

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 5

EXPLORING PALMETTO ISLAND

I'm so excited about this program. Everyone asks 'What is Geocaching?' I say it's simply an outdoor treasure hunt using a GPS technology. A family friendly activity for ALL ages. You can learn more about it at www.geocaching.com. The event is posted and the coordinates will be published online at 10am on the day of the event. We've designed the event so that if you don't have a GPS enabled device you can still participate. We want you to see all that Palmetto Island has to offer. So the event is planned to get you to explore! I think there are geocaches at all the state parks. Palmetto Island currently has 5 active geocaches. We're going to add 5 more permanent caches so that if you can't make it for the day you can still spend the day geocaching at Palmetto Island!

We'll have a total of 20 caches for the day. **Some of the caches will have coupons and prizes.** Like...t-shirts, hats, dutch oven desserts, snow cones and more. I think it will really be FUN. Don't even worry about not knowing how to do this, we'll help you get started on your outdoor adventure. Shawn Moore our "Master cacher" will be on site providing everyone who registers with maps and hints for the day's event.

See event flyer on page 3.



The first 40 participants who sign the registration log at our help desk get one of these Palmetto Island 'path tags'

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

PALMETTO ISLAND STATE PARK CELEBRATES PLAYGROUND

Founding members of Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc. recall that adding a playground was the most requested amenity by park patrons. The splash pad is a fantastic feature, but it's only open from April to September and patrons repeatedly expressed wanting something that the kids could enjoy year round. Being able to donate a playground to the park has been a dream come true. Friends were overjoyed to invite children to experience the playground as installation was completed on Friday, April 25, 2014, less than 24 hours before the Stir the Pot Seafood Cook-off and Festival.

The \$27,000 + project was made possible through generous donors who contributed unrestricted donations or participated in the ongoing Amenity Sponsorship Program at Palmetto Island State Park. Begun last fall, this program grants temporary sponsorship of select amenities at the park. You can get more information on the levels of sponsorship that are still available by contacting Friends of Palmetto Island State Park.

Fundraisers, such as Stir the Pot: Seafood Cook-off and Festival, also help raise funds needed to continue to provide events and amenities for the Park patrons to enjoy. With nearly 1,000 people in attendance and over 20 cook-off teams and vendors, the 2014 Festival raised over \$10,000.

So, when you support the park by donating dollars through Friends of Palmetto Island, by attending our festival, a painting class, buying plate lunches, t-shirts and raffle tickets, wonderful things like the playground happen at the park. The playground project is just one example of how Friends of Palmetto Island uses donations to bring visible, tangible enhancements to Palmetto Island State Park. Friends' future projects for Palmetto Island are to add a merry-go-round feature to the new playground, then to enhance and expand existing trails allowing park patrons to explore more of what Palmetto Island has to offer.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Playground: Front Row Left to Right - Logan d'Augereau, Kaden d'Augereau, Sue Neveaux, Kennedy and Sue Giles w/Fabcon Dawn d'Augereau, Marcelle Guidry, Park Manager, Lt Gov. Jay Dardenne, Shannon Neveaux, Mayor Mark Piazza, Dr. Stuart Johnson, Assistant Sec. O.S.P., Ali Miller. Second Row left to right - Robert Cornel and Corey Langlinais w/AGL Resources, Kenneth Neveaux, Kathy Richard, Mia Broussard, James Menard, Bruce Sonnier

Geocaching Fun Day













Geocaching:
High tech
scavenger hunt

Discover Palmetto Island State Park...cache by cache!

Saturday, June 28, 2014

10 am - 2 pm

-  Free to participate in Geocaching Fun Day...Park entry fees apply
-  9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Registration - Help Station (located near the playground)
-  20 caches hidden through out the park (10 permanent; 10 temporary)
-  GPS-enabled devise is not required to participate.
-  Coordinates an additional information will be given to Registered participants
-  Challenges.....1st to find all 10 temporary caches
-  Download the free geocaching app at : www.geocaching.com
-  Be stealthy and aware of those around you...don't give the cache sites away.
-  Remember to bring insect repellent and wear suitable outdoor clothing.
-  Participants MUST be willing to EXPLORE and HAVE FUN!!!!

