



**FLORIDA  
State Parks**  
*...the Real Florida*



*Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park Volunteer News*  
FEBRUARY 2014

*The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park*

*present*

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Children's Art Show**

February 22 & 23, 2014 10 -3 on Saturday

10:30 - 1:30 on Sunday



Collier County Public and Private Schools K-5 Art on display at the Pavilion

Prizes and People's Choice Awards

We have our new sign! 3<sup>rd</sup> time Gold Medal Winner! Park Manager, Robert Steiger with our new CSO President, Carol Belfiori. Welcome Carol!



# SAVE THE DATES

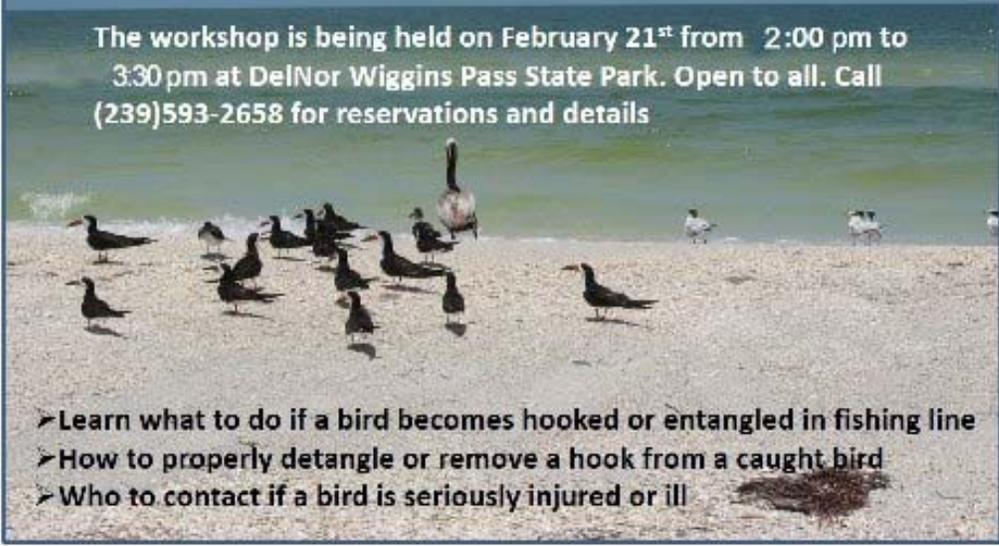
THIS  
FRIDAY!

## Bird Rescue Workshop

presented by

*Conservancy of Southwest Florida*

The workshop is being held on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at DelNor Wiggins Pass State Park. Open to all. Call (239)593-2658 for reservations and details

- 
- Learn what to do if a bird becomes hooked or entangled in fishing line
  - How to properly detangle or remove a hook from a caught bird
  - Who to contact if a bird is seriously injured or ill

LEARNING NEVER STOPS! Please save the date, **February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm** to attend a Bird Rescue Workshop given by **Joanna Fitzgerald**, Conservancy of Southwest Florida wildlife clinic director. The presentation will begin in the CSO room followed by instructional demonstrations. Special thanks for Ranger **Cheryl Metzger** for making all the arrangements (as well as this flier), to secure a date with the very busy clinic director. Due to space constraints, **please RSVP to Donna Young either by email or the number on the flier.** We have also reserved the Pavilion for that morning should we need to move to that location.



The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass invite you to a field trip to Koreshan State Park in Estero on **Thursday March 20th at 11AM**. Our new board President, husband and wife team, **Carol & Tom Belfiori** will give us a guided tour of the Art Hall and Planetary Court as well as a botanical tour of the exotic gardens at this amazing park. We will have an informal picnic (bring your own lunch) in the picnic area after the tour. *The park is located at 3800 Corkscrew Road Estero, Florida 33928*

## OUTREACH

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Party for the Planet at the Naples Zoo** sign up to help host a table for The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins. This is a GREAT event and fun for all involved! And it will give us lots of exposure!





## OUTREACH

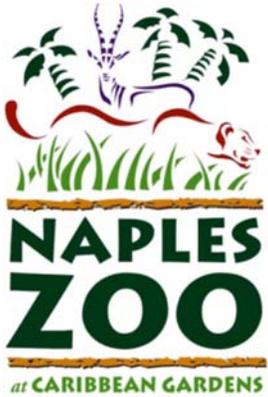
We are registered to host a table for the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins. Volunteers that attended last year had a blast! If you would like to help out, email

[donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:donna.young@dep.state.fl.us)

**CONSERVANCY**  
of Southwest Florida  
OUR WATER, LAND, WILDLIFE, FUTURE.  
CELEBRATING OUR PAST  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Earth Day Festival** **SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2014 ~ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Celebrate Earth Day during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. The festival will include a variety of vendors and environmental exhibitors showcasing fun, educational and entertaining family activities and experiences. Enjoy local entertainment, keynote lectures, conservation speakers and children's presentations. Eat, play and learn while experiencing the new Conservancy Nature Center buildings, take an electric boat ride, rent a kayak or walk a nature trail.



