

Join and receive our newsletter to keep updated on the Park even when you're not here. Also get 12 free beach passes!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact person, if Corporation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out of State information: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I reside in Florida from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: **Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc.**  
 11135 Gulf Shore Drive North, Naples, Florida 34108  
 Phone: 239-597-6196, Fax: 239-597-8223

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



## PALM TREE PRESS

Supporters of Del-Nor Wiggins Park, Inc  
 11135 Gulf Shore Drive N  
 Naples, FL 34108



### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CSO

#### MISSION AND GOALS

To Promote Environmental Awareness, use and enjoyment of the Park.

To assist Park Staff with resource management, facility maintenance, recycling and visitor services.

To improve the resources and facilities through fund raising events and volunteer activities.

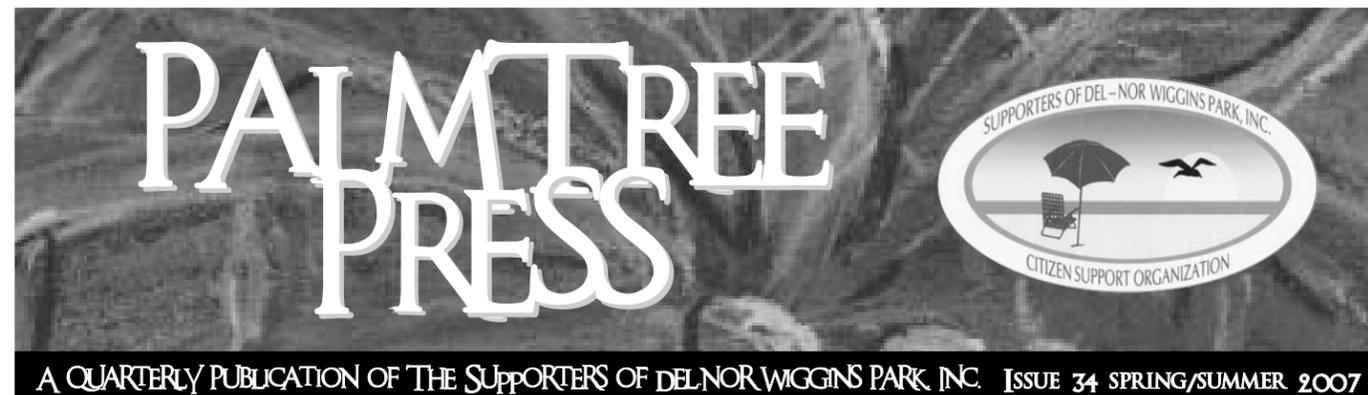
To learn more about the Park's ecosystem, inhabitants and functions.

#### Join Us Today!

**New members always welcome. Membership meetings held each month, call for more information!**

Membership Categories	
Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Corporate	\$ 35.00
Donation	\$ _____

"Helping the Park Achieve its goals since 1987"



#### CSO Board of Directors

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Lois Cantwell

Vice President  
Dick Liden

Treasurer  
Olga Williams

Secretary  
Joe Gagnier

Membership  
Joan Erb

#### Board Members

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William Paul

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#### Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park Staff

Park Manager  
Robert Steiger

Assistant Park Manager  
Mark Nicoletti

Park Service Specialist  
Carolyn Shaw

Administrative Assistant  
Dale Garrison

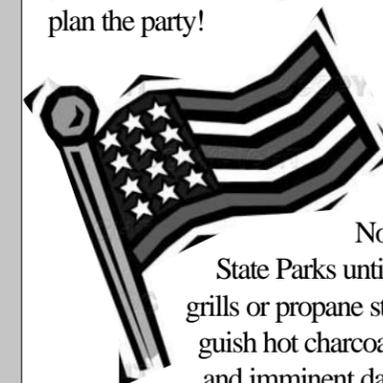
**Park Rangers**  
Nick Zandstra  
Bryan Kaczmarek  
Sean Janusheski  
Cheryse Wellman  
Meredith Kruse  
\*Courtney Bryan

#### OPS

Marcio Oveido  
Harry Carbonneau

#### Save this date...

All members will be invited to this monumental event. Keep the date open and your eyes peeled for your personal invitation. Please reply to Joan to verify your attendance, for further information or if you would like to help plan the party!



