

May 2019

PALMETTO PAL'S PAPER

'Our community connecting YOU to Palmetto Island State Park'

A newsletter by Friends of Palmetto Island State Park, Inc.

Volume 9, Issue 5

Stir the Pot

seafood cook-off & festival
Palmetto Island State Park Abbeville

The weather was beautiful for our **9th annual Stir the Pot Cook-off and Festival!** Cook teams arrived early to get their food started for the cook-off and the park smelled wonderful. There were 20 teams that served up 25 dishes of seafood and wild game. The competition was fierce! Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and the Acadiana Woodcarvers Guild joined us in making this event interesting and informative. D.J. Mike Darby and Layne Touchet along with his band kept us entertained with music throughout the day.

Friends of Palmetto Island would like to thank everyone who came out to support us, the sponsors, the cook-off teams for providing fantastic food for the patrons, the judges, the demonstrators who added nature and cultural components to the event, the very generous donations of auction items and all those people who bid on the items, and the volunteers who worked for days, weeks and months to coordinate this event.

Stir the Pot is held annually the Saturday after Easter Sunday.
Next year's event will be **April 18th**. Save the date!



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BLAKE MIGUEZ



Daniel & Cathy Harris



Friends of Palmetto Island publishes this electronic newsletter on the 1st of each month. To receive a copy please e-mail info@friendsofpalmetto.org
To 'un-subscribe' e-mail the above. **Only current members without an e-mail address will receive a copy of this newsletter by mail.** Thank you!

Please feel free to share.

The winners of the 2019 Stir the Pot Cook-off are as follows:

Seafood Division



1st Place-Crawfish a La Chauze
Crazy Cajun Lawn Care



2nd Place - Crawfish, Crab Meat Eggplant Beignet w/ Remoulade Sauce
Concepts of Care Home Health



3rd Place - Seafood Pistolettes
Camping Family

Wild Game Division



1st Place - Wild Hog Chili
Kraze Kajun Kookers



2nd Place - Venison Cajun Spaghetti
Meaux Brothers



3rd Place - Duck Poppers
Taste Dat Cooking Krew

FREE Comet goldfish!

Can be used for an outdoor pond or container. Comets can get up to 10" long. You can contact the park manager, Marcelle at 893-3930 if you are interested.

**Calendar of Events****Reminder:**

There is no Dutch Oven Gathering in the Month of May

Saturday, May 18 - Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market at the boat launch

Tuesday, May 28 - Board meeting at the Abbeville Library at 6:00 p.m. - Public is welcome!

Saturday, June 8 - Latanier Cooker's Dutch Oven Gathering

Tuesday, June 25 - Board meeting at the Abbeville Library at 6:00 p.m. - Public is welcome!

LATANIER COOKERS' D.O.G. 'CHOW'**ORANGE JUICE CAKE** submitted by Louise Meaux Duhon

Cake: 1 box white cake mix 3/4 c. vegetable Oil
1 small box Orange Jello 1c. Orange Juice
4 eggs

Glaze: 1 cup powdered sugar 3tbsp Orange juice

Topping: (Optional)

2 Tbsp Orange zest 1/4 cup chopped nuts



Preheat oven to 350°. Generously grease and flour Bundt pan*, set aside. Add all cake ingredients as listed above, mix on medium speed for 2 minutes. Pour batter into prepared baking pan. Bake for 1 hour. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pan. Orange zest can be added to glaze. Place cake on a cake plate, prick cake top with fork. Pour glaze over cake top evenly. Allow to cool completely before serving.

***12 inch Dutch Oven Baking - 350° = 25 coals (17 on top/ 8 on bottom)**

Meeting, Greeting, Cooking & Eating

Gathering on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Palmetto Island State Park



337-893-2470 or 337-501-1535
meauxdp@yahoo.com





PALMETTO ISLAND STATE PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 18 • 9A-12P



- **Produce**
- **Homemade Food**
- **Crafts**
- **Seafood and More!**

**At the Park's
Boat Launch**

Snowbird Spotlight

Please welcome to Louisiana and Palmetto Island State Park, Cliff and Anne Korn from Hayward, Wisconsin near Lake Superior, the home of the Lumberjack Bowl, home of Lumberjack Champions and the worlds longest cross country ski race in North America. They were lifelong tent campers until they retired in 2008 and started in RVs to see America. Cliff is a two tour, Vietnam Veteran. They have a motor home that stays in Alaska where their children live and visit them twice a year. They use an 18 foot travel trailer to travel south away from the harsh winters of Wisconsin. Their first trip was along the coast from Texas through Louisiana after Hurricane Ike. Not knowing anything about hurricanes, they were saddened to see the devastation. This is their first time at Palmetto and they love it! They said the Park is beautiful and well kept and complimented the staff and volunteers on a good job. When they leave here they are going to Sam Houston Jones State Park. They love the Cajun food, culture and hospitality. They really enjoyed the Latanier DOG on Saturday. They said they will be coming back! If you see them please show them some good ole Cajun Hospitality.



The Henry Volunteer Fire Department got the winning square on our gun raffle. **Congratulations!** Thank you for all the support!