*Volunteers, **Linda Colvin, Vickie Sowinski and Terry Stone** host the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins outreach table at The Naples Zoo Arbor Day event. Thank you for promoting the Friends and the Park!*

\*\*\*\*Special thanks to the volunteers who attended Collier-Seminole Bluegrass Festival last weekend and hosted a table again. Pictures to come!



**January 18th, Saturday**

*The 16th Annual Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show* held in area 3 of the park. Please contact Donna Young if you would like to help the day of this amazing event.



**Hats off to Donna Young, Jo Ann Linck, and the Friends for a very successful Art Show. In spite of the cold weather a steady stream of visitors and shoppers kept the artists busy chatting about their work and selling their artwork. The Friends picked up at least five more members and sold lots of t-shirts. Ice cream sales were steady with Phil and Johann happily scooping that delicious Royal Scoop Ice Cream.**

**Thanks to our publicist, Sue Huff and to our graphic artist, Sharon Eddy. Sharon designed the beautiful flyer and Sue got the word out in NDN, Florida Weekly, etc. Look for Sue's article and photos about our event in the news.**

**Special thanks to the entire staff and other volunteers for all the help before, during and after the show. Since this is our biggest fund-raiser, the Park benefits from all our efforts.**

**Marcia Byrd**

DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK  
16TH ANNUAL ART SHOW

# Wildlife & Wildlands

*January 18, 2014  
10am - 3pm*

The Wildlife and Wildlands Art Show showcases the natural and cultural resources of Florida.

Local artists display their work in a variety of media; watercolor, oil, pastel, acrylic, photography, basketry and weaving.

A percentage of the proceeds through sales of the artwork are donated to the Park.

**Resident Artist Program**

Ann Ponicsan has been selected as the 2014 Resident Artist at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. Please go to [www.DelnorWiggins.org](http://www.DelnorWiggins.org) for Ann's bio as well as her scheduled work in the park.



**Volunteer teamwork at its best! Above, Joe Spallone and Andy Sowa get our tree trimming done every week. Below, FGCU students, Tommy and Jake haul it all away. We love it!**



REQUIRED FOR ALL STAFF & VOLUNTEERS:

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) training developed by the DEP Safety Office. It has been communicated this 30-minute training is mandatory for all DEP staff and volunteers

The training is available via YouTube at the following link:

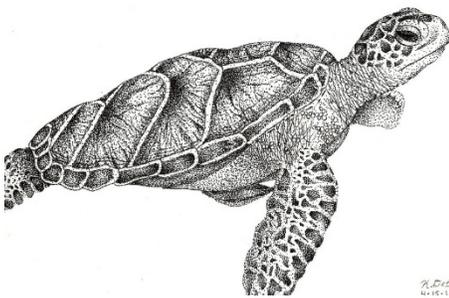
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofMtZiQdbeM>

Please email [donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:donna.young@dep.state.fl.us) when you have completed this training and I will add the 30 minutes to your volunteer hours. And there will be a quiz.



**GREAT JOB RANGERS!**

District 4 Sea Turtle Nesting Success

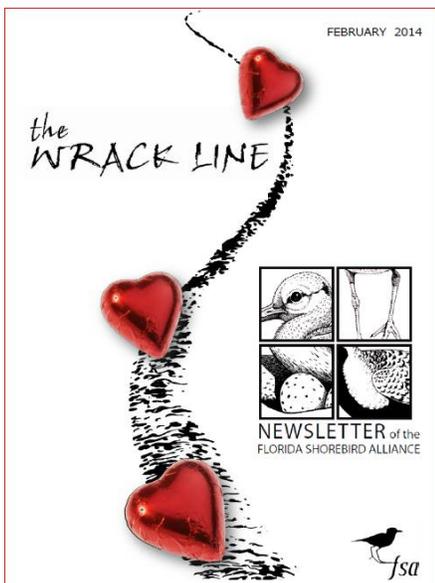


Delnor Wiggins:

Delnor Wiggins Pass had 30 loggerhead nests this season, with 1655 successful hatchlings. This equates to 690 hatchlings per kilometer (1103 per mile). Fire ants predated heavily here, negatively affecting seven nests. Andro was applied, but nests were still found full of ants. The high



abundance of ants could be due to the close proximity of parking areas to beach dune communities. Four nests were predated by raccoons, and one nest was affected by ghost crabs and laughing gulls. One nest was also impacted by a human visitor, with the sign and cage pulled off and left lying next to the nest on the beach. Considering how small Delnor is, and how high the visitor impact is here, the sea turtles still had extremely high nesting success. More attention to fire ant population control should help increase this success even more next season. Also, park staff should continue to trap nuisance raccoons. This nesting season, 20 raccoons were successfully removed, ultimately keeping hatchling success high for this park.



Great info.....

