

PALMETTO PAL'S PAPER

Our community connecting you to Palmetto Island State Park

A newsletter by Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc.

Volume 4, Issue 4

Spring weather is finally here!

April is shaping up to be a big month at Palmetto Island State Park. It looks like Mother Nature as finally decided to show us her new Spring wardrobe and people are anxious to be out doors soaking up the sunshine. There are a lot of things you can do as a family in this beautiful weather. Camping, tenting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, bike riding, photography, picnicking and cooking outside are just a few ways that you can enjoy your visit on your own at Palmetto Island State Park. The list goes on and on.

I know everyone is looking forward to the Splash pad being open. Mark your calendar. It officially opens on Easter weekend. We're doing our best to coordinate a concessions vendor near the splash pad each Saturday so that you and your family can enjoy cold treats.

I can hardly contain my excitement at being able to tell you that we've ordered the playground. Expect it early this summer. We just wanted you to know that it's on its way and we'll be keeping you posted. I can't tell you how truly happy Friends of Palmetto Island are to be able to donate such an amenity to the park.

We hope that you find Palmetto Island State Park as enjoyable as we do.

Hoppy Springtime!



The Splash pad will officially open on **Easter Weekend!**



Friends of Palmetto Island publishes this electronic newsletter on the 1st of each month.

If you're interested in receiving a copy please e-mail friendsofpisp@yahoo.com.

To 'un-subscribe' e-mail the above.

Only current members without an e-mail address will receive a copy of this newsletter by mail. Download our membership form by clicking [here](#). Thank you! Please feel free to share.

2014 BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

We had a real good Annual membership meeting on March 25. We covered a huge agenda and held board member and officer elections. One of our guests, Brad 'Bones' Glorioso with Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiast, visited with the us and explained what he and his volunteers do at the park. You'll find more info in L.A.R.E. throughout the newsletter. Brad is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about these little creatures. Speaking of passionate people....listed below are the volunteers who will help guide our group for 2014.

Shannon Neveaux - President

Sherrill Sagrera - Vice President

Marietta Harrington - Secretary

Mia Broussard - Treasurer

Dawn d'Augereau

Antoine 'Jr' Barras

Carlene Meaux

Mark your Calendar for 2014!...FPISP meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at the park at 6:00pm unless otherwise noted.

April 29

May 27 ♦ June 24 ♦ July 29 ♦ Aug 26 ♦ Sept 30

Oct 28 ♦ Nov 25 ♦ Dec 30



EARTHDAY - APRIL 13

In celebration of Earthday, Friends of Palmetto Island will be at **Vermilionville** on **April 13** from 10:30 to 4pm. We'll be partnering with Interpretive Ranger Fred to promote Palmetto Island and all it has too offer. Admission into the celebration is \$5 per person, 5 and under enter for free.

Find out more at www.bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Or call 337-233-4077

No D.O.G. in MAY

Latanier Cookers **will not** be hosting a Dutch Oven Gathering at Palmetto Island State Park in May.

They would like to invite you to join them for the State Dutch Oven Gathering at Chicot State Park on May 3-5.

Follow Latanier Cookers to Chicot and experience Louisiana Dutch Oven cooking at it's finest.

Click here to find out more about the event.



Dutch Oven Gathering

April 12

Palmetto Island State Park Pavilion #1

Latanier Cookers (pronounced lah ton yā) will be
Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating.

We're hosting a D.O.G.

(a.k.a. Dutch Oven Gathering)

Join us for a complimentary chicken stew with Dutch Oven Sides and Desserts. ♦ Gathering starts at 9 A.M. ♦ Pots will be on the table about Noon. Come by and visit cookers while they're putting their dishes together to find out how it's done. ♦ No charge for the tasting, but if you like it ... Donations are always welcome. *Entrance fees into park apply.* Latanier Cookers is a chapter of the Louisiana Dutch Oven Society. To become a member or for more information call Latanier Cookers at 337-893-2470 or 337-501-1535. **Find us on [Facebook](#)**



**No
D.O.G
in May**

Dutch Ovens and Membership are NOT required to participate.

Bring your pots! ALL Cookers are welcome! Enjoy Food, Friendship & Fun!

RECIPES WANTED FOR LATANIER COOKBOOK

Latanier Cookers are putting together a cookbook. We are asking for recipes to be submitted. There are various ways of submitting recipes.

Mail to: Louise Meaux Duhon , 15440 St. Elmo Road, Erath, LA 70533

Email to: louduhon@gmail.com

Hand deliver them to any members of Latanier Cookers or bring them to our Dutch Oven Gatherings at Palmetto Island State Park.

