

A NEWSLETTER BY THE DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PARKSCENE



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From the Director

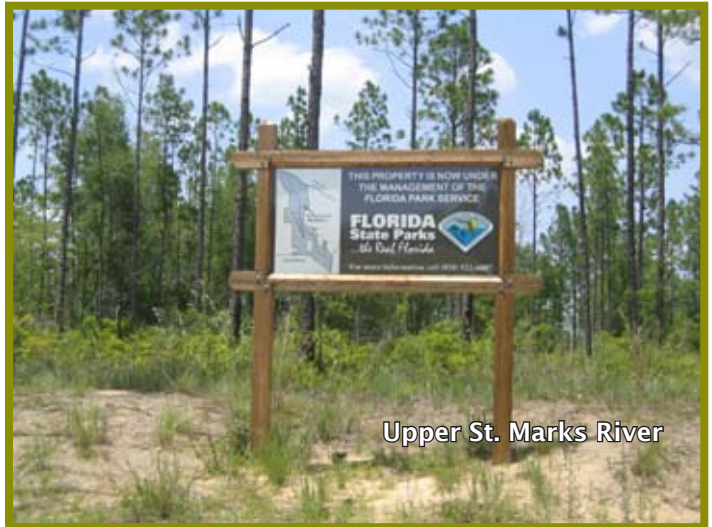


**Mike Bullock, Director
Florida State Parks**

Over 1,000 professional and dedicated employees, and more than 6,000 passionate and skilled volunteers welcomed a record-setting 19.5 million visitors to Florida State Parks during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. As our visitation numbers grow, I know our mission to preserve and restore natural and cultural resources becomes more difficult. I applaud you all for your daily efforts in balancing our dual mission of recreation and protection.

Highlights of the central office for the past few months include the following:

- Adding Upper St. Marks River in Jefferson and Leon counties to our jurisdiction making it our 161st state park. The 2,500-acre property is home to floodplain forest, xeric hammock, flatwoods, sandhills, black bear, bobcat, fox, deer, turkey and fox squirrel. This park will also make an excellent area for birders, hikers, bikers, kayakers and canoeists.
- In July, Governor Charlie Crist signed an Executive Order offering members of the Florida National Guard half price admission to Florida State Parks in honor of their courageous service to our state.
- The 2007 Florida State Legislative Session ended without passing a bill decriminalizing our state park rules. The bill which also included the legalization of golf carts in state parks was vetoed by the Governor due to an unrelated amendment tacked onto our bill in the final days of session. Both the decriminalization and golf cart legislation will be resubmitted in the 2008 Legislative Session.
- A recent technological advancement within the division is the installation of video conferencing equipment in Tallahassee's central office, the Bureau of Design and Construction at Maclay Gardens State Park and each district office. This capability will improve communication statewide while reducing travel time and expense for our Division Management Team.
- Thank you all for your participation and promotion of September as *Just Read, Florida!* In a State Park Near You. Literacy and State Parks are natural partners and I look forward to hearing success stories about the collaborative efforts individual parks initiate as a result of this campaign.



Upper St. Marks River

While fall has just begun, the holiday season is just around the corner. I wish you all the best of luck in state park holiday event planning and resource management. Again, thank you all for a record-setting fiscal year.

District 1



North AmeriCorps Team working at Grayton Beach

Grayton Beach

AmeriCorps – Getting Things Done!

By: Matt Allen

The North AmeriCorps Team led by **Mike McGlockton** completed the bulk of the work on improving boundary lines between Grayton Beach State Park and the adjacent Watercolor subdivision through the sweltering days of summer. **Dylan Grace** earned special recognition as the Task Leader. The improved low water crossing resulted from a well coordinated team project and improved the park’s access necessary for resource management needs. This group is a fine example of AmeriCorps getting things done.



One of two Lake Talquin bluff walk-downs to boardwalk



Park rangers attaching handrails to boardwalk

Lake Talquin

Boardwalk Renovation

By: Bill Boydston

Rangers and volunteers at Lake Talquin State Park are completing the re-construction of a 650-foot boardwalk along the shore of Lake Talquin. “This has been a

tremendous project, and all of the guys have done a magnificent job,” said Park Manager **Barry Burch**.

The old boardwalk had deteriorated to the point that a complete makeover was necessary. Park Rangers **Bruce Brott, Brian Gunn, Steve Hughes, Andy Cotellis,** and Park Services Specialists **Mark Stevenson** and **Paul Riggs** replaced pilings and bracing to strengthen the structure to support new Trek decking and rails along the entire length of the walkway. Assistant Park Manager **Tom Nobles** calls “the biggest challenge” the walk-downs to the riverside boardwalk. “The descent begins from a bluff 60 to 70 feet above the lake surface.”

The project has been ongoing for months with park staff continuing duties of maintaining and operating the eight state parks under their care while tackling this daunting task.

Park Manager **Barry Burch** estimates saving over \$85,000 dollars doing the work with his staff rather than a contractor. “We are proud of our crew and the work they have done,” says Burch. “And we know the quality is there, because we cut every board and seated every screw. This baby is straight and true, and it’s not going to go anywhere!”



Beach improvement at Cherokee Sink

Wakulla Springs

Cherokee Sink

By: Jeff Hugo

The Cherokee Sink Unit of Wakulla Springs State Park has slowly been transformed from a ‘trashed’ sinkhole lake to a model of resource-based recreation. The 1,500-acre property just west of the main park property was acquired in 1999 after years of use and abuse. Almost every imaginable household appliance had been cast into its milky blue-green waters. Erosion of its marl walls created almost zero visibility to its 80-foot depths. It had become a hangout for area hooligans.

Improvements began by securing access to the property. Roads leading to the sink were closed off by cables and later by gates. Vast quantities of refuse were removed from the sink by staff and volunteers alike. Both state funds and charitable donations were used to build stairs, create a diving platform, and revegetate the once badly eroded walls of the sink. Just recently Springs Initiative Funds were used to further reduce erosion and enhance recreation at the sink through the construction of a small beach area.

As difficult as making physical improvements to the sink would be, changing the mindset of local use would be an equally daunting task. Enter the scene Park Ranger **Glenn Keefer** in 2000. Recently retired from the marine patrol, Glenn brought a quiet yet firm and fair persona to the shores of Cherokee Sink. Gradually Cherokee Sink became a place that families would frequent undeterred by less respectful members of the community. Now Glenn has retired from his work with the park service. But most will remember him as Park Biologist **Scott Savery** described, “a model of dependability and diligence.”

