



---

Dear Marcelle,

I am very proud to present to you, a summary of Friends of Palmetto Island's 2018 accomplishments in support of Palmetto Island State Park.

Friends collectively **volunteered over 4,572 hours** in support of Palmetto Island State Park. As they have each year, 2 very dedicated volunteers continued the task of mowing ALL the grass in the park. We donated the majority of our time conducting programs for patrons and fundraising. We did volunteer off-site at several other events for other organizations who have supported us throughout the year. Our presence at those community events brought attention to the park and people would often share their park experiences with us, both good and bad.

In 2018, we attracted **95 members**. We connected **3070+ people** to the park and its programs through **Facebook**. We continued to publish our 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the "*Palmetto Pals*" monthly newsletter to **over 1000 subscribers**. Our website, [www.friendsofpalmetto.org](http://www.friendsofpalmetto.org), received **30,161 visits**.

A considerable amount of our effort is spent promoting events held at Palmetto Island both online and in nearby communities. We spent over **\$25,965 on advertising, promoting, creating special events and free programs** designed to attract patrons to the park. We were also happy to promote over **25 non-friends programs** held at the park, including those hosted by *Latanier Cookers, Krewe of Palmetto, Vermilion Voyage, LA Environmental School, Louisiana Bird Observatory* and a *night hike* conducted by *Palmetto Island's* law enforcement ranger that attracted over 50 people. All of these programs were open to the public, hopefully increased park attendance and added variety and diversity for visitors. This year Friends attended **3 off site events** to promote and bring attention to the park and the events that we offer. We participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Dugas Memorial Fin, Fur, Feathers Cook-off, the Cypremort Point Sippers Jambalaya Cook-off and the Daylily Festival. We continued to maintain the **book sharing program** in the campground. Patrons have also contributed movies and board games.

Friends hosted **4 free programs at the park**, some of these events had small fundraising components, but our intention was to attract patrons to the park and fill the campground by creating an event for them to enjoy. Once again, most of the programs that Friends and Latanier Cookers hosted at Palmetto Island resulted in the campground being (\*) sold out. We hosted our 5th annual **\*Cracklin' Cooking Demonstration & Tasting**, where 15 locals demonstrated their personal techniques on cooking. Over **1,000 visitors** sampled their cracklings, wings, sweet potatoes, beignets and more. The 8<sup>th</sup> annual **\*Halloween Celebration** was a success attracting over **2,000 people** to the campground to '*tricked and treated*'. Patrons show their spirit for the holiday by dressing in costume and decorating their campsites for our annual contests. **196 kids of all ages**, eagerly waited for Santa to arrive via firetruck at the deck next to the meeting room for **Pictures with Santa**. **50 members and volunteers** of Friends & Latanier cooks attended our annual end of the year appreciation **Christmas social**. This is a relaxing event for those of us who have worked throughout the year, giving us an opportunity to visit. The gift game is always a fun and creates a tremendous amount of laughter.

---

Founded in 2011, Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity organized for the exclusive benefit, support, enhancement and promotion of Palmetto Island State Park.

P.O. Box 33 • Perry, LA 70575 • 337.652.2484 • [info@friendsofpalmetto.org](mailto:info@friendsofpalmetto.org) • [www.friendsofpalmetto.org](http://www.friendsofpalmetto.org)

Throughout the year, Friends is happy and proud to work closely with the LA Dutch Oven Society's Latanier Cookers. Friends partnered with this group in November by providing the main meal for their 6th annual **\*'Cochon de Liat' Dutch Oven Gathering**. Friends recruited cooks to prepare 8 pigs in Cajun microwaves for over 450 visitors.

***Latanier Cookers**, the local chapter of the Louisiana Dutch Oven Society, was instrumental in attracting over **989 guests** to the gatherings held at Palmetto Island throughout 2018. Many gatherings contributed to a 'sold out' campground. This group hosted **9 'Dutch Oven Gatherings'** at Palmetto Island, at which **170 cooks** volunteered over **1560 hours** conducting these programs and put over **198 pots** of food prepared in Dutch ovens on the table for patrons to sample. In May, Latanier Cookers also traveled to Bogue Chitto State Park with over 35 cooks, guests and volunteers and participated in the LA Dutch Oven Society' State Gathering.*

In 2018, we successfully attracted over **\$45,185**. Friends organized **3 onsite fundraisers**. Our annual BBQ Pork Steak **Plate lunch sale** is still growing. We served over 1100 plates of BBQ Pork steaks. The 8<sup>th</sup> annual **\*Stir the Pot Seafood and Wild Game Cook-off and Festival** attracted approximately 850 people to the one day event. 33 people packed into the meeting room to enjoy the fun and relaxing **'Painting at the Park'** class. Throughout the year and at different events we sold park t-shirts and hats, had a few raffles and collected memberships and donations.

Friends was able to contribute in kind donations directly to Palmetto Island State Park that valued over **\$27,812**. Please note the list below:

- Purchased New flooring for 6 cabins and the meeting room and paid for the labor to have it installed
- New gate and fence to access the large pond at campsite
- 3 Exit signs
- 1 memorial plaque
- Pulley to repair lawnmower
- Mulch
- 3 display cases for kiosks
- New finishing mower
- 2 window a/c units
- Sensor for splash pad pump
- Chemicals for splash pad
- Jomax to clean buildings
- Hose for dishwasher
- Concrete, screws and lumber to build a frame for Lt. Gov. sign

We hope that you find the information provided in this report is a testament to our passion and proof of community support for Palmetto Island State Park. We're excited to continue to be of support and benefit to the site in 2019 and we look forward to working with you to make it one of the best parks in the State of Louisiana. **Thank you for your support.**

<b>TOTALS SINCE 2011 FOUNDING</b>
# of Volunteer hours <b>43,575</b>
—
Free Programs <b>59</b>
—
Dollars Raised <b>\$367,919</b>
—
Spent on Advertising & Events <b>\$176,512</b>
—
Value of Gifts given directly to Park <b>\$170,924</b>