

The Collier-Seminole Update

Volunteer Newsletter

20200 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, Florida 34114



Forth Quarter Edition
October, November and December
2009



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Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator
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From the Desk of :
Park Manager
Kirby Wilson

As I write this article at the 11th hour for the Editors of this newsletter I am thinking how quickly this season is going by. It's already February and the Jammin' in the Hammock Festival is a week away. So much to do in preparation for that event and then it always seems like our volunteer army prepares to move on to other places. Such is the nature of the nomadic lifestyle so many of you lead. What has occurred to me about this season is how remarkably well things have gone. We are getting projects completed that have been needed for some time. The canoe and hiking programs are proving to be just as successful as years past and even the breakfast fund is in the black. I can't think of any season since I have been here, (which is going on 7 years now), where everybody is getting along and getting so much done for the park. The spirit of cooperation and a real can-do attitude among this seasons volunteers and CSO has made my job much easier and enjoyable. Your outstanding efforts have been recognized through the comment cards returned to us from Tallahassee and the remarks from my supervisor, B.J. Givens, during his recent stay here. I sincerely hope that all of you are enjoying being here at Collier-Seminole and taking advantage of all the park has to offer. I know the weather has perhaps impeded progress on your suntans but this is Florida after all, the sun will return, and usually with a vengeance. Keep up the good work.. Kirby

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Collier-Seminole Park Staff Review (part four of a four part series)

Ranger
Pete Brockmann



In Pete's own words: "From Franklin, PA. Went to school at U. of West Florida in Pensacola after being a rated musician in the Navy. Majored in music and recreation. Being inside all of the time taught me that my classroom is the out-of-doors. Very passionate about reading everything possible about the natural world and history. Favorite color is blue, except where nature is concerned, in which case the answer is "green". I have a strong sense-of place, and that place is the lush green of south Florida, and, in particular, this park. Here I have learned about the meaning of the natural world merely by observing my park over a long period of time. The other reason for staying longer here, the current staff!"

Ranger
Jerry Innis



Jerry is a very devoted son and father. His family is in the Orlando area and he visits as often as he can, although he calls them everyday just to keep in touch. He lives on site here at the park so he is able to assist the guests when needed. He has received numerous compliments for the way he treats the guests, very courteous, handy out information with a "Sir or Ma'am" attached.

When not on duty you can find Jerry relaxing on his patio. He enjoys the company of his volunteer neighbors whether it is sharing a meal, a story and a joke or an adult beverage. You will hear him say "Life's Good"

By : Pete Brockmann

Henry Nehrling (1853-1929) was a man to be reckoned with in the horticultural world of Florida in the early 20th Century. A former teacher and plantsman for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, he migrated to Florida and purchased a plot of land in Gotha, near Orlando in 1904. His fame was achieved through the extensive botanical garden he constructed here, importing plants from around the world. His advise was sought by renowned botanists and horticulturalists, including David Fairchild, of Fairchild Gardens in Miami. The project failed as a result of the 1917 winter freeze, so he moved to Naples and repeated his project in a more tropical climate. His Naples estate is now known as "Caribbean Gardens".

When Barron Collier constructed his portion of the Tamiami Trail and wanted to landscape his headquarters town, now known as Everglades City, Henry Nehrling was hired for the job. Now Henry was a meticulous man and took his time to "do it right". While the Collier people were not please with the time taken to research this project (Nehrling was "released" or in other words "fired") the real story is where he conducted his research. He needed a tropical hammock to observe plants that might grow well and beautify this new town. He knew just the hammock, one that Barron Collier himself owned. You guessed it. Royal Palm Hammock, now Collier-Seminole State Park.

Our park has a long history of people who knew the beauty of this place, both common people who want quiet places like this, and the many people in the botanical world who knew about our hammock through experience and reputation.

Prescribed Burning

One objective of the Florida Park Service is to manage the parks so that they represent ecological examples of landscape conditions and biological communities. In some of these communities lightning causes fires naturally. Prescribed burning is used in these pine and grassland communities in order to duplicate the natural fires which help maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Before there were roads and canals, fires would burn vast areas of the state. In fact, some plants and animals, such as the wiregrass, longleaf pines, fox squirrels and gopher tortoises, actually depend on fire for their survival. Without occasional fires, habitat changes occur which threaten the existence of these plants and animals.

Another result of fire being excluded from an area for long periods of time are uncontrolled wildfires. When dead plants and organic debris builds up, the conditions are ideal for a devastating blaze. Plants and animals dependent on occasional fires will perish in a wildfire. To prevent this occurrence, it is necessary to intentionally burn pinelands and grasslands under controlled conditions.