District 2

Fort Clinch

Kid's Fishing Clinic

Staff at Fort Clinch State Park were pleased with the results of their recent Kid's Fishing Clinic which saw several hundred happy participants. But they were most happy to share a letter from a park visitor about the event. It says:

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to the agency, staff and volunteers for the Kid's Fishing Clinic program held at Fort Clinch State Park last week. My two sons and I were expecting a little how-to program and maybe a chance to do a little fishing and what we encountered was a well-managed, informative, fun and thought provoking seminar. To witness the pure elation of my children and many others when they received brand new fishing poles and tackles boxes they can keep was pure joy.

In these times of budgetary cuts and political fiduciary duty, I can only hope and pray that educational programs such as yours continue to impact our young children and our community for many years. Keep up the great work.” *Robert Mosco*

Olustee Battlefield Historic

Media Excellence Award

Mitzi Nelson, Park Services Specialist at Stephen Foster, recently nominated the Olustee Web site for a Media Excellence award through the Florida Recreation and Park Association and the park won! The award will be presented at a banquet in Orlando.

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center

Employee of the Month Winner

Congratulations to July District 2 Employee of the Month, **Jeff Niehaus**, maintenance mechanic at Stephen Foster. Jeff was awarded for sharing his extensive knowledge willingly and with great enthusiasm and for never refusing to assist anyone who needed help.



Swimming to victory

Talbot Islands

Jax Triathlon Series

By: Eric Steffey

On Saturday, June 23rd athletes from all over Florida and Georgia, with some from as far away as Colorado, New York, and South Carolina converged on Little Talbot Island State Park to participate in a three-part race involving swimming, bicycling and running. This triathlon, that is developed and managed by DRC Sports, was the first in a three-race series including one on July 7th and August 11th. The race start was at 7:30 in the morning and began with the swimming portion of the race.

The fog that had blanked the island was almost gone

as the first heat of athletes ran toward the ocean marking the beginning of the race. The four heats were comprised of different age groups, genders and skill levels, started at staggered times. The athletes swam out to a red buoy, then turned south to another, then back to shore completing the ¼ mile-long swim. With a run up the boardwalk to the staging area and a quick transition to their bikes, they began the next stage of the race.

The riding portion took the athletes 5 miles down State Road A1A, and with a quick turn around, back to the staging area at Little Talbot Island. Here the athletes again made a quick transition lacing up their running shoes. Just out of the transition, athletes were directed to run south as they began the last portion of the race. The run took them 1.5 miles to the south beach area of the park where they turned around and made the final 1.5 mile stretch back to the finish line.

After the athletes finished the race, they gathered at the pavilion and enjoyed refreshments and fresh fruit, and waited for awards to be distributed. The top finishers for each category received awards as a token of their hard work. The event proved to be a successful one with 243 participants swimming, biking and running on beautiful Little Talbot Island. The Jax Triathlon series has offered great exposure for the park and we look forward to hosting this event for years to come.



One lucky bird

Homosassa Springs Wildlife

Sparky, an American White Pelican, is happy in his new home at Homosassa Springs where he has joined the park's four other white pelicans in the wildlife area. He can be seen swimming in the spring-fed stream and exploring the islands. But life hasn't always been so easy for Sparky, who just a few months ago was found seriously injured on an island in the Crystal River by

Eco-Heritage Boat Tour Guide **Leroy Smith**, Park Ranger from the Crystal River Preserve State Park and Captain **Bob Beck**, a Park Services Specialist at the park. For now though, Sparky probably considers this a happy ending.

Florida Monthly Magazine recently congratulated Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park on being selected as the "Best Manatee Observation Site in Florida" in their Reader's Choice Awards. These will be listed in the September issue. The park will receive a certificate or plaque and letter for the accomplishment.



Campfire USA volunteers planting longleaf pines

Paynes Prairie Preserve

Longleaf Pines + Wiregrass + Volunteers = Pinelands Restoration

By: JulieAnne Tabone

Twenty teenagers from the Campfire USA program spent one week in July traveling the Southeast on a mission to volunteer. Paynes Prairie was fortunate to receive their help with an important pineland restoration project. Biologically diverse savannas dominated by longleaf pine (*pinus palustris*) once dominated the southeastern U.S. landscape. With European settlement and fire suppression, this ecosystem has been reduced by 97 percent. We must work to save the pinelands.

Early on the morning of July 17th the groggy crew piled out of two vans, doused themselves in sunscreen, loaded up with water, and gathered around, curious what was in store for them. To get the crew excited about the planting project, Paynes Prairie staff explained longleaf pine plant communities, the essential role of wiregrass and fire, and the animals that would thank them for their efforts, especially the gopher tortoise. Armed with planting dibbles, the crew set off to get 500 longleaf pines and 2,500 wiregrass plugs in the ground. Staff and Prairie

Prairie Friends assisted and continued to educate the team about the importance of the day's endeavors in restoring ...*the Real Florida*SM. Incredibly, everything was planted before noon! This left time for a Visitor Center tour, a swing by the observation tower in the hopes to catch a glimpse of the bison, and a stop at the showers before pulling out for their next volunteer project destination.

Special thanks to the Friends of Paynes Prairie for purchasing the longleaf pines and wiregrass.

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is a 21,000-acre wilderness between Gainesville and Micanopy in Alachua County. The Preserve's unusual geological and hydrological features, rich and productive wildlife habitat, and diverse archeological and cultural history make it one of Florida's top destinations. The gateway to the Preserve is the Ranger Station off US 441. Landscaping at our "front door" was non-existent. In 2006 to improve first impressions, the Friends of Paynes Prairie applied for a grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation to landscape the Ranger Station with native species. We were fortunate to receive \$12,000.



Paynes Prairie ranger station summer 2007

The Friends of Paynes Prairie consulted with Preserve staff, local experts, and representatives of the Florida Native Plant Society to discuss the landscaping design. A contract was awarded to Air & Water Research and planting was completed this summer. Twenty-eight species represent a wide range of native plants. The new landscaping not only improves aesthetics but more importantly is an educational tool for visitors. Individual species are identified with plant tags, an informational kiosk is installed, and a GET NATIVE brochure is available listing the plants and promoting the benefits of native landscaping. In late August, Paynes Prairie promoted the project with tours and by screening *Gimme Green* by local filmmakers. It is a humorous look at America's obsession with the lawn and the effect it has on our environment, wallets and outlook on life.

