



Friends of Florida State Parks
E-Newsletter

Friends News

July 2010 Edition

New Leadership

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Florida State Parks, Inc. was held in June and we are pleased to introduce you to the new officers and board members for the 2010-2011 fiscal year beginning July 1.

The unanimously elected board members include:

- President - Tammy Gustafson, Orlando, Florida
 - Director, National Sales, Universal Orlando Resort
- President-Elect – Jamie Tacy, Sarasota, Florida
 - Internet Marketing Manager, Fantasy of Flight
- Secretary – Sally Hess, Dunedin, Florida
 - Retired
- Treasurer – Phil Jalwan, Trinity, Florida
 - CPA, Price & Associates, CPAs
- Board Member – Richard Goldman, St. Augustine, Florida
 - Executive Director, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors & Conventions Bureau
- Board Member – Amy Rodriguez, Coral Gables, Florida
 - President, The Rodriguez Group
- Board Member – Paula Russo, Archer, Florida
 - Volunteer, Florida Park Service



Incoming President Tammy Gustafson thanks Elaine McLaughlin for her years of service as President for the "Friends" during the Annual Meeting.

The board continues to enthusiastically support the **...Real Florida.sm** If you are interested in serving on a committee or becoming more involved with the Friends in other ways, we encourage you to [contact us](#) today.

We are also pleased to introduce you to the new Florida Park Service Director, Donald Forgione.

No stranger to the greatest park system in the country, Forgione is a 26-year veteran of the Florida Park Service. He began his career as a park ranger at Paynes Creek Historic Site in Bowling Green, Florida, in 1984 and has since worked through the ranks. In fact, he has served as assistant park manager, park manager, park law enforcement officer, as well as assistant bureau chief and bureau chief. In his most recent capacity, Forgione has served as bureau chief of the District Two office in Gainesville for the last six years, providing overall management and administration of bureau operations for a 40 park network and more than 200 employees.

Forgione will be filling the shoes of Mike Bullock who retired earlier this summer. Congratulations to Donald on this new post!



Florida Park Service Director, Donald Forgione.

Early Photographs – And Photographers

We hope you enjoy this glimpse at historical state park photographs thanks to materials compiled by Phil Werndli, author of “Florida State Parks 75 Years” and Assistant Chief (Historic Resources Administrator) for the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources at the Florida Park Service.



Dade Battlefield - 1940s - Photo by William Harmon

Throughout the history of the Florida Park service, photographs have been utilized to document park resources, scenery, visitation and construction and to promote parks. The official archives include thousands of images taken over a time period spanning nearly 100 years.



*Boy and Grandfather - St. Andrews 1948
Photo by William Harmon*

Two photographers, who were agency employees, created a large collection of images from the 1940s and 50s: William Z. Harmon and C. H. Schaeffer.

William Z. Harmon was hired as Florida Park Service Public Relations Director in 1946 and later transferred to Myakka River as park naturalist and photographer

and took photographs for the agency until the mid-1950s. His photographs appeared in brochures, exhibits, newspapers and magazines. He later was the co-owner of The Conservatory School in Sarasota and was a well respected naturalist and teacher in the Sarasota area until his passing in 1974.

C. H. Schaeffer was our first state park director, 1935-37. He was a forester by training. He later returned to the Florida Park Service in the 1950s to serve at Fort Pickens and as Chief of Education and Interpretation until his passing in 1959.



*Manatee Springs - 1958
Photo by C. H. Schaeffer*

Most of the originals of these images were large format negatives which created high quality prints. Please visit the “[Did You Know](#)” page on the Friends of Florida Parks website to follow a link to see more images. Enjoy!



*Park Manager John Hale & Family, Swanee River, 1959
Photo by C. H. Schaeffer*

Christmas in July?

No matter what the reason or the season, consider giving the gift of a Friends of Florida State Parks, Inc. membership!

[Click here for more information.](#)

In partnership with Florida Media, Inc. the Friends are also pleased to offer this beautiful 100-page book commemorating 75 Years of Florida State Parks. This keepsake is certainly a great gift as well!



“Florida State Parks 75 Years”
by Phil Werndli

The book retails for \$28.95 plus \$4.00 shipping & handling. [Click here to Order Now.](#) (Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.)



Welcome New Green Lodging Corporate Members!

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Update

Florida State Parks are all open for public enjoyment. Please note that the [Florida State Parks Website](#) will be updated daily and will list any parks that may be impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Incident.

Visitors with camping or cabin reservations will be notified if their stay will be impacted. If you have any questions, please call (850) 245-2157. [Click here for Oil Impact Notices](#)

Recreation and Parks Month



Were you aware Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed July as Recreation and Parks Month in Florida? You better get outdoors and celebrate!

Check this [calendar](#) full of fun outdoor activities through the end of the month. So grab your family and friends and have some fun swimming at the beach, snorkeling in a freshwater spring, biking or just plain-old relaxing as you soak up the sun – or the shade at a state park.

Fabulous Facts About Florida State Parks:

- The Orman House Historic State Park is home to the only partial replica in the nation of the Three Servicemen Statue that stands at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park hosted the U.S. Postal Service's First-Day-of-Issue Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings 41-cent commemorative First-Class stamp dedication ceremony in February of 2008.
- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, acquired in 1959, was the first underwater state park in the U.S.
- Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park holds the largest collection of Civil War armaments in the U.S.
- Florida boasts the first and only two-time Gold Medal winner honoring the nation's best state park service.



Share Your Stories Now!

We'd also love to hear about your park experiences directly from you in real time on our [Facebook](#) page. Also consider sharing your family's fun by posting your photos on [VISIT FLORIDA's](#) new Florida Live web site.



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