<http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/WordPress-FSA/2014/01/31/feb2014wl/>



Thank you and Congratulations to Boy Scout, **Graham Lindsay** for completing his Eagle Scout Project at the park. After months of planning and getting approvals, Graham and his team built us a beautiful new kiosk off the boardwalk in area 5. This kiosk will be used to share important information about fishing as well as shorebirds. Be sure to check out the finished product next time you are here.

Graham and his proud parents!



bala vinyasa yoga  
based on sunset)

Sunset Yoga on the Beach is back brought to you by **The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins** and **bala vinyasa yoga!** Sign up directly with the studio at [www.bvyoga.com](http://www.bvyoga.com)

\$5.00 per class plus (does not include admission to the park) \$1.00 is donated to the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins .



**CLASS TIMES:** *Thursday evenings, 5:00 (call for exact time which is*

**Paddleboard yoga** is Saturday evenings from 5:00

**Volunteers wanted to help sell our beautiful yoga shirts before each class. Please contact Donna Young for more info.**

Help us educate our fishermen and other visitors about how fishing line can kill our shorebirds. Volunteer workshop being organized; date TBA.



**Meanwhile,** we are still collecting empty tennis ball cans as shown in the picture and making them into personal fishing line recycling containers to hand out to the fisherman at the park. They will be equipped with Velcro to attach to their fishing equipment or boats. Special thanks to our local

Sea Grant Extension Agent, **Bryan Fluech**, who provided the idea and recycle stickers for the containers and other helpful info to include for the fisherman. Excellent project for FGCU students.....hint, hint.

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ALREADY DROPPED OFF SOME CONTAINERS! KEEP 'EM COMING!**



Just this morning....Ranger Alyssa found another victim of a fishing hook & line on the beach. This Tern will be taken to the Conservancy's Wildlife Hospital. If you would like to help transport animals for us please contact Donna Young. Alyssa will be leaving us to join the staff at Oscar Scherer State Park in March. We will truly miss her and wish her the best.



***VOLUNTEERS WANTED:***

We are looking for a few local volunteers who live locally and would be willing to be on call to take injured or sick wildlife we find at the park to the

***von Arx Wildlife Hospital at the Conservancy.***

Many times they have volunteers who are willing to come here and pick up the animals however they are limited and very busy. If you are interested in helping transport the animals, let me know! I will put you on a call list.



It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as the president of the Friends for the last three years. I have enjoyed working with your fine board, our wonderful staff, and all of you. The time has come for me to step aside to serve as president of another organization. If you were at the Annual Membership Meeting on January 13, 2014, you saw my PowerPoint presentation highlighting our Mission with photos of the Friends working at fundraisers, cleaning up the park,

helping the rangers in their work, creating public awareness and enjoyment of our park, learning about our park and so much more. In creating this presentation and looking over hundreds of photos of the Friends in action, I was reminded of a quote by Margaret Mead. She said, "*Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*" Thank you for your commitment and service to the park. You have made a difference!

I am thrilled to announce that our two board vacancies have been filled. At the January meeting a new face in the crowd said she would like to become a member and that she could even serve on the board! She is Elsie Morgan who has been coming to our park for over 38 years. Her husband was an ardent fisherman and she loved being on our beach. We welcome Elsie as a new member and now a new board member.

The Board met on January 20<sup>th</sup> and to our surprise, Carol Belfiori, who is no stranger to our park, came to join the Board and agreed to take over as president. She and her husband, Tom, a director on the Board, will co-team as president and we are in great hands with these two excellent folks. They have volunteered for 15 years at various Florida State Parks. Here at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, they are offering a beach combing program at 9:30 AM every Wednesday through March and have done this in past years. Carol taught at a state university in Minnesota for 20 years and was also licensed to teach life sciences K-12. She was also a community organizer for the University of Minnesota and ran an office for the American Lung Association. Carol has served on various board and committees in the past.

Carol already envisions offering more educational opportunities for our visitors and our members. The Board considers this part of the mission of the Friends: ***To offer educational experiences and opportunities for volunteers and visitors to learn about the native environment of this park and others in the Florida Park System.*** We are so pleased that Carol accepted this post. Please join me in welcoming Carol Belfiori as our new president.

**THANK YOU MARCIA!**



**Visitor surveys..... CAN YOU HELP?** The Park has been tasked with doing visitor surveys and counts from December through April. The Office of Parks & Rec Planning along with the University of Florida are attempting to learn more about WHO is coming to the park, HOW they get here and WHAT they are doing while here. This will help determine how we can improve our facilities. If you would like to help us even a few hours a week, please RSVP to [Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us) Thank you to the volunteers who have already started helping us! We appreciate you!!!



**FOR MORE INFO AND PHOTOS, Please visit  
The Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins>



PLEASE SHARE YOUR PARK PHOTOS WITH US! WE WILL POST THEM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER



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[Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Donna.young@dep.state.fl.us)

**New direct line to reach Donna Young:**  
New desk phone # - 239-821-1618