District 3



"The Giving Tree" by Sarah Stansel

Anastasia

Florida Forever Anniversary

By: Shelly Young

Anastasia State Park hosted its first "A Day with Nature" event on June 16, 2007. This event provided our visitors a chance to meet and interact with all the different environmental agencies in and around our community. Informational booths with nature-based activities provided throughout the day were aimed at not only educating but inspiring children with the importance of our natural and cultural resources. Visitors were able to roam Anastasia State Park's day use areas and see the beauty of nature in undisturbed habitats. Anastasia State Park also had a Nature Art contest for ages 8-12. With all the wonderful pictures submitted it was hard to pick a winner, so congratulations to 9-year-old **Sarah Stansel** who drew the picture of The Giving Tree. Visitors also were able to participate in Anastasia State Park's annual Beach Bash as well, which featured a scavenger hunt and a sand castle building contest in which everyone won a prize.



Lake Kissimmee State Park crew still smiling after fighting two exhausting wildfires

Lake Kissimmee

Wildfire on Buster Island

By: Kiersten Wilson

On Friday, July 13th, staff at Lake Kissimmee State Park responded to a wildfire on Buster Island, located within the park. A lightning strike late Thursday night was to blame for the blaze. Along with assistance from staff at Lake Louisa and Kissimmee Prairie state parks, the Lake Kissimmee team was able to contain the 650-acre wildfire by Sunday morning. The fire burned mostly wet and scrubby flatwoods, along with a small area of hydric hammock. The same day the Buster Island Fire was contained, another lightning strike caused a smaller (1/2 acre) fire to pop up along the park drive. This was also extinguished by park staff. While lightning is very common in central Florida this time of year, the recent drought conditions have left an area which is usually soggy, dry as a bone, making the chances of lightning causing a wildfire escalate.

Park Ranger Receives 3rd Place in Costume Contest

By : Mark Koruschak

Congratulations go to **Mark Koruschak**, park ranger at Lake Kissimmee State Park. On June 30th, the City Of Bartow celebrated their 125th birthday. Mr. Jake Summerlin was one of the major cattle owners in the area at that time. Mr. Summerlin donated land for several churches, the schoolhouse, and the county courthouse where the celebration took place. While at the celebration Mark told stories of the Florida cow hunter, cracked his drag, participated in the costume contest and was seen on PGTV (Polk Government



Park ranger Mark Koruschak as a cow hunter

Television). Mark took third place in the costume contest, where he received a Red, White and Blue Ribbon and an apple pie. Mark proudly shows off his ribbon, but never once offered to share the apple pie!

Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve

Scrub-Jay Monitoring a Success

By: Kiersten Wilson

The last two weeks in June and first two weeks in July were a busy time for Florida scrub-jays at Lake Kissimmee and Catfish Creek. During that four-week period, Park Biologist **Erik Egensteiner** and Park Ranger **Danny Holt** worked along with volunteers from the Nature Conservancy's *Jay Watch* program conducting scrub jay surveys at both parks. There were a total of nine volunteers, contributing about 85 hours. The Nature Conservancy, working closely with Archbold Biological Station, developed the *Jay Watch* program in 2002. The program engages volunteers to conduct annual Florida scrub-jay surveys along the Lake Wales Ridge.

Lake Wales "Ridge Rangers" Hold Workday at Park

By: Kiersten Wilson

The FWC sponsored "Ridge Rangers," a group of dedicated volunteers helping to preserve the last remaining fragments of the *Lake Wales Ridge*, came out to ADB Catfish Creek State Park on July 7th for a workday. Heading up the group of six was **Erik Egensteiner**, park biologist. The group put in a grueling four hours pulling up old fence line along Fire Tower Road and replacing it with new. The Ridge is a highly endangered ecosystem running down the spine of the Florida peninsula.

Future Farmers of America Experience Tour of Park

By: Kiersten Wilson

Endangered plants and animals, plus the history of the Lake Wales Ridge were the topics of a tour at ADB Catfish Creek on June 26th. Park Biologist, **Erik Egensteiner** and Park Services Specialist **Pat Mitchell** led the tour of 35 kids from the FFA (Future Farmers of America) Outdoors Adventure group. The adventure group focuses on exploration into nature, amongst other topics.



Volunteers Madison Scarcella and Autumn Sanson record data and watch for jays while environmental specialist Jason DePue plays Florida scrub-jay call tape to attract the birds.

North Peninsula

Jay Watch

By: Rachael Smith

Banded scrub-jay
observed
during the watch



In July, the second annual *Jay Watch* took place at North Peninsula State Park in Volusia County. *Jay Watch* is a program centered on scrub-jays, a native Florida bird that thrives in the scrub habitat. The Florida scrub habitat is getting closer and closer to extinction, which is threatening the population of the few scrub-jays left. The *Jay Watch* is an actual study done by volunteers to count scrub-jays in conservation areas around the state. The volunteers observe and collect data on a variety of different fields. There were a total of 15 volunteers assisted by district and park staff who conducted the survey. The volunteers pictured trying to attract the scrub-jay to North Peninsula's watch are **Madison Scarcella** and **Autumn Sanson**. In the six-day survey conducted, they recorded eight-to-ten adult scrub-jays and two-to-three juveniles. Five of the birds spotted were banded. They have recorded three family territories throughout the park boundaries which is the north eastern coastal range of the bird. "The Nature Conservancy created the *Jay Watch* program to measure the effects of these efforts and to build support for

protecting scrub-jays (The Nature Conservancy-"help save Florida scrub-jays" brochure)." North Peninsula State Park continues to see more scrub-jay population and with the efforts of park staff and The *Jay Watch* program, we hope to help save the habitat of this beautiful native bird.



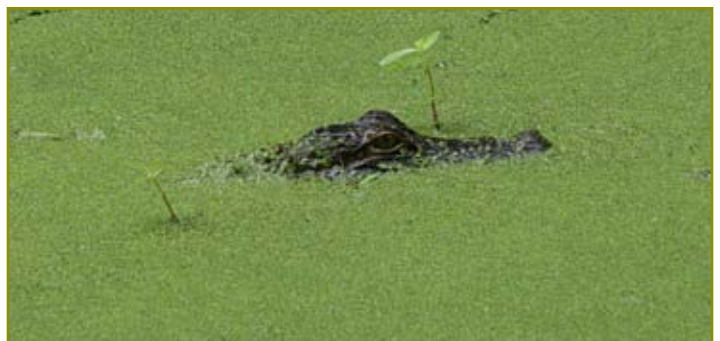
Roger Sandoz and Irene Bergeron, members of The Friends of Ravine Gardens help Barbara Grunig from Greenways and Trails, explain about the ecosystem around the Saw Palmetto.

