



DIPpings

from
The Friends of
Deerfield Island Park

August 2022

Tip: Turn your phone horizontally for better viewing

FoDIP Calendar

Member/Board Meeting : Thursday,
August 11 10:00 am
Deerfield Island Park.
Details to Follow.



From the President



Summer has been a slow time for FoDIP. Snow-birds headed home, members went on vacations and our Ambassador program has temporarily suspended. However, it has not been a slow time for the Parks department. There have been lots of visitors to the Island, and the Parks department has instituted new tours and programs.

Work on the butterfly garden has been paused until the the removal of cut down Australian Pines is completed. This requires heavy equipment (in the works). That and the need to work around gopher tortoise burrows in the area has put a hold on the creation of the new pathways.

We will meet again in August and restart our Ambassador program. A nominating committee has been formed to make suggestions for new Board members and Officers.

We are looking for new and existing members to join us in becoming an active part of our organization. There are lots of ways you can help. Become a board member and help in planning and executing new programs and projects; help our group's administration and outreach using Constant Contact and our Website; keep our social media presence fresh and up-to-date; help with our

organization's bookkeeping and finances; become an Ambassador and greet visitors to the island.

Active participation in our group will give you the opportunity to learn about Florida flora and fauna, ecology, our native Gopher Tortoises, and much more.

It is one small way that you can be part of helping our community and our planet and you will find it personally rewarding.

Click [here](#) if you are interested in any of the above.

News and Events

Upcoming Events at Deerfield Island Park

The Broward Department of Parks and Recreation has scheduled many ecological tours and events in the upcoming weeks and months.

Click [here](#) to see descriptions and to sign up with the Parks Department.

Here are just a few:



**Aug
12**

**FI Native Plants and
Trees**



**AUG
27**

World Water Week Walk

FLORA and FAUNA

Can You Guess Who This DIP Critter Is?

(How many clues does it take you to figure it out?)

by Diana R. Lopez

DIP Critter Clues:

- 1) It's a mammal that is most closely related to bears (not foxes as many believe)
- 2) It makes its home in tree hollows, caves and burrows
- 3) It is primarily crepuscular and nocturnal meaning that it is most active at dawn, dusk and at night
- 4) It's an omnivore that eats fruits, berries, nuts, fish, shellfish, insects, rodents, bird and turtle eggs, garbage, as well as (believe it or not) small, domestic mammals such as puppies and kittens
- 5) Some, but not all, of its species wet their food prior to eating it
- 6) It is able to swim and will never live farther than 1200 feet from a permanent water source
- 7) The male of its species has been known to mate with cats
- 8) Cats have been known to nurse this critter's offspring
- 9) Upon opening its eyes, it imprints indelibly on its nursing parent
- 10) An infant of this species crying for its mother sounds very similar to a human baby crying
- 11) It can become aggressive as early as 6 months of age
- 12) The female of its species matures at one year, and the male, at two years of age
- 13) It is highly dexterous and its name comes from the Algonquin word, *aurukun*, meaning "he who scratches with his hands"
- 14) The heaviest recorded weight of its species is 60 pounds which is the average weight of a 7 year-old child; it is considered pretty fast as it can sprint at speeds of up to 15 mph
- 15) It is highly intelligent in that it can solve problem situations and remember quite intricate tasks for a period of up to 3 years
- 16) It is a common carrier of rabies and can transmit rabies to you or your pets if you or they are bitten or scratched
- 17) Like all wild animals, this critter does not make a good pet as it can be both dangerous and highly destructive
- 18) A group of this species is called a nursery

Did you get it? Click [here](#) to see the answer !!!!

You can now view the past 2021,2022 newsletters on our website.

[Click here](#)



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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