You can also submit your recipe online yourself @ www.typensave.com

User Name: Latanier Password: palmetto

Type in your recipe following the instructions. Please submit recipes before **September 1, 2014**. We would like to include all recipes, but any recipes received after that date will not be able to be added.

Dutch Oven recipes are ideal, but not mandatory. We'll convert the recipes that we can for Dutch Oven Cooking.

Thank you

Latanier Cookers

Hop over to **Palmetto Island State Park** *Saturday, April 12th*



Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 am

(outside the meeting room & nature center)

Prizes given for Golden Egg and Most Eggs

The categories: Ages 7-10yrs; 4-6yrs; 3 and under

Easter Coloring and Activities *(Nature Center)* **10am-4pm**

Latanier Cookers' Dutch Oven Gathering *(Pavilion 1)* 9am-1pm

Nature Hike *(Nature Center)* **11 am**

Easter Egg Dyeing Fun Hour *(Nature Center)* **2pm**

Bring your boiled eggs and we'll help you dye and decorate them.



Don't forget your Egg Basket and Camera!
We're hoping the Easter Bunny will
surprise us with a visit after the Egg Hunt.



For more information call 893-7047 or 356-6761



LOUISIANA
Pick your Passion



Brown Thrasher



Hooded Warbler



Common Yellowthroat



BIRD BANDING AT PALMETTO

Banding conducted by [Erik I. Johnson, PhD, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Louisiana | National Audubon Society](#)

“**Louisiana Bird Observatory**, a program of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette will provide a bird banding demonstration during the Stir the Pot Seafood Cook-off and Festival on April 26. If you would like to visit and see some of the spectacular birds of the park up close, come find us on the natural trail boardwalk between 7am and noon. A few highlights from the March 29 monthly banding session included some early-season migrants like Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and White-eyed Vireo. By late April, bird migration will be peaking, so you never know what we might catch!”

Cheers, Erik

Click [here](#) to see pictures of the March 29th banding taken by **Mrs. Sandra Dehart.**



White-eyed Vireo



Worm-eating Warbler



Northern Cardinal

Palmetto Island State Park- Nature Center

Programs April 2014



-Weekends Programs-

-Saturdays - 11 am - Ranger Led Hike *New Trails*

Guests are welcome to join a ranger led hike which will introduce them to Palmetto Island State Park. Hike will focus on the many plants and animals that call the park home. Hike will also provide information on the facilities and park itself. Guests will meet in the nature center.

*tours available during the week upon appointment (call 337-893-7047)

-Saturdays - 2 pm - Nature Center Fun Hour

Park guests of all ages are welcome to enjoy a fun filled activity in the nature center. Programs will vary each week and will include an activity such as wildlife bingo or arts and crafts. Call the nature center at 337-893-7047 for more information on the program of the week.

-Monthly Programs-

-Sunday, April 6th and May 4th - 10 am - Guided Canoe Tour

Come join a ranger led guided canoe tour through Palmetto Island. Tour will include an introductory lesson on paddling, followed by a tour through the park's three ponds. It is free to attend, but guests must pre-register by calling 337-893-7047 or email palmettoisland_int@crt.la.gov

-Saturday April 12th – 10 am-4 pm – Easter at the Park

Children of all ages are invited to attend the Easter activities at the nature center complex. There will be an Easter egg hunt at 10 am, egg decorating at 2 pm, and arts and crafts throughout the day in the nature center. See program flyer on page?????

-Saturday, April 12th – 9 am - 12 pm – Dutch Oven Cooking

Grab your appetites and come enjoy a meal cooked by the local black iron pot group, Latanier cookers. It is free to attend but donations are always welcome.

-Saturday April 12th – 8 pm - Night Hike

Grab your flashlight, bug spray and meet at the nature center at 8 p.m. Hike will take approximately one hour. Most of the park's mammals, such as deer, are more active during the night at the park, so who knows what we may run into!

-Saturday April 26th – 10 am-5 pm – Stir the Pot

Bring the whole family out for Palmetto Island's 4th annual seafood and music festival. There will be a cook-off, nature demonstrations, arts and crafts, and many more fun activities planned throughout the day.

LOUISIANA
Pick your Passion

Nature Center Winter Hours

Tuesday- Saturday 10am-4pm or by appointment (337-893-7047)

Hours are subject to change based on school groups/special events.



Interpretive Ranger, Fred Densdorf, is looking for volunteers to man the Nature Center and help out on Saturday's this summer. You would be asked to remain inside the Nature Center while he conducts the guided hikes and help out during the fun hour. You must be 18 or older and no knowledge of plants and animals is mandatory. If you're interested in donating your time, please contact **Fred at 337-893-7047.**

Friends could use your help for the **Easter Fun Day** and on Saturday's manning the new air conditioned **Friends trailer.** We will add your name to the end of the year drawing for a 2 night stay in a cabin (\$300 value) each time that you volunteer. **Call 337-652-2484** or email friend-sofpisp@yahoo.com.....Thank you!



Calling all Cookers!

Get your Friends and Family together and Register Your Cook-off team Today!

Stir the Pot
seafood cook-off & festival
www.stirthepotcookoff.com

Palmetto Island State Park Abbeville, LA

Sat., Apr. 26
 10 am-5 pm

*Native arts and crafts,
 displays, hikes and talks*

*Music from noon-5 pm by:
 Chubby Carrier & the Bayou
 Swamp Band*

The Beau Young Band

Cook-off begins at 7 am with Judging at 11:30 am

Two divisions - Amateur and Professional

Two categories - Seafood and Wild Game

Entry fee: 1 category \$100 for a 4 person team; \$150 for both categories

<i>Prizes: 1st place</i>	<i>\$400.00 (each category/division)</i>
<i>2nd place</i>	<i>\$300.00 (each category/division)</i>
<i>3rd place</i>	<i>\$200.00 (each category/division)</i>

To register your team, please visit www.stirthepotcookoff.com or call the Vermillion Parish Tourist Commission at 898-6600 or director@vermillion.org if you have any questions.

Stir the Pot Volunteer Form

It's time once again for the 4th Annual "Stir the Pot Cook-off & Festival" and we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help put on this fundraiser for the Palmetto Island State Park. In exchange for donating their time volunteers will receive free entry to the festival as well as five (5) complimentary food/beverages tickets. Friends of Palmetto Island will add your name to an end of the year drawing for a 2 night stay in a Cabin at Palmetto Island State Park. For questions call **337-652-2484**.

To volunteer please fill out the information below and send by:

Mail: P.O. Box 33, Perry, LA 70575 email it to friendsofpisp@yahoo.com Fax: 337-893-1807

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Volunteer Availability ☐ 8 am – 6 pm ☐ 8 am – 1 pm ☐ 1 – 6 pm

Please select your top 2 volunteer positions by placing a 1 for your top preference and a 2 for your second preference. Volunteer positions will be filled on a first come first serve basis. The earlier you submit the form the greater chance you have of receiving your top choice.

☐ Nature Center ☐ Ticket Sales ☐ Cook-off ☐ Beer/Drink Booth

☐ Festival Entrance ☐ Music ☐ Festival Clean-up ☐ Food Tent

☐ Auction ☐ Vendors ☐ Friends Booth ☐ Where Needed

In kind Donations

We all understand that the less money we spend on purchasing goods, the more money we can put back into the park. We would greatly appreciate any item you would like to donate to our **raffle or live auction**. As we are a 501c3 public charity, all donations are tax deductible. We're posting on Facebook the items we have so far. Feel free to call me at 337-652-2484.



If baking is your thing...then something **sweet**, packaged so that it can be sold for a \$1 will put a smile on someone's face. For info on the sweets table call Davlynn at 337-371-1151 **THANK YOU!!!!**

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUND RATTLER?

by Brad 'Bones' Glorioso, Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts

It was about 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, and it had been a beautiful and productive day surveying for amphibians and reptiles at the park. Philip Vanbergen and I arrived at 10 a.m. and had thus far found many individuals of 15 species of amphibians and reptiles, including 5 new species to add to our overall list. We were just across the bridge near the boat launch and had decided to call it a day and started walking side-by-side back towards my car parked in the parking lot near the Vermilion River when we heard a woman's voice from nearby shout a word that elicits a very different reaction from people like Philip and I than the average person. Snake!!! Philip and I both immediately turned our heads to look at each other as if each of us were making sure the other heard what we thought we had heard. Without any words necessary, we immediately ran towards the voice. In the past when I have come across similar situations, one of three things usually happens: 1) the snake is long gone before I could get there, 2) the snake has already been killed before I could get there, or 3) the snake is there and the person still has an eye on it. Luckily for Philip and I, not only was the snake still there, the park visitors were all still in the area observing the snake. We immediately recognized the snake as a Dekay's Brownsnake, *Storeria dekayi*, and captured it before it escaped so that we could get voucher photos before releasing it. After introducing ourselves and speaking about the inventory at the park, the park visitors seemed very interested in the natural history information we gave them about the species they found. It was a new species for the inventory and quite a serendipitous encounter!