Ravine Gardens

Eco Adventure Days

By: Donna Rhein

Monday June 25th Ravine Gardens State Park, with the help of local environmentally concerned agencies, kicked off its second summer program for local Putnam County children, Eco Adventure Days. Twenty-five local community children spent the week learning about their environment through fun educational environmental games and activities that meet the Sunshine State Standards. Park rangers, volunteers and other agencies took the children on an adventure through many parts of the environment while enjoying and exploring ...*the Real FloridaSM*. Each day the children brought a non-perishable item to donate to the local food banks. Our goal was to provide a planned environmental education program with fun in mind.



Someone watching all the action

Sebastian Inlet

How to do a Sea Turtle Walk

Located on the Atlantic Ocean equator in Africa is the Country of Gabon. Trying to save the natural resources, rather than exploiting them, in 2002, Gabon officials created national parks on more than 10 percent of the country. Endeavoring to create a sea turtle eco-tourism business, Gabon representatives contacted the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's international sea turtle coordinator to find a top-notch sea turtle walk program to study and learn from. They contacted Florida Marine Research Institute, which contacted Sebastian Inlet State Park. Two delegates from Gabon attended Sebastian Inlet State Park's sea turtle walk conducted by Park Ranger **Rick Grimaldi**. Toll collector **Yves Mardy** assisted as a French-to-English interpreter.



Turtle crawl at Sebastian Inlet State Park

Cancer Patient's Last Wish

A phone call was made by a loving caretaker of a dying cancer patient who wanted to be part of a Sebastian Inlet State Park sea turtle walk. Immediate accommodations were made and she attended a sea turtle walk conducted by Park Ranger **Rick Grimaldi**. She passed away two days later and her caretaker came back to the park to inform Rick that she praised his presentation and passed away happily.



Volunteer Meghan Temple uses her modified controls to support the park.

St. Sebastian River Preserve

Flexibility for Accessibility

By: Justin Teall

People in today's society are constantly striving to find a place of refuge. It is our pleasure as state park employees to provide a unique service in our communities. Here, at the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, we are striving to actualize the idea of greater public access in a conservation mind frame. We move forward as a community only by working as a community. In our community there are those who want to help but are physically unable to because of limitations outside of their control. In an effort to be flexible when considering physical limitations, we have taken some huge steps in making our park a refuge that can be accessed and a place to be involved. **Meghan Temple** is one of our beloved volunteers and happens to have a disability. Limited to a wheelchair because of an accident which left her a paraplegic, Meghan has for years wished to be involved in a conservation area. She has volunteered for about a year here at our park and is now enjoying a new sense of freedom. **Justin Teall**, park ranger, implemented a plan to put hand controls on one of our Polaris Rangers. These hand controls allow Meghan to drive the vehicle without assistance and to be an inspiration to others who find themselves with limited mobility. When asked about her new-found freedom, Meghan said, "As a volunteer, I now can do more for the park and I have access to areas of the park that were only accessible to those without mobility problems and on horseback. It's the best of both worlds. I can help keep the park clean and enjoy all the beauty and nature the park has to offer." This is one example of how simple it is to increase the accessibility to parks. Justin helped modify the controls, but the support of businesses like



Sixth grade students explore a depression marsh with park staff.

Nationwide Wheelchair make it possible for other parks to delve into this wonderful opportunity to serve others in finding their own refuge. For more information about the modifications to the Polaris Ranger, you can contact Justin via email at Justin.Teall@dep.state.fl.us.

St. Sebastian River Preserve

Environmental Education Field Day

By: Joy Ann Coll

The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park recently led four days of environmental education field labs for 100 6th and 8th grade students from the Sebastian River Middle School. As one of the sites participating in the Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program, park staff led students through scientific field labs in which they used scientific techniques and equipment to collect data and analyze the results. The purpose of the LIFE program is to help raise science FCAT scores for underperforming students. To beat the heat of the day, park staff picked up the students and their teachers early in the morning in hay wagons and pulled them deep into the park's ecosystems. The 100 excited students completed three field labs that taught them how to develop a hypothesis and collect data about animal and plant adaptations to fire, ecosystem differences, seed dispersal methods, pollination and plant reproduction. The students were particularly intrigued by the aftermath of a 1,000-acre wildfire in March when they had to be evacuated from their school as a safety precaution. As follow-up to that event, the field labs built on the impact of the fire and how plants and animals have adapted to fire over the millions of years. After their learning exercises, the students enjoyed lunch at our picnic pavilion and either walked or took a hay ride back to their nearby school. Their teachers showed great surprise when their normally quiet students were actively

engaged during their outdoor science adventure, asking many questions and displaying skills and abilities learned during each lab session. As a near neighbor to the park, students experienced the outdoor world living just behind their school and achieved greater understanding of Florida's natural environment. During the summer, park staff and teachers will be working with the DEP's Office of Environmental Education to develop the next round of field labs to support the students' fall science curriculum. For more information about the labs or equipment used, you can contact Joy Coll by email at joy.coll@dep.state.fl.us.



Prescribed burning at Wekiwa Springs State Park

Wekiwa Springs

Summer Youth Volunteers and Prescribed Burning

By: Christy Burch

Every year we see the arrival of many things at this park, including biting mosquitoes, sweltering heat, afternoon thunderstorms, and lots of park visitors. The one thing that summer doesn't bring us is our irreplaceable and deeply needed park volunteers, especially our camp hosts. Many of our volunteers are snowbirds who reside or camp here in the winter and return home in the summer.

The staff and management long to see the return of

their winter guests but until then, it's double duty on facility maintenance and visitor service. This summer however, a new volunteer resource was tapped into and proved to be very successful – Youth Volunteers!

We started our Youth Volunteer program on June 4 and ended it July 27. This was a six-week program designed to provide high school teens with the credits they needed to acquire a Bright Future Scholarship. Their work schedule was Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Their first week was broken up into five training days to orient them to the park and show them what their summer duties would consist of.

The boys were able to aid the park in river cleanup, campground and day use cleanup (bathrooms and litter pickup), nature center live animal care and cleaning, painting, kiosk repairs, trail maintenance, and manual removal of air potato. It was a lot of hard work but friendships were formed, memories were made, scholarships will be awarded, and most importantly the staff got a little break this summer.

