

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



May 2022

Rosamond Johnson Day

Rosamond Johnson Day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 7, 2022, beginning at 10 AM at Johnson Beach, the beach named for Private Johnson at the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce along with the National Seashore are sponsoring the event with additional funding provided by Escambia County. Please consider attending and honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by Rosamond Johnson for his fellow soldiers and his country. Entrance fees for the park are waived for the event. For more information, go to

<https://business.visitperdido.com/events/details/rosamond-johnson-beach-day-2022-20787?calendarMonth=2022-05-01>.

Visitors Center Garden Planted on Earth Day

About 20 volunteers, including students from Pensacola Christian College and members of the Perdido Key Association and Friends of Pensacola State Parks, planted hundreds of plants native to the area at the Perdido Key Visitors Center on April 23, 2022. The new plants are part of the Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden taking shape under Escambia County's Samantha Bolduc's direction along the under-construction Perdido Key Multi-Use Path. A solar/windmill to charge cell phones and newly installed bicycle air-pump station (donated by the Perdido Key Rotary) are already in place at the park. The plantings were part of Earth Day celebrations in the Pensacola area. The theme for Earth Day 2022 was to "Invest in Our Planet" and "focused on accelerating solutions to combat our greatest threat, climate change, and to activate everyone – governments, citizens, and businesses – to do their part." For more on Earth Day, go to <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022-action-toolkit/#:~:text=EARTHDAY.ORG%2C%20the%20global%20organizer,businesses%20%E2%80%93%20to%20do%20their%20part>.

Manatees Coming our Way – You can Help!

As Northwest Florida waters warm, more manatees will be heading our way. Those seeing manatees are asked to report sightings at www.panhandlemanatee.org. You can learn more

about manatees and pass on the information to boaters, anglers, visitors, property managers, and others by participating in a May 9, 2022 training session at the Pensacola Library at 39 N Spring St. beginning at 5:30 PM or watching a recorded session at [Recorded Virtual Training Session](#). For more information on the initiative contact panhandlemanatee.org@gmail.com.

Manatees are not doing well. Over 1,100 in 2021 from an estimated population of 7,500 primarily from starvation due to loss of seagrass beds, their primary food. Some are surviving only because of lettuce provided under various programs. For more on the plight of manatees, see the March 9, 2022 *PBS Newshour/AP* article “Florida’s Starving Manatees fed 55 tons of lettuce after pollution killed seagrass” at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/floridas-starving-manatees-fed-55-tons-of-lettuce-after-pollution-killed-seagrass>.

Yard Sale at Big Lagoon State Park

The Friends of Pensacola State Park are holding a fundraiser yard sale at the Big Lagoon State Park marina on Saturday, May 7. The “Friends” is an “organization of volunteers committed to the preservation of the Florida State Parks in the Pensacola area for the enjoyment of park visitors for generations to come” and uses membership fees and funds raised for park improvements. Donations for the yard sale can be made at the Big Lagoon entrance Ranger station no later than Wednesday, May 4, but should not include clothing or stuffed animals.

Turtle Nesting Season Begins

Turtle nesting season in the Pensacola area is May through September and an especially good time to take special care along Perdido Key beaches. “Four of the six species of sea turtles found in U.S. waters make an annual pilgrimage to our beaches during the nesting season. Loggerhead sea turtles are the most common, accounting for over 90 percent of all sea turtle nests in Escambia County. Green, leatherback, and Kemp’s ridley sea turtles also nest on area beaches.” Precautions to help nesting turtles include turning out beachfront lights after dusk, closing blinds and curtains on beachfront rooms, not disturbing sea turtles with flashlights, flash photography or lanterns at night, and filling holes in the sand at days end. For more information, go to Escambia County entries <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/marine-resources/sea-turtles> and <https://myescambia.com/search?indexCatalogue=indexdefault&searchQuery=Sea%20Turtles&wordsMode=AllWords>.

2022 Hurricane Season June 01 to November 30

With projections for another busy hurricane season, it is appropriate to begin preparations. A good place for information is Escambia County’s “Tropical Storms & Hurricanes” website at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/public-safety/beready/natural-disasters/tropical-storms-hurricanes>. National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham noted we have had “more Cat 4 and Cat 5 landfalls in the United States from 2017 to 2021 than we did from 1963 to 2016.” For more on the coming hurricane season, see the April 13, 2022 *Florida Today* article “Hurricane’s don’t care about your timeline” by Rick Neale at <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2022/04/13/national-hurricane-director-ken-graham-hurricanes-dont-care-your-timeline-experts-urge-preparation-s/9517677002/>.

A Downside of Wind Energy

Wind energy is providing a growing percentage of clean and renewable electrical power to the United States and other parts of the world. A downside is the blades of the wind turbines will kill anything that flies into them, including eagles. ESI Energy, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy, “pleaded guilty to criminal charges and was ordered to pay over \$8 million in fines and restitution after at least 150 eagles were killed at its wind farms in eight states...” For more on the issue, see the April 7, 2022 *U.S. News.com/Associated Press* article “Wind Energy firm kills 150 eagles in US, pleads guilty” by Matthew Brown at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2022-04-06/wind-energy-company-kills-150-eagles-in-us-pleads-guilty>.

Hitchhiking Plants and Critters

Sea Grant advises those planning on spring planting to check their new plants carefully for “hitchhikers.” At this time of year, delivery trucks bring plants from South Florida nurseries where there may be plants and animals not wanted in the Panhandle.

Oysters in Perdido Bay

As part of its historical ecology lecture series, the University of West Florida is presenting the topic “Uncovering the Lost History of Oysters in Perdido Bay” at the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church on May 3, 2022, 6:30-7:30 PM. It is a convenient opportunity to find out more about our Perdido area.

May Calendar

May 03 – Lecture on “Lost History of Oysters in Perdido Bay” at 13660 Innerarity Pt Rd
May 05 – Cinco de Mayo celebrations at various venues
May 06 – Beulah Fire Station Groundbreaking
May 06-08 – Perdido Key Music Fest at Playa Del Rio RV Park 16990 Perdido Key Drive
May 07 – Rosamond Johnson Beach Day at Johnson Beach on Perdido Key
May 07-08 – Foley Art in the Park Festival
May 08 – Mother’s Day
May 10-15,24-29,31 – Pensacola Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium
May 12-14 – Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival at OWA
May 17-22 – Orange Beach Billfish Classic fishing tournament
May 20-22 – Hangout Music Festival 2022
May 21 – Escambia County Career Fair at Brownsville Community Center
May 21 – Gulf Coast Culture Fest Seville Square/Bartram Park in downtown Pensacola
May 23-29 – Gulf Coast Masters fishing tournament in Orange Beach
May 27 – Pepsi Beach Ball Drop at The Wharf

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola May 3,4,10,11,17,18

Bands on the Beach at Pensacola Beach every Tuesday, 7-9 PM from April to October

The following websites provide additional information about events 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>

[Perdido Key Association Board of Directors](#)