

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



July 2018

Great Turnout for World Oceans Day 2018!

World Oceans Day 2018 at Perdido Key State Park was a terrific family affair. The several hundred people attending the Friday, June 8, 2018 event were able to visit the Discovery Depot touch tank and ocean exhibits provided by the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, hear presenters and see exhibits on sea turtle conservation, lionfish and diamondback terrapin awareness, and shore and migrating bird concerns. In keeping with the 2018 World Oceans Day emphasis, additional displays and presentations focused on preventing and mitigating plastic pollution of the oceans and other threats to ocean health – such as acidification, eutrophication, and oil spills. Visitors were also able to enjoy the sand sculptures of The Paradise Sandman (David Robertson), the colorful kites flown by the Emerald Coast Kite Flyers, and a visit by Monty the screech owl from the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. Many children participated in a sand sculpture competition. With clear and balmy weather on the beach, all seemed to enjoy the entertaining and educational event. Photos of the event are available on the PKA website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org/> and on Facebook.

As coordinated worldwide by The Ocean Project, “World Oceans Day is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future.” Co-sponsors of the Perdido Key event were the Perdido Key Association, the Friends of Pensacola State Parks, Florida State Parks, and Visit Pensacola. Additional support was provided by the Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce, *Mullet Wrapper*, Audubon Society and Sea Grant personnel, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Perdido Key Souvenirs & More, Tina Morrison (promoter) and the Department of Biology at the University of West Florida.

Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project Completed

Contractors have completed planting sea oats and other native beach vegetation to the 6 miles of Perdido Key dunes from the Alabama border to the eastern edge of the Perdido Key Area of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The over 400,000 plants added to the dunes should enhance coastal resiliency and improve the ability of our beaches to resist storm damage. The project was coordinated by Escambia County officials and paid for through the National Resource Damage Assessment (a post-Deepwater Horizon oil spill funding source); it was able to move forward because of participation from 90% of Perdido Key Gulf-front property owners. As always and particularly with the new plantings, we should stay off the dunes and “leave no trace” on the beach.

Pinta and Nina Visit Perdido Key

As they have in recent years, replicas of the Pinta and Nina – two of the ships that sailed with Christopher Columbus in 1492 when he discovered the “New World” – berthed at the Oyster Bar and Restaurant on Perdido Key. From June 5 to June 11, visitors were welcomed to tour the ships for a nominal fee.

Pensacola Bay Ferry Service Begins

After a long delay, ferry service has begun on Pensacola Bay. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the City of Pensacola and Escambia County, the two 149 passenger ferries are now shuttling passengers from downtown Pensacola to Pensacola Beach and Ft. Pickens. Named the Turtle Runner and Pelican Perch, the ferries are operated by Gulf Coast Maritime Services, Inc. and travel in opposite directions for the convenience of passengers. Hop-on hop-off tickets are \$20 for adults and \$13 for children with discounts available for military and seniors; ticket prices include admission to the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The ferries have a snack bar, bike racks, and climate-controlled main deck. They will operate daily from May 14 until August 16 and weekends-only from March 15 to May 14 and August 16 to October 31; service will be from 8:30 AM until 10:00 PM. For more on the service, see *The Pulse* June 13, 2018 article “Ticket Prices, Start Date Announced for Pensacola Bay Ferry” by Derek Cosson at <https://pulsegulfcoast.com/2018/06/ticket-prices-start-date-announced-for-pensacola-bay-ferry> and the *Pensacola News Journal* June 13, 2018 article “Pensacola Bay ferry service ticket prices, start date announced” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/06/13/pensacola-bay-ferry-service-ticket-prices-start-date-announced/698680002/>.

Wind Resistant Trees

Science Hour at the Escambia County Central Office Complex on June 13, 2018 was titled “Landscaping in Hurricane Alley” and presented by Carrie Stevenson, the Coastal Sustainability Agent for University of Florida IFAS/Escambia County Extension. Ms. Stevenson provided guidance on a variety of issues, such as the trees most likely to survive strong tropical storms, how to manage current trees to minimize damage during a storm, and what to do following a storm if trees have been damaged. Live oak trees,

for example, are much more survivable in high winds than laurel oaks and pine trees. Other suggestions were that smaller trees should be planted in groups to increase their chances of making it through a storm and that roots should be dug out from cut-down trees to ensure sinkholes do not form as the trees decay. More information on issues such as these can be found in the UF/IFAS article “Trees That Can Withstand Hurricanes” at <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/trees-that-can-withstand-hurricanes.html>.

PKA Board of Directors July Meeting Cancelled

The PKA Board of Directors, regularly scheduled for the 2nd Monday of each month, will not be held in July, 2018.

July Calendar

July 1-3, 8-11, 18-22, 28-31: Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium in Pensacola
July 3: Coffee with the Artist: Lyn Gentry at the Perdido Key Visitors Center
July 3: Independence Day Party and Fireworks at The Wharf
July 3-4: Grand Bay Watermelon Festival
July 4: Independence Day – Sertoma Celebration in Seville Square downtown Pensacola, including Fireworks and Fireworks at Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach
July 4: Shark Adventure Run with Harley Sports at Flora-Bama
July 12: Science Hour RESTORE Update at Escambia County Central Office Complex
July 15: Jaripeo (Mexican Rodeo) at Escambia County Equestrian Center
July 15: Blue Angel Music Blues on the Bay Concert Series
July 20-11: Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo at Dauphin Island
July 21-22: Gulf Coast Paddle Championship at Flora-Bama
July 26: Sugarland with Frankie Ballard and Lindsay Ell at Pensacola Bay Center
July 23-27: Gulf State Park Shark Week at Gulf State Park Pier

Blue Angels practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, NAS Pensacola
Bands on the Beach Tuesdays at the Gulfside Pavilion, Pensacola Beach

The following websites provide additional information about events taking place in our great Gulf Coast region:

<https://www.visitpensacola.com/>
<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>
<http://www.visitperdido.com/>
<http://mulletwrapper.net/>
<https://myescambia.com/>
<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com/>
<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>
<http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/>

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors