

July 2014

# 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 7



## **Consider Palmetto Island S.P.'s Entrance Circle BEAUTIFIED!**

Finally after all this time the project is almost complete. We have just a few finishing touches left. **THANK YOU!!!** To all the 'Friends' and volunteers who helped make this project a reality. Special THANK YOU to **Christine Devenport** with Abbeville Garden Club and **Dan Devenport**, County Agent with LSU Ag Center. This project wouldn't have been a success or even possible without your vision and guidance. All of the plants incorporated into the circle were purposely chosen for the ability to attract birds and butterflies. We hope you enjoy the blooms and color.

Friends of Palmetto Island publishes this electronic newsletter on the 1st of each month. To receive a copy please e-mail [friendsofpisp@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



# ExxonMobil

In 2013, ExxonMobil volunteers in the United States donated more than 539,000 hours of their personal time to charitable, non-profit organizations. In recognition of their efforts, ExxonMobil Foundation contributed more than \$7.8 million to more than 4,200 organizations where they volunteered. ExxonMobil and Mobil retirees and surviving spouses were a large part of the volunteer effort in 2013, donating more than 311,500 hours to 2,500 non-profit organizations. In recognition of these efforts, ExxonMobil Foundation contributed more than \$3.9 million to the organizations where they volunteered. **Friends of Palmetto Island State Park** is a recipient of Mobil retiree volunteer hours and money from ExxonMobil Foundation.

Find out if your company offers grants to non-profits when you volunteer to benefit the charity that's close to your heart.

**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.**

**July 29**

Aug 26 ♦ Sept 30 ♦ Oct 28 ♦ Nov 25 ♦ Dec 30

## **Summer is here and so are the Sno-cones!**

Weather permitting, the Concessions trailer will be parked at the splash pad near the playground on **Friday, July 4th** and each Saturday & Sunday for the month of July.





Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating

## Dutch Oven Gathering

# July 12

[www.facebook.com/#!/LatanierCookers](http://www.facebook.com/#!/LatanierCookers)

9 am - 1 pm @ Pavilion 1

**Palmetto Island State Park**

**Jambalaya and Dutch Oven sides are on the menu this month.**

### 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 at the Dutch Oven Gatherings at Palmetto Island State Park.

You can also submit your recipe **online** yourself @ [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com)

User Name: Latanier Password: palmetto Type in your recipe following the instructions.

Please submit recipes before **September 1, 2014**. 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 are appropriate for Dutch Oven Cooking.**



To celebrate 5 years of LDOS, a custom limited number of Dutch Ovens has been ordered. We expect ovens to arrive in September. Pre-orders are being taken at this time. You can order through your chapter or LDOS website

Pre-order cost is \$40 each if you are picking up your order. To have an oven shipped anywhere in the US there is an additional \$20 charge. For a total of \$60 each. ([www.ladutch.com](http://www.ladutch.com))

Reserve your custom Dutch Oven by contacting Danny with Latanier Cookers at 337-501-1535 or Carlene at 337-893-2470





“The Louisiana Bird Observatory will be conducting its monthly banding operations at the park on Saturday, July 12. Some of the swamp’s brightest creatures like Prothonotary Warblers and Hooded Warblers might be expected. Come visit the banding station between 7am and noon at the Nature Trail boardwalk, and show your support for this project by purchasing one of our t-shirts highlighting the amazing photography of Eric Liffmann, Baton Rouge Audubon past-president. For more information about Louisiana Bird Observatory, ‘like’ us at [www.facebook.com/labirdobservatory](http://www.facebook.com/labirdobservatory).”

Cheers, Erik



Hooded Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



Acadian Flycatcher



# BYYOU ART FUNDRAISER PAINTING CLASS

## TO BENEFIT PALMETTO STATE PARK,

### SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF PALMETTO STATE PARK, INC.

Sign up to come do a little painting! Even if you have never painted before, you will be shown step by step how to paint a picture which you can keep for yourself or give to someone as a one of a kind gift.

**Date of class:** Saturday, August 2, 2014 @ 1PM

(Please arrive at least 15 minutes before class begins)

**Location of classes:** Meeting Room @ Palmetto State Park

(Please note—entry fee into park will apply.)

**Cost per Class:** (All supplies included)

11"x14" size painting/\$30 per person

16"x20" size painting/\$40 per person

**Please Note:**

- Registrations will only be accepted by mail!
- You will be allowed to bring your own wine.
- Children are allowed to participate, but must be accompanied by an adult.

**Artist Instructor:**

Jennifer Doxey Gayneaux of ByYou Art Classes

337.652.0032 jennifer.gayneaux@yahoo.com

For more info contact Friends of Palmetto Island

337-652-2484, friendsofpisp@yahoo.com



#### Fundraiser Painting - "5 Peppers"

You may choose to paint a smaller version, 11"x14" or the larger version, 16"x20" of the painting. You may also choose to adjust colors, patterns and elements of the painting as we paint each part.



For updates, newly added classes, pictures of paintings and more information, you can find ByYou Art Classes on Facebook.

This registration form was updated on 6.30.14

Registrations for each of the classes are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To ensure your enrollment in the class, please mail your registration form with payment as soon as possible.

#### Refund/Cancellation Policy:

Registration fees are refunded when the class is canceled by the artist. Enrollment is limited; therefore registrations are non-refundable unless cancelled at least 24 hours before the date of your class. (Please leave a voice message at 652-0032.) The Artist Instructor reserves the right to cancel, postpone or change class location in light of unforeseen circumstances.

