

## **South Florida National Parks Newsletter**

Spring 2007

### **New Junior Ranger Guides Invite Kids and Families to Explore South Florida's National Parks in Three Languages**

The Junior Ranger activity books that teach children about South Florida's national parks are now available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

The new guides, produced with a grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust, represent an effort by the National Park Service to reach out to new audiences in South Florida. The free guides can be picked up at visitor centers in Everglades and Biscayne National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve.

The three parks pooled their resources in December 2004 to produce the original Junior Ranger guide in English. The guide proved to be a hit among the parks' youngest visitors and the parks were soon looking for a way to sustain and expand the program.

The South Florida Trust, Friends of Big Cypress and the National Park Foundation provided \$18,900 in grant funds to reprint the original English guide and produce new guides in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

The Junior Ranger program introduces children to their national parks through self-guided activities that challenge them to learn about the habitat and the wildlife of the park they are visiting. The program was developed with children ages

8-12 in mind, but younger kids and entire families also can participate. The Junior Ranger guidebooks are full of activities, puzzles and games that children can check out while visiting the park.

Children who complete the program in South Florida earn a badge, making them Junior Rangers. Children who earn a badge in all three parks are eligible to receive a Junior Ranger patch in the shape of a water drop with pictures of each of the parks' three mascots.

The parks developed the mascots - Peter the Panther in Big Cypress, Diego the Dolphin in Biscayne and Aleesha the Alligator in the Everglades - to guide children on the adventure.

To see copies of the Junior Ranger activity books for South Florida, go to the website for Everglades National Park ([www.nps.gov/ever](http://www.nps.gov/ever)) and click on For Kids.

The website includes information on the program and a link to download the guides.

For more information about the South Florida National Parks Trust and our parent organization The National Park Foundation, visit our website:

**[www.nationalparks.org/southflorida](http://www.nationalparks.org/southflorida)**

## **Allison DeFoor II joins the South Florida National Parks Trust**

J. Allison DeFoor II has joined the board of the South Florida National Parks Trust. Mr. DeFoor is a 7th-generation Floridian and noted conservationist who has enjoyed successful careers as a lawyer, politician and environmental policy-maker. As the Everglades and Environmental Policy Coordinator for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush from 1999 to 2000, Mr. DeFoor helped to broker the landmark agreement between the federal government and the state of Florida that launched an \$8 billion effort to restore the Everglades. Mr. DeFoor currently is the state coordinator for EarthBalance, an environmental services company with offices in North Port and Tallahassee.

## **Trustee Lloyd Miller honored for work as a Florida conservationist**

Lloyd Miller, a Florida conservationist and trustee of the South Florida National Parks Trust, received the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the National Parks Conservation Association at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Everglades Coalition meeting in January. "Lloyd's lifelong commitment to Florida's natural treasures represents the commitment we need for our national parks and the ideal that this award was intended to honor," said NPCA Regional Director Shannon Estenoz. "From working to create Biscayne National Monument back when no one cared about wetlands, to his more recent work in protecting Virginia Key, he is an example of what citizens can accomplish on behalf of this country's magnificent natural resources."



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## **Trustees of the South Florida National Parks Trust**

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The South Florida National Parks Trust was established in 2002 to improve the quality of life in South Florida by supporting the national parks that define our landscape and enrich our culture – Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve. The Trust is working to ensure that more people have an opportunity to experience and enjoy these remarkable parks by funding education programs, volunteer activities and visitor services within each park. To learn more about the Trust or to make a contribution, contact us at:

**South Florida National Parks Trust  
1390 South Dixie Highway #2203  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146**

**Phone: 305.665.4769**

**[www.nationalparks.org/southflorida](http://www.nationalparks.org/southflorida)**

## **Pelican's Tour raises \$58,000 for South Florida's National Parks**

The South Florida National Parks Trust reached a new milestone in March when our biggest and most successful fund-raising event to date touched down at Miami International Airport after an amazing day in the skies above South Florida. The Pelican's Tour - sponsored by Miami Air International - raised \$58,000 for programs and projects in Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve.

The day began with a champagne reception on board the luxury Boeing 737 aircraft donated by Miami Air. Sixty guests then settled into first-class seats normally reserved for Miami Heat players and embarked on an aerial tour of South Florida's national parks.

Park Superintendents Dan Kimball, Mark Lewis and Karen Gustin provided play-by-play commentary as the plane swept south over Biscayne National Park and its barrier islands, turned west to tour the

remote reaches of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve and then circled over Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas National Park.

