



Dune News

A quarterly newsletter sponsored by The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Fall 2005

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Egg-bearing female blue land crab. Photo courtesy Dr. Hung-Chang Liu.

The Migration of Female Land Crabs

by Junko Nomura, *Park Services Specialist*

One of the privileges of working in the Park is that we meet people from all over the world. I met a biologist from Taiwan in August. Dr. Hung-Chang Liu works at Academia Sinica in Taiwan and is currently a visiting scholar at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He studies land crabs (family: *Gecarcinidae*), focusing on their reproductive ecology. I told him about the nest holes of blue land crabs (scientific name: *Cardisoma guanhumii*) that we often see in the Park's hammock. Later, Dr. Liu sent me a fascinating photo of this species; he witnessed its migration to the shore a few hours after he visited the Park. He describes the exciting sighting here:

"We left a hotel in Ft. Pierce in the evening and drove A1A towards Jensen Beach. We saw several egg-bearing females crossing the highway. We got out of the car and stayed at the

beach waiting for the females to arrive. They started to arrive about 8 p.m. and released their larvae. Most females' larvae release was between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. By midnight we saw about 40 females' larval release."

Dr. Liu says that Florida has 3 Land crab species, *Cardisoma guanhumii*, *Gecarcinus lateralis* and *G. ruricola*. Land crabs are highly adapted to living inland, but still need to release their larvae in the sea. Females, after incubating their eggs in their abdomen, have to travel to the shore (as far as 10 miles for some upland crabs), avoiding traffic and predators. They seem to release their larvae at high tide during spring tide (full or new moon), yet little is known about their reproductive and larval ecology.

Dr. Liu notes that the land crab's population has declined in

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Kids! Can you find me in this newsletter?

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Beach State Park

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Thoburn's Thoughts



The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park have spent a lot of time and energy over the past nine months undertaking a professionally organized Feasibility Study. It was designed to evaluate the level of success of a Capital Campaign to raise funds for a new Park Welcome Center and Education Center. In addition the Campaign would assist in funding the construction of new park staff and intern living quarters and electric service to the beach and the south kayak launching areas.

The Study was spearheaded by an eight member Oversight Committee and included personal interviews

with forty community leaders and friends of the Park. To all those who served on the Oversight Committee and those who offered their valuable input and guidance through interviews, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation.

I am very pleased to announce that, at the August Board meeting, the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park reviewed the results and recommendation of the Feasibility

Study and unanimously agreed to move forward to begin obtaining the needed improvements to the park. While we have much work ahead of us, we are very energized over the prospective park additions.

I will continue to keep you updated on our progress and encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or would like to preview our plans.



TED

Ted Thoburn, *President*
Friends of MacArthur Beach
State Park, Inc.

Shorelines

Artist in Residence

This fall's Artist in Residence, Ruth Petzold, has had a lifelong passion for photography and the sea. Born in Michigan, Ruth blends her love of nature into unique photographic images.

She has traveled to exotic and remote parts of the world in pursuit of her subject matter and has worked closely with Dr. Eugenie Clark ("The Shark Lady") and Dr. Denise Herzing of the Wild Dolphin Project.

Ruth's work is a collection of artistic and humorous portraits of the sea and its curious inhabitants. She has captured the personalities and antics of such creatures as Herman the Hermit Crab, and Eleanor the Eel, in their ocean homes.

Her works have been displayed in national museums and galleries, including The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, The Vero Beach Museum of Art, The Crooked Tree Art Center in Petoskey, Michigan, and The Lighthouse Gallery in Jupiter. She has received a gold medal for international photography and has been published in various scientific journals and National Geographic.

"Ruthie's Ridge," a dive site in the Solomon Islands, is named for her and portrays her sharing of this unique environment.

Please come to the Nature Center anytime after November 7 and see this fun, colorful photographic exhibit!