#### Safety Notification

No open flames including campfires are allowed in Florida State Parks until further notice. Visitors may continue to use charcoal grills or propane stoves for cooking fires only. Please appropriately extinguish hot charcoal. This notice is in recognition of the drought conditions and imminent danger of wildfires throughout the state and in furtherance of the Governor's Executive Order.

#### New sand means more shells

As a result of the maintenance dredging of Wiggins Pass the beach in front of area 4 is now almost 150 feet wide. Shellers may find some good finds as the beach seeks its new profile.



#### Name that event!

After the picnic meeting a few of us on the "event committee" had some discussion about not only moving our "Family Discovery Day" to the month of February-16th. It is hoped that someone will come up with something that describes an event in which families learn about nature, environment, ecosystems, preservation of our parks and participating in outdoor recreation all at the same time. If anyone would like to suggest a catchy event name, please share your thoughts with the group. Jo Ann would like to get the letters out to the invited participants asap.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PARK MANAGER



*The events you sponsored and help manage were great, the visitors enjoyed them and the Supporters were a big part of it all.*

*Some of you are still coming by to lend us a hand with clean ups, workdays and building repairs. I can't thank you all enough for all the things you do.*

*My wish is that you will all be able to take some time off for a summer vacation. I have an idea for you though. Please come by and recreate or just relax here a Wiggins. All work and no play is well you know the answer to that.*

*try to resist picking up litter or any of the other multitude of tasks you perform ( yes you at home too). So my challenge to you is a simple one. Come by for a visit and walk the beach, pick up a shell, listen to the sound of the waves, kick back and read a book as the wind whistles through the trees or just simply come enjoy one of our beautiful sunsets. When was the last time you did that? Now take a moment to reflect what first brought you here, "Paradise".*

*I hope to see you on the beach soon.*

Robert M. Steiger  
Park Manager



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

We are at the end of another productive season. For now, the meetings, fundraisers, work days and special projects are on hold until fall. We even managed to take a fun field trip out to the Big Cypress Preserve in early May. Now, we can take a well-deserved rest from our toils.



There will still be a few activities ongoing over the summer months. The invitational letters to artists and exhibitors will go out in advance of our 2008 events, plus the preparations for our much anticipated anniversary celebration in mid-October. A list of summer work days will be posted at the gate and in the conference room for those who wish to continue clean-up efforts at the park. Or stop in anytime and check to see if a volunteer opportunity is available. I believe that there are still 8 more new grills to be installed and work to be done on the new educational display cases, as well.

When we look up the meaning of the word **volunteer**, it translates to "a person who enters into service of their own free will". And volunteering also involves some type of **work** (i.e. effort, labor, employment in a task, achievement). Whether for altruistic motives or the self satisfaction of doing something worthwhile, we all come to the park to volunteer our services because we enjoy this special place and recognize its value.

Having done these "good works", it is also nice to receive recognition from our park staff. At our end of season picnic our CSO received a certificate for "outstanding achievement" from the park management in appreciation for all that we have done. I would like to take this opportunity to salute everyone who made the success of this season possible, as well as those who contributed so many hours to the benefit and beautification of our beloved park. Have a safe and healthy summer!

*Lois*

Lois Cantwell



### Ranger Courtney Bryan

Courtney Bryan joined DEP in May, as a Park Ranger at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Previously Courtney worked for the Maryland Park service and comes to us with a degree in Park Management. We are glad to have her here.



