

DIPpings

from
The Friends of
Deerfield Island Park
September 2022

Tip: Turn phone horizontally for better viewing"

FoDIP Calendar

Member/Board Meeting : Thursday, Sept
8 10:00 am
Deerfield Island Park.
Details to Follow.



From the President

Fellow FoDIP Members:

Our next meeting will be an important one. The nominating committee will present a slate of nominees for officers for the 2023 year, and a list of additions to the Board of Trustees. We will also be discussing some upcoming events that our group will be sponsoring.

Sign up sheets for Ambassador slots and event volunteers will also be available.

Our friendly gopher tortoise whose burrow is near the butterfly garden, and who almost always makes himself available for viewing, has been returned to the island after a stint at "Gopher Tortoise Spa". He was taken off-island to be treated for shell rot and extra long claws. Ira and I happened to be visiting the island, when Broward Naturalist, Elena, brought him back.

After some initial hesitance, our friendly gopher tortoise happily took off for his burrow.



Some Interesting Apps and Links

Plant Identifiers



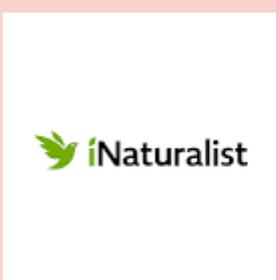
Picture This:

Download It: Android and IOS

Similar to other apps, PictureThis uses super-advanced artificial intelligence to turn plant photos into positive identification. This app is different because it also acts as a total plant encyclopedia, even listing if **plants are toxic to pets**.

How It Works:

With PictureThis, you essentially have a botanist in your back pocket. After taking a photo of the plant, artificial intelligence technology is used to determine the species. That AI also allows you to diagnose common problems with your houseplants, like pests and diseases, as well as offers treatment suggestions. Lastly, you can utilize plant care guides to become a better plant parent.



iNaturalist:

Download It: Android and IOS

iNaturalist, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, helps identify plants by connecting users with a community of over a million scientists and naturalists. You simply upload pictures of plants you're looking to identify, and

other users can chime in on what they believe the plant is.

How It Works:

When you use this plant identification app, you become a "citizen scientist." You're not only identifying plants, but your observations can also contribute to biodiversity science—your findings are shared with scientific data repositories, where that data helps scientists better the planet. You can also use the app to connect with experts and learn about nature from the pros.

Bird Identifiers



Merlin Bird ID:

When you see a bird you don't recognize, simply answer five straightforward questions about its color and size, and the Merlin Bird ID app suggests likely species matches.

Managed to snap a photo? Even better! upload it to the app, and Merlin will offer a list of possibilities. You'll also get

plenty of information about the species you're seeing, courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Where to Get It: Free on Android and iPhone merlin.allaboutbirds.org



Audubon Bird Guide:

Unlike the average paper field guide, this app includes bird songs and calls. Regular updates means you won't need to replace this guide when information changes to stay up-to-date. Interactive features allow you to report your own sightings and see recent spottings logged by others in your area.

Where to Get It: Free on Android and iPhone, audubon.org

FLORA and FAUNA



This One's a Pip and It Lives on DIP!

by Diana R. Lopez

On August 7, 2022, I found myself on Deerfield Island as FODIP Ambassador. I was at the Ambassador kiosk when a quick, jerky movement at ground level caught my eye. Unsure as to what had seized my attention, I edged closer. Another jerky movement. Then another. I moved in. Whatever animal it was, it was bright green and appeared to be rooting around with its pointed snout at the base of a weed half buried in fallen leaves. I estimated it to be about five inches long with a slender but muscular body, an obvious dewlap at its throat and a long, tapered tail that comprised more than half its body length. Judging from its behavior, body shape, pointed snout, slitted eyes and the way it carried its tail flat on the ground, I knew it was not a chameleon, gekko or an iguana. But exactly what was this creature? I only knew one thing for certain: it was some kind of green colored reptile. But what

kind?

I probed deeply into my memory bank of past experiences with reptiles and began to check off a list of possibilities. Might it be some kind of anole, but if so, what kind? My first inclination was that perhaps it might be a Cuban brown anole, but then I remembered that Cuban anoles are incapable of changing color; they are always brown, never green, and while Green anoles aren't always green (their color changes from green to brown when they are either cold or alarmed), this particular anole rummaging for food before me was not only green, but a brilliant green. (In case you may be wondering, despite its ability to change its color, a Green anole is not a true chameleon since chameleons fall into an entirely different family of Old World lizards called *Chamaeleonidae*.)

My level of excitement was now rising. My powers of deduction told me that this reptile must be a Green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*), and considering the fact that Green anoles are the only native anole species found in Florida (they range from North Carolina to Texas including Florida), I had just cause to be excited because sighting a Green anole is considered an extremely rare occurrence as it is a seldom seen species. This is because Brown anoles, which are known to feed upon Green anoles, are diminishing the numbers of Green anoles significantly. Furthermore, some theorists believe that the burgeoning invasive Green iguana population in South Florida is forcing the Brown anoles higher up into the canopy, which would push native Green anoles higher still, and since Green anoles are considered to be an *arboreal* species, this displacement of its habitat could have a far reaching impact on the Green anole population as a whole. It's not easy being green!



It is the male of the Green anole species that is larger than the female and it is the male that is in possession of a dewlap, a brightly colored, pink, fanlike pouch extending along the neck that he inflates and displays when attempting to attract a female. Head bobbing often accompanies a male's dewlap display, and if the female appears receptive, the male will bite her on her neck. *That's courtship, Green anole style.*

Once mated, the female will lay a single egg on the ground

and cover it with leaf litter. A few weeks later, she'll lay another single egg. She then will repeat this behavior multiple times throughout the summer until she has laid an average of 15 to 18 eggs. Once hatched, she will neither protect her eggs nor her young. *That's parenthood, Green anole style.*

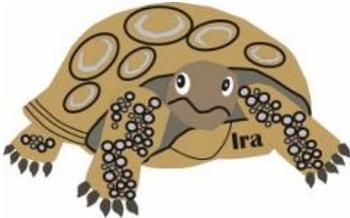
The male Green anole is known to defend his vegative territory by exhibiting a variety of displays such as head bobbing, an activity that resembles doing push-ups, extending his neck and inflating his dewlap, erecting his crests and turning laterally to show his profile and to assert and proclaim his dominance. The loser in such a display contest bobs his head in acknowledgement and scurries away in defeat.

The diet of the Green anole consists mainly of insects and spiders, but it will also eat nuts, grain, seeds and even mollusks, whatever is most abundant at the time. Life expectancy of the Green anole is from 2 to 8 years.

My time spent on Deerfield Island never fails to provide me with a variety of exciting new sights, sounds and smells. Each visit is different, special and destined to be a true learning experience. August 7th proved no exception.

You can now view the past 2021,2022 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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