In other news, the Wekiwa burn team got back into the swing of things with our burn program. With some of the largest intact sandhill communities in Central Florida, the park must burn every summer on a regular basis to maintain this fragile upland habitat. The zone picked for the first prescribed burn of the season was a 25-acre restoration plot along the main park drive. Headed up by **Paul Lammardo** and **Phil Spyckaboer** the burn was very successful in accomplishing its resource management goals and providing a good “practice run” for staff since the burn bans.

members with the park, its diversity, its history, and the volunteer opportunities available. It started at the Owen D. Young Visitors Center where Friends President, **Bob Bouck**, gave a short talk about the past achievements of the group, and its goals for the future. Park Ranger **Joe Woodbury** then led the group and summarized the early history of the land now used as a park. Park Services Specialist, **Cristy Leonard**, then took the group on a park tour in an open-aired wagon ride which included all park facilities while interpreting the flora and fauna of the park. At the plant booth area, Friends Board member **Liz Morrison** described the propagation program that the Friends work on, the Second Saturday Plant Sales, and led the group into the greenhouse. While in the greenhouse she explained our next big project is to renovate the greenhouse by funds raised by the Friends.

The morning program finished with a Garden Tour led by Park Ranger **Cheryl Thorndike**, who took the group into the Rose Garden, pointed out the citrus groves put in by the Youngs, and showed us the Herb Garden and the 250-year-old live oak trees. She also pointed out various exotic plants brought in by the Youngs which are planted along paths that follow the springs and ponds. Each person gleaned new insight into the park and its rich history. This made for a fun day!



Chase Hayes, 12-years-old from St. Augustine, FL

Kid's Saltwater Fishing Workshop

Washington Oaks held its 4th annual Kid's Saltwater Fishing Workshop in celebration of July as Recreation and Parks Month. They illustrated some of the techniques anglers use to catch fish and the importance of conservation and safety. Participants learned to identify saltwater fish species commonly caught in the area, and also how to string, bait and use a fishing rod and reel. Each workshop was hands-on with participants fishing along the bank of the Intracoastal Waterway while applying their newly learned skills.

All fishing gear was furnished for each participant during the workshop, including complete rod and reel, fishing tackle and bait. Upon completion of the workshop each child was awarded a certificate and a souvenir fishing packet to take home. We had over 70 kids total.



Friends members and park services specialist Cristy Leonard

Washington Oaks Gardens

Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

By: Nancy Perry, vice president of Friends Group

The Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park held an orientation program in mid-July to acquaint

District 4



Kemp's Ridley

Anclote Key Preserve

Rare Find on Anclote Key Preserve

By: Sally Braem

Park Ranger **Chris Berner** was doing his afternoon patrol on Saturday, June 16, when visitors told him about a turtle nesting up on the beach at the north end of Anclote Key Preserve State Park. He found the turtle, took some pictures and realized it was something unusual because of its appearance, and because it was laying eggs in the daytime. Scientists at Florida Wildlife Research Institute have documented the pictures he took...of the rarest sea turtle in the world, a Kemp's ridley. The sea turtles are small, measuring 2 to 2.5 feet, shaped like a dinner plate and weighing only 85 to 100 pounds. Only 25 have been documented nesting in Florida since 1989 and only 1000 nesting females remain in the world. The major nesting beach is in Mexico. The nest was caged to prevent depredation and will be protected until the hatchlings emerge in about 55 days.



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

Delnor-Wiggins Pass

Naples Park Elementary & Wal-Mart Team up for a "REAL" Program

By: Carolyn Shaw

On May 11, 2007, Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park staff and Wal-Mart employees teamed up with 120 fourth 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 fourth 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 interpretive display cases. Wal-Mart provided the materials to create the displays and volunteers to help the students.



Park biologist Mike Owen looks at cigar orchids growing on a cypress stump.

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve

Cigar Orchids

By: Dennis Giardina

Park Biologist **Mike Owen** collects data on one of only 15 known cigar orchids that remain in the Fakahatchee

Strand Preserve. The cigar orchid *Cyrtopodium punctatum*, named for its cigar-like pseudo bulbs, is our largest native orchid species. They are so large and their flowers so profuse and showy that they were removed by the wagon and truck load from Fakahatchee during the first half of the 20th century, leaving very few behind. The cigar orchid is an epiphyte, a plant that grows on the surface (*epi*) of another plant (*phyte*). Cigar orchids are almost always found growing on the sides of cypress trees, stumps or knees (as is the one pictured). A partnership has been created with the Atlanta Botanical Garden to cultivate cigar orchids from seed collected on site with the goal of increasing the number of cigar orchids within the Preserve and improving their reproductive potential.



Donnie Congdon
AmeriCorps Member



Oscar Scherer
AmeriCorps 2007

Oscar Scherer

All in a Days Work

By: John Roche

Lynn Crossfield and **Donnie Congdon**, the AmeriCorps members at Oscar Scherer State Park, are nearing their halfway point with the Florida Park Service. Highlights of their accomplishments to date include treating over 333 acres of park lands, removing 3,782 exotic species from Oscar Scherer State Park, recruiting 67 new volunteers and assisting the Florida Trail Association with building two new foot bridges. They also presented ten environmental programs, shadowed two controlled burns, assisted another park with mop-up, assisted with tornado cleanup in Central Florida, completed a course on volunteer management training, and earned Certificates of Completion in the Florida Master Naturalist Wetlands program.

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs

Salt Springs Classic Kayak Race

By: Toby Brewer

On May 12, 2007, twenty-two racers competed in the first annual Salt Springs Classic kayak race. The event was held in conjunction with the Cotee River Seafest held at Sims Park in New Port Richey. Racers in two divisions, under 15 feet and over 15 feet paddled just over five miles from Salt Springs State Park out into the Gulf of Mexico and into the Pithlachascotee River ending up at Sims Park, New Port Richey. The overall winner, 17-year-old **Jade Bezuidenhout** completed the course in 48:59 with her father just seconds behind. Handmade wooden paddle trophies were given for first, second and third place winners in each division.



Relay for Life

Gamble Plantation Historic

Relay for Life

By: Don Bergeron

On May 18th and 19th, Gamble Plantation Historic State Park hosted the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* fundraising event. The *Relay for Life* is part of a series of community events with which the American Cancer Society raises funding and awareness for cancer research and treatment. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and running through Saturday morning, teams of participants from local schools and businesses took part in the walk relay, which raised an estimated \$15,000.00.

While addressing a very serious issue, the festivities were anything but. Costume contests, dancing, music, games, food and good-natured team competitions kept things lively throughout the overnight event.

