



# Island Parks Insider

Quarterly Newsletter for the Friends of the Island Parks

www.islandparks.org

April 2005

## The Building has Moved

On April 7, Bath House 4 moved from its place on the beach to its new location on St. Joseph Sound. Thanks to all who came to watch the migration (like shore birds) and brave the weather.



*The building as it moves off the beach.*

The building is now on a trailer sitting next to its final resting place. The contractor is making progress every day to lift the building atop the pilings that have been prepared for the building.

Next, the contractor will prepare

all the new decking and ADA ramps for access to the facility.

The roadways and parking areas have been cleared.

Plans for the interior renovation are complete.

There will be an exhibit area and a



*The pilings at the new site where the building will sit.*

classroom/media room. Exhibits will be ready for installation when the interior renovations are complete.

Stay tuned for the date of the Grand Opening. We'll have a celebration of the hard work and success of so many people who have helped make this dream come true.



*Rounding the turn in the park.*

## Join Us for Island Fest

Join us for **Island Fest** on Honeymoon Island.

You'll enjoy live music including steel drums, reggae and classic rock and roll.

Food will feature something for everyone, including seafood and all kinds of delicious treats.

There will be arts & crafts, boats, RVs, outdoor recreation equipment, a bungee ride, climbing wall and more.

Osprey Village will expand its menu of environmental exhibits, tours, seminars and hands-on fun.

For a \$5 donation, you may enter a drawing for a Carnival Cruise for two people for 7 nights with an

**Friday, April 29, 5 to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 30, 10 to 9 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 1, 10 to 5 p.m.**

ocean view stateroom courtesy of **Bill and Kris Gray** at Ships N Trips. The tickets will include tips, taxes and fees on any Carnival ship.

Only 3000 drawing tickets will be distributed. You can find the tickets at Island Fest, the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce or Café Honeymoon. The cruise will be awarded on May 1, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed. If you want to help, email Diane Tardiff at d.tardif2@verizon.net or call her at 647-3944. Proceeds from Island Fest support the Friends of the Island Parks and the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce. See you there.

**Visit Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands Today!**

## Paddlers Challenged by Race

Fifty-one kayak racers paddled around Caladesi Island on Saturday, March 5th for the 2nd Annual Caladesi Kayak Challenge. The course was either 4 miles or 8 miles and included a portage on the south end where the island meets Clearwater Beach.

Complete race results are posted at [www.islandparks.com](http://www.islandparks.com).

Many thanks to the event sponsors: Mad Paddlers, Osprey Bay Kayaks, Florida State Parks, Kelly's and others.

Many thanks to **Rob and Karen Mirlenbrink** for agreeing to organize the race again this year. Their paddling expertise and knowledge



*Getting ready to race.*

of the sport makes this a great opportunity for local paddlers to discover the islands. **Mike Moran** and **Stephanie Bergeron** also helped. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event successful.

## Golf Tournament to Benefit Caladesi Island

The first annual Caladesi Open Golf Tournament will be held on August 13 at Lansbrook Golf Club. Plan to join us for golf and fun.

The cost is \$70 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, use of a golf cart, range balls and more.

The registration forms will be

available soon. Registration includes a buffet lunch at the Awards Ceremony.

Contact **Shawn Yeager** at Caladesi Island if you want to help find golfers, sponsors or drawing prizes.

## Activities of Interest

### On Honeymoon & Caladesi Islands

- ◆ **Friends meeting:** Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Osprey Center on Honeymoon Island.
- ◆ **Island Fest:** April 29 from 5 to 9 p.m., April 30 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and May 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 pm. Volunteers needed.
- ◆ **Friends meeting:** Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Osprey Center on Honeymoon Island.
- ◆ **Race Thru Xanadu II:** June 5. The Rotary Club of Dunedin sponsors this triathlon.

- ◆ **Friends meeting:** Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Osprey Center on Honeymoon Island.
- ◆ **Golf Tournament** to benefit Caladesi Island, August 13 at Lansbrook Golf Club
- ◆ **Caladesi Coffee** for Boaters: April 3 and 17, May 8, 22 and 30 and June 19.
- ◆ **Ranger's Choice** park tour every Saturday at 11 a.m.

## Park Manager's Report

Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the newly renovated **Osprey Center on Honeymoon Island**. This building is what we used to call the Interpretive Trailer. On the outside, it's been painted and the windows have been replaced. On the inside there has been a complete and miraculous transformation. Our meeting space and kitchen is now one big space. Friends has graciously agreed to purchase a microwave oven and refrigerator to complete the area. We'll now have a great space for meeting and planning and working on projects. There are also three offices and a storage area that will serve our staff well.

Many thanks to volunteers such as **Bill and Sue Waddell** and staff. Assistant Manager **Don Bergeron** played a vital role in getting it all put together.

Over at Caladesi Island, **Shawn Yeager** is paying special attention to customer service with boaters in the Marina. He's hosting Coffee with Ranger sessions several Saturdays each month. He's even made arrangements to have the newspapers delivered to the island for weekend boaters. A project to renovate the boardwalks is underway.

Weather plays a key role on Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands. It's been a wet and cool spring so far. Park visitors continue to walk the beaches, fish, play and enjoy their time on our shores. Are you one of them?