Species Profile – DeKay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*)



Dekay's Brownsnake is a harmless, small live-bearing nonvenomous snake, seldom reaching more than one foot in total length (the pictured individual from the park is a grown adult). It is a wide-ranging species, with several subspecies (the Marsh Brownsnake subspecies *Storeria dekayi limnetes* occurs at Palmetto Island), and can be found throughout much of the eastern United States, being quite common in many areas. Brownsnakes possess rough-appearing keeled scales (as opposed to smooth scales) with a light mid-dorsal stripe (along the spine) contrasted against a darker color on the rest of the body, which is usually brownish, but can be more gray or red. The venter, or underside of the snake, is usually pale and unmarked, but many times with small

black spots. Brownsnakes prefer moist habitats and are commonly observed hiding under cover objects in urban gardens, where they feed upon slugs, snails, and other small invertebrates. Though they are obviously capable, as all snakes are, I have never observed a Brownsnake attempt to bite. However, they will sometimes become defensive when handled, flattening out their body to make themselves appear larger and more intimidating. I know many people erroneously call these snakes ground rattlers and many even believe they are highly venomous. This is simply not true. This common small snake species is completely harmless and actually provides a great pest control service to homeowners who care about the health of their lawns and gardens.

If you think the Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts (L.A.R.E.) group is something you want to be a part of please feel free to join on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/320287411376884/?bookmark_t=group. Also, please visit my website which acts complementary to our group at www.louisianaherps.com for lots of pictures and information about Louisiana's amphibians and reptiles. If you have any questions or are interested in helping out with the surveys at Palmetto Island please feel free to contact me at gloriosob429@gmail.com. We try to do a survey on either Saturday or Sunday every weekend. Prior amphibian and reptile experience is not necessary – only a passion for nature and wildlife!

Inventory Update:

So far, we have completed 6 surveys (through Mar. 9) and have documented 25 total species of amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the park. The following 7 species are in addition to the 18 species listed in the March newsletter (p. 8). As it continues to warm up we anticipate adding more species, especially snakes, to our list.

Reptiles

Nerodia erythrogaster Plain-bellied Watersnake

Nerodia rhombifer Diamond-backed Watersnake

Storeria dekayi Dekay's Brownsnake

Chelydra serpentina Snapping Turtle

Kinosternon subrubrum Eastern Mud Turtle

Pseudemys concinna River Cooter

Trachemys scripta Pond Slider



We think Brad and his band of volunteers are doing great work at Palmetto Island State Park. Lets see if we can help him make his survey better. **Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts** are looking for a few items to help with conducting the best survey possible. You may have some of these things hanging around your house.

1 or 1 1/2 in PVC pipes with caps (*sections should be at least 3ft long*)

Tin— *pieces no less than a 2ft X 3ft*

Turtle traps

Basking Logs

Of course, things like bait for turtle traps, Rite in the Rain Paper and AA batteries are always appreciated. If you would like to support the survey by donating these items or money to purchase these items then give Brad a call at **504-250-4760** or email him at gloriosob429@gmail.com. Brad will be able to explain to you how his group uses these items. Brad is at the park almost every weekend and will coordinate receiving the donations with you.



Keep the land clean for the animals!

Friends of
Palmetto Island State Park, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
 P.O. Box 33, Perry, LA 70575
friendsofpisp@yahoo.com and Facebook



Please Mail To:

Reservations can now be made for our **2014 Halloween Celebration— October 25**
& Stir the Pot Seafood and Wild game Cook off—April 26 .
Click [Here](#) to reserve your Camping sites today!

Park Hours of Operation:

Gates are open 6am-9pm (Sun-Thurs) and 6am-10pm (Fri & Sat). **Entrance station** is open: April-September, 6am-7pm (Sun-Thur) 6am-10pm (Fri & Sat) October- March, 8am-5pm (Sun-Thur) 8am-10pm (Fri & Sat). All park sites close at 10pm on Friday, Saturday and days preceding holidays. **Entrance Fees:** \$2 per person; Free for Seniors (62 and older) and children age 3 and under. Palmetto Island State Park has **96 camp sites**, **6 cabins**, **4 pavilions** and a **meeting room** to rent. **Canoe** rentals are \$20 per day or \$5 per hour. The **Splashpad** is open April-September, Tuesday –Sunday from 8am to 8pm. For more information about the Park, visit www.lastateparks.com, call 888.677.0094 toll free or 337.893.3930 locally. Call 337-893-7047 for current Nature Center hours and **Interpre- tive Programs** not listed in this issue. **Reservations** for overnight accommodations at Palmetto Island State Park can be made [online](#) or through the Call Center at 877.226.7652.