District 5



Loggerhead sea turtle making her nest near Fort Pierce Inlet State Park

Fort Pierce Inlet

Turtle Run

By: Cass Meadows

Summer at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park means a sunrise “Turtle Run” up the beach every morning. Rangers enjoy this assignment because sometimes they get to see special events such as this Loggerhead sea turtle making her nest in the sand. This gentle beauty was photographed by Ranger **Ron King** early one morning. The truly exciting news this season is the rise in the number of Leatherback nests. “It used to be that we were lucky to find one Leatherback nest a week. I had three in one morning this year,” said Assistant Park Manager **Diane Oliver**.

Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological and John Pennekamp Coral Reef

Florida Master Naturalist Field Trip

By: Janice Duquesnel

In June, Park Biologists **Jim and Janice Duquesnel** led a tour of Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park and John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park for thirteen participants and two instructors of the Coastal Systems Module of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. This program, hosted by the Gumbo Limbo Environmental Education Center in Boca Raton, is a six-day class where participants learn about a variety of subjects including coral reef ecology, sea turtle biology and fish identification. During the group’s visit to JPCRSP, they were led on a tour of the aquariums by Curator **Tony Emtiaz** followed by a lecture by Jim Duquesnel.



This hairy blenny was one of 243 species observed at the *Great Annual Fish Count* held July 3rd at St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park

St. Lucie Inlet Preserve

Something Fishy Here

By: Dallas Shauan

On July 3, forty divers took to the water to participate in the Great Annual Fish Count held at St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park. The participants included partners from CAMA, FWC, Florida Oceanographic Society and St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department. After four hours, divers had covered the sample study plots of the six-square-mile reef within the park. The total number of fish species counted was 243 with six new species that had not been seen on the reef in previous counts.



Jim Duquesnel opens gift at farewell party

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical

Jim Duquesnel Celebrated For Years of Service

By: Elena Muratori

This summer marked the moving on of an icon of the Florida Keys. Park Biologist **Jim Duquesnel** resigned to take a position as the Director of the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Jim had been the biologist at Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical

State Park since 1990. Staff and community members gathered for a farewell party for Jim on July 21. He will be missed, but not forgotten, especially since he and wife **Janice Duquesnel**, Park Biologist at Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park, will continue to reside in Key Largo. Best wishes, Jim!



Loggerhead sea turtle tracks at MacArthur Beach

John D. MacArthur Beach

Record Year for Leatherbacks

By: Arthur Carton

With sea turtle season in full swing at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, it has already been a record-breaking year for leatherback sea turtles, one of two endangered species which nest on our shore. Forty-five of the eight foot goliaths have nested on our beach this year. This number is almost double our next highest nesting total which was 28 nesting leatherbacks in 2003. In addition, staff has also recorded high numbers of nesting green and loggerhead sea turtles.



Park manager Steve Dale experiences firsthand the challenges of dock fishing from a wheelchair.

Bill Baggs Cape Florida

Lighthouse Grounds Get Facelift

By: Art Levy

Park Ranger **Ernesto Espinoza** has remounted all the commemorative bricks at the lighthouse entrance and

is now pouring concrete for a new brick border. Park Manager **Robert Yero** ordered a brand new shade awning for the entry, as well as ten palm trees to provide much sought after shade for visitors waiting to tour the tower. When the trees take root we will install park benches between them, creating a relaxing shady spot to read or enjoy the beauty and sounds of the park.

Oleta River

Accessible Watersports Training Offered at Oleta River

By: Laura Kruger

In July, Oleta River State Park hosted the first Accessible Watersports Training for Youth with Disabilities. The program was funded by National Recreation and Park Association and Miami-Dade County Public Schools in partnership with Oleta River State Park, The Coconut Grove Sailing Club and The Aventura Marketing Council. The training was to provide recreation and rehabilitation professionals with the skills and insight necessary to present a variety of recreational watersports to individuals with disabilities. It was emphasized that the days when people with disabilities have to go to one central location to find opportunities for recreation are over.



Rare rim rock crowned snake discovered at The Barnacle

The Barnacle

Rare Snake Species Discovered at The Barnacle

By: Kimberly Good

The Barnacle was recently the scene of an exciting discovery. The park's three-acre tropical hardwood hammock is one of the few remaining habitats of the rim rock crowned snake (*tantilla oolitica*). This small, elusive species of burrowing snake is very rare, with only 35 individuals officially recorded. Research by **Kirsten Hines** of The Institute for Regional Conservation confirms that this threatened species is living in the park. Studies are ongoing and will continue for one year to assess the current status and distribution of the snake, as well as to increase our understanding of its natural history and habitat requirements.

Resource Management in Action



This mahogany mistletoe was planted in December 2003 and germinated in April 2004.



This mistletoe was broken off at the base by Hurricane Wilma in 2005, but now displays flower stalks.

Biologists Corner

Conservation of Mahogany Mistletoe

Mahogany mistletoe (*phoradendron rubrum*) is one of only two true mistletoe species that occurs in the eastern United States. It is endemic to the upper Florida Keys, the Bahamas, and Cuba, but the upper Keys is host-specific to West Indian mahogany trees (*swietenia mahagoni*). Mahogany mistletoe was recorded in north Key Largo on three occasions between 1941 and 1976 (one population was recorded at the south end of the island). By the late 1970s, extensive logging had occurred in the hammock and many believed the mistletoe to be extirpated. However, in 1998, park ranger **Josef Nemec** discovered a population on the edge of Dispatch Slough in what is now Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park. The discovery was verified by **George Gann** of The Institute for Regional Conservation, along with FPS biologists **Jim Duquesnel** and **Janice Duquesnel**. The population consisted of three mahogany trees with approximately 28 mistletoe individuals. The two larger mahogany trees were partially uprooted, probably from past storms, and soon after discovery, the third tree died along with its mistletoe.

Due to the tenuous nature of this population, the unexplained death of one of the three host trees, and the potentially compromised health of the two remaining trees, Janice and the IRC worked to initiate a conservation plan to protect the endangered mistletoe. Conservation team members conducted surveys throughout the hammocks adjacent to known population locations. Because no other mistletoe populations were discovered, the team decided that an outplanting project would be the best hope for preserving the species.