By using fire wisely, opportunities to experience the original beauty and diversity of Florida will continue to exist in the future.



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Florida Park Service
Division of Recreation and Parks
Department of Environmental Protection

Jammin' in the Hammock

Hosted by: Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park

Collier-Seminole State Park

20200 East Tamiami Trail

Naples, Florida 34114

Location: U.S. 41, 8 miles East of Hwy 951 (Collier Blvd.)



Featuring Music Sat. & Sun. by:

Swinging Bridge, Wilson Family Band, Pure and Simple
Frontline and the Mullet Skinners

MC: Mike Robinson

Free parking. Covered concert area: Festival held rain or shine.

Bring chairs. Featuring Arts/Crafts and Food Vendors

No pets, alcohol, smoking or coolers in festival area.

Saturday February 13th, 2010 10:00 am until 6:00 pm

Sunday February 14th, 2010 10:00 am until 6:00 pm

\$15.00 entry fee per person per day

Children 13 and under free (with adult)

3rd Annual Bluegrass Festival at Collier-Seminole



100% of net proceeds benefit the park

Camping: Reserve America 1-800-326-3521

Limited Dry Camping: \$15 (1st-come basis)

For more information: 239-394-3397 or

www.floridastateparks.org

Festival Host Hotel:

Comfort Inn & Executive Suites 3860 Tollgate Blvd. Naples, FL

For festival rates call: 239-353-9500

**GUIDED CANOE TRIPS
DAY AND MOONLIGHT
&
NIGHT HIKES**

**COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK
20200 E. US 41, Naples, Florida 34114
(8 miles east of Hwy 951)
Registration required: 239-394-3397**

DAY CANOE TRIPS:

Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday

December 2009 through March 2010

(January and February 2010 Friday also)

9:30 am—12:30 pm

Join a park naturalist down the Blackwater River. Learn about the plants and animals making it special. Hear of Seminole survival.

6 years and above

\$25 per person (our equipment or yours)

MOONLIGHT CANOE TRIPS:

Dec. 1, 28&30, Jan 27&29, Feb. 26&27, Mar. 27&29

7:30 pm-10:00 pm

Enjoy an evening paddle by moonlight.

Join a park naturalist and discover the dynamic changes and reflections nighttime brings along the Blackwater River.

12 years and above

\$30 per person (our equipment or yours)

NIGHT HIKES:

Dec. 14&16, Jan 11&13, Feb. 10&11, Mar. 10&13

7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Unravel nighttime mysteries as you and a guide look for glowing things, shooting stars and other nighttime wonders without city lights to interfere.

6 years and above

\$10 per person

Presented by the *Friends of Collier-Seminole*

THE FRIENDS OF COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK, INC.

We are a designated non-profit Citizens Support Organization (CSO) for Collier-Seminole State Park, under the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

OUR MISSION:

- * **to cultivate greater public understanding of the natural, social and cultural history of the park and its surrounding areas.**
- * **to enhance appreciation and enjoyment of the natural resources of Collier-Seminole State Park.**
- * **to sponsor the annual Jammin' in the Hammock Bluegrass Festival (second weekend In February) and other fund raising activities for park improvement.**

Funds raised by the Friends group have furnished the following:

Stage for Bluegrass Festival

Shop tools and Ranger carts

Kitchen appliances for screen room kitchen

Canoes, paddles and all safety equipment (life jackets, cushions, whistles)

Fire rings for park campground

Laminator and shredder for office

New laptop computer, camera and projector for ranger programs

Duplication of informational brochures, pamphlets and Friends newsletter

Polaris ATV

Wood to refurbish boardwalk

Books for the Park's educational library

The Friends group (CSO) welcomes new members with time and ideas to further improve the park for future generations to enjoy.

We urge everyone on our existing mailing list to join our Friends group. Join and continue to receive a quarterly newsletter.

Note: If your e-mail changes, please notify us. Also, if you wish to remain on this mailing list, please let us know. Send to editor: Christopher.Kimball@dep.state.fl.us

The Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park, Inc.
Citizens Support Group (CSO)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Membership runs from January 1-December 31 yearly)

Name _____ Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ E- Mail _____ Date _____

___ Single (\$10.00/yr.) ___ Family (\$15.00/yr.) ___ Business (\$25.00/yr.) ___ Students/65+ Seniors (\$5.00/yr.)

Additional contributions welcome. Thanks for your tax deductible donation. Please send your check & this form to:

Treasurer, Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park, Inc .
20200 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida 34114