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt game that combines exploring the out doors and using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. **First time geocachers can find out more at www.geocaching.com**



**For more event
information call**

Shawn @ 337-254-5373

Shannon @ 337-652-2484





New 'Can' Recycling Bins

Keep your eyes out for our new blue recycling bins around the park. You'll find them near the trash cans when we host special events. Let us know if your planning something at the park and we'll drop them off to your area. Thanks for helping us keep the park clean. ***Remember....cans only please.***

These bins were made possible by a volunteer hour matching grant from **ExxonMobil Foundation**.

Thank you! ExxonMobil

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.

June 24

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 each Saturday & Sunday for the month of June. (Except June 7 & 8)



GIRL'S DIVA SPA PARTIES

Royal Day Spa
981-2711



Royal Youth Facial:
\$25

facebook:

RoyalDaySpaPrincessParties



Birthday Parties:
* Girl's ages 3-13
* 8 girl minimum
* \$35 per child

**Special Thanks to
Royal Day Spa**

**For the support at our
Easter Fun Day**



Louisiana Black Bear Workshop

BEAR WITH US



June 17-18, 2014

Palmetto Island State Park, Abbeville, LA

Come join the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for a teacher workshop focused on our state mammal – the Louisiana black bear! Geared toward teachers of middle and high school students and informal educators, this workshop will cover topics ranging from the bears of the world to current research happening right here with our own Louisiana bears. The workshop promises to be complete with presentations, demonstration of classroom lesson activities, and field work related to black bear habitat identification using GPS and telemetry units.

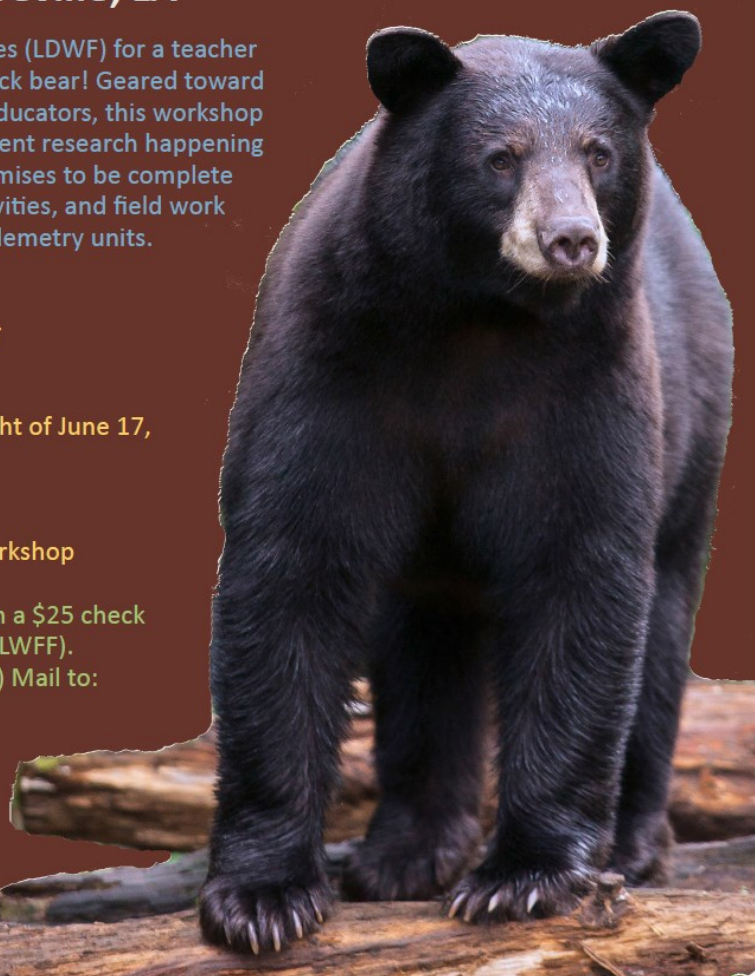
Participants will receive:

