



Keeping YOU connected to Palmetto Island State Park!

Hello Friends!



**Friends of Palmetto 2023
Membership is Open**

Friends of Palmetto Needs you.....

to join as a 2023 member. It's time to renew your annual FPISP membership. If you aren't a FPISP member, please consider joining for 2023. **We could REALLY use your support this year.**



You won't believe what Friends does with your \$15 annual membership dues! Friends hosts several events throughout the year to bring people into the park and teach them about our culture – Cracklins Cooking Demo, Stir the Pot cook off, Halloween campsite decorating contest are just a few of the fun events we host. We work closely with other organizations to foster community within the park including The Boy Scouts, The Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, Latanier Cookers, and the Krewe of Palmetto. In the past, Friends has supported the park by purchasing items the park may need that wasn't included in the state budget. So, you see, Friends gets a lot of bang for your buck.

Annual fees are only \$15 per household. You can complete a membership form online and pay with PayPal or a with credit card or if you would like to send a check, make it payable to Friends of Palmetto Island State Park (FPSIP) and mail it to P.O. Box 33, Perry, LA 70575.

Join or Renew your Friends Membership here!

Park Manager's Message

The sewer hook-ups in the campground are on schedule to be completed by the end of January. If the work is completed sooner, then the sites will open up. Anyone can make reservations right now starting February 1st, 2023.

Be on the lookout for a new work of art in the park. It will be installed near the splash-pad and playground. It is a larger than life statue of a black bear. It will be incredible to see!



My last day with Office of State Parks will be February 19, 2023. My retirement starts the next day. I will be working part-time in the office a few days a week to help out, so I hope to continue seeing all my many friends that I have made over the years!

Happy New Year!
Marcelle Guidry



photo by Kurt Schoeffler

This is what the Louisiana Swamp looks like at Palmetto Island State Park when we experience four days in a row that start with 20-22 degrees. Temperatures rarely fall below 28 degrees in South Louisiana. KLFY reported that the All-time lowest temperature was - 16° F, Minden on Feb. 13, 1899.

Krewe of Palmetto

Chris and Shawn are organizing another FUN Mardi Gras Golf Cart Parade for 2023. This year's theme is "Rockin around the Campground...50's Style". I'm sure you'll be seeing a few pony tails, poodle skirts, slick backed hair and black leather jackets. This year they are hosting a Jitter Bug Dance Contest. Prizes for 1st , 2nd and 3rd place will be given. The dance contest is scheduled to begin after the coronation of Krewe of Palmetto's King Cake and Queen Moon Pie. Watch the Krewe's Facebook page for the time and location. This event is ALWAYS a good time!

6th Annual
**Krewe of Palmetto's
Mardi Gras in the Park
Golf Cart Parade**
Palmetto Island State Park

**Saturday,
February 18, 2023**

Ladies...Pull out the poodle skirts!
Fellas...Slick your hair back!
**"ROCKIN' AROUND THE
CAMPGROUND...50'S STYLE!"**

Get Ready to Cut a Rug!
JITTERBUG
DANCE CONTEST
AFTER KING AND QUEEN CORONATION
PRIZES GIVEN FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE

Follow **Krewe of Palmetto** on Facebook for updates or contact us at
ChrisMatt@hotmail.com or Klassice@aol.com
Please be aware that if the Krewe of Palmetto must cancel the event for any reason, other than an official mandate or closure by Louisiana State Parks, cancellation fees will apply to your reservation should you choose to cancel or transfer it. Palmetto Island State Park is not responsible for dates or times of this event. Thanks.

**Krewe of Palmetto's
Mardi Gras Golf Cart Parade**
"ROCKIN' AROUND THE CAMPGROUND...50'S STYLE!"

**JITTERBUG
DANCE CONTEST**

Get Ready to Cut a Rug!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023
CONTEST HELD AFTER KING AND QUEEN CORONATION
PRIZES GIVEN FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE

Follow **Krewe of Palmetto** on Facebook for updates or contact us at
ChrisMatt@hotmail.com or Klassice@aol.com

Cracklin Cooking Demonstration



Saturday, February 25
Palmetto Island State Park

Demonstrations begin at 8 a.m.

No charge for the tasting.

Donations are always welcome.

No bicycles, golf carts or pets allowed in event area.

Entrance fees into park apply.



Please be aware that if the hosting organizations must cancel their events for any reason, other than an official mandate or closure by Louisiana State Parks, cancellation fees will apply to your reservation should YOU CHOOSE TO CANCEL or TRANSFER IT. Palmetto Island State Park is not responsible for the dates or times of these events.

The 2023 Cracklin Cooking Demo is coming together! We'll have more information for you in next month's newsletter. Stay tuned! We checked and there are a few campsites still open for reservation. You can make your reservation [here](#).

Wanted: Volunteers for upcoming

Events



As Friends of Palmetto bounces back from Covid we are planning activities and fundraisers for 2023.

We hope to have a few volunteer workdays to provide opportunities for FPISPers to get involved. If you are interested in helping, you can email us with information to get in touch with you as opportunities arise.

info@friendsofpalmetto.org

Volunteers and voluntolds are needed for this year's Cracklin Cooking Demonstration and Stir the Pot. What's a "voluntold"? Glad you asked! It's when your partner or best friend tells you that they volunteered you for something. Hence the word, "voluntold".

The Cracklin Cooking Demo is Saturday, February 25th and Stir the Pot is Saturday, April 15th. Volunteers are needed to help plan and make these events a success. Volunteer opportunities involve planning committees, logistics, set up / tear down, garbage detail and a lot more. If you want to help, we'll find something for you to do (or 2 or 3 somethings if you REALLY want to help). If you aren't available on the days of the events, join one of the planning committees. We will also need people to run errands in the days leading up to the event. If you like to rôder it's the perfect job for you.

