

# THE DUNE

## Breeze

### How to Make Your Friends Group Take Flight

*By Peggy Birkemeier and David Pearson*

Friends of Jockey's Ridge and Friends of State Parks have teamed up together to co-host the first statewide conference for state parks 'Friends Organizations.' The goals for the conference are several:

- To promote local community support for each state park under the federal non-profit guidelines as a 501 c 3 organization
- To educate each friends group about organizational and financial best practices for non-profit organizations
- To become familiar with all of North Carolina's state parks, and their services to the public
- To become stronger advocates for our state parks within the larger statewide community
- To encourage greater connection and support with all friends groups
- To encourage growth of state park 'friends' organizations; currently 17 parks out of a total of 34 have a 'friends' group
- To promote financial sustainable growth for all 'friends' organizations

The conference is for all board members of State Park friends groups and for staff. In addition to training workshops on several pertinent topics, the conference will also showcase the musical talents of both staff and volunteers and each park will be providing materials and exhibits from their park. Sponsors for the conference include several park friends organizations, and businesses that showcase environmental sustainable practices. Participants will spend time at Jockey's Ridge to learn about the wind turbine that now provides electricity to the park. Jockey's Ridge is the first state park to build a turbine. Parks are being encouraged to find ways to implement solar, wind, water and other green energy saving practices into their current or new building programs.

Workshop leaders include state park staff and superintendent Lewis Ledford; several long established friends groups, including Friends of Jockey's Ridge that was established in 1990; and the North Carolina Community Foundation, the only statewide community foundation. The conference will take place January 21-23 at the Ramada Inn, Kill Devil Hills.

Registration details will be coming soon, but mark your calendar now to join us!

We are asking park staff, park advisory committee members, and park friends groups to attend. We will be posting registration information on <http://www.ncfsp.org> soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact DavidP@ncfsp.org or Peggy Birkemeier pbirk@nccommunityfoundation.org

Hope to see you on the North Carolina Outer Banks in January as we Take Flight!

Thanks for all you do for North Carolina State Parks!

#### **DON'T FORGET!**

**State Parks**

**"Friends" Conference**

**January 21-23**

**Ramada Inn • Kill Devil Hills**

**<http://www.ncfsp.org>**



## From the President's Pen



Fall is now upon us. What a wonderful time of the year. Come on out and enjoy your park. Nothing beats the feeling of the cool air with the warmth of the sun, while climbing to the top of the ridge or exploring our coastal estuary. We are looking forward to some exciting events coming up.

In January, the Friends of Jockey's Ridge is proud to be hosting a statewide conference for the friends groups of all of our North Carolina State Parks. This three day conference will be an exciting time to meet others with the same love for their park that we have. I'm personally looking forward to meeting with and learning from the other groups their specifics that make their groups prosper and be successful.



Coming in February will be another scheduled volunteer work day. The past two years we have bagged oyster shells in the parking lot to help establish our oyster reef restoration project in conjunction with the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Your local "Friends" group supplied the oysters for the oyster roast that accompanied the bagging project. A great time was had by all and the snow we experienced last year only made the day more festive.

Like all non-profit groups we are always looking at ways to raise money to in turn support the educational programs given by the rangers at the park. Keep a lookout for announcements for our community bazaar. We hope to sponsor a community event with donations giving you an area in our parking lot. We all know how many people travel on Saturdays from one town to the next. What better way than to have multiple yard sales going on in one location.

We need your support. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. What a great way to do your holiday shopping than by visiting our gift shop at the park and also enjoying the 10% members discount.

*See you at the Ridge and bring your friends. – Mark Dunlevy*

*Save the Date!*

January 21-23, 2011

State Parks "Friends" Conference

*How to Make your Friends Group Take Flight*

All park staff, friends groups & Park Advisory Committee members are invited to attend & network with other park advocates from across the state.

Ramada Inn, Kill Devil Hills, NC

Presented by: Friends of State Parks and Friends of Jockey's Ridge  
For more info Contact: David Pearson, FSP -- davidp@ncfsp.org  
Peggy Birkemeier, FJR -- pbirk@nccommunityfoundation.org



**Ann In Action**

*Ann Wunderly captivates the crowd  
at Wildfest 2010*



It's pretty much an office joke that I'm a technology geek. It seems like most of the day I'm answering email, or compulsively checking my Blackberry for the latest urgent request from someone. When I'm not online, I'm usually on the phone answering questions or making my case to someone for something. Then I go home and reconnect with old friends or classmates on Facebook, catch up on the day's news, and do a little online shopping. Sound familiar?

