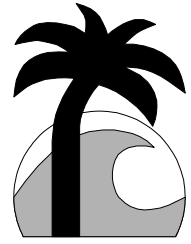


Island Parks Insider



October 2005

Volume 1, Issue 4

A New (Temporary) Look

Many of you may have noticed several differences in this issue of the Island Parks Insider. That is because when the Robinsons left we not only lost Park Manager Scott, we also lost our newsletter editor – Martha. We have already found a worthy replacement for Scott in Pete

Krulder and time will tell if we have successfully filled our editor slot!

Other than being late and having a few cosmetic changes the newsletter is still intended to inform our membership and promote our parks and

activities. Along those lines we welcome any input and contributions from our readers.

We promise fewer whacky “text boxes” in future editions as we settle into a workable format.

President’s Message

Dear Friends,

We finally received bids for the interior renovations on the nature center. The lowest bid, however, came in 28% higher than we had budgeted in our project plan over 2 years ago. Fortunately, we have raised more than sufficient funds to cover exhibits and are able to transfer funds from that project to the renovation budget. The Department of Environmental Protection has also matched the additional amount needed so work on the interior will begin soon. What this increase means, though, is that we will have more fund raising to do for the nature center in the next 6

months to provide the furniture and some equipment we still need.

The Halloween event was once again a big success! Kudos to all involved! We had great weather and a mountain of candy for the kids.

Stephanie Bergeron has been developing the nature tour program that we plan to launch in conjunction with the center opening. This is a part time OPS position with the park and we now need to find a capable replacement for Stephanie as she no longer has time to commit to it. It’s approximately 20 hours per week. If you know anyone interested, please

contact me and I will send you a job description.

It’s been an eventful year at Honeymoon and Caladesi and next year looks like it will be even more so. I hope you will all join us for our holiday party and events and meetings in the upcoming year.

From the islands,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally'.

Sally

Phone: 727-733-7762

E-mail: slhess731@mac.com

Park Manager's Report

In my first contribution to the newsletter I would like to take an opportunity to thank all of you for the warm welcome you have given me. I am very excited about being selected for the position of Park Manager at Honeymoon Island Administration and all of the parks that are part of it.

I started my Park Service career as a Park Ranger at Honeymoon Island in 1999. A few months later I was assigned to Caladesi Island until 2001 when I took the position as Assistant Manager at Lovers Key State Park. In April of 2005 I was promoted to Park Manager at Lovers Key and this past September when I was offered the opportunity to come back here I could not pass it up.

Since arriving here I have had to hit the ground running. With all of the things happening in the five parks under my jurisdiction it is a fast moving train to try to catch. I have been especially impressed with the efforts of the volunteers and CSOs.

Several members of our CSO took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the *Annual CSO Conference* in Tampa. Hopefully they came away with

some excellent training and had the opportunity to meet some of the other people in the Florida Park Service who help make things happen.

The state's annual *Visitor Service Provider Conference* was also held in Tampa, and many attendees were able to come out to Honeymoon Island and take part in an after-hours hosted by Café Honeymoon. It was a beautiful evening and a great opportunity to show off one of our beautiful parks.

This year's *Halloween in the Park* was a huge success. We had over 2,000 visitors and everyone had a great time. I want to thank everyone who helped make this event happen. A special thank you needs to go out to Karen Le Blanc and Andy Schiro for planning the event.

The Florida Park Service has been recognized for two outstanding achievements during the last couple of months.

The first is that the Park Service reached over one million volunteer hours for the last fiscal year. This is the first park service in the nation to reach this milestone. What does a million volunteer hours equal?

The state would need to hire 505 full time employees to reach one million hours. It would cost the state \$18 million to pay for these employees.

These million hours have also made it possible for the Florida Park Service to reach another great achievement: Florida has once again received the *National Gold Medal* as the number one state park system in the country. This award is presented every other year by the *National Recreation and Park Association*. This is the second time the Florida Park Service has received this award and we are the only park service to have won it twice. This would not have been possible without the effort of each and every one of you.

I look forward to being part of the many great achievements of this organization.

For all you do...
THANK YOU!



Pete Krulder
Park Manager

Volunteer News

It's that time of year again! The weather is turning nicer, volunteers are returning and we would like to welcome them back. We have been very busy with special events. Thanks to the work of approximately 100 volunteers; our eighth annual Halloween event was a huge success.

One of the upcoming activities to look forward to is the *Clearwater Holiday Boat Parade* on Saturday, December 10, 2005. Hope to see you there!

We are working on a boat parade theme this year so if you have ideas please contact me or any park staff member. We will decorate the Caladesi barge the

week before the parade. If you want to be part of the decorating crew we welcome your creativity. The barge will leave Honeymoon at 4:30 pm so let me know!

Karen Le Blanc
Park Services Specialist

727-638-2334

Friends News

Annual Board Elections

If you are interested in joining our Board as a Director please contact the Board's Vice President, George Skalkeas, who is preparing a slate of Director nominees for a possible election in December. The term of office is two (rewarding and fun-filled) years. Board members are elected by the general membership unless they are unopposed. In such case there is no election. You can reach George at 727-733-5188 or at gs72hotrod@tampabay.rr.com

Welcome Newest Board Member

Sallie Parks has joined the Board to fill the unexpired term of Martha Robinson.

Welcome New Members

The following people joined the Friends since July 2005. Please welcome them.

- John A. Burmeister
- Mark and Jeanne Combs
- Ron and Pat Geisheimer
- Les and JoAnn Ruble
- Barbara Thompson

Meetings

The Board of Directors meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month for approximately one hour. That meeting is followed by the regular membership meeting that begins at 7:30 pm at the Osprey Center on Honeymoon Island. You are welcome to attend the Board meeting and highly encouraged to come to the membership meetings!



Friends of the Island Parks

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www.islandparks.org

Members of the Board

Officers

President: Sally Hess
Vice President: George Skalkeas
Treasurer: Jacques Marion
Secretary: Gabriella Mullins

Board Members

Stephanie Bergeron
Shane Bittaker
Megan Cagle
Bill Gray
Scott Hood
Pat Linn
Captain Sam Marshall
Sam Martin
Sallie Parks
Linda Taylor

Contact Us

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Caladesi Island: 727-469-5918
Volunteer Hotline 727-298-2305

Friends of the Island Parks

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