



2010-11 Issue: End of Season

# Wilderness Journal

News from the T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve

Friends of the Carlton: 3rd Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. picnic pavilion (resume in fall)

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Links: Friends of the Carlton Reserve: <http://web.me.com/FOCR>

Friends of Sarasota County Parks: <http://www.foscp.org/>

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## EVENTS

**Canter For Cancer** The Friends and volunteers assisted the American Cancer Society and the Stockyard in raising \$5000 for women's breast cancer when 83 riders and 4 walkers obtained pledges.



*Thank you Rick Storsberg, Bob Hladik, Pete Davis, Russ Johnson, Jerris and Steve Foote, Mike Elswick, Debbie Blanco, Sherm Stratton, Linda Lovallo, Craig McCullough, Kenya Leonard*

**McIntosh Middle School Outing** With the help of a Selby grant, over 100 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their teacher, Alicia Bartol-Thomas, had a "treasure hunt" themed field day and learned about raptors, fire management, exotic invasives, the geology of the Carlton, wildlife parasites, geocaching, wilderness survival, reptiles, threatened and endangered species, etc. We supplied the docents, water, snacks, logistics. Donations included signal mirrors, butterfly and invasive plant brochures, pencils. Every student composed a thank you letter with individual artwork—copies were made for volunteers, staff and the Board of County Commissioners.

*Thank you Donna Day, Rick Storsberg, Linda Lovallo, Nancy Edmondson, Jim Courtright, Kenya Leonard, Jerris Foote, Bob Oliphant, Russ Johnson, Sherm Stratton, Brian Pavlina, Alicia Bartol-Thomas, Dean Coffman, Brian Luther, 12 parent chaperones.*



**Tour De Parks** The Friends and volunteers assisted with parking and manned a hospitality station and turnarounds in the Carlton and at Deer Prairie on the 65 mile leg of the "tour" with water and snacks supplied by Friends of the Legacy Trail who sponsored the event. Our sister Legacy Friends group awarded the Carlton Friends a grant of \$500 to "showcase the Carlton Reserve." We are using those funds to enhance the Carlton visitors cabin with a refrigerator (cold water), a flatscreen TV and DVD player with Carlton wildlife videos.

*Thank you Phil Peters, Bob Branson, Nancy Edmondson, Debbie Blanco, Carrie Palmer, Russ Johnson, Linda Lovallo, Sherm Stratton, Jim and Karen Courtright, Bruce Hamill, Lee Ann Harling, Stan Teague, Bob Oliphant and the members of Friends of Legacy Trail.*

**Venice Expo** Venice Kiwanis donated space for two tables which we shared with Friends of Legacy Trail to promote our activities with maps, brochures and video at a two day event at the Venice Community Center.

*Thank you Bruce Hamill, Russ Johnson, Wayne Connor, Lee Ann Harling, Sherm Stratton, Linda Lovallo, Tom Trammell and Venice Kiwanis.*

**Back to School With Hope      Legacy Trail Annual Fundraiser      Sheriffs Appreciation Da at Phillippi Creek  
Literacy Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park      National Trails Day at Shamrock      Park 9-1-1 Open House**

Friends of the Carlton have been trained to fit bicycle helmets and have assisted at several events sponsored by other Friends groups and community service events.

*Thank you Jim Courtright, Bruce Hamill, Russ Johnson, Dave Reynolds, Sherm Stratton, Linda Lovallo, Ray and Connie Bresciani (Rothenbach Park), Merlin Shirk*

**DONATIONS**

**Hay wagon** The Friends of the Carlton purchased and donated to the Sarasota County running gear for a hay wagon which was used throughout the season to open Urfer Park and the Walton tract and then for Sunday sunset rides, monthly half day birding expeditions, two Christmas rides, Girl Scout and family outings. This vehicle brings greater access to the treasures we have in these protected lands. Besides the donation of a custom bimini top, donations are used for straw, tarp cover, foam mats, hitch fittings, wagon maintenance, and already total nearly \$2000, including a recent donation of **\$1000 from Russ Johnson** to the hay wagon fund.



The bimini was provided by Fred Starling and extends wagon use on hot days. Planned uses include public education, youth groups, themed talks, stargazing, etc.