American Beauty Berry

by Junko Nomura,
Park Services Specialist

Next time you stop and say hello at the ranger station, don't forget to take a minute and look at one of the most underrated landscape plants: the

American beauty berry, whose scientific name is *Callicarpa americana*. This beautiful plant is native to the upland habitats of the southeastern United States. The light pink flowers appear in late spring or early summer on new wood or the branches grown since the shrub emerged from winter dormancy. From mid-August through winter, dense clusters of brilliant purple berries surround the branches at the paired opposite leaves.

If you love to attract our feathered friends in the winter time, then beauty berry is a must for your garden. Mockingbirds and cardinals will be seen feasting on the purple berries, as well as eight other species of birds. The fruit is astringent and is not eaten until all other foods are exhausted.

Beauty berry is not just for the birds. The ripened fruit is used in making jelly and is very tasty. Yes, I have tried the jelly on a Ritz cracker. In the past, a tonic was made from the bark to treat dropsy.

The botanist, Linnaeus, named the genus from the Greek words, *kallos* ("beauty") and *karpos* ("fruit"). There are about 135 species of beauty berry worldwide, ranging from Australia to Mexico and the Caribbean. American beauty berry is the only species native to the United States.

In March of 1792, George Washington ordered some plants from the famous naturalist, John Bartram. Included in the order were 200 beauty berries. So, the next time you want to add a little color to your garden, do as the father of our country did and plant an American beauty berry.



Shorelines



Peanut Island Excursion

by CeeCee Barrett, *Volunteer Coordinator*

To thank Park volunteers for their hard work this summer, the Friends of MacArthur Beach



State Park, Inc. supported a day trip to Peanut Island on Labor Day weekend. Forty volunteers were there



with their families to enjoy lunch and a beautiful day on the island. For many it was a first visit to Peanut Island. Captain Jim, the owner of Peanut Island Water Taxi, was kind to transport everyone.



The weather was gorgeous—not a cloud in the sky. Dan West gave us a brief history lesson on the Port of Palm Beach. We then had lunch. Junko Nomura, our Park Services Specialist, brought along a fun game called “Break the Watermelon.” It’s kind of the same concept as hitting a piñata. In the meantime, some of us went snorkeling, others did some fishing, the rest relaxed and chatted with the others. We had a day of fun in the sun.

• • •

School Tour Guides Wanted

by Art Carton, *Park Services Specialist*

It’s that time of year again, when all those smiling faces show up at the Park and flock to the Nature Center for their favorite field trip of the year. Of course, I’m talking about the kindergarten through fourth grade school program here at the Park. Every year we welcome thousands of elementary students to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

The program has been a regular event now for over 13 years. So far this year, I have signed up more school tours than we had all of last year. This is a credit to the quality program that is given by our school tour guides.

The tour is conducted mainly by volunteers. I’d first of all like to say thanks for making last year a huge success. To keep the top quality program that we have in place and to educate the elementary students of Palm Beach County **we need volunteers**. All you have to do is commit two hours of your time each week. The programs start at 10:00 a.m. and finish at noon. There will be training provided, and your first few tours will be done by shadowing one of our regular guides.

Please consider volunteering as a school tour guide. There is a nice benefit package: every guide gets to see at least ten happy, smiling children every tour and know that they might have inspired a future Park Ranger. Call Park Services Specialist Art Carton, or Volunteer Coordinator Cee Cee Barrett to get more information about volunteering (561) 624-6952.



Holiday Party

Saturday, December 17, 2005

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Park’s Amphitheater

Let’s have a warm gathering to celebrate the holidays together. Park volunteers, Friends members and their families are all invited. Food and drink will be served. Exciting entertainment for all!

Under the Hammock

Gift Gab

The Gift Shop has a new look!

New Fixtures

- A new round rack with an assortment of T-shirts for guys and gals.
- A new jewelry rack with adult and kids jewelry. You will love the assortment.

