

May 2014

PALMETTO PAL'S PAPER

'Our community connecting YOU to Palmetto Island State Park'

A newsletter by Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc.

Volume 4, Issue 5

Palmetto Island has a PLAYGROUND!!!

I wish I could post pictures and create an article that could really relay how excited Friends of Palmetto were to be able to donate this playground to the park. It is like a dream come true. As the most requested amenity by park patrons, Friends has worked sense it's founding to make this playground a reality. You can find pictures of the playground installation on Facebook. We volunteered to help the construction crew in everyway that we could. We unpacked, unwrapped and cheered the playground into place. I think our excitement must have been contagious and motivating, cause the crew admitted that they had never put a playground together so fast or had so much help. Boy, were happy to do it! The best part was watching the kids run from the splash pad to come and play when we announced that it was open. In our wildest dreams we never expected it to be complete for the Stir the Pot Seafood Cook-off and Festival. But dreams come true and kids will be able to enjoy it this summer and all year long.

We'd like to thank the donors who helped us make this playground possible.

Chevron, Fabcon, City of Abbeville, A G L Resources, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sellers, Glenn Lege Construction, Vermilion State Bank and other anonymous donors.

We hope you enjoy this playground as much as we enjoy being able to share it with you!



Friends of Palmetto Island publishes this electronic newsletter on the 1st of each month.

If you're interested in receiving a copy please e-mail friendsofpisp@yahoo.com.

To 'un-subscribe' e-mail the above.

Only current members without an e-mail address will receive a copy of this newsletter by mail. Download our membership form by clicking [here](#). Thank you! Please feel free to share.



Interpretive Ranger, Fred Densdorf, is looking for volunteers to man the Nature Center and help out on Saturday's this summer. You would be asked to remain inside the Nature Center while he conducts the guided hikes and help out during the fun hour. You must be 18 or older and no knowledge of plants and animals is mandatory. If you're interested in donating your time, please contact **Fred at 337-893-7047.**

Friends will add your name to the end of the year drawing for a 2 night stay in a cabin (\$300 value) each time that you volunteer.

Mark your Calendar for 2014!...FPISP meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at the park at 6:00pm unless otherwise noted.

May 27

June 24 ♦ July 29 ♦ Aug 26 ♦ Sept 30 ♦ Oct 28 ♦ Nov 25 ♦ Dec 30

No D.O.G. in MAY

Latanier Cookers will not be hosting a Dutch Oven Gathering at Palmetto Island State Park in May.

They would like to invite you to join them for the State Dutch Oven Gathering at Chicot State Park on May 3-5.

Follow Latanier Cookers to Chicot and experience Louisiana Dutch Oven cooking at it's finest.

Click the LDOS logo to get directions to Chicot S.P. and a schedule for the weekend.



Summer is here and so are the Sno-cones!

Weather permitting, the Concessions trailer will be parked at the splash pad each Saturday for the month of May. We'll keep you posted about Sunday's and the schedule for next month.

Stir the Pot

seafood cook-off & festival

The winners were:

Seafood—Pro Division

1st Place - VERMILION HEALTH CARE

Seafood - Amateur Division

1st Place - SLOW MOTION
CATTLE COMPANY

2nd Place - Meaux Brother's Sisters

3rd Place - Cookin Cousins



Wild Game

1st Place - MEAUX BROTHERS

2nd Place - Meaux Flavor—STP Entergy

2nd Place - Slow Motion Cattle Company

3rd Place - Cookin Cousins



Thank you to all the Cooking Teams who participated!



We really had a GREAT day! The weather was NICE and the Music was GOOD!
We hope you'll mark your calendars for April 11, 2015 and join us!



Thank you to our Sponsors, Vendors and Volunteers!
You make the Festival possible.



Find more pictures on Facebook!

Dutch Oven Gathering

June 14

Palmetto Island State Park Pavilion #1

Latanier Cookers (pronounced lah ton yā) will be
Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating.

We're hosting a D.O.G.

(a.k.a. Dutch Oven Gathering)

Join us for a complimentary chicken stew with Dutch Oven Sides and Desserts. ♦ Gathering starts at 9 A.M. ♦ Pots will be on the table about Noon. Come by and visit cookers while they're putting their dishes together to find out how it's done. ♦ No charge for the tasting, but if you like it ... Donations are always welcome. *Entrance fees into park apply.* Latanier Cookers is a chapter of the Louisiana Dutch Oven Society. To become a member or for more information call Latanier Cookers at 337-893-2470 or 337-501-1535. **Find us on [Facebook](#)**



**No
D.O.G
in May**

Dutch Ovens and Membership are NOT required to participate.

Bring your pots! ALL Cookers are welcome! Enjoy Food, Friendship & Fun!

RECIPES WANTED FOR LATANIER COOKBOOK

Latanier Cookers are putting together a cookbook. We are asking for recipes to be submitted. There are various ways of submitting recipes.

Mail to: Louise Meaux Duhon , 15440 St. Elmo Road, Erath, LA 70533

Email to: louduhon@gmail.com

Hand deliver them to any members of Latanier Cookers or bring them to our Dutch Oven Gatherings at Palmetto Island State Park.

