



Island Parks Insider

Quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of the Island Parks

www.islandparks.org

October 2004

Lend your Hands to our Parks

Honeymoon Island State Park is proud to have been selected to host Florida's flagship event to honor the Take Pride in Florida initiative. Please join us on Saturday, October 23 from 8:30 to Noon for a coastal cleanup event.

Secretary Colleen Castille of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection will announce a nationwide initiative to promote volunteerism on public lands during a press conference at this event.

Volunteers are being asked to pledge at least 10 hours of volunteer service to Florida's public lands (local, state or federal.) You can pick up a form at Honeymoon Island State Park or by visiting www.takeprideflorida.org.

On October 23, volunteers may participate in an expanded beach cleanup focusing on Honeymoon Island's main beach, pet beach, north beach and the nature trail. Native plants will be planted. Volunteers should bring gloves, sunscreen and bug spray.

Four major hurricanes landed on Florida's shores in just six weeks! And Floridian's have reached out to their neighbors to rebuild and recover. Along with damage to residents' homes, businesses and properties, Florida's treasured public lands were also affected by the storms. Florida's beaches, waterways, and other public spaces need your help.

Activities of Interest

On Honeymoon & Caladesi Islands

- ◆ **Take Pride in Florida Park and Coastal Clean-Up:** October 23, 8:30 to Noon.
- ◆ **Halloween in the Park:** October 29 & 30, volunteers and candy donations needed.
- ◆ **Seafood Fest & Boat Show:** Merged with Island Fest, rescheduled for Spring 2005
- ◆ **Grand Opening of Rotary Centennial Nature Center on Honeymoon Island:** TBA
- ◆ **Caladesi Coffee for Boaters:** October 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45. Call for dates in November and December.
- ◆ **Ranger's Choice** every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. Park Rangers guide visitors in a tour.
- ◆ For more information about volunteering, call (727) 469-5942.

From the President:

Dear Friends,

Due to the impact of the four hurricanes to hit Florida this season, the 2004 Honeymoon Island Seafood Festival and Boat Show has been postponed. The boat show will be merged with Island Fest in April of 2005. Thanks for your past support and we look forward to a very successful Island Fest in 2005.

Plan on bringing your family to Honeymoon Island for a safe (but haunted – VERY haunted!) Halloween celebration. It's offered two nights (October 29-30) with loads of fun-filled, inventive, scary activities and "happenings." See our website and the accompanying advertisement for more details.

This issue I'd like to talk a bit more about the nature center tour program and the guides that will be needed to give the tours. Initially, we will offer two "core" tours of Honeymoon Island – a one hour tour along the nature trail and a one hour tour along the beach. Both tours can also be given at Caladesi but initially will probably only be done for groups due to arrangements for ferrying people there.

The course is currently being developed and we plan to have our first class graduate just before the Nature Center opening. The first class is planned for one day a week for seven weeks. Right now we are planning a Friday class and will add a Saturday class if there are enough candidates not able to attend Fridays. Both weekday and weekend courses are expected to be scheduled into the future. The class will be supported by an environmental reference that defines the natural communities of Honeymoon and

Visit Honeymoon and Caladesi Today!

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"REST IN PIECES VII"

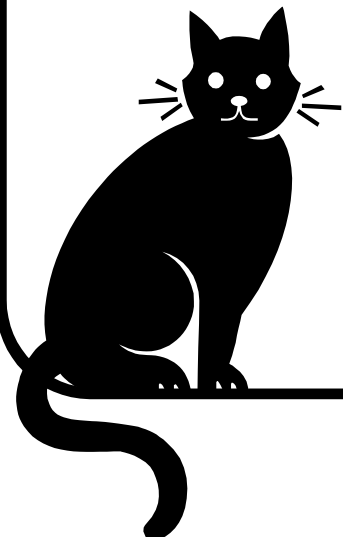
**Halloween at
Honeymoon Island State Park
Friday, October 29 and
Saturday, October 30
6 to 10 p.m.**

Featuring:

- ◆ Two haunted trails
- ◆ Spooky Storytelling
- ◆ Face Painting
- ◆ Horse-Drawn Hayrides
- ◆ Children's Games
- ◆ Food and Drink
- ◆ Halloween Fun



**Wear a Costume, bring bug spray and a flashlight.
Don't forget a bag for collecting candy.
\$10 per car includes 10 free game tickets.
*Minimal charge for games and hayride.***



"REST IN PIECES VII," a safe alternative to trick-or-treating, is sponsored by Friends of the Island Parks, the Florida Park Service, Honeymoon Island State Park and many park volunteers.

Park Manager's Report

Dear Friends,

Friends Charley, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne have affected the island parks in various ways.

For Honeymoon Island, Francis took sand but Ivan gave it back. The north beach on Honeymoon is eroded in places. Caladesi Island seems to have grown. Parts of the island flooded during Jeanne.

The Anclote Sand Bar was completely washed over. The south end of Three Rooker Bar is now under water creating a tidal sand bar. The lighthouses on Egmont Key and Anclote Key were not damaged.

These barrier islands have a unique place in the ecosystem, providing habitat for birds and animals and providing protection to the mainland.

Many thanks to staff members and volunteers who traveled to other parts of the state to help with hurricane recovery efforts. Their talents and hard work are greatly appreciated.

I'd like to congratulate **Linda Seabol**. She is the newly elected President of the Friends of Anclote Key State Park citizen support organization. I look forward to working with her to support Anclote Key and the lighthouse. The ranger's residence is almost ready. Soon Park Ranger **Connie Wiesehan** will be stationed there to provide services on the island.

Scott Robinson, Park Manager
Gulf Islands State Parks

Caladesi Islands, speakers for each subject, and supplemental documentation. To successfully complete the course, each student will need to be present for all classes (one day may be missed if the material or project work can be made up) and will need to present a research project.

Upon meeting the requirements for completing the course, students will receive a certificate and a volunteer guide badge. They will also become official Florida State Park volunteers. Guide graduates will have the opportunity to practice their newly acquired interpretive skills and environmental knowledge during the class, at Friends meetings, at Friends

2nd Saturday outings and as part of the Nature Center tour program. If you are interested in becoming a guide, please contact me by phone or e-mail to get onto our candidate list.

May the rest of hurricane season be kind to you and yours.

From the islands,

Sally
Phone: 727-733-7762
E-mail: slhess731@mac.com
Web: www.islandparks.org

Caladesi Kayak Challenge Scheduled

The Caladesi Kayak Challenge has been scheduled for March 5, 2005.

Last year, thirty-five racers paddled in the first-ever kayak race hosted by the Friends of the Island Parks.

A course will be plotted to create two tracks—one four miles and one eight miles. Each track will feature Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands.

Many thanks to **Rob and Karen Mirlenbrink** for agreeing to organize the race again this year. Their paddling expertise and knowledge of the sport makes this a great opportunity for local paddlers to discover the islands.

Caladesi to Host Boaters' Coffee Hour

Boaters on Caladesi Island HAVE enjoyed meeting with each other over coffee and pastries on select Saturday mornings. Asst. Manager **Shawn Yeager** hosts the boaters and talks with them about the island and the Friends group. The Caladesi Coffee will be held on Saturday, October 16 from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Call the park for dates in November and December.

Coastal Cleanup Not Completely Washed Out but Rescheduled

Despite Hurricane Ivan, many volunteers participated in the Coastal Cleanup on Caladesi and Honeymoon islands. THANKS for your help! The Coastal Cleanup has been expanded on October 23.

Join Friends Of the Island Parks

Show your support of our local parks by joining the Friends of the Island Parks.

Membership levels are:

- General: \$ 25
- Non-Profit: \$ 50
- Corporate Memberships:
- Bronze: \$ 100
- Silver: \$ 250
- Gold: \$ 500
- Platinum: \$1000

Visit www.islandparks.org to print an application.

Friends Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Stephanie Bergeron at (727) 234-3587.

