



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park



May/June 2007

EARTH DAY REPORT

This year's Earth Day celebration was the eighth sponsored by the Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Activities abounded, with lectures, workshops, arts & crafts, and lots of things for kids to see and do. This year the Kids Activities

were better than ever, supported for the second year by a grant from the Flagler County Kiwanis Club.

Costumed reenactors

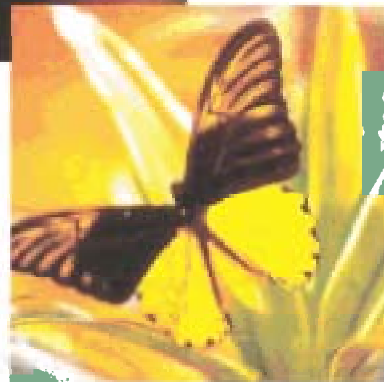
demonstrated various historical periods and skills.

Entertainment was excellent; both days were filled with talented singers and dancers.

New this year was the Butterfly Enclosure and the reptiles from the Alligator Farm, both of which proved to be very popular. Did you notice the butterfly theme? Kids built butterfly houses and potted plants which attract butterflies.

The Friends sold plants, including herbs, orchids, and plants propagated at the park, raising \$2,066 (\$1,122 last year). We sold raffle tickets for ten different prizes, making \$415 vs. \$725 in 2006.

Friends also sold park related merchandise, with generous help from the Flagler County Women's Club, for a net profit of \$843 (\$315 last year). The



Food Booth was a great success. Thanks to all of you who took the time and effort to bake those delicious cakes, breads, cookies, etc. We raised \$746 (vs. \$372 in 2006) from the Food Booth. Donations amounted to \$238, and we gained 14 new members! Attendance was up this year with 1,000 paying entries on Saturday, and 1,365 on Sunday (compared to 1726 total in 2006). Total net profit was \$ 8,791, the most we have ever raised at Earth Day! Prior years net profit was usually between \$5,300-\$5,800.

Thanks to all who volunteered to make this a special event, especially the Earth Day committee: Elaine Byrd, Bob Bouck, Carmen Carrasquillo, Don Denby, Sheila Gawthrop, Val & Cecile Giguere, Cristy Leonard, Liz Morrison, Renee Paolini, Nancy Perry, Frank & Whitney Pirnat, Linda Quinn, Sharon Searles, Connie

Sowards, Carol Sugg, Bill & Judy Sulser, Lisa Tull, and Joe Woodbury. Special thanks to Ed Aversa for his work in the Kids Activities section. And thanks to the Flagler County Tourist

Development Council for its continued support for advertising and the sound system.

Earth Day Celebration 2008 will be April 19 &20.

NATURE SCENE

Owls are unique birds. Great Horned Owls are found throughout much of North America where they inhabit hardwood forests. They are powerful, nocturnal hunters who feed on a variety of prey animals. Like other owls, the indigestible portions of their prey, consisting of bones and fur, are coughed up by the bird in the form of a pellet.

These pellets
found on
ground
their
roosting
feeding



can often be
the
beneath
favored
and
spots.

Great
Owls
calling for a

Horned
begin
mate as early

as December and January. Their call is a series of about 4 to 7 low hoots. The eggs are usually laid in an old abandoned nest of another large bird such as a hawk or crow. Two to four eggs are laid, with incubation taking about a month. The young birds stay in the nest for 6 to 7 weeks and begin to fly when they are about 10 to 12 weeks of age. They are noted for their big head and large eyes which are fixed in the skull, making it necessary for them to rotate their heads in order to change their view. The flight of an owl is almost noiseless due to tiny fringe-like structures found along the outer edge of each feather.

This allows an owl to fly silently towards its prey without detection. Like all other birds of prey, the Great Horned Owl is fully protected by state and federal regulations. (Article & photo - Cristy Leonard)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bernie & Linda Barzack, Ivan & Ruth Berke, Paul & Lucy Boswell, Julian & Doris Boyden, Nancy Burrows, Jerry & Jill Carpenter, Robin Cornell, Jerry & Lucy Crowley, Marion Dalzell, Florence Fiola, Nathan & Christine Gilliam, Alex Hausburg & Shelly Chapman, Sandra Hawkin, Tom & Dottie Heilman, Ben & Linda Hirsh, Phil & Kerri Huckabee, Harvey & Melissa Hunt, Ed & Edie Karmann, Len & Barbara Kurp, David & Nancy Lesser, Carol-Ann Manen, Robin McClary, James & Carmen Mejuto, George & Rhonda Mollin, Barbara Morez, Jacqueline O'Donnell, Bill Reardon & Donna Kriss, Jim & Mary Ann Rose, Philip & Carol Schwartz, Michael & Beverly Senko, Charles & Peggy Van Der Heide, Richard & Judy Wainwright, James Wallace. We are so pleased that you have joined the Friends and hope you will get involved with the projects that interest you. Plant sales continue throughout the summer months; propagation & potting are done every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. No need to sign up, just show up!!!

KIDS SALTWATER FISHING WORKSHOPS

These popular programs will begin in July. Sponsored by the Friends and Coastal Outdoor Center, the workshops feature a Park Ranger who will demonstrate some of the techniques anglers use to catch fish plus the importance of conservation and safety. Each workshop will be hands-on, with participants fishing along the bank of the Intracoastal Waterway. All fishing gear will be furnished for each participant to use during the workshop. Snacks and beverages will be provided—kids can bring a bag lunch.

The workshop hours (for ages 8-15) will be from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Dates are July 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 26, 27. Fee is \$20 per person. Advance registration is required by contacting Cristy Leonard at (386)446-6783.

KAYAK TOURS CONTINUE

Indians of the Estuary on May 19, 10 to 1 p.m. Fee: \$60 Paddle back in time & discover the ways of the Timucuan Indians, and the role the estuary played. Lunch on island refuge.

Wings Over Florida on May 24, 2 to 4 p.m.

June 15, 16, 17, 10 to 12 noon. Fee: \$40 Explore the estuary looking for migratory & resident birds, fish populations, and the most common plants found there.

No kayaking experience necessary. Spaces are limited and deadline for registration is 24 hours prior to date. Payment is due upon registration by contacting Coastal Outdoor Center at (904) 471-4144. For more information visit their website at www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Sat. of each month	Plant Sales & Plant Rx
Oct. 13	Herb Festival
Dec. 1	Holiday Tea Party
Dec. 7 & 8	Holiday in the Gardens
Feb. 9	Citrus Festival
Feb. TBA	Annual Meeting

Next Board of Directors Meeting on Tues. May 22 at 5:30 p.m., 2 Jungle Hut Rd., Suite #1, Palm Coast. All are welcome to attend!