*Thank you Friends of the Carlton, Fred Starling, Boyce Blackmon, Russ Johnson and especially to staffers Greg Best, Pete Sauchinitz who constructed the actual wagon that is mounted on the running gear; to Debbie Blanco, Kenya Leonard for making tow vehicles available.*

**Kayak Equipment** Through the efforts of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Friends of Sarasota County Parks, and individual members of the Friends of the Carlton Reserve, the County “fleet” of kayaks has now been increased to nine with upgraded paddles, vests, safety whistles, security cables, and seat repairs. A guided kayak program initiated by Larry Robbins has raised nearly \$800, an additional \$600 in grant money for equipment, with a \$770 donated kayak and paddle from Charlie Sample.



*Thank you donors Charlie Sample, Larry Robbins, Terry Redman, Kirsten Sheets, Carolyn Brown, Ray Bresciani, Patty Gergen, Holly Johnson, Betsy Kane-Hartnett, Russ Johnson, Marianne Lorentzen, Tom Matrullo, Glen Mora, Sarah Pappas, Jason Puckett, Janson, and anonymous. Thank you helpers/leaders Sarah Calabrese, Steve and Linda Christian, Jim and Corinne Adams, Rick Storsberg, Phil Peters, Jim Courtright, Larry Robbins, Sherm Stratton, Linda Lovallo*

**Entrance Landscaping** Last summer the Friends of Legacy Trail made available \$2000 in mini grants of \$200 for entrance landscaping in 10 parks. Tom Obermeier designed and coordinated efforts to re-landscape the Carlton entrance.



*Thank you Sarah Calabrese & Friends of Legacy Trail, Tom Obermeier, Russ Johnson, Jim Courtright, Linda Lovallo, Sherm Stratton, Happy Gilmore*

**Other Donations** The Friends of the Carlton have provided this year  
 a tail wheel for the rotary mower,  
 printers and ink cartridges for map printing  
 toolshed organizers and supplies  
 safety gear: goggles, hearing protectors, gloves  
 refrigerator: cold bottled water for visitors, video equipment in the cabin  
 updated computer with Windows XP  
 wildlife monitoring camera  
 laminated signage for the public area and backcountry  
 over 200 pressure treated 4X4 posts for markers

safety yellow paint for traffic stops  
 storage containers for T-shirts and kiosk maps  
 coffee maker and supplies for cold weather events,  
 DVDs for cabin presentations

*Thank you Friends of Legacy Trail--\$500 grant*  
*Thank you Phil Peters*  
*Thank you Ernie Winn*  
*Thank you Jeff King, King Plastics*  
*Thank you Jim Cuddy*



### CONTINUING PROJECTS and MAINTENANCE

**Restroom Trails** Two new trails were cleared and signed in the picnic area providing shortcuts to the restroom from the paver block trail and the horse trailer lot.

**Kayak Launch Entrance** was secured with stones and cable to prevent ATV and motorized vessel use.

**Vandalism and Security** The main entrance sign, destroyed by a car, was hauled away by volunteers and replaced by the County. Volunteers assist in patrolling in the evenings and with security cameras to discourage illegal activities.

**Training** The County has screened selected volunteers to be trained in CPR, tractor and Kubota driving, and chainsaw operation as required to fulfill needed tasks and meet Risk Management requirements.

*Thank you to Joe Padgett, Faye Newton, Scott Montgomery for providing training.*

**Maintenance** With budget cutbacks, volunteers maintain the Reserve in weekly workdays, weather permitting:

- |                                 |                   |                    |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| trash patrols                   | tractor mowing    | fill potholes      | trim and clear trails (120+ miles!) |
| pressure wash tables, buildings | open/close gates  | organize tool shed | wash signs                          |
| maintain tools & equipment      | refill map kiosks | wash kayaks        | paint traffic stops                 |
| weed whack and mow              | man visitor cabin | deliver firewood   | paint and repair markers            |

*Thank you Bob Oliphant, Bob Branson, Stan Teague, Jim Courtright, Russ Johnson, Bruce Hamill, Jim and Corinne Adams, Tom Obermeier, Happy Gilmore, Tim Heggan, Robert Dye, Tom Learmont, Steve Christian, Pete Davis, Bob Hladik, Donna Day, Ernie Winn, Jeff King, Craig McCullough, Don and Kathy Hess, Hans Mooyman, Phil Peters, Art Ramsey, Mike Simons, Linda Lovallo, Sherm Stratton, Kenya Leonard, Nelson Hay, Charlie Sample, Chris Birdsall, Lori Biagini, Alicia Bartol-Thomas, Joel Calabrese, Jim Cuddy, Bill Romack, Danny Williams. Special thanks to Ed Wolfenbarger for obtaining the Kee mower.*



**Wildlife Monitoring** The Friends maintain 6 trail cameras deployed throughout the Reserve to monitor trends in wildlife populations.

The cameras require regular exchange of batteries and memory cards; and data is entered into a database from which reports can be printed that identify location, date, time of day, species, sex, age, percentages, etc. We were lucky to have a camera positioned to capture a Florida panther in Feb. 2010. Full galleries are on the website: <http://web.me.com/FOCR>

*Thank you Donna Day, Ernie Winn, Danny Williams, Bruce Hamill, Lori Biagini, Sherm Stratton, Linda Lovallo*



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**Outings** The Carlton Friends and registered volunteers led the public on many guided outings that were publicized by the County, in local news media and on our website.

- Strenuous, Family, Cardiovascular and special bike rides
- Silent, Serendipity, and Full Moon Walks
- Newcomers and Civics 101 Walks
- Curious About the Carlton Walks
- Themed walks: Dragonflies, Native Plants, Champion Trees
- Guided paddles on the Wild and Scenic Myakka River
- Sunset and Birding hayrides
- Kiwanis presentation on Friends of Carlton Activities

*Thank you Dave Reynolds, Larry Robbins, Gary Vasbinder, Lee Ann Harling, Don and Kathy Hess, Jeff King, Al Squires, Denny Girard, Sherm Stratton, Donna Day, Linda Lovallo, Phil Peters, Jim Courtright, Russ Johnson, Rick Storsberg, Rett and Priscilla Oren, Charlie Sample, Tom Obermeier, Lori Biagini, Pat Ritchie, Boyce Blackmon, Tina Sebastian, and special thanks to staffmembers Debbie Zeilman, Karen Berwick.*



**Maps and Information** The Friends have maintained a website at <http://web.me.com/FOCR> that has received nearly 5000 hits since Oct. 2009. It offers downloadable maps, calendar of events, links to information about trail conditions, panthers, wildlife and wildflower galleries, owl and raptor guides produced by Donna Day and Pete Thompson. The County has provided a new color map/brochure that volunteers provide in the cabin and in waterproof boxes in the kiosks.

*Thank you for photographs Jean-Louis Dumaine, Fran Palmeri, Jeff King, Donna Day, Bill Heyd, Bruce Hamill, Richard Demler, Larry Robbins, Alicia Bartol-Thomas, Lisa Fields, Bob Branson, Sherm Stratton, Hans Mooyman, Tom Obermeier, Drew Shell, Julie Scherer, and a Friend we recently lost-- Rick Kellam. Special thanks to Debbie Blanco for preparing the new brochure.*

**Goodbyes** This season also saw the retirement of not only the Friends' president of many years, Pete Davis, but also Ranger Rick Storsberg, park naturalist, after 10 years of service.



**Welcomes** We welcome this year Kenya Leonard as the new park naturalist and a new Friends president: Larry Robbins.

**Special Thank You** The Friends also wish to thank Sarasota County staff for enabling us to share the Carlton with so many others and empowering us to help maintain the Carlton as protected land in keeping with the public trust:

*Thank you Jerris Foote, Debbie Blanco, John McCarthy, Carolyn Brown, Kenya Leonard, Belinda Perry, Ed Wolfenbarger, Lynda Eppinger, George Tatge, Kim Heuberger, Brian Pavlina, Nancy Edmondson, Mike Elswick, Chris Meyer, Stephanie Green, Debbie Zeilman, Karen Berwick, Bill Brown, Faye Newton, Scott Montgomery, Joe Padgett*

## VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

**70 registered volunteers** conducted these activities, contributing **4849 hours in the 9 months** from October, 2010 to June, 2011.

Carlton volunteers, at \$21.36/ hour, (according to the [Philanthropy Journal](#).) gave time/labor worth **\$103,574.**

**698 people** participated in wilderness experiences through guided, organized programs.

The chart below is a cumulative list of all volunteer activities with this year's tasks marked on the right.

