



Friends of Deerfield Island Park

2022 January
Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE

Our next Board and Members meeting: Thursday, January 13 on the island 10:00 am. We will meet outdoors at the Tortoise Shell Pavilion. Masks required. Watch your email for a reminder.

From the President



Now that the island is opened, there have been lots of visitors, and we have gotten great feedback from our Ambassadors. We have received lots of donations that will be used for educational projects, we have gotten several new members, and best of all, we have helped the Parks Department introduce nature and the serenity of the island to young and old. There have been many tortoise sightings and lots of enthusiasm for the varied species of spiders that we have on the island. Tony has been a great hit with children, and of course, the new Mangrove Boardwalk is the jewel of the island.

While we have several projects in the works, our most important program is the Ambassador Program. Now that the holidays are over, I urge all members and, specifically Board members, to sign up for at least, a once monthly "slot" as an Ambassador. I will be having an informal training session on Friday, January 21 at 10:00 am at the Kiosk for anyone who would like to join me.

If you cannot access the Google Ambassador calendar to sign up, please contact Fred (text: 610 0716-3761 email: fred.kraske@gmail.com). The Calendar is available for viewing only on our website or [click here](#)

Stay Safe. Hope the New Year brings you health and happiness.

Helene W.

Agenda 1/13/2022

Location : Tortoise Shell Pavilion

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance: Board
3. Attendance: Guests
4. Accept December minutes
5. President's Report – Helene
 - a. Park Updates
 - b. Ambassador Program – Need Volunteer to Chair the program
6. Membership Report – Irene
7. Financial Report – Helene
8. Old Business
 - a. Board Nomination – Shirley Lane
 - b. Coastal Cocktails – Helene
 - c. Pioneer Days - Ira
 - d. Education for Members – Meryl
9. New Business
 - a. New Gopher Tortoise Brochures – Diana
 - b. New Park Maps - Helene
 - c. Updated FoDip Brochures – Helene
 - d. Science through Art Program – Fau Educator
10. Open Discussion
11. Next meeting Date

NEWS and EVENTS



FoDip to Participate in Pioneer Days

Deerfield Beach will be having its Pioneer Days celebration on February 19-20 at the Main Beach Parking Lot. FoDIP will once again set up booth. Ira will be heading a committee to help set up, break down, and greet visitors. More information will follow. It is always a fun time, and a great way to introduce guests and residents to our

organization.

FLORA and FAUNA

Chuck-Will's-Widow

by Diana R. Lopez





[Caption]



The Chuck-will's-widow is the largest nightjar in North America. Birds of this family are commonly called nightjars because of the jarring cries made by the male when the female is brooding. This fascinating bird belongs to a family of birds called *Caprimulgidae* (which literally means "milker of goats") because of an ancient, mythical belief that its large, gaping mouth was adapted to latch onto a goat's udder and inflict blindness on the goats it fed upon!

Lots of familiar birds get their names from the sounds they make. Chickadees, towhees, cuckoos, jays—each was named after a word that sounds like the action being described. They include words like achoo, bang, boom, clap, fizz, pow, splat, tick-tock and zap. With its rich and throaty chant, the Chuck-will's-widow, like its close cousin, the whippoorwill, sounds as if it is singing its name.

Primarily a nocturnal feeder but also known to forage both at dusk and dawn, the chuck-will's widow is an insectivore. While in full flight, it swoops silently over the ground in search of prey with its mouth agape. It possesses specialized feathers, known as rictal bristles, that are located on the bird's upper beak and are similar to mammalian whiskers. These bristles help funnel insects into the bird's mouth while in flight, which is so large that it may inadvertently swallow small birds, such as warblers, and even bats.

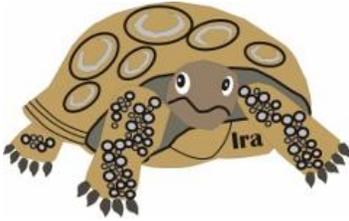
Due to its voracious appetite, this winged feeder helps keep the insect population under control, but because it is primarily an insectivore, it is highly susceptible to pesticide use. In the event it is unable to fly due to debilitating weakness, illness or injury, it will starve to death. The frequent, forced, hand-feeding of insects (such as wax worms that are known to contain an ideal combination of high protein, high fat and adequate water content) is the treatment option of choice when attempting to rehabilitate a compromised chuck-will's-widow.

During the day, these birds roost along horizontal tree branches or on the ground. Their beautifully mottled, brown plumage provides perfect camouflage against dried leaves and tree bark. They do not build nests, but instead lay their clutch of from one to four speckled eggs directly on the ground amid dead leaves, pine needles or even on bare dirt. It is the female alone who incubates the nest and feeds the hatchlings. Without the safety of a nest, the chuck-will-

widows are vulnerable to predators; however, they are so well camouflaged that they are seldom detected and are flushed off their improvised nests only when closely approached.

The range of the chuck-will's-widows is from east Texas and Florida to about the Mason-Dixon line. The number of chuck-will's-widows is thought to be declining. As is the case with many avian species, this reduction in numbers is an alarming trend and is considered to be a continual threat quite possibly due to loss of habitat on both its wintering and breeding grounds as well as to marked changes in environmental temperatures caused by global warming. As responsible stewards and guardians of our environment, we need to be ever vigilant and watchful of even the most subtle of changes in our natural surroundings.

You can now view the past 2021 newsletters on our website. [Click here](#)



Friends of Deerfield Island Park (FODIP)

Formed in March 2015

We are dedicated to preserving and protecting our unique green island as a natural habitat for native plants and for the island's animal inhabitants. We have been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for this purpose.

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