New Merchandise

- Hand puppets: turtle, crab, shark, octopus, and more.
- Adult hats: we now carry two styles of Aussie hats—unstructured Aussie with snap-up brim and structured Aussie (like the Park Rangers’).

Still Popular Items

- Dolphin pillows: now available in pink, as well as blue.
- Bubble domes: sealife design.
- Squeeze balls: sealife design.
- Kids’ books: educational and recreational.
- Adults’ Books: Reference and recreational.

Holiday Discounts

20% discount on purchases December 4-25 for all members of the Friends, volunteers, and Park staff. Have a happy and safe holiday season!



Marty

*Gift Shop Guru, Administrator,
Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park*

All profits from the gift shop go to the Park to support the programs and activities that you, your family and your friends enjoy all year long.

Manager’s Musings

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy. It has been a challenging year for everyone in the southeast, as we need to take time to express our appreciation for the many good things around us. We were fortunate at MacArthur Beach State Park that Hurricane Katrina missed us. We were only closed for a few hours, and we were open for business and debris clean-up on Friday morning.

Our sister parks to the south were not so lucky. Besides a lot of debris, buildings and utilities were damaged, trees uprooted, and beaches washed away. We sent some of our staff down to help with the recovery, and they represented us well. It did not take long, but soon the parks were all open, even if on a limited basis.

Now is the time to come together to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast. Please support the recovery in any way that you can. If you can do nothing else, try to conserve energy as much as possible. There are many sources available to tell you how

you can help.

Meanwhile, we need to take time to reflect on getting back to normal. The Park is open every day from 8:00 a.m. until sundown. We invite everyone to come and visit the Park and partake in the tranquility offered.

Our Annual Beach clean-up is on schedule for September 17 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Please call Tiffany Reinson for more details at (561) 624-6950. Our monthly Music Under Moonlight begins again in October. Please see the calendar for more details.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers, CSO members and staff for working together to make this park one of the brightest stars of the *Real Florida* state parks.

Terry

Terry Coulliette, *Park Manager*

Did You Know...

...that there is only one biography of John D. MacArthur written by a person who actually knew him?

...that the biography, titled *A View from the Bar*, first published in 1996, is going into its third printing in October?

...that the author of the biography, Bob Sanford, was beverage manager and bartender at the Colonnades Hotel in Palm Beach Shores, where Mr. MacArthur lived? He regularly served Mr. MacArthur his own, private label scotch at the bar and says “even though Mr. Mac could be an S.O.B. I wanted to prove that he was a common man. If you were willing to do your job well, listen to what he had to say and not promise anything you couldn’t deliver, he treated you well.”

...that the John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation gave much needed help to Mr. Sanford by providing photos and a wealth of information about Mr. MacArthur’s life before the he came to the Colonnades Hotel? “If it wasn’t for them,” says Sanford, “I would not have been able to get the book published; I didn’t have enough background information.”

...that Bob Stanford has offered to share some funny and fascinating stories about his former boss in future issues of *The Dune News*?

...that you can obtain a copy of Mr. Sanford’s book from Rainbow Books at (863) 648-4420.

Volunteer

Spotlight



Donna Tighe

by CeeCee Barrett

Donna is one of the many enthusiastic volunteers, whom I have had the pleasure of working with this summer. The enthusiasm that volunteers like Donna display makes the Park an awesome place to work and volunteer for.

Donna moved to Florida three years ago and has been volunteering at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park for 2 1/2 years. In the short time

that I have gotten to know Donna, I've found that she has a love for music and the outdoors.

Since Donna became a volunteer, she's been an active Reef Tour Guide and a Turtle Walk Guide. She also organizes music for the Moonlight Concerts.

Donna is an engineering technician for the National Resource Conservation Service. But I wouldn't say that is who she is, rather I'd say she is a wonderful person, who also has a love for the environment.

