

THE HERMIT

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREWS STATE PARK

Jan./Feb., 2011
Volume XXVIII
Issue 01

The Hermit

Like the shy and timid hermit crab, Theodore Tollofsen (known as Teddy the Hermit) was also shy and reclusive. After his boat wrecked on the shores of what would later become St. Andrews State Recreation Area, Teddy made his home in a quaint shack constructed of the driftwood that washed up on the very shores he shared

Board of Directors

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Ken Davis

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Vicky Garcia

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Wendell Davis

Larry Ogren

Immediate Past President

Paul Davis

The Year That Was

While looking forward to a productive new year, we would like to glance back at some of the Friend's accomplishments in 2010.

Keeping it Pretty

Hundreds of pounds of debris and litter were collected from beaches, trails, Shell Island, and underwater sites. The annual Beach Cleanup is held in cooperation with the Panama City Dive Club, the Ocean Conservancy, and local volunteers.



Ken Davis sorts trash for recycling

In addition to the Beach Cleanup, Friends volunteers work year round to help keep the park looking good. Friends regularly patrol the park collecting trash emptying bins, and helping with trail maintenance. Volunteers include Ken Davis, Nat Drace, and campground hosts Lynne Siegfried, and Tony Gallina.

Through the Adopt-a-Highway program member Wendell Davis keeps the roadway leading to the park clean. Our recycling program led by

Ken Davis, assisted by Paul Davis, Lynne Siegfried, and Tony Gallina sorts the trash and sells the aluminum cans.



Welcoming Runners

Two exciting global events brought racers from around the world to the park. The running portion of the Gulf Coast Triathlon and the Ironman was routed through the park. These organizations pay the Friends a fee for the privilege of using the park and the Friends provide volunteers for traffic control, cleanup, and other duties. In the case of the Ironman, volunteers are in the park from dawn until late at night.

Staying Busy

The Friends continues to maintain and staff the Environmental Interpretive Center, the Native Plant Nursery and the Butterfly Garden. New volunteers are always needed for all of the above Friends projects.

see *The Year p 2*



The Native Nursery is managed by Wendell Davis and Paul Davis.

The Year from p. 1

Training in procedures and equipment usage is provided.

Helping Out

During 2010, the Friends purchased a new Kawasaki all terrain vehicle for the park at a cost of \$6,199, and also purchased firepits for the campground for \$8,000. We are also raising money for trail improvements and safety paths on the roadways.

And the Year to Come

In the coming year, Friends will continue all annual and ongoing projects, and welcomes new members and volunteers to join us in making the park even better. We will emphasize fund raising and pursuing grants to maintain and improve Park facilities.

Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt-a-Highway program.

Contact Wendell Davis at rwva702@aol.com.

Trash pickup and Recycling

Ken Davis at 769-4274 or dixiedog11@aol.com

Environmental Center needs

volunteers to greet visitors and answer questions. Contact Judy at 871-3050 or jgandj@knology.net.

Native Nursery

Contact Wendell at rwva702@aol.com.

or Paul Davis at atpbdav07@bellsouth.net.

The Hermit

We need help with copies and mail out. Contact Paul Davis at pbdav07@bellsouth.net.



Friends members Wendell Davis, Paul Davis, Jim Watts, Judy Girvin, Ken Davis, Vivian Steele, Nat Drace, Anne Ake, Jerry Girvin, and Emily Mullis pose with the Kawasaki all terrain vehicle donated to the park.

Fifth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day Florida Caverns State Park March 19, 9 AM --4 PM

Florida Park Service District One will show appreciation to park volunteers through a day of awards, doorprizes, cave tours, nature walks, exhibits, and more fun activities. Lunch will be served.

The park is located 3 miles north of Marianna on SR 166. If you can attend, please RSVP by March 1. You may RSVP on line at www.surveygizmo.com/s/454110/2011-district-!-volunteer-appreciation-day; by phone 850-233-5110, or by email to CarmenMcDonald@dep.state.fl.us

Submit your photos for the "Park Photo of the Month" feature in the Hermit. Send digital jpg photos to Anne Ake at aake@comcast.net. Photos should be at least 5 inches in their longest dimension and a minimum of 150 dpi. Call Anne at 265-6879 for information about print submissions.

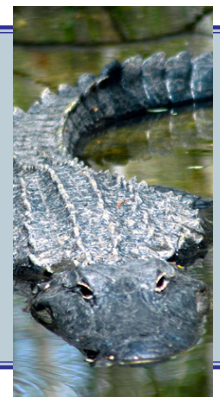




Photo of the Month

Glenn Dahn captured this magnificent shot of a great blue heron just as it took flight. The great blue heron, at a height ranging from 38 to 54 inches is the largest heron in North America.

The Great Blue Heron is often seen in the park fishing in both fresh and salt water. It eats primarily fish, but it is adaptable and willing to eat other animals such as mice. Great Blues are found through out most of the United States. A white form is found almost exclusively in the Florida Everglades and the Caribbean. A third form called a Wurdemann's heron can be found in areas where the dark and white forms overlap. It has the body of the Great Blue, but the white head and neck of the Great White Heron.



The brown pelican is another common park bird. With a wingspan of 6 to 8.2 ft the brown pelican, the smallest of the eight species of pelican, is still a large bird. Pelicans scoop water into the large flexible pouch on their beaks, strain out the water and eat the remaining fish or squid. Brown pelicans, unlike other pelican species, also feed by plunge diving from high above the surface to grab an unsuspecting fish. Brown pelicans like the company of other pelicans and often travel together, flying single file low over the water's surface. Colonies nest together, usually on islands, with nests that vary from a simple scrape in the sand to a stick nest built in a low hanging tree.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Mar. 10	BOARD MEETING	5:30 p.m.
	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Mar. 19	VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY	9:00 a.m.--4:00 p.m.
	Florida Caverns State Park	

Please note that the time for the membership meeting has been changed from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friends

Committees

Adopt-a-Highway

Wendell Davis
563-0751

Native Plant Nursery

Wendell Davis
563-0751

Paul Davis
236-0052

Beach Cleanup

Jim Watts
890-0782

Environmental Center

Judy Girvin
871-3050

Public Relations

Jerry Girvin
871-3050

The Hermit

Anne Ake
265-6879

Vivian Steele
230-1600

Website

Lynn Koehnemann

Recycling

Ken Davis
dixiedog11@aol.com

769-4274.

Telephone

Emily Mullis

Historical Preservation

Paul Davis
236-0052

T Shirts

Nat Drace

238-5191

Vivian Steele

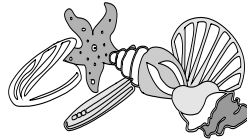
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THE HERMIT

The Hermit is a publication of the Friends of St. Andrews State Park, Inc., a Citizens Support Organization formed to promote public awareness of St. Andrews State Park through conservation efforts, special events and educational programs. The Hermit is published bimonthly and submissions are encouraged and welcome. Call **Anne Ake at 265-6879**, or send news items to **The Hermit, c/o Anne Ake, 604 E. 6th St., Lynn Haven, FL 32444**, or e-mail **aake@comcast.net**.

Deadline for the next newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Visit our web site at www.friendsofstandrews.org.



Friends Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Visitors Center. Membership meetings are not usually held in the summer months. Visitors and prospective members may call Brenda Rice at 235-3948 for additional information and instructions on how to get in if you arrive after the park gate closes.



*Friends of St. Andrews State Park
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PCB, FL 32408*