- GLE aligned lessons focused on the Louisiana black bear
- \$50 stipend upon completion of the workshop
- Meals
- 1 Night lodging at Palmetto Island State Park cabins (night of June 17, 2014)
- Field work in black bear habitat
- CLUs
- GPS unit for your classroom upon completion of the workshop

Fill out the attached registration form and mail it, along with a \$25 check payable to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF). (Checks will be returned upon completion of the workshop.) Mail to:

Carrie Salyers
LDWF
102 Magnate Dr. Suite 201
Lafayette, LA 70508

Questions? Please contact: Carrie Salyers,
csalyers@wlf.la.gov





Louisiana Black Bear Workshop

BEAR WITH US

June 17-18, 2014 Palmetto Island State Park, Abbeville, LA

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: \$25*

**This fee will be refunded upon completion of the workshop. Failure to attend the workshop will grant LDWF the right to deposit this check as a donation to the LDWF Foundation.*

Name: _____

Primary Phone #: _____ Alternate Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Grade Level(s) Taught: _____ Subject(s) Taught: _____

School/Organization Name: _____

District: _____ Public Private Homeschool

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School Telephone: _____ School Fax: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Please make checks payable to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and mail to:

LDWF - Attn: Carrie Salyers
102 Magnate Dr. Suite 201
Lafayette, LA 70508

Participants must stay for the full workshop and complete the evaluation form to receive the \$50 stipend.





Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating

Latanier Cookers are back!

Dutch Oven Gathering

June 14

www.facebook.com/#!/LatanierCookers

9 am - 1 pm @ Pavilion 1

Palmetto Island State Park

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Dutch Oven sides are on the menu this month. Get DAD a Dutch oven and join Latanier cookers for some outdoor cooking.

Take him camping at Palmetto Island State Park.

It's the best way to ensure he has a **Happy Fathers Day!**



Boudreaux....Well he makes reservations to spend weekends like Memorial Day (*and Halloween too*) at Palmetto Island State Park. And..... he brings his friends with him!

WWYD?

BY YOU ART **Kids** PAINTING CLASSES

TO BENEFIT PALMETTO ISLAND STATE PARK

Sunday, July 6th @ 1PM

In the Meeting Room @ Palmetto Island State Park



**Download
Registration
Here**

Each child will choose a letter that will be pre-drawn onto the canvas. Colors and designs can be painted by each child to suit their likes and creativity.



Ages 7-14

\$25 per child *(includes all supplies for the class, a snack and drink)*

Please Note:

- Participants must pre-register. Seating is limited
- Children ages 7-8 must be accompanied by an adult

For more info or to register contact Friends of Palmetto Island
337-652-2484 or friendsofpisp@yahoo.com



Track down a Louisiana State Park Ranger during one of your visits and **take a 'selfie'** with them! Post your picture LSP [Facebook page](#) during the month of June and you'll be entered to win a bag of Louisiana State Park goodies.



L.A.R.E. Shines at the 2014 Stir the Pot Festival

by

Brad 'Bones' Glorioso

The Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile booth at the recent Stir the Pot Festival was a big hit, with constant visitors from about 10 a.m. until after 4 p.m. It seemed we were more popular than even the food and drink booths! I think that owes in part to the fascinating animals that we are fortunate enough to work with, and the hard work and dedication of members of L.A.R.E. We had over 25 species of amphibian and reptile native to Palmetto Island State Park on display, with most animals captured either the previous day or that morning in the park. I want to especially thank Beanie Villerman, who helped me on a very long day at the park on Friday the 25th to capture animals for the event. He also provided very nice enclosures and other materials that we used to display the animals. For helping out with the public outreach and education at the booth during the festival, and for all their hard work on our continuing amphibian and reptile inventory project, I want to thank Beanie Villerman, Kylyan Villerman, Philip Vanbergen, Eric Vanbergen and Sara Pilgrim. For all the design work of L.A.R.E., including our logo, shirts, banners, and handouts for the event we thank Melita Glorioso of K & M Custom Designs. Here are some pictures from the event!



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 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 at least every other weekend. Prior amphibian and reptile experience is not necessary – only a passion for nature and wildlife!