## Day Trip To The Everglades

by Diane Schwartz



What a beautiful Spring day it was that greeted us on Tuesday, May 8th! The sky was hazed by high smoke as we headed south to the Big Cypress National Preserve. Taking a short rest break at the Oasis Visitor's Center, we got to see dozens of alligators lounging out in the roadside canal. There is a stretch of boardwalk here at the edge of the canal that provides some excellent photographic sites to safely capture these creatures.

At Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery, a short distance further, but still in Ochopee, FL, I was entranced by the scenery both inside and out. A fan of Ansel Adams, I was caught off guard upon entering the gallery to be greeted

by a mammoth black and white of the Grand Tetons done by the local artist. His current display, "America the Beautiful", had just been set up two days earlier. There was plenty of local scenery in his gallery to appreciate and the variety of air plants or bromeliads outdoors was tremendous. In the canopy over the swamp walk out back, there was all manner of life and only adding one of the recent downpours could have improved the place I think.

At 11:00 we returned to the Big Cypress visitor's center to meet Lisa Andrews, the Outreach and Education Specialist for the National Preserve. Having worked at the Preserve since 1994, she has a wealth of knowledge which she can pass on with ease. It is clear she loves her job and I can't think but how lucky are the Collier County students who trek to her domain all through the school year. We nineteen were easily caught up in the movie we viewed and Lisa's information about the Preserve. It has this designation because there are still tracts of private ownership within its boundaries, one of many tidbits I caught that day. And unlike the Everglades, its water comes right out of the sky, not from areas north in sheet flow.

Lunch was stalled as next we were guided deep into the multiple ecosystems on the boardwalk at Kirby Storter Wayside area. It was warm by this time but the smoke tempered the heat of the sun and it was wonderfully cool in the high shade of the cypress canopy perhaps a third of a mile from the parking area. We did not tarry long at the pool the boardwalk led to a short distance deeper as our hunger was calling us. We thanked our guide Lisa for her hospitality before journeying back on Highway 41 to Joanie's for lunch. At Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe, we savored fried green tomatoes, Indian fry bread, alligator and more, all freshly prepared in a "down home, southern" atmosphere.

It was a fitting end to our companionship as the group disbanded and we headed home by many paths back to Naples. Next time Lisa has a few ideas on how to see a bit more of this over 720,000 acre SW FL jewel. Just come in the Fall when it's knee-hi in water and really get the feel of a swamp, if you dare! And remember, Clyde holds a Swamp Walk each Labor Day and he truly knows how to find "lost" local treasures.





## Protection for Pollinators by Ranger Cheryse Wellman

It is estimated that one out of every three bites of food consumed by Americans comes to be through the act of pollination. Pollination is the method used by certain species; bees, butterflies, birds, bats, etc.; to move pollen within flowers, or carry it from one flower to another of the same species. This leads to fertilization, and successful seed and fruit production. Roughly 80% of all of the world food crops result through the process of pollination. Pollinators are not only responsible for supplying

fruits and vegetables; spices, condiments, beverages, the primary food source used to feed animals we rely on for meat and dairy, essential fibers that we use for clothing and household items, as well as medications that we depend on for our health all rely upon pollination.

The indisputable fact is that pollination plays a vital role in our survival, and the health and existence of nearly all of Earth's ecosystems. The grim reality is that many species of pollinators today may be threatened. We are losing pollinators worldwide at an alarming rate.

Pesticide/herbicide use, predators and parasites, habitat loss and degradation, climate changes, a reduction of food sources, disease, and invasive species are all contributing to this decline. According to the Natural Resource Council, in North America long term population trends for some pollinators are "demonstrably downward." Growers in California, Arizona, Utah, Washington, Hawaii, and Florida are especially concerned for their crops due to the obvious decrease of moths, butterflies, and bees. Managed honeybee colonies in the United States have declined from 5.9 million in the 1940's to 2.7 million in 1995. These honeybees alone are responsible for pollinating approximately \$10 billion in crops annually in the United States. A huge toll was taken on California's almond industry last year when a mite, varroa destructor, decimated crops, allowing growers no option but to have bees imported from Australia to service their crops.