Janice conducted quarterly monitoring of the original population, noting the health of the host trees and mistletoe plants, and checking for flowers and fruits. Staff and volunteers harvested fruits in the spring and summer of 2001 and 2002 and “planted” them by spreading the sticky seeds on branches of the mahogany trees. Unfortunately, none of them germinated. By the winter of 2002, one of the host trees had declined and many of the mistletoe plants had died. The alarming decline in both the host and the mistletoe prompted the team to harvest fruit and plant seeds in December. Seeds germinated within a few months. They believe that the success of this outplanting was due to planting during the dry season which gave the seeds a chance to germinate and become attached to the mahogany trees before the rainy season. The team harvested fruits again the next December (2003), and outplanted at the same three sites. These seeds also germinated within a few months, and the outplanting project had proven to be particularly insightful. By May 2004, both original host trees had died.

The conservation team members, including staff and volunteers, now conduct monthly monitoring. There are twenty mistletoe individuals on sixteen host mahogany trees. Two were broken off by recent hurricanes, but apparently their well-developed root structure allowed them to recover, and two plants previously thought lost are growing again as well.

The most significant and exciting aspect of this project, however, is the presence of flower stalks on four of the plants. Janice says her goal for the project was to build a self-sustaining population within the park, and it looks like they may be on their way.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Getting Things Done!



Jackie Crumbo clearing trails and roads with chainsaw after storm damage at Oscar Scherer

AmeriCorps Florida State Parks has fulfilled its mission “to serve and strengthen Florida State Parks’ natural and cultural resources by addressing critical environmental and human needs” at a cost of approximately \$353 per member, per year. Total cost of the program is approximately \$1,000,000, of which, \$200,000 is a match from the Department of Environmental Protection. The balance is a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service through Volunteer Florida. The AmeriCorps Florida State Parks consists of two roving teams of nine, and 23 other individuals placed in 19 parks across the state. Members recruit volunteers, remove exotic plants, restore native habitat, and clear and maintain trails. Since January 2007, Florida State Parks AmeriCorps members have treated more than 3,000 acres for invasive exotic plants, maintained nearly 600 miles of trails, presented 700 Environmental Education Programs to park visitors, and recruited 773 volunteers who served 4,455 hours in Florida State Parks.

AmeriCorps Florida State Parks also serves in times of disaster. Members were instrumental in helping with clean up after the Ground Hog Day tornado earlier this year. Members also helped stock items for disaster preparedness in Central Florida. AmeriCorps Florida State Parks is a cost efficient investment for Florida’s environment and people.



Gopher tortoise in storm damaged area at Oscar Scherer



Volunteer Viewpoint

By Irene DeLaby

Volunteer Ambassador Emeritus

Volunteers Make the Difference

Seniors Benefit from Volunteering

On May 17, I attended the Reception and Social Gathering of the Rainbow Springs State Park Citizen Support Organization for the change of the Board of Directors. In the history of the park, adult citizen volunteers are responsible for the growth of the Rainbow Springs as a wonderful state park. They developed such visitor services as the Gift Shop developed by the Crafty Ladies, the award winning *Kindergarten Nature Day* and the popular Snorkeling Tours.

A year ago, 123 volunteers over 80 years of age were recognized for their service with a certificate and a souvenir vehicle tag honoring each citizen as a Volunteer Emeritus. A recipient expressed his and others continuing appreciation and were proud to receive recognition for volunteer service they enjoy giving at any age.

Sharing time gives beyond retirement citizen's mental, emotional and physical stability. These people form a group of individuals we are proud to have working in our state parks. They are encouraging others to recognize the benefits of a new career.



Lovers Key

Volunteer Highlights

Park Manager **Michael Hensley** reported an excellent year at Lovers Key State Park and gave special thanks to his dedicated volunteers. The thousands of hours donated is the ultimate gift of time and energy. **Bob Slifka** is recognized as the most unusual volunteer of year 2006. His carpentry skills are demonstrated in the playground and the shaded trail bench.

Memories of a Fun Day. Groups of children attend a summer camp at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. They learn about the wildlife in the park and their habitat. Volunteer **Dotty Hahn** worked with 24 camp graduates to create a unique quilt showing the wildlife specimens.



Werner-Boyce

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs is a recent addition to the park system and protects four miles of beautiful coastline. The salt spring appears small but is 320 feet deep. In a short period of time the park already has a pavilion, tables, a kiosk and a short hiking trail. A great team of volunteers led by **Joe Spooner**, chosen as the parks volunteer of the year, is providing more visitor access.

Chuggin' Along. The 1924 railroad caboose that resides next to the Withlacoochee State Trail in Inverness was moved to a permanent location across the trail. "The 15-ton caboose has sat beside the trail since being moved from Troy Springs three years ago," said **Kenneth Spillos**, Rails to Trails president. The move placed the railroad car on a set of 1967 trucks (wheels) obtained from the CSX railroad. Spillos said that though the caboose was free, it cost \$10,000 of volunteer time and money to move it to Inverness and refurbish it. He said no state money was used for the project.



SWAMP Club at
Alafia River
State Park

The SWAMP Club. Alafia River State Park has 15 miles of off-road bicycle trail built by the South West Association of Mountain-bike Pedalers. The park has elevation changes uncommon to central Florida. The International Mountain Bicycling Association trained those constructing the trail.

Convenient Parking. **Bruce Lillie** makes the 20 minute trip from Orlando to Inverness frequently so he can bike the Withlacoochee State Trail. He lands his seaplane on Big Lake Henderson near the trailhead. He likes the trail because it is well kept.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer **Sarah Widlansky** is recognized for her volunteer service in 2006. She was not able to attend the Award Ceremony May 14 but we want you to see this year-round service oriented young lady. Her ability inspires people at the John D. MacArthur Beach Nature Center.



Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins

Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Park. Volunteers, park employees and representatives from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center renovated the Old Mill. David Levy Yulee built a sugar mill as part of a 51,000 acre plantation in Old Homosassa over 100 years ago. Yulee had 150 workers and supplied sugar products for southern troops.

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program



Office of Information and Recreation Services



Radcliff Park in Madeira Beach funded by FRDAP

Administered by DEP, the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) is a competitive grant program providing funds to local communities for public outdoor recreation. Once the local community has been awarded the grant, they then have three years to complete the project and be reimbursed the amount of the grant. Funds from FRDAP may be used to acquire or develop land for public outdoor recreation or to construct or renovate recreational trails.

Over the last eight years, Florida has invested nearly \$200 million to improve local park facilities through this grant program, funding more than 1,500 projects statewide. The average number of applications received annually is around 300. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of projects funded ranged from 149 to 325. In FY 03-04, due to a tight budget year, only 40 projects were funded. Most projects are funded at the \$200,000 level (maximum grant amount) which requires a 50/50 match.