If you are a member of a service organization looking for opportunities

to serve the community, please get in touch with us.

Latanier Cookers' Update

2022 is in the books! Latanier Cookers had another GREAT year. We appreciate all the dedicated cooks who provided very tasty dishes at the monthly Dutch oven gatherings. We're ready to begin this new year. Please join us for the first D.O.G. of 2023 on **January 14, 2023!**

2023 Latanier Cookers' Commissioner nominations are open. Currently serving are Shari Hebert as President, Wayne Landry as Vice President and Carlene Meaux as Secretary/Treasurer. If you would like to serve or would like to nominate someone to serve as a commissioner for Latanier Cookers please email Carlene at cmeaux337@yahoo.com before Friday, January 13, 2023.

Become a member of Latanier Cookers

Save 2023 D.O.G. Dates!

Dutch Oven Gathering

Palmetto Island State Park

2023 Schedule

Jan 14 - Feb 11 - March 11 - June 10 - July 8

Aug 12 - Sept 9 - Oct 14 - Nov 11

**2023 State Gathering at Lake Fausse Point State Park, St. Martinville, LA - May 6 **



Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating

Join **Latanier Cookers** (*lah ton yā*) for a **D.O.G.** (Dutch Oven Gathering)

Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating.

Complimentary Dutch oven sides and desserts!

Pots are usually on the coals by **9 a.m.** Dish tasting will be **11 a.m.** or **Noon**, depending on weather conditions. *Check Facebook page for updates.*

Ice chests are welcome. Bring your chairs and drinks.

Entrance fees into the park apply.

Covered Dishes are Welcome!

Dutch Ovens and Membership are NOT required to participate.

Latanier Cookers is a local chapter of the **Louisiana Dutch Oven Society.**

To become a member or for more information call **337-298-3098.**

Find us on Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/#!/LatanierCookers>



Please be aware that if Latanier Cookers must cancel their events for any reason, other than an official mandate or closure by Louisiana State Parks, cancellation fees will apply to your reservation should YOU CHOOSE TO CANCEL or TRANSFER IT.

Palmetto Island State Park is not responsible for the dates or times of these events.

Meet Ursa Major





Ursa Major is the name of Palmetto Island State Park's newest Bear. This larger than life bear is located near the splash pad. Make two trips to see this beauty, one during the day and then pass again at night to see her all lit up. *Learn more about this bear's name [here](#).*



Ursa Major was designed, fabricated and installed by Brennan Steele. Palmetto Island's bear took 4-5 days to design on the computer. After that came the slow process of transferring it from the computer to actual iron. Ursa was constructed with twelve 4x10 sheets of of Corten Steel. Corten Steel (*sometimes known as weathered steel*) is a group of steel alloys that are often used in outdoor construction. Corten Steel was designed to eliminate the need for painting and if left outside, exposed to the elements, it will develop a rusted appearance in just a few months. Brennan sent these carefully marked sheets of steel to Louisiana Cutting in Baton Rouge for cutting. I think there are over 90 shapes welded together to create Ursa. It took Brennan 3-4 weeks (*working every other day because of the Louisiana heat*) to build Ursa Major.



This project was funded through the state's ' [Percent for Art](#)' program - 1% of the cost of a project has to be set aside to pay for art.

Brennan is a native of Oregon who moved to Louisiana 12 years ago and lives and works in New Orleans. Brennan's resume is impressive. He has worked for event production companies and TurboSquid in New Orleans helping to create elaborate Mardi Gras floats. Brennan is now self employed and contracts to create amazing art. I'd like to mention just a couple of features designed and created by Brennan, the bear at [Black Bear Golf Club](#) and [butterflies](#) for Ochsner's Medical. But his specialty is creating bonfire sculptures. You can see more pictures of Brennan's creations [here](#).



One of the benefits to camping in a park like Palmetto Island is that it's pretty safe and parents often allow children to explore with out supervision. However, children exploring without supervision often results in vandalism of park property. It's pretty frustrating and

discouraging to volunteers who help maintain the property and who have fundraised to purchase and install amenities like the kiosks. These kiosks were provided specifically to help keep campers and visitors informed. Please consider making an effort to instill respect for property and others hard work. The state did not purchase these kiosks, Friends of Palmetto Island State Park did.



Park Comments and Suggestions

Gates are open 7am-9pm (*Sun-Thurs*) and 7am-10pm (*Fri & Sat*). Entrance station is open: 8am-5pm (*Sun-Thur*) 8am-8pm (*Fri & Sat*). All park sites close at 10pm on Friday, Saturday and days preceding holidays. **Entrance Fees:** \$3 per person; Free for Seniors (*62 and older*) and children age 3 and under. **Canoe rentals** are \$25 per day or \$7 per hour. The **Splashpad** is closed on Mondays for maintenance. **Golf cart** entry fees are \$10 per day or \$100 for annual pass (*proof of insurance is required*). Palmetto Island State Park has 96 camp sites, 6 cabins, 4 pavilions, 4 primitive backpack sites, 1 primitive group site and a meeting room to rent. **RESERVATIONS:** Overnight accommodations at Palmetto Island State Park can be made online (*click button below*) or through the Call Center at 833.609.0686. **For more information** about the Park, visit

www.lastateparks.com or call 1-888.677.0094 toll free or 337.893.3930 locally.

Make a Reservation at Palmetto Island State Park



Thank you!





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