While honeybees seem to be getting the most media attention recently, other species are also struggling. In the United States at least two species of bats and 13 avian species are listed endangered. IUCN reported globally 82 species of mammalian and 103 species of avian pollinators are considered threatened or extinct. However the numbers for struggling insect species, the largest group of pollinators, are undetermined because they receive the least amount of attention and research.

This trend could serve as the "canary in the coal-mine" for signaling problems in the overall state of the health of the environment. It is important to keep in mind that "we all live downstream." The elimination or reduction of any one specific species of pollinator would most likely result in the decrease of a specific plant species, further hindering the reliance on animals and even humans on these plants, potentially causing an imbalance in the natural ecosystem and bio-diversity on which our food production depends.

With direct action on a broad scale, both from small personal actions taken by individuals like you and me, as well as larger organized collaborations, there is still hope for diversity conservation and sustaining ecosystems that preserve the quality of life for both humans and all species. National organizations are already acknowledging the urgency of stepping up and implementing stipulations, research organizations, and action plans to combat the pollination crisis. North American Pollination Protection Campaign (NAPPA), the National Wildlife Federation, and the National Academies are all working diligently in conservation, education, research, and management practices. The United States Department of Agriculture has just recently designated June 24-30 as "National Pollinator Week" in hopes of promoting public awareness.

Again I stress and strongly feel that the most important actions taken to ensure a better tomorrow lies in the hands of you and me. The more action taken, corrective changes made, and pressure put on officials and corporations by common members of society, the more wide-scale changes will be made. Get involved, volunteer, sow seeds, enjoy nature, reduce herbicide/pesticide use, create pollinator friendly habitats, minimize environmental impact, and perhaps most importantly educate yourself and others on issues that affect the livelihood of our future.

**"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children"**

**~Native American Proverb**

**Mark Nicoletti, Assistant Park Manager, had some creative ideas for the achievement awards this year. Presented at the end of the year picnic the silly certificates were an instant crowd pleaser. Congratulations everyone. tee hee.. (below is a sampling)**

## Outstanding Accomplishments??

New Member Recognition  
Marcia and Gene Byrd      Sandi and Vern Ellinger



Artist in Residence  
Mr. North

250 hours  
Olga Williams

50 hours  
Fred Eckerd

Super Event Coordinator  
JoAnn Linck



Shadow Box(ing) Award  
Hank Linck

Printers Nightmare Award  
Sharon Eddy

Glue Gun Award  
Art & BJ Esslinger



Best Field Trip  
Diane Schwartz

Master Craftsman/1000 hrs  
Joe Gagnier

Master Craftsman/250 hrs  
Dick Liden

Apprentice Craftsman  
Alliene Liden

Yard Sale Queen  
Joan Oberton

Ernestine the Operator Award  
Joan Erb



Ranger Cheryse Wellman's articles have recently been featured in the Bonita Banner. We are quite happy that she continues to contribute to the Palm Tree Press. Congratulations Cheryse!



## REAL PROGRAM Naples Park Elem. & Wal-Mart #1957 Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, May 11th, 2007

On May 11th, 2007 Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Staff and Wal-Mart Employees teamed up with 120 4th grade students from Naples Park Elementary to hold

the Annual "Educational Service Day" at the Park. During the year the Rangers visit the school three times for programs about the park. At the end of the year all of the 4th graders come to the park for an environmental education day put on by the teachers and parents. One of their stations consists of doing a service project for the park. This year with the school's and the park's new partner, Wal-Mart, the students made six display boards for the park's six display cases. Wal-Mart provided the materials to create the displays and volunteers to help the students.

The partnership with Naples Park Elementary has been in place since 1996 when "Parknerships" were established.