Type of Task	Task	1998-2010	2010-11
Cabin	rake gravel, weed	X	X
Cabin	dust and sweep attic and floor	X	X
Cabin	scrape and clean, repaint windows	X	X
Cabin	clean display cabinets	X	X
Cabin	meet with volunteers for orientation	X	X
Cabin	collect photos of flora and fauna for slideshows	X	X
Cabin	prepare CD, DVD's for visitor presentations	X	X
Cabin	attend the desk, take calls, greet visitors	X	X
Cabin	issue backcountry permits	X	
Cabin	re-caulk and Thompson water seal exterior	X	
Cabin	collect and display historical and wildlife artifacts	X	
Remote Sites	remove fireload from cowboy camp buildings	X	X
Remote Sites	litter patrol cowboy camp	X	X
Remote Sites	clear and chip brush from cowboy camp	X	X
Remote Sites	clear picnic area at Tucker's camp	X	X
Remote Sites	scout and clear and transport picnic tables, benches to river	X	X
Remote Sites	deliver firewood to Youth Camp		X
Remote Sites	police campsites for trash, vandalism	X	X
Remote Sites	build stable, cookshack, bunkhouse at cowboy camp	X	
Remote Sites	maintain windmill at cow camp: clean trough, restart	X	X
Canoe launch	hand clear canoe launch trail	X	X
Canoe launch	move mulch to trail and rake	X	
Canoe launch	move gravel to Border Rd. entrance and rake	X	X
Canoe launch	remove dumped concrete debris; place matting on bank	X	
Canoe launch	litter patrol canoe launch	X	X
Canoe launch	mow, add fill /fix Border Rd. drive in		X
Canoe launch	place fence posts/fence to protect river bank		X
Donation	<b>\$500</b> Computers (3) for cabin use: maps, waivers, forms	X	X
Donation	<b>\$300</b> Printers (4) for cabin: ink, paper	X	X
Donation	<b>\$70</b> Paint for car stops, safety goggles, hearing protectors, etc.		X
Donation	<b>\$200</b> snacks and supplies for student outings, special events	X	X
Donation	<b>\$50</b> bottled water, coffee, tea and supplies for cabin	X	X
Donation	<b>\$325</b> cabin television and DVD player	X	X
Donation	<b>\$120</b> cabin refrigerator		X
Donation	<b>\$1700</b> Hay wagon running gear, straw, mats, hitch fittings		X
Donation	<b>\$750</b> Hay wagon bimini, cover, screen protector		X
Donation	<b>\$75</b> bat houses and poles, birdhouse	X	
Donation	<b>\$100</b> GPS unit for lending to visitors	X	X
Donation	<b>\$360</b> Binoculars for lending to visitors	X	X
Donation	<b>\$500</b> for roof fencing: endangered terns on water treatment plant	X	X
Donation	<b>\$500</b> signs: laminated for public area and backcountry trails		X
Donation	<b>\$2500</b> motion activated cameras, locks, memory cards, batteries	X	X
Donation	<b>\$1400</b> kayak, paddles, vests, safety whistles, parts	X	X
Donation	<b>\$60</b> mower bed tail wheel	X	X
Donation	<b>\$200</b> landscaping materials for entrance	X	X
Donation	<b>\$120</b> cashbox, salesrack, jewelry and cards for sale	X	X
Donation	<b>\$200</b> rocking chairs	X	X
Donation	<b>\$200</b> materials for Eagle Scout kiosk project	X	X
Event	<b>Tour De Parks:</b> assist with parking and rider rest station	X	X
Event	<b>Adventure/Duathlon</b> other bike races: assist and/or sponsor	X	
Event	<b>Grand openings/Open Houses/Events:</b> ready public areas and cabin	X	X
Event	<b>Canter for Cancer:</b> layout course, parking, check Coggins papers		X
Event	<b>Urfer, Walton, Rothenbach :</b> assist at other park openings, events		X
Event	<b>Back to School With Hope, 911, Phillippi Estate Sheriffs Appreciation</b>		X
Event	<b>Kayak Festivals (2):</b> assist with stands, races, raffle	X	
Event	<b>Champion Trees Walks</b> fundraiser for Phillippi Estates Mansion	X	

