

Friends of Huntington Beach State Park Newsletter May 2018

Please Welcome

During the month of April 2018 the Friends welcomed Frank and Nancy Seitz and Susan Goins as new members. Please welcome them to our volunteer organization.

President's Corner

Spring and summer like weather has finally come to the South! I am sure like me all of you are enjoying the sunny days with low humidity. Time to get outside and enjoy!

Ballots for our annual election have been mailed so you should be receiving your ballot and invitation to the annual all members picnic in the next week or two. The picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 @ 5:00 p.m. at Huntington Beach State Park Shelter #1. We will finalize our election and provide an overview of the year's previous Friends' activities at the event. See you there!

Your President,
Sally Kelly

What's Happening in the Park

Park Manager Brenda Magers and her team share information about their work activities each month in our board meeting. During our May meeting Brenda brought us up to speed on several activities happening in the Park.

As previously mentioned, the South Campground officially opened on April 9, 2018. Campers are enjoying the new 40-site area. If you plan to spend Memorial Day in the Park don't forget as a result of the additional campsites there will more visitors to the Park (and beach areas) during the holiday weekend Of May 25 -28, 2018. As well as, there will be additional visitors throughout the summer months.

The Huntington Beach received money from the South Carolina Park Services to repair concrete throughout the Park. Brenda and her staff are currently reviewing areas that need repairs. Stay tuned!

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In the month of April the Friends organization was able to fund several needed projects in the Park with our regular funds. No money deposited to The Nature Center Building fund is used for any project or purchase. All money in the special Nature Center Building account is designated for the purchase of displays within the new Nature Center.

The one project funded by the Friends organization was the much needed clean up and trimming of the ivy overhanging the roof areas of Atalaya. We were also able to fund the purchase of new conditioning units in the Visitor Center at Atalaya and a drinking fountain for the North Beach.

How do projects get approved and funded by the Friends organization? The needed project / purchase is first identified by the Park staff. The Park attempts complete the project or the purchase the item through their budget process and/ or obtain special funds through the South Carolina Park Services. If funds are not available through the Park's normal course of business the project / purchase is presented to the Friends Board of Directors. The project / purchase is then reviewed by the Board Members and then voted on for approval (or disapproval). Your annual dues and contributions at work for the betterment of our beloved Huntington Beach State Park!

June 13, 2018 Annual All Members Picnic

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 starting at 5:00 p.m. is our annual all members meeting / picnic! We will be in Shelter # 1 for a great food fest. The Friends will provide Hog Heaven's fried chicken and mac & cheese. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Charlie West @ 843-650-1979 or westdale@sccoast.net by June 6, 2018. Also if you plan to attend and would like to contribute some food –

- bring a finger dessert to share if your last name starts with A to N
- or a salad (or side) to share if your last name starts with O to Z.

Please note the invitation sent to you via US mail (along with your election ballot) has an error in the "bring a finger dessert to share if your last name begin with..."

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We look forward to seeing you there!

Membership Renewal

New car decals for renewing members are being mailed out as soon as we receive your renewal check and information. New car decals are expected to be on your car June 1, 2018 in order to enter Huntington Beach State Park without a valid South Carolina Park pass.

Friends Day Trip to Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center

Charlie West is planning another trip for the members of the Friends organization to the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center south of Georgetown. The trip(s) will be in the fall (most likely October). No definite date has been confirmed with the Center yet but Charlie would like to get an idea how many members are interested in going. If you are interested please email Charlie & Dale West at westdale@sccoast.net by June 30, 2018. There is no cost to go but the limited seat / trips fill up quickly so we need to reserve our seats as soon as possible.

If you are unfamiliar with the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center here is a little bit of information about him and Wildlife Center.

Tom Yawkey was a longtime owner of the Boston Red Sox and was also one of the largest land donors to the state of South Carolina. The original land was inherited from an uncle and Tom and his wife spent their winters in South Carolina. Tom was an avid outdoorsman and bird-watcher. Through his years in South Carolina the family added to their land holdings and preserved the land for wildlife. Tom Yawkey eventually donated 20,000 acres of land along the shoreline in Georgetown to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center includes marshes, wetlands, forests and beaches. It is home to hundreds of species of wildlife and is a habitat for migratory birds, eagle, alligators and other endangered species. The beaches are considered excellent nesting locations for the threatened loggerhead sea turtle. The habitats support more than 200 species of birds, including a large number of raptors, such as hawks, ospreys and falcons that rest there during migration.

The day of the tour all participants must arrive at the Center no later than 9:45 a.m. The trip is on a pontoon boat and 14-passenger bus so

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it is recommended that participants wear sneakers with a rubber sole because the boat ramps may be slippery. There is no charge for the tour and everyone should bring a bagged lunch and drink. The tour is 4 hours. Other items you may want to bring with you are a camera, binoculars and bug spray.

More details and directions to the Center will be provided once a date(s) is established.

The Friends of Huntington Beach State Park Website

Please be sure to bookmark on your computer or tablet our website www.friendshbsp.com