## Safety in the Sun

As you are all aware, too much exposure to UV rays can increase the risk for skin cancer, harm the immune system, cause cataracts and make the skin age quicker. UVA (long wavelengths) is not completely blocked by the ozone layer. This is the radiation that ages skin and causes it to wrinkle. UVB radiation (short wavelengths) causes sunburn. Both kinds contribute to skin cancer. Getting sunburned is dangerous, especially in children. One or two bad, blistering sunburns can double the risk of developing skin cancer as adults.

People of all skin types should wear sunscreen, although darker pigmented skin (containing the chemical melanin) helps protect against the sun's rays. Everyone should wear sunglasses for protection against cataract formation. Water, grass and sand reflect light, so you might be getting a double dose of radiation on the beach. For those who live up north in the winter, remember that snow also reflects sunlight. Here are a few tips to make you safer in the sun:

- \*Avoid the sun from 10 AM to 4 PM. Noon is the very worst time to be outside.
- \*Stay in the shade as much as possible.
- \*Wear sunscreen at least SPF 15 and re-apply every 2 hours.
- \*Read the labels. Make sure your sunscreen protects against UVA and UVB radiation.
- \*Refrain from using tanning beds and sunlamps. They give off dangerous rays, too.
- \*Wear protective clothing or clothes with special materials designed for added sun protection.
- \*Wear hats that protect your face with a wide brim.
- \*Light colors offer better protection by reflecting the sun's rays.
- \*When choosing sunglasses, the darker the lenses, the better. Larger lenses protect more of your eyes. Make sure the label says they block 99 to 100% of both UVA and UVB.

## Family Discovery Day 2007

Family Discovery Day reeled in some pretty big kids this year with some pretty big toys. If you didn't come you missed the fun! It had all the "creature" comforts of home and then some.



A newly acquired skill for Hank Linck, he shows us the art of snakehandling.



Wrestling with the young gator Deputy was able to educate the children about the ancient reptiles. People were allowed to touch the skin and "pet" it.



A man and his dog. This deputy from the Fish and Wildlife Services and his K-9 companion demonstrate the dogs strong sense of smell. The dog retrieved marked articles from under the sand where they were buried for the search and seize exercise.

Below: A really big toy.



Ranger Carolyn Shaw spoke of Loggerhead turtles, one of her favorite subjects about which she holds a wealth of information.

bottom left:  
Once again ROYAL SCOOP Ice Cream gave the park a generous donation of ice cream! Take the family to the Bonita springs location.



## This Season's Accomplishments

Just what did we do to benefit the park this past season? Below is a list of the items that we provided (or set aside funds for) between November 1st and the end of May. The value of these items comes to a total of just over \$10,000. We would like to spend more, and we will. We can't always spend the money very fast, depending on factors such as weather conditions, short staffing, availability of carpentry skills, and the timing of our fiscal year in relation to the park's operating budget. The park manager starts his "park needs list" once he finds out the status of his budget, usually in July. We start a new budget beginning in January and incorporate that needs list into our expense forecasting. Fortunately there are plenty of funds in our accounts so that overlapping this process works out very well. Some of those funds are set aside as "restricted" for a specific purpose. There is still a plan for an administrative building to be built directly behind the existing ranger station. The restricted fund will be used to help finance that project.

- Wildlife posters
- Corrugated roofing
- Ice chests
- Shelling Guides
- 10 Stainless Steel Grills
- Library Books
- Bath House Louver Repairs



- Computer Upgrades
- Alarm System
- Piling Caps
- Desk Top Computer
- Educational Display Cases
- Hurricane Recovery



William North at his one man show.



## Have a Happy and Safe 4th.

Come help the rangers out with the day after clean up **July 5th.** Or if you can hold a brush, they are looking for volunteers to help paint some of the buildings!



To fill an empty space, here are some photos of some of our busiest CSO members. Send your stories to the PTP.