including nebulas, and much, much more.

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park is proud to announce the launching of Citizen Science initiates which will assist in advancing the research needs of the Park and provide exciting experiences for visitors.

Want to:

- · Be part of sea turtle nesting surveys?
- · Help build the species inventories of the Park's animals and plants?
- Come with your family to a "BioBlitz" and watch your children become truly fascinated with bugs?

Then keep reading Dune News, watch for announcements on the Friends' website and if you are a Friends member or current volunteer watch for an email announcing training sessions in April and daily opportunities to collect data while enjoying a visit to the Park.

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?

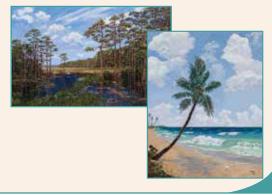
Florida Hall of Fame Artist Jackie Brice Art Exhibit & Sale

Starting April 10 we will be exhibiting and selling works from Florida Hall of Fame Artist, Jackie Brice. Her paintings appear in the permanent collections of many prominent Floridians, the collection of the President and Vice President of Guatemala, and in the White House Christmas Tree Ornament Collection. On March 21, 2012 Ms. Brice was inducted in the "Florida Artist Hall of Fame."

Ms. Brice's exquisite paintings capture the essence of the beautiful Florida landscape; during the past 47 year her subject has been Florida as she has painted landscapes in the Florida Keys to the St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge and many in between. She has painstakingly studied Florida's landscape, foliage, and light and her commitment shows when the viewer is transported to the beautiful locations she has visited and painted.

Jackie Brice, a native Floridian, is an award winning professional artist who studied for 11 years with her mentor and friend, A.E. Backus. Ms. Brice's works will be displayed in the Nature Center Theater from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily.

All art shows at MacArthur Beach State Park benefit the Natural Science Education Fund. The Fund was established to ensure the sustainability of the Natural Science programs, which positively impact the lives of thousands of children and adults by providing them the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate our natural world.





My Intern Experience with John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

I have been a resident Intern here for about three months, and in this time I have come to see that I am one of the lucky ones, and if you are reading this Dune News, you are one of the lucky ones, too. What I mean by this is how fortunate those of us are who get the opportunity to spend time in this incredible Park, be it a single day or many years.

Although I have at this point tried my hand at nearly all Park activities, my most rewarding job, and one of the things that make MacArthur Beach so extraordinary, is the Natural Science Education Programs. Our school groups hold a special place in my heart because my first visit to the Park as a child was through a field trip with Lighthouse Elementary School; I can say from experience that the walk across that estuary boardwalk is not something that anyone, let alone a child, easily forgets.

This holds especially true for the majority of our students - I was told when I started my internship that the look on those children's faces when they see the ocean for the first time makes it all worthwhile, and I can now attest to that. Working with children is not easy, and I have gained a new respect for educators while growing into one myself. But I have also learned that teaching is an incredibly rewarding experience when you successfully touch student's lives for the better, and this happens every day at MacArthur Beach.

Beyond the education program, my other main task has been creating maps for new Park brochures, including a new trail map for the updated Park Plants Guide. As part of this project I will be repositioning some of the numbered plant markers along the trail and adding new signage with plant photos and descriptions, hopefully with the assistance of a local Girl Scout troop.

Additionally, I am in the process of creating a new general map to help visitors navigate the Park. I am genuinely enjoying these mapping projects because I love being creative and I relish the opportunity to produce something tangible for the Park that will leave a lasting impact beyond my internship.

When I am not with the children or playing cartographer, I have been participating in a multitude of other activities; I have cleared trails, hammered nails, picked up garbage, and surveyed seagrass, among many other things. I have learned so much in the past months and am eager to see what the remainder of my internship will bring. I am thrilled to be here, and can honestly say that there has not been any assignment that I actually disliked. (Admittedly, I have only cleaned the bathrooms a few times, but there are much worse fates in this world!)



Our wonderful Education Team; Front Row, L to R - Barbara, Diane, Janice (Director of Education), Mary. Second Row, L to R - Intern Vanessa, Meg, Billie, Lucea, Joy, Elizabeth. Third Row, L to R - Stephanie, Art (Park Staff), Fred, Steve.

MacArthur Beach is truly an amazing place, and in more ways than the obvious. Yes, the Park is a pristine area of incredible maritime splendor amidst a coastline where that no longer exists. Yet as a resident Intern, I get the opportunity to see how the people who work and visit here are impacted by that magnificence in their individual ways. And when I see all that John D. MacArthur Beach State Park has to offer, I know that I am lucky to be here.

Intern Vanessa

Note: Internship information and application forms may be found at www.macarthurbeach.org/internships/

If You Come Upon Sea Turtle Hatchlings On The Beach

As sea turtles are either endangered or threatened, they are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Florida's Marine



Turtle Protection Act. Please follow these guidelines:

- •Watch from a distance.
- •Allow the hatchlings to crawl to the water on their own.
- •Leave the hatchlings in their nest (they will leave when the temperature is right and they are all ready to go).
- •Keep all lights off on the beach and near the dune line.

If the hatchlings appear disoriented and are heading away from the ocean, please call the FWC Wildlife Alert number 1-888-404-FWCC (3922). You may also send a text to Tip@MyFWC.com.

Up and Coming Activities

MAF	RCH		
02	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Shells of Palm Beach*
			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
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APR		40.00	
07	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
07	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park*
13	Saturday	8-Noon	Great American Cleanup
14	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Conch Stomp Band
20	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
20	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	Moonlight Concert: Killbillies, Irish Music
21	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
28	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Surfing*
MAY	/		
05	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
05	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling*
05	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park*
11	Saturday	9-11:00 a.m.	Beach Cleanup
12	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling*
12	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
18	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: Introduction to Kayak Fishing
19	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling*
19	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
25	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk
26	Sunday	Noon	Introduction to Snorkeling*
28	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Start of Sign up for Guided Turtle Walks
	-		•
JUN 04		10.00	Cuided Charlesling Tour
01	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Snorkeling Tour*
02	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Learn to Kayak by Adventure Times Kayaks
02	Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
80	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Snorkeling Tour*
09	Sunday	2-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with Conch Stomp Band
15	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Snorkeling Tour*
16	Sunday	1-4:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Music with the Untold Riches
22	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Snorkeling Tour*
29	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Guided Snorkeling Tour*
29	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk



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 you visit memorable. Operated by the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, all monies raised help fund Park programs.

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.

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 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













Keep up with happenings at MacArthur Beach State Park in between issues of the Dune News.

We post information to keep you up-to-date on Park activities, and Friends events, to help you to make the most of your Park visits and show you how your donations are making an impact.

Find it at www.macarthurbeach.org and www.facebook.com/macarthurbeach.