Event	<b>Geocaching</b> competition	X	
Event	<b>Birdathon, Great American Backyard Bird Count</b>	X	X
Maintenance	Pressure wash all tables, benches, picnic pavilion, bathrooms		X
Maintenance	Composting toilet: monitor and assist repairs		X
Maintenance	leaf blow pavilion, parking and picnic areas	X	X
Maintenance	remove fallen trees from trails	X	X
Maintenance	pickup and transport debris	X	X
Maintenance	rake gravel (hog damage)	X	X
Maintenance	move mulch to landscape entrance and rake	X	X
Maintenance	Re-landscape entrance with underlayment, Legacy Trail grant		X
Maintenance	weed landscaped entrance	X	X
Maintenance	fence repairs at entrance, launchsite, equine lots	X	X
Maintenance	litter patrol paved roads, entrance/exit, canoe launch, parking lots	X	X
Maintenance	weedwhip and clear walkthroughs	X	X
Maintenance	remove/replace closing time signs	X	X
Maintenance	reset roadsigns, note /report missing/damaged signs	X	X
Maintenance	set posts and rocks to secure backcountry and PUF from vehicles	X	X
Maintenance	remove illegally dumped yardwaste entrance/exit	X	X
Maintenance	remove illegally dumped engine block,newspaper box, rotten meat	X	X
Maintenance	Repair/clean power tools, refuel equipment	X	X
Maintenance	Reorganize toolshed, storage barn	X	X
Maintenance	Maintain trail sign in/out and sightings clipboards	X	X
Maintenance	tractor mow color trails, lots, launch, picnic and cabin areas		X
Outings	sunset hayrides--weekly during "season"		X
Outings	guided aerobic, moonlight, "Serendipity" and "Silent" walks	X	X
Outings	Guided kayak paddles on the "Wild and Scenic Myakka"		X
Outings	Guided walks: Butterflies, Dragonflies, Birding 101	X	X
Outings	Birding hayrides, monthly during "season"		X
Outings	Family, Strenuous, and Cardiovascular guided bike rides	X	X
Outings	Photography walk, Pleine air painting, herpetology array	X	
Public Education	<b>National Trails Day: (Shamrock Park )</b> display, maps, bike helmets	X	X
Public Education	<b>Venice Expo</b> and presentation to Kiwanis	X	X
Public Education	<b>McIntosh Middle School</b> 106 seventh graders, 10 volunteer docents		X
Public Education	Help edit, survey, distribute new brochure		X
Public Education	create trail map with numbered intersections	X	X
Public Education	revise map and reprint, post on website	X	X
Public Education	fill kiosks, place donated watertight boxes	X	X
Public Education	correct, distribute Myakka Island maps	X	X
Public Education	Curious About the Carlton and Newcomers walks	X	X
Public Education	Civics 101guided walks	X	X
Public Education	Galleries: load and name photos of flora and fauna	X	X
Public Education	Create and maintain website with contacts/calendar, links, galleries	X	X
Public Education	Contact agencies for training supplies, for children, public	X	X
Records	create/maintain volunteer database	X	X
Records	create/print volunteer sign-up forms, cabin directions	X	X
Records	record volunteer hours	X	X
Records	e-mail volunteers with weekly task description	X	X
Records	Conduct interviews, transcribe and store historical archive	X	X
Security	secure gates, hinge pins	X	X
Security	check/report fence breaches	X	X
Security	place security cameras in parking lots		X
Security	patrol, report/photograph violations "wild and scenic" river	X	X
Security	monitor river, kayak launch, entrance/exit, report incidents	X	X
Security	close gate on weekends, as needed, monitor gate closings	X	X
Security	post surveillance signs, better trail signage, no dumping/dogs	X	X
Security	secure kayak launch entry from ATV, motorized use	X	X
Trails	hand clear backcountry trails	X	X
Trails	scout, flag, and clear new trails as requested	X	
Trails	scout and flag special hiking trails	X	X

Trails	hand clear yellow, pink, blue, green, yellow, orange, red trails	X	X
Trails	scout, hand clear and blaze trail across to Pinelands	X	
Trails	trail markers and posts: set/replace/repaint/maintain backcountry	X	X
Trails	trail color posts: set/replace/repaint/maintain public area	X	X
Trails	use GPS to mark or remove melaleuca, pepper, cogon grass	X	X
Trails	Move fill to low areas of trails, grade with tractor	X	X
Training	train volunteers, develop protocols/waivers	X	X
Training	for volunteer guides: CPR		X
Training	County selected volunteers: tractor, Kubota/Mule/ chainsaw	X	X
Training	FOSCP selected volunteers: grant writing	X	
Training	Bike helmet fitting, and bike safety	X	X
Training	FL Master Naturalist and IFAS programs	X	X
Wildlife Monitoring	deploy and maintain wildlife cameras	X	X
Wildlife Monitoring	data entry and database reports for staff and public	X	X
Wildlife Monitoring	Panther presentation: Sierra Club, Kiwanis, local news, school children	X	X
Wildlife Monitoring	make casts of panther prints to display, lend	X	X
Wildlife Monitoring	develop and prepare raptor and owl guides		X