Scott Robinson, Park Manager  
Gulf Islands State Parks

## Honeymoon Hosts Sprint-Triathlon

Honeymoon Island will host the 2nd Annual Dunedin Beach Sprint Triathlon / 2005 Race through Xanadu on Sunday, June 5.

The event will feature a 1/4-mile swim, a 12-mile bike ride and a 3.1-mile run. The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. The Dunedin Causeway will be used for the bike portion of the race but the rest will happen on Honeymoon Island. This is a champion timed event by Alta Vista Sports.

Cost to enter is \$45 per individual or \$90 per team.

Athletes may register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or print the form from [www.islandparks.org](http://www.islandparks.org) and mail to the address on the form.

Packet pick up is Saturday, June 4 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Dunedin Community Center.

Proceeds benefit the Dunedin Rotary Club and the Friends of the Island Parks.

As many as 750 athletes are expected to participate.

Contact **Suzanne Hensley** at [zanna@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:zanna@tampabay.rr.com) to volunteer for this exciting event.

## Honeymoon Recycles

Did you ever wonder what to do with all that tangled fishing line? Recycle it.

Thanks to a recent spring break project of the Wentworth Institute of Technology, Honeymoon Island now has six monofilament recycling stations. The stations will be checked daily as part of the routine park garbage collection. This is a very important project. Fishing line waste accounts for many bird, fish and



*Recycling tube*

turtle deaths due to entanglement and accidental ingestion. The line does not disintegrate easily and poses a threat for decades.

So, when you finish with your line, deposit it in one of these receptacles for recycling.

## Caladesi Hosts

### Boaters' Coffee Hour

Boaters on Caladesi Island may now enjoy meeting with each other over coffee and pastries on select Saturday mornings in the marina. Asst. Manager **Shawn Yeager** hosts the boaters and talks with them about the island and the Friends group.

In April, boaters will meet on the 3rd and 17th. In May, boaters will meet on the 8th, 22nd and for Memorial Day on the 29th. In June, Boaters will meet on the 19th.

Many thank to **Ships N Trips** for sponsoring some of these Coffee with a Ranger sessions.

## 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](http://www.islandparks.org) to print an application.

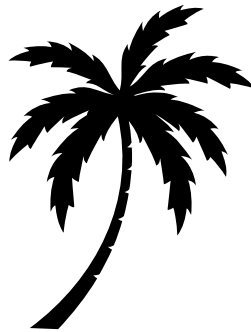
## Friends Meeting

### Schedule

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

### Spring 2005 Meetings:

- ◆ Tuesday, April 19
- ◆ Tuesday, May 17
- ◆ Tuesday, June 21



## 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 January meeting.
- ◆ Thanks to **Don and Stephanie Bergeron** for snacks during the February meeting.
- ◆ Thanks to **Megan Cagle** for snacks during the March meeting.

### Welcome

#### New Members

The following people joined the Friends of the Island Parks group since January 2005. Please welcome them.

- ◆ **Lillian A. Cockerill**
- ◆ **Larry and Susan Darlington**
- ◆ **Diane W. Dubendorff**
- ◆ **Mary J. Galbraith**
- ◆ **Wally and Joy Kennedy**
- ◆ **James J. McHugh**
- ◆ **Alan Nelson**
- ◆ **Sandy Rodriguez**
- ◆ **Ken and Linda Seabol**
- ◆ **Robert and Gail Smyth**
- ◆ **Ed and Sandee Wisniowski**

#### Polo Shirts Available

You may now order Friends of Island Parks polo shirts for \$25 each. They are embroidered with the Friends logo. Other merchandise will soon be available. Check out our website for a catalog.

### Thanks

Thanks for the hard work of the Audit Committee and the Budget Committee. We're set for another year.

### Best Wishes

We'd like to bid a fond farewell to **Dave and Terri Kaufman**. They have sold Logo Pro and moved to Louisville, Kentucky to be near family. We hope to see them again at the opening of the Rotary Centennial Nature Center on Honeymoon Island.

### Learning about Nature

Many thanks to **Stephanie Bergeron** for arranging the film Florida's Estuaries for our program in February.

In March, many were delighted by the Owls and Ospreys presentation by **Lynn and Ray M. Marro, Jr.** They have been watching and counting the birds and their hatchlings on Honeymoon Island for several winters now. They learned their craft watching wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Many 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.

### Meeting Spaces

Thanks to **Gabriella Mullins** for use of the **Holiday Inn Express** meeting room for the January and February meetings.

The remodeling of the Interpretation Building, now known as Osprey Center, is complete.



## Friends of the Island Parks

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

2005

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

President	Sally Hess
V.P.	Martha Robinson
Treasurer	Jacques Marion
Secretary	Gabriella Mullins

#### Board Members

Stephanie Bergeron, Membership  
Shane Bittaker  
Megan Cagle  
Bill Gray  
Scott Hood  
Pat Linn  
Capt. Sam Marshall  
Sam Martin  
George Skalkeas  
Linda Taylor

### Contact Us

Please send your questions or suggestions to Stephanie Bergeron at [stephsb@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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

Visit us at [www.islandparks.org](http://www.islandparks.org)