So, I asked Donna what made her want to be a volunteer at the Park. Donna said that she loved the Park the first time she visited. She saw many things to do here that she enjoyed, including the opportunity to be involved with turtle preservation and music. She loves what old Florida used to be like, so she decided to become a volunteer. I'd say we are quite lucky to have her. Thank you, Donna, for all of your hard work and "groovy vibes."

Welcome New Members!

Emmanuelle Breton
James L. Broadhead Family

Samuel Lord
James and Barbara Moriarty

Ed and Gail Tomei
John and Grace Young

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

Membership Application

A not-for-profit Citizens' Support Organization

Benefactor... \$500+ Patron... \$100-\$499 Family... \$75 Individual...\$40 Student... \$20

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please send this application along with your donation to:

The Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.

PO Box 32395

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420

For more information on the "Friends" please call (561) 776-7449

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the "Friends" may be obtained from The Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352

Up-n-Coming



October

02	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
08	Saturday	11-12:00 p.m.	F.U.N. Program: <i>Fish Printing</i>
09	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
15	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Butterfly Walk
15	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	<i>MacArthur Under Moonlight</i> : Bill Rich, Bluegrass
16	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
29	Saturday	12:00 p.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park

November

06	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
06	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
12	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park
12	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	<i>MacArthur Under Moonlight</i> : Band TBA
13	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Recreational Skills: <i>Estuary Walk</i> , 10 yrs. old and up
20	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session

December

04	Sunday	2:00 p.m.	<i>Introduction to Kayaking</i> by Adventure Times Kayaks
10	Saturday	11-12:00 p.m.	F.U.N. Program: <i>All about Snakes</i>
10	Saturday	7-9:00 p.m.	<i>MacArthur Under Moonlight</i> : Rod MacDonald, Folk
11	Sunday	1-3:00 p.m.	Volunteer Orientation
17	Saturday	6-8:30 p.m.	Holiday Party
18	Sunday	1-5:00 p.m.	Bluegrass Jam Music Session
24	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Birding at MacArthur Park

Crab Migration *Continued from page 1.*



**John D. MacArthur
Beach State Park**

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Websites:
www.macarthurbeach.org
www.floridastateparks.org

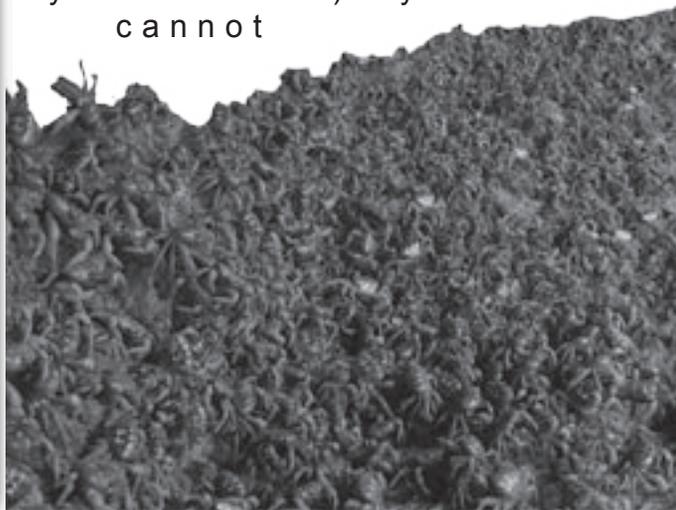
More than just a beach!

Newsletter created by

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South Florida. One reason is that people can easily catch and later eat migrating females. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulates the catch of blue land crabs—during their reproductive season (between July 1 and October 31) they cannot

be caught. We know little about these crabs, and thus have often had a great impact on these venerable animals. If you are lucky to encounter migrating females, give way and simply watch their interesting activities. You will sense their mystery and dynamic nature.



Mass migration of the Christmas Island red crab (Gecarcoidea Natalis), Australia. Photo courtesy Dr. Hung-Chang Liu.



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