After an afternoon of sightseeing, the Pelican's Tour landed in Key West for a sunset sail aboard two schooners in the waters off the Conch Republic. Mayor Morgan McPherson welcomed guests to the city and Regional Superintendent Billy Causey of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary led a tour of the new Eco-Discovery Center. Tickets for the event were priced at \$1,000.

The Trust thanks Trustee Ross Fischer and Miami Air International for their generous support for this year's Pelican's Tour. The Trust also thanks the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, Captain J.R. Brown and the Naval Air Station Key West, Superintendent Billy Causey and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for their support.

### **Ocean Fund grant supports Biscayne education program**

The Trust has received a \$25,000 grant from the Ocean Fund of Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises to support environmental education at Biscayne National Park. The grant will allow the park to hire a second full-time ranger to offer education programs to students. The Trust thanks the Ocean Fund for its support.

### **Ferris Greeney Foundation funds development of new e-field trip**

The Ferris Greeney Family Foundation has approved a \$5,700 grant to support the development of an online field trip about non-native species at Everglades National Park. The e-field trip, based on the park's curriculum *Don't Let it Loose!*, will debut in May. Nearly 6,200 students from 38 states participated in the park's first e-field trip on Reptiles and Amphibians. The new field trip will expand the park's online education program.

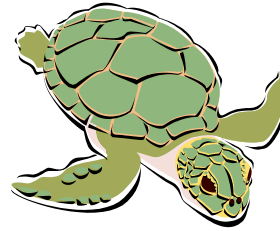
## Outdoor Learning: Parks as Classrooms in South Florida

### Key West students visit Dry Tortugas

The Trust invited 12 eighth-grade students from Mary Immaculate Star of the Sea School in Key West to visit Dry Tortugas National Park on May 4 as part of our education program at the park. The Trust launched the program last year with support from the Rotary Club of Key West. The club has donated \$15,000 over two years to support the program. Two school groups visited the park last year at the invitation of the Trust. We are planning a second trip this year for students from Key West High School. The students from Mary Immaculate visited the new Eco-Discovery Center in Key West before embarking on the class field trip. The Trust thanks the Rotary Club of Key West for its support.

### Architecture students tour Flamingo

Twenty-three students from Miami-Dade County's Design and Architecture High School (DASH) toured Flamingo on February 22 at the invitation of the Trust to kick off a class project on rebuilding this historic destination within Everglades National Park. Ranger Maureen McGee-Ballinger and Park Planner Fred Herling led the students on a tour of the park, beginning on the Anhinga Trail and concluding in Flamingo, where the students ate lunch next to Florida Bay before inspecting the now closed Flamingo Lodge. Coconut Grove Architect Alyn Pruett, one member of the consulting team that is preparing a commercial services plan for Flamingo, also joined the tour to share his expertise with students.



## Cannon Conservation Project Underway at Fort Jefferson

Efforts are underway at Dry Tortugas National Park to preserve the 10 Civil War era cannon that once protected Fort Jefferson. The cannon represent one of the most significant collections of 19<sup>th</sup> century seacoast artillery in existence. The park reported a project milestone this spring: Treatment of the first cannon - a 25-ton smoothbore Rodman - was completed in February with a \$25,300 grant from the Trust. Conservationists sand-blasted the cannon to remove corrosion and then applied a zinc primer and siloxane paint to seal out moisture. The park has funding to treat two other Rodmans, but is seeking funds to conserve the remaining original cannon - three Rodmans and four Parrot rifle cannon.

## Art in the Park

The latest show in the popular Community Artist program at Biscayne NP opened May 6 with a demonstration of *Gyotaku*, the Japanese art of fish rubbing, by Kim and Ian Workman of Cudjoe Key. The couple's boldly colored *Gyotaku* prints are on display daily through August 5 at the park's visitor center. Admission is free. For information and directions, call 305.230.7275. The opening reception was sponsored by Sedano's Supermarkets and the Trust.

The Trust thanks all those who made recent donations



## TRUST DONATIONS

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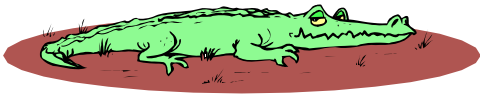
**How You Can Help:** You can support South Florida's national parks by donating online at [www.nationalparks.org/southflorida](http://www.nationalparks.org/southflorida) or by completing the form below and mailing it with a check made payable to the South Florida National Parks Trust to:

**South Florida National Parks Trust**  
**1390 South Dixie Highway, Suite 2203, Coral Gables, FL 33146**

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1390 South Dixie Highway, Suite 2203  
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