Fall 2004 Meetings:

- ◆ Tuesday, October 19, Holiday Inn Express
- ◆ Tuesday, November 16, Location TBA
- ◆ Friday, December 10 at Scott and Martha's House



Member Benefits

As a member of Friends, you will enjoy the following valuable benefits:

- ◆ Newsletter: Members receive a quarterly newsletter with interesting articles, important dates and so much more.
- ◆ Voting: Each membership entitles you to one vote.
- ◆ Dues and donations are 100% tax-deductible.
- ◆ Member picnics and socials.
- ◆ Member days: Members may visit the parks for free on the second Saturday of every month.
- ◆ The knowledge that your dues and donations will be used to directly support your favorite parks.

Friends News and Kudos

Thank You ...

It was Delicious

The snacks for our monthly meetings are delicious and appreciated.

- ◆ Thanks to **Gabriella Mullins** for providing snacks during the July meeting.
- ◆ Thanks to **Don and Stephanie Bergeron** for snacks during the August meeting.
- ◆ Thanks to **Shane Bittaker** and **Café Honeymoon** for snacks at the September meeting.

Welcome

New Members

The following people joined the Friends of the Island Parks group in July, August and September 2004. Please welcome them.

- ◆ Azeem Ali
- ◆ Greg & Megan Cagle
- ◆ Ed Chandler
- ◆ John Freeborn
- ◆ Bill Head
- ◆ Phil & Sandy Herl
- ◆ Scott Hood
- ◆ Diane Hood
- ◆ Karen Le Blanc
- ◆ Sam & Joan Marshall
- ◆ Nancy McIntyre
- ◆ Jim & Sue Neims
- ◆ Warren Rogers
- ◆ George Skalkeas

100th Member Joins Friends

Jacques Marion is officially the 100th member of the Friends of the Island Parks. He renewed his membership in July. We now have 105 members.

Martin Joins Board

Congratulations to **Sam Martin**. He was elected to the Friends' Board in September.

Many Thanks!

Thanks to **Curt Stanford** of the Suncoast Herpetological Society for attending our July meeting and bringing several of his reptilian pets. Curt spoke to the group about snakes commonly found in Florida, their identifying marks and habits. He also identified venomous and non-venomous ones and those that pretend otherwise.

Many thanks to **Sally Braem**, park Biologist for the island parks, who presented "Plants that Bite" at our August meeting. Sally brought samples of plants with thorns that varied from prickly pear cactus to Spanish bayonette. She also braved her personal safety to bring us poison ivy. Sally noted likely locations in the park for each plant presented. Thanks!

Buy Your Friends' Plate Today!

Put the Friends of the Island Parks license on your car for \$5. The Friends license plate is available at the Café Honeymoon gift shop. Buy yours next time you visit the park.

Remember to Log Those Hours!!

All Friends volunteers are encouraged to complete a volunteer agreement. Volunteers are also asked to track volunteer hours. Now it's super easy. Just log onto www.islandparks.org and do it on the web! Hours add up and are worth great fun and great gifts. For more information, contact **Karen LeBlanc** at 469-5942.



Friends of the Island Parks

1 Causeway Boulevard
Dunedin, FL 34698
www.islandparks.org

2004

Board of Directors

Officers

President	Sally Hess
V.P.	Martha Robinson
Treasurer	Linda Taylor
Secretary	Stephanie Bergeron
Membership	Stephanie Bergeron

Board Members

Capt. Harry Beck
Don Bergeron
Shane Bittaker
Bill Gray
Dave Kaufman
Sam Martin
Gabriella Mullins
Scott Robinson
Shawn Yeager

Contact Us

Please send your questions or suggestions to **Stephanie Bergeron** at stephsb@tampabay.rr.com.

Telephone

Gulf Islands State Parks:
Scott Robinson, Park Manager
Honeymoon Island:
(727) 469-5942
Caladesi Island:
(727) 469-5918
Volunteer Hotline:
(727) 298-2305



Friends of the Island Parks