Honestly, I don't know how it got to this point. I think it was a slow and insidious process that came over me tiny bits at a time – like that frog in the warm water that doesn't realize how hot it's getting until it's too late. Don't get me wrong, it's not such a terrible thing. My fascination with technology allows me to get a lot done with minimal expense and effort, and keeps me up to date with what's going on at the park and in certain segments of my personal life. Recently though, I began to feel like I needed a break.

My timing was good. The busy season had let up a bit at the park and it looked like fall would be a good time to get away. I decided to do an old-school Florida vacation and seek out pink flamingos, glass-bottom boats, and Weeki Wachee mermaids. I loaded up my little teardrop camper and off to the gulf coast I went.

I decided on a few ground rules. No wrist watch. No cell phone or technology of any kind. No chain or fast

food restaurants. I required myself to go places and do things I don't normally do. My mantra was "If I do it at home, I'm not doing it here." Like most things in my life it seems, what I experienced was nothing like what I was expecting, and a good deal more relaxing and cathartic than I had dared hope for. Here are some notes from my vacation:

1. Having the virtual world at your fingertips is not nearly as rewarding as having the real world at your fingertips.
2. Crystal clear seventy-two degree spring water is capable of metaphorically washing away a lot more than a little dirt.
3. I really do get to come to work every day at one of the most extraordinarily exquisite places on the planet. That's not marketing. That's fact.
4. Sometimes the most beautiful sound you ever heard is no sound at all, and the gentle bubbling of spring water can be more melodic than any song you've ever heard.

I think these were all things that I knew all along, but I just needed to take my attention away from Google long enough to be reminded of them. Let me be the first to encourage you to enjoy your own little self-imposed media blackout here at Jockey's Ridge State Park. You may discover things you weren't expecting just as I did, or you have your own little epiphany. Don't expect to see any mermaids though. If you do, please text or email me a picture. Or we can video conference. Whatever.

– *Debo*

### THE CRAZIEST THINGS I HEARD LAST SUMMER

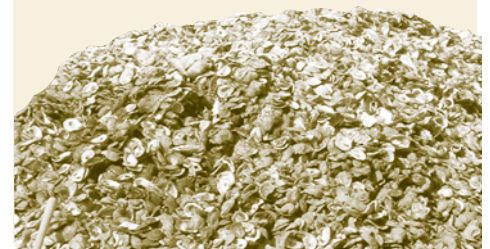
*A yearly feature of interesting guest questions and comments lovingly compiled by park staff*

1. "Can I plug my electric griddle in and make grilled cheese sandwiches?"
2. "Do you guys have a swimming pool?"
3. "What were the life-saving stations used for?"
4. "I find birds kind of annoying."
5. "I saw 'Sandboarding with a Permit.' What does with a permit mean?"
6. "What is the purple flowered pine tree?"
7. "We flew into the Wright Brothers Memorial and got a ride down here. We were wondering if we could get a ride back."

### AND THE CRAZIEST THING HEARD LAST SUMMER WAS:

*A guest referring to the piles of recycled shells in the parking lot to be bagged for shoreline reclamation:*

**"Did these oysters wash ashore?"**



## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF JOCKEY'S RIDGE!



Just fill out the form, clip and mail along with your check to:  
Friends of Jockey's Ridge • PO Box 358, Nags Head, NC 27959

- Single \$25.00       Sponsor \$100.00       Business Steward \$500.00  
 Family \$45.00       Patron \$250.00       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Renewal       New Friend

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



## WHO'S IN THE PARK?

Myron Dean of Orange Park, Florida, was one of 11 volunteers with AmeriCorps who worked at Jockey's Ridge this fall helping to eradicate invasive plant species in the park. AmeriCorps is network of partnerships with local and national non-profit groups that assist meeting critical needs in the community. Myron described the area as "quiet" and found the sand dunes "amazing."



## JOCKEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK

### Friends of Jockey's Ridge

#### Board of Directors

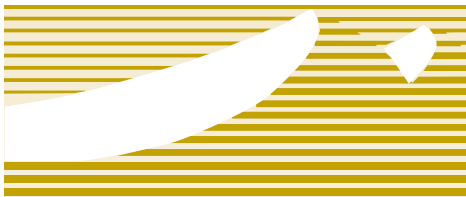
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Debo Cox, *Park Superintendent*  
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[www.jockeysridgestatepark.com](http://www.jockeysridgestatepark.com)

252-441-7132



Friends of Jockey's Ridge  
P.O. Box 358  
Nags Head, NC 27959

To be placed on our mailing list,  
please contact the Park Staff  
at 252-441-7132.

To Join The Friends  
of Jockey's Ridge Visit:  
[www.jockeysridgestatepark.com/friends.html](http://www.jockeysridgestatepark.com/friends.html)