Sunday, May 12th is Mothers Day. Friends of Palmetto would like to wish all the Mothers a very happy Mothers Day.

Swainson's Warbler Geolocator Project April 2019



Of the 3 male Swainson's Warblers tagged at Palmetto Island State Park last year, one of our warblers returned to Louisiana first! This particular male was captured and tagged with the geolocator on July 6, 2018 at the Park. A geolocator is a lightweight electronic archival tracking device, used in bird migration research to map migration routes, identify important staging areas, and sometimes provide additional ecological information. A geolocator periodically records ambient light level (solar irradiance) to determine location. We don't know how old he is, but we do know that he's made his migratory journey at least 1 time before.

Data indicates that he returned to the park on March 30, 2019 and was recaptured by Erik on April 6, 2019, exactly 9 months after his initial tagging capture. He wears a little band in order to be identified if captured again. He no longer wears the geolocator and it cannot be reused. The unit's battery dies sometime after 9 months and so about 1 year is its' maximum lifetime.

In total, 10 male Swainson's Warblers were tagged with geolocators in Louisiana. 3 at Palmetto Island, 6 at the Frenchtown Road Conservation Area near Baton Rouge and 1 at the Acadian Park Nature Station in Lafayette. 2 of the 3 birds tagged at Palmetto Island have returned and been recaptured. The 3rd bird is still MIA, but not considered a loss. 3 of the 6 from Frenchtown Road have returned.

Swainson's Warblers are rarer than the Prothonotary Warbler also found at Palmetto Island. "Rarer" meaning in relation to numbers and distribution. The thought is that these warblers are probably 'specialist' in terms of habitat. They are also found in the Atchafalaya Basin area.

Erik explained to me that these birds are not easy to catch. A special song is played, tricking the males into thinking that another male has invaded his territory. The females are rarely caught. They also don't take to nesting boxes like the Prothonotary Warblers do. They prefer the dense understories, more like oaks or other hardwoods and thick with vines like muscadines. While they prefer a dryer habitat than the Prothonotary Warblers (*cypress-tupelo swamp*), they still like it to be wet. Palmetto Island's bottomland hardwood forest habitat is probably ideal, because to date, it is the only place known in Vermilion Parish that supports this little warbler.

Not all the data has been analyzed. This is what Erik told me so far. Like the Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warblers spend the summers in Louisiana to breed and raise their young. Looks like sometime in the Fall they begin to travel South from LA (across the Gulf of Mexico) to escape our cold wet winters. They usually begin a major migration at night. Erik suspects that they go to Central America or the Western Caribbean for the winter. He hopes to get more data from the geolocator as it continues to be analyzed. The Prothonotary Warblers goes to Columbia when it leaves LA.

This project is also in collaboration with Vitek Jirinic, PhD student in Phil Stouffer's lab at LSU.

Louisiana Bird Observatory (LABO) is part of Audubon LA and conducts bird banding open to the public almost every month at Palmetto Island State Park. The long term return rate data collected at these regular bird bandings has helped inform this geolocator project.

Erik sent a sincere thank you to Friends of Palmetto Island for supporting and participating in the Swainson's Warbler project by donating the funding to purchase a geolocator.



Erik Johnson – is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon LA (a state office of the National Audubon Society) He shared the information below via text and Facebook. April 9 at 6:36 PM

'Swainson's Warbler geolocator update: This graph shows the light intensity measured by the geolocator over the course of a day. On this day, the bird was likely day-migrating over the Gulf of Mexico and then dropped into woods at 1:25pm CDT (= 18:25 UTC). Assuming it departed the previous night at sundown, it would have flown about 19 hours non-stop! This shows the day of it's return across the Gulf. The Y-axis is light intensity measured by the geolocator. The bird was airborne for the first half of the day and then dropped into the woods around 2pm. Looks like it crossed the Gulf on Oct 11, 2018 and returned on the afternoon of March 30, 2019'



P.O. Box 33, Perry, LA 70575



Please Mail To:



May is National Tourism Month!

Even if you live in Louisiana, there are so many places yet to be discovered and explored. There are many weekend and day trip possibilities. Stop by your local tourism office and let them help you discover Louisiana.

Gulf Coast Golf Carts Sales & Rental



Free delivery with two day rental.
(Call for details)

Don Derouen
Owner/Operator

Bus: (337) 522-4210
2810 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Abbeville, LA 70510

Reminder! There will not be a Dutch Oven Gathering at the park this month. Latanier cookers will be at the State Dutch Oven Gathering that is being held at Lake Bistineau State Park. Safe travels to the group! The next Dutch Oven Gathering at Palmetto Island will be held June 25.

Park Hours of Operation:

Gates are open 6am-9pm (Sun-Thurs) and 6am-10pm (Fri & Sat). **Entrance station** is open: 8am-5pm (Sun-Thur) 8am-10pm (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 open April-September, Tuesday –Sunday from 8am to 8pm. **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** for overnight accommodations at Palmetto Island State Park can be made [online](http://www.lastateparks.com) or through the Call Center at 877.226.7652. For more information about the Park, visit www.lastateparks.com, call 888.677.0094 toll free or 337.893.3930 locally.