Inventory Update:

So far, we have completed 11 surveys (through May 26) and have documented 32 total species of amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the park. The Copperhead was our latest addition to the species list and adds to the 31 species previously listed in the February, March, and April newsletters.



Gulf Coast Golf Carts sales & rentals

Dustin Derouen

Owner/Operator

Bus:(337)522-4211

2810 Veterans Memorial Dr

Abbeville, La. 70510

**\$75.00 per day, Free delivery with
two day rental (call for details)**



Palmetto Island State Park

Nature Center Programs

June 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 June 1st - 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 June 14th - 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 June 14th - 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.

-Sunday June 15th - Archery at the Park

All are welcome to join the park staff for a day of archery fun. This is a great opportunity for archers of all levels to learn about the fundamentals of archery and to get some target practice. \$5/ person, all materials will be provided by the staff. Call 337-893-7047 for more info. Registration is required.

-Saturday June 28th - Geocaching Fun Day 10am - 2pm

Geocachers of all levels of experience are welcome to the park for an afternoon of park discovery. Experienced geocachers will be onsite to assist visitors. GPS enabled device is not required to participate. Call Shawn (337-254-5373) or Shannon (337-652-2484) for more info.

-Sunday July 6th - 1pm - ByYou Art Kids Painting Classes

Ages 7-14 \$25/person, painting materials and snacks will be provided. Registration required. For more information call 337-652-2484 or email (friendsofpisp@yahoo.com)

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



Archery at the Park

Join the staff for a day of culture, history, and fun with a Family Archery Clinic at Palmetto Island. This is a great opportunity for beginners, as well as experienced archers, to learn about the fundamentals of archery and to get in a little target practice. Fun will be had by all members of your family while enjoying this wonderful program at your state park.

Pick Your Passion!

Palmetto Island State Park

Father's Day, Sunday June 15th

Session 1: 10:30am – 12:00pm and **Session 2:** 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Ages: 9 and up

Cost: \$5.00 per person

****Park admission of \$2.00 per person is not included in the program cost****

All equipment provided by the Louisiana Office of State Parks

Register by June 11, 2014. Space is limited.

For more information contact Fred at 337-893-7047



Palmetto Island State Park currently serves as a bird monitoring station for the [Baton Rouge Audubon Society's](#) Louisiana Bird Observatory. The **Louisiana Bird Observatory (LABO)** is a state-wide partnership of bird monitoring stations focused on promoting bird conservation through quality science

and education. After its beginnings as the Bluebonnet Bird Monitoring Project, run in large part through volunteer leadership and support, LABO has grown to include several on-going collaborative projects with other organizations. The collection of avian demographic and community assemblage data through year-round censuses and bird banding to support conservation and management decisions form the core of their activities. In addition to developing quality science, LABO routinely provides training for students and outreach for visitors of all ages to help build a more bird friendly Louisiana. LABO conducts monthly bird bandings at Palmetto Island. It is an awesome opportunity for everyone, whether you are a serious bird watcher or someone who has a love of nature. To find out more about the [Louisiana Bird Observatory \(LABO\)](#) and when they will be banding, find them online or on Facebook.

Prothonotary Warbler



Louisiana Bird Observatory (LaBo) put out eight nesting boxes around the park for **Prothonotary Warblers**, a species of high conservation concern, and Palmetto Island State Park provides some exceptional habitat for this beautiful swamp-loving bird. Keep an eye out near the boardwalk and you may see one of these boxes being used by a pair of these bright yellow birds. So far, five of the boxes around the park have been used to raise young and **LaBO** researchers hope that the high nesting success offered by these boxes will encourage the parents to come back next year. Over the next month, parents will be outfitted

with a small device (*geolocator*) that tracks their migration, and the information will be downloaded after the birds return next year. **The next monthly bird banding event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 14.** To learn more, like LaBO on [Facebook](#) and sign-up to join their email list [here](#).

Geolocator
attached

John Hartgerink

Prothonotary Warbler
nesting box at Boardwalk

Feeding Chick



John Hartgerink



Erik Johnson

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:

theilovecampingsite.com

Reservations can now be made for our **2014 Halloween Celebration—October 25**

STIR THE POT—APRIL 11, 2015

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 **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.