## BYYOU ART CLASSES

### REGISTRATION FORM

Detach and return only the bottom portion of this sheet. To complete the registration process, mail this completed form along with payment to:

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

**\*\*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 'Jennifer Gayneaux' or 'ByYou Art Classes'**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

I have included a payment of (circle one) : \$30 (11"x14") or \$40 (16"x20")

I have included a payment by (circle one) : CASH/MONEY ORDER or CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

(Sorry, no credit cards!) PLEASE NOTE: There will be a \$10 charge for all checks that are returned as NSF!

I would like to receive an (circle one) EMAIL or PHONE CALL to confirm receipt of my registration.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Neveaux at

337-652-2484

friendsofpisp@yahoo.com

This registration form was updated on 6.30.14



# Palmetto Island's Abundant Non-venomous Watersnakes

by  
Brad 'Bones' Glorioso

The Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts (L.A.R.E.) group has documented three of the four species of non-venomous watersnakes that likely inhabit Palmetto Island State Park. A fifth species, the Gulf Saltmarsh Snake (*Nerodia clarkii clarkii*), may get pushed into the park during storm surges associated with tropical systems, but normally is only found in brackish waters. All of these watersnakes are routinely misidentified as the venomous Cottonmouth, which some people call the Water Moccasin.

By far the most abundant watersnake at the park is the **Broad-banded Watersnake**, *Nerodia fasciata confluens*. We always find multiple examples of this species during each survey we conduct. They are especially plentiful off the boardwalk near the Nature Center, where they routinely bask on top of the many logs in the swamp. As their name implies, they generally have bands of color along their body, which are usually whitish or orange. They are semi-aquatic, and usually are not found far from water. They can grow to over 4 feet in length, but are usually shorter.



The next most abundant watersnake at the park is the **Plain-bellied Watersnake**, *Nerodia erythrogaster*. These snakes can also be found basking on logs near the boardwalk, but they can also be found quite a ways from water. As a juvenile and young adult, this species will have blotches along the dorsum, but as large adults they become more uniformly dark colored with only a faint pattern discernable. They can grow to over 5 feet in length, but are relatively slender.

We have also detected the **Northern Diamond-backed Watersnake**, *Nerodia rhombifer rhombifer*, at the park, but only on a few occasions. This snake has been found in the swamp off the boardwalk and also along the shore of the larger bodies of water. They are more aquatic than either the Broad-banded Watersnake or the Plain-bellied Watersnake. They can grow quite long, sometimes over 5 feet, and are heavy-bodied.



*Watersnakes cont.*

Although we have not detected it yet, the Mississippi Green Watersnake, *Nerodia cyclopion*, likely occurs at the park. All watersnakes, when they are harassed and feel threatened, will flatten out their bodies and heads to make them appear more imposing to the threat. Even though watersnakes are not venomous they can still inflict a nasty bite, especially when grabbed, and the best policy is to leave all snakes go about their important roles in the ecosystem.

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/LouisianaHerps>. Also, please visit my website which acts complementary to our group at [www.louisianaherps.com](http://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](mailto: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 12 surveys (through end of June) and have documented 33 total species of amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the park. We documented the exotic Mediterranean Gecko this past month, adding to the 32 species listed in previous newsletters.



# Palmetto Island State Park T-shirts



**\$20  
each**

Lime, Hot Pink and Light Blue



Youth sizes available (S, M, L)

**Call 33-652-2484 and we'll have someone deliver them to you at the park.**



## **Palmetto Island State Park**

### **Nature Center Programs**

### **July 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-**

##### **-Friday July 4th - 10 am - 4pm - Celebration**

Come celebrate the birth of the greatest nation in the world at Palmetto Island State Park. There will be a nature hike at 1pm and children activities throughout the day in the nature center. Concession stand will be open by the splash pad for July 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

##### **-Sunday July 6th & August 3rd - 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](mailto:palmettoisland_int@crt.la.gov)

##### **-Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> - 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 July 12<sup>th</sup> - 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.

**Nature Center Summer Hours-** Friday-Sunday 10am-4pm or by appointment (337-893-7047) \*hours are subject to change\*

**LOUISIANA**  
*Pick your Passion*



# Geocaching Fun Day

When we partnered with Shawn to coordinate this event, none of us at Friends of Palmetto **really knew** what Geocaching was. Yes...we had heard of 'geocaching' and understood it was a '*high-tech treasure hunt using GPS technology*'. But it's not that simple, it's sooooo much more. We learned so much from the people who attended. We really enjoyed their enthusiasm and passion. They use words like *Craptastic*, *moogle*, *trackables*, *path tags*, *level 5*, *FTF (first to find)* and *DNF (did not find)*. I found that like Latanier cooks, part of an event is about the gathering. Geocachers will visit about the places they have discovered on Earth, the caches that they have found and where their next adventure is. Some have set personal goals, like trying to find a cache every day for a month. I noticed that they were a lot like campers. Some cachers travel alone and kinda just do their own thing. Others are very informative and keep note books that display some of their treasures and goals. A lot of couples cache together. I think the parents who cache with their kids are really something special. 32 families registered for the day. We were able to visit with some of the participants and found out they were from as far as Mississippi, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, French Settlement, Franklin and Mamou. We already have ideas for next year's event. There are now 11 permanent caches at Palmetto Island State Park. I hope you'll download the free app at [Geoching.com](http://Geoching.com) and explore the park looking for some of the treasures we have hidden.



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

Please Mail To:

Louisiana State Parks has decided to go back to Reserve America for online reservations will resume on Tuesday, July 1.



### **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](http://www.lastateparks.com), call 888.677.0094 toll free or 337.893.3930 locally. Call 337-893-7047 for current Nature Center hours and **Interpretive 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.