The local match requirement depends on the total project cost:

| Total Project Cost | FRDAP Grant | Local Match |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$50,000 or less | 100% | 0% |
| \$50,001 - \$150,000 | 75% | 25% |
| Over \$150,000 | 50% | 50% |

The FRDAP priority list is not official until it has been reviewed by the Legislature and the State Budget has been signed by the Governor.

Florida's environmentally conscious budget, signed in May by Governor Charlie Crist, included more than \$33 million to expand and improve local parks across the state. Funded through the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), 197 projects in 54 counties will develop parks and enhance local communities by increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and improving public access to Florida's natural resources.

"Setting aside recreational green spaces within Florida's local communities is imperative to land conservation and essential to creating strong communities," said DEP Secretary **Michael W. Sole**. "Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grants are an investment in the future of Florida's natural resources and in the state's citizens."

"Creating and enhancing local park systems help produce active, healthy lifestyles and strong families in Florida's communities," said Florida State Parks Director **Mike Bullock**. "FRDAP grants not only protect natural areas but attract people to recreate in the real Florida."

For a complete list of funded projects and information about applying for a FRDAP grant, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/OIRS/default.htm>.



Popsicles for the Animals

Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Maygar, one of the Western Cougars at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park cools off with a special popsicle with fish inside. It was made for her by park ranger Dylan Shoemaker as part of the park's animal enrichment program. Popsicle treats were given to the cougars, bobcat, black bears, river otters and foxes.



Brutus, a Florida black bear really enjoyed his giant fruit-filled popsicle at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. The Park's wildlife care rangers surprise the bears and other resident animals with these treat to help them cool off and have some fun during the warmer summer days.

On The Move

Hires

Noama J. Tenore
Park Ranger
Topsail Hill

Julia E. Andrews
Govt. Operations Consultant
Natural/Cultural

Alan R. Elebash
Govt. Operations Consultant
Park Planning

Dorothea A. Austin
Govt. Operations Consultant
Park Planning

Amy D. Anderson
Admin. Asst. I
Ravine Gardens

Brian Weinstein
Govt. Operations Consultant
Operational Services

Kelly L. Green
Park Services Specialist
Stephen Foster

Terrance K. Craig
Park Ranger
Talbot Islands

Mark J. Stewart
Park Ranger
Barrier Islands

Eric C. Steffey
Park Services Specialist
Talbot Islands

Annette Anderson
Toll Collector
Homosassa Springs

Robert A. Duda
Park Ranger
Stephen Foster

Matthew D. Hodge
Park Ranger
Oscar Scherer

Trudy L. Wilson
Park Ranger
Bahia Honda

Todd R. Ireland
Park Ranger
Maclay Gardens

Paul J. Conlin
Park Ranger
Anastasia

Melissa D. Padgett
Park Ranger
Wekiva Basin

Courtney Bryan
Park Ranger
Wiggins Pass

Claire M. Embrey
Park Ranger
Koreshan

Ronald D. Preston
Park Ranger
Ichetucknee

Jacquelyn A. Boughton
Secretary Specialist
Wekiva Basin

Robert Soderholm
Park Ranger
St. George Island

Debra D. Mayfield
Admin. Asst. I
Lake Wales Ridge

Brian R. Frank
Park Ranger
Hugh Taylor Birch

Frederick R. Redman
Park Ranger
MacArthur Beach

Athena Tzathas
Admin. Asst. I
MacArthur Beach

Jennifer D. Dillard
Park Prog. Dev. Specialist
Adm/District 3

Suzanne R. Graves
Education and
Training Spec. Adm/District 5

Samuel A. Hale
Park Ranger
Paynes Creek

Jenni F. Leve
Admin. Asst. I
Oleta River

Kristopher L. Brown
Environmental Specialist I
Manatee Basin

Stanley J. Kuczynski IV
Park Ranger
John U. Lloyd Beach



Hontoon Island State Park

Transfers

Kiersten Wilson, PSS
From Barrier Islands
To Lake Wales Ridge

Ashley Pass, P R
From Stephen Foster
To Matanzas River

Wesley Stephens, P R
From Stephen Foster
To St. Andrews

Craig Liney, P M II
From Alafia River
To Suwannee River

Joni Ellis, Operational
Services
From GOC I
To OMC I

Daniel Willis, PSS
From Kissimmee Prairie
To Lake Louisa

Donna Aiken, PSS
From Kissimmee Prairie
To Rainbow Springs

Christiann Burch, PSS
From Lake Louisa
To Wekiva Basin

Allen Moore, P R
From Topsail Hill
To Eden Gardens

Promotions

Richard Reinert
Design/Construction
From PRO ENG
To PROG

Thomas Ervin
Topsail Hill
From P M II
To P M III

Dale Shingler
Gulf Dunes
From PM II
To PM III

Joshua Herman
Lake Wales Ridge
From PSS
To APM II

Robert Newbould
From Eden Gardens, PR
To Fakahatchee Strand, PSS

Michael Hensley
Lovers Key
From P M II
To P M III

Martha Henwood, P R
Rainbow Springs

Carl Keen
St. Andrews
From P M III
To P M IV

Thomas Errair
Matanzas River
From PR
To PSS

Robert Joseph
Talbot Islands
From P M III
To P M IV

Robert Rundle
Blue Spring
From P M II
To P M III

Peter Scalco
Fort Clinch
From P M II
To P M III

Robert Baker
Koreshan
From P M II
To P M III

Sally Lieb
Suwannee Basin
From P M II
To P M III

Mebane Cory-Ogden
From Fort Pierce, PSS
To Topsail Hill, APM

Craig Liney
Alafia River
From P M I
To P M II

Antonio Sanchez
From Cape Florida, MR
To Oleta River, PR

Joseph Smyth
Rainbow Springs
From PM II
To PM III

Steven Dale
Oleta River
From P M II
To P M III

Kevin Patton
Ochlockonee River
From PM I
To PM II

Bonnie Allen
From Bald Point, PSS
To Wakulla Springs, APM

Steven Cutshaw
Torreya
From P M I
To P M II

Edwin Higgins
Suwannee River
From PM I
To PM II

Kenneth Torres
Homosassa Springs
From PR
To PSS

Peter Anderson
Highlands Hammock
From P M II To P M III

Florida State Parks Celebrate Literacy In September



Free Admission to State Parks in September

With library card

or

With library book

or

With donation of new or gently used family appropriate book

Educator/Learner Benefits

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Free admission for reading groups and book clubs

Access to natural, cultural and historical resources in state parks

International Literacy Day
Saturday, September 8



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A book is a gift you can open again and again and again.
Garrison Keillor



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