You can also submit your recipe online yourself @ www.typensave.com

User Name: Latanier Password: palmetto

Type in your recipe following the instructions. Please submit recipes before **September 1, 2014**. We would like to include all recipes, but any recipes received after that date will not be able to be added.

Dutch Oven recipes are ideal, but not mandatory. We'll convert the recipes that we can for Dutch Oven Cooking.

Thank you

Latanier Cookers

BYYou ART FUNDRAISER KID'S PAINTING CLASS

TO BENEFIT PALMETTO ISLAND STATE PARK

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF PALMETTO ISLAND STATE PARK

Artist Instructor:

Jennifer Doxey Gayneaux of ByYou Art Classes
jennifer.gayneaux@yahoo.com

Date of class: Sunday, July 6th

Class Time: 1:00PM—2:00PM

Open to Ages: 7-14

Location of classes: Meeting Room @ Palmetto Island State Park

Cost per Child: \$25/child

(Includes all supplies for class, a snack and drink)

Please Note:

- Park Admission fees need to be paid at the Park's Entrance when coming on the day of the class.
- Registrations will only be accepted by mail!
- Wear old clothes (paint can accidentally spill on clothing)
- No wet swimsuits allowed in Meeting Room for class.
- Children ages 7-8 must have accompanying adult stay with them at class.
- Parents, please bring your child at least 15 minutes before class begins
- Parents who drop off children ages 9-14, must return to Meeting Room Bldg by 1:50PM



Each child will choose a letter which will be drawn on their canvas. Colors and designs can be painted by each child to suit their likes and creativity.



For info on private painting classes for kids & adults or fundraisers, you can find ByYou Art Classes on Facebook.
This registration form was updated on 4.18.14

Fundraiser Painting for class—"Paint your Letter"

As we paint each area of the image, kids can choose whatever colors they like and add any designs to make their picture unique and something they can cherish for years.

Registrations for each of the classes are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To ensure your enrollment in the class, please mail your registration form with payment as soon as possible.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

Registration fees are refunded when the class is canceled by the artist. Enrollment is limited; therefore registrations are non-refundable unless cancelled at least 24 hours before the date of your class. (Please leave a voice message at 652-0032.) The Artist Instructor reserves the right to cancel, postpone or change class location in light of unforeseen circumstances.

BYYou ART CLASSES

REGISTRATION FORM

Detach and return only this bottom portion of this sheet.

To complete the registration process, mail this completed form along with payment to:
Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) Public Charity) P.O. Box 33 Perry, LA 70575
***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 'Jennifer Gayneaux or 'ByYou Art Classes'

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Contact #: _____

Letter to put on my canvas: _____ Style of my letter (circle one): *Scripted* or **BLOCK STYLE**

I have included a payment by (circle one): CASH/MONEY ORDER or CHECK # _____

(Sorry, no credit cards!) PLEASE NOTE: There will be a \$10 charge for all checks that are returned as NSF!

I would like to receive an (circle one) EMAIL or PHONE CALL to confirm receipt of my registration.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Neveaux at

337-652-2484

friendsofpisp@yahoo.com

This registration form was updated on 4.18.14

We have another class planned for Saturday, August 2nd.

We'll be painting PEPPERS. More details in next month's issue.

Palmetto Island State Park- Nature Center

Programs May 2014



-Weekends Programs-

-Saturdays - 11 am - Ranger Led Hike *New Trails*

Guests are welcome to join a ranger led hike which will introduce them to Palmetto Island State Park. Hike will focus on the many plants and animals that call the park home. Hike will also provide information on the facilities and park itself. Guests will meet in the nature center.

*tours available during the week upon appointment (call 337-893-7047)

-Saturdays - 2 pm - Nature Center Fun Hour

Park guests of all ages are welcome to enjoy a fun filled activity in the nature center. Programs will vary each week and will include an activity such as wildlife bingo or arts and crafts. Call the nature center at 337-893-7047 for more information on the program of the week.

-Monthly Programs-

-Sunday, May 4th - 10 am - Guided Canoe Tour

Come join a ranger led guided canoe tour through Palmetto Island. Tour will include an introductory lesson on paddling, followed by a tour through the park's three ponds. It is free to attend, but guests must pre-register by calling 337-893-7047 or email palmettoisland_int@crt.la.gov

-Saturday, May 17th - 8 pm - Night Hike

Grab your flashlight, bug spray and meet at the nature center at 8 p.m. Hike will take approximately one hour. Most of the park's mammals, such as deer, are more active during the night at the park, so who knows what we may run into!

LOUISIANA
Pick your Passion



The Splash pad is Open!

Tuesday - Sunday * 8am-8pm

Nature Center Winter Hours

Tuesday- Saturday 10am-4pm or by appointment (337-893-7047)

Hours are subject to change based on school groups/special events.



Last summer our LARE group had our summer field trip in the Atchafalaya Basin, and unlike most of our trips it occurred primarily at night. One species we were particularly targeting was the Rough Greensnake, *Opheodrys aestivus*. Besides being such a beautiful snake, we were trying to get one for Sara Pilgrim, an active member of L.A.R.E. who had only seen this species preserved in a jar in a college classroom. To truly grasp the awe-inspiring beauty of this species you need to see one in the wild. It is unique among Louisiana's native snakes in that it spends nearly all of its time off the ground in vegetation and trees, camouflaged ever so well in the greenery. We felt it would be a fairly easy find as they are very commonly observed at night in the warmer months resting in the branches of trees at the edge of the roads. Unfortunately, and not for a lack of effort, we failed to find a Rough Greensnake for Sara that night, despite trying some of our best spots.

Fast forward to April 9, 2014. Sara and I performed another amphibian and reptile survey at Palmetto Island. Just days earlier on our Facebook group, after seeing a fellow member post a Rough Greensnake from the Atchafalaya, I mentioned that I felt her first Rough Greensnake coming soon. Towards the end of our survey at the park, we decided to walk the roadside up from the Vermilion River parking lot, as we had yet to search that area. It was a very overcast day and threatening to rain the whole time. We walked up to an area that was full of vines covering the edge of the forest, and I mentioned to Sara that this would be the type of area that I would expect to find a Rough Greensnake, and just as we walked a couple more feet there it was, a beautiful adult Rough Greensnake in the vines at about eye-height. Almost immediately as we saw the snake, the rain started coming down, so we grabbed the snake and headed back to the car. Sara really enjoyed the extra time she got to spend holding the snake in the car. When the rain ceased, we brought it back to the area we caught it and took pictures of the snake along the roadside before releasing it right where we captured it. It was the first Rough Greensnake we have seen during our surveys.

While taking pictures of the snake at the roadside a van slowly approached us and passed us up, all the while seemingly trying to figure out what Sara and I were photographing. The van stopped short just as they passed us and we heard someone from the vehicle shout that we had a snake. The van reversed, and we looked up to see a man smiling from ear-to-ear as he stuck his head out of the passenger window to see the snake. The four children that appeared as the van door slid open were very enthusiastic as well, but the mom maybe not so much. We brought the snake over to the van where they each took turns touching the snake, as mom hesitantly snapped some photos on her phone. We told them a little about the species' natural history. They were very gracious of the opportunity, and thanked us repeatedly before driving off. If you could see the expressions on everyone's faces, it is not far-fetched to believe that family will remember that experience for a long time. Sara got her Rough Greensnake, we got a new species documented and photographed for the park, and the park visitors got a treat they did not foresee. A great day at the park...as usual!



If you think the Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts (L.A.R.E.) group is something you want to be a part of please feel free to join on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/LouisianaHerps>. Also, please visit my website which acts complementary to our group at www.louisianaherps.com for lots of pictures and information about Louisiana’s amphibians and reptiles. If you have any questions or are interested in helping out with the surveys at Palmetto Island please feel free to contact me at gloriosob429@gmail.com. We try to do a survey on either Saturday or Sunday every weekend. Prior amphibian and reptile experience is not necessary – only a passion for nature and wildlife!

Inventory Update:

So far, we have completed 10 surveys (through Apr. 26) and have documented 31 total species of amphibians and reptiles inhabiting the park. The following 6 species are in addition to the 25 species listed in the February and March newsletters.

Amphibians		Reptiles	
<i>Amphiuma tridactylum</i>	Three-toed Amphiuma	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	Cottonmouth
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	Cope's Gray Treefrog	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	North American Racer
		<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	Rough Greensnake
		<i>Pantherophis obsoletus</i>	Western Ratsnake

On behalf of L.A.R.E., I would like to offer a sincere thank you to those who have donated materials to us to further our amphibian and reptile survey at the park. It is truly needed and appreciated!

Friends of
Palmetto Island State Park, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
P.O. Box 33, Perry, LA 70575
friendsofpisp@yahoo.com and Facebook



June 28

Palmetto Island State Park

More information in the June newsletter

Please Mail To:

Reservations can now be made for our **2014 Halloween Celebration**— **October 25**

Click [Here](#) to reserve your Camping sites today!

Park Hours of Operation:

Gates are open 6am-9pm (Sun-Thurs) and 6am-10pm (Fri & Sat). **Entrance station** is open: April-September, 6am-7pm (Sun-Thur) 6am-10pm (Fri & Sat) October- March, 8am-5pm (Sun-Thur) 8am-10pm (Fri & Sat). All park sites close at 10pm on Friday, Saturday and days preceding holidays. **Entrance Fees:** \$2 per person; Free for Seniors (62 and older) and children age 3 and under. Palmetto Island State Park has **96 camp sites**, **6 cabins**, **4 pavilions** and a **meeting room** to rent. **Canoe** rentals are \$20 per day or \$5 per hour. The **Splashpad** is open April-September, Tuesday –Sunday from 8am to 8pm. For more information about the Park, visit www.lastateparks.com, call 888.677.0094 toll free or 337.893.3930 locally. Call 337-893-7047 for current Nature Center hours and **Interpretive Programs** not listed in this issue. **Reservations** for overnight accommodations at Palmetto Island State Park can be made [online](#) or through the Call Center at 877.226.7652.