



Turtle Tracks

Fall 2015
Friends of Lovers Key



Photo by Carlton Ward, Jr.

Carlton Ward, Jr., National Geographic Photographer, to Speak at Images of Nature Event

Carlton Ward, Jr. is a conservation photographer and eighth-generation Floridian based in Tampa. His work is exhibited widely and published in Audubon, Smithsonian, Geo, Nature Conservancy and National Geographic.

His current purpose is to protect Florida's nature and culture through art. Carlton is a National Geographic Explorer for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a campaign he founded in 2010, including a 100-day, 1000-mile

Expedition from Everglades National Park to the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia in 2012. The journey continued on January 10, 2015 when Carlton joined conservationist Mallory Dimmitt and biologist Joe Guthrie on another 1000-mile trek to document the remainder of the potential statewide Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Carlton will share photographs and stories from his expedition and why he believes in protecting Florida's nature.

Photography Week Nov. 2nd—6th.

Register now for sessions at the Park with several local professional photographers.

Learn about landscape photography, macro photography, portraits and more!

To register and see the full line-up visit www.friendsofloversonkey.org

IMAGES OF NATURE GALA DINNER

Guests will enjoy a silent auction, cocktails, appetizers and dinner at the beautiful Bonita Bay Club.

The evening will feature a presentation of photographs and stories from two National Geographic-sponsored expeditions through the Florida Wildlife Corridor by photographer Carlton Ward, Jr.

Sunday, November 8, 5:30pm.

Visit www.friendsofloversonkey.org for more information and tickets

A SEASON FULL OF EVENTS! DON'T MISS OUT!

| DATE and TIME | EVENT | HOW TO REGISTER |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Sat., Sept. 26, 9am—noon | Celebrate Public Lands Day Scavenger Hunt! Grab your friends and explore the park as you follow clues and snap photos at numerous locations throughout the Park. | Free for registered participants. Call 239-463-4588 to register. |
| October 14 | Cocktails at Sunset Sunset on the beach with Friends of Lovers Key. | Members only, Free. Call 239-463-4588 to register. |
| Nov. 2-6 Times vary | Photography Week Sessions with local professional photographers on-site at Lovers Key State Park. | \$50 per session. Register on website |
| Sun. Nov. 8 5:30pm | Images of Nature Dinner and photography presentation with Carlton Ward, Jr. | \$175. Register on website |
| Sat., Nov. 14, 8am—4pm | Community Yard Sale Celebrate America Recycles Day. Register for a space or just come and shop! | Free, open to the public. To register for a space to sell your wares, call 239-463-4588. |
| Nov. date TBD | Stargazing Everglades Astronomical Society volunteers will provide information and telescopes for viewing the night sky. | Members only, Free. Call 239-463-4588 to register. |
| Sat., Dec. 5 10am—3pm | Great Outdoor Adventure Day Nature exhibits, touch tank, tours and much more! Fun for the whole family. | Free, with park admission, open to the public. |
| Sat. Dec. 12 7pm | State Park Night at the Everblades. Enjoy a hockey game and support Lovers Key! | \$20 tickets available through www.friendsofloverskey.org |
| Sun. Feb 14 10am and 3pm | Vow Renewal Ceremony at the Beach Gazebo. The most romantic way to spend Valentine's Day! A sell-out every year! | \$75 per couple. To register, contact Judy at fjgreenwood@gmail.com or 708-359-0466 |
| March 18-20 | Nautical Flea Market and Boat Show Dozens of exhibitors featuring everything from fishing gear to art work and the latest beach and go fashions. Local offerings from the area's finest boat dealers. And don't forget to stop by Fitzgerald's for the best in burgers, fish and Rotary Beer Garden. | \$5 donation to enter. |

Join FOLKS! Visit www.friendsofloverskey.org for details on different membership levels and benefits.

Valentine's Day
Vow Renewal
Ceremony

Sunday, February 14, 2016

\$75 per couple. To register, contact
Judy at figreenwood@gmail.com or 708-359-0466



The Friends of Lovers Key and the Bonita Springs Rotary announce the first annual Lovers Key Nautical Flea Market and Boat Show to be held at Lovers Key **March 18-20, 2016!!** Join us for a great couple of days of food, drink, nautical goods and fun in the sun. All kinds of nautical exhibitors and boat dealers. All proceeds go to FOLK's Park projects and Rotary charities!

CREATURE FEATURE: DOLPHINS

Several dolphin species occur in Florida coastal waters. The most common of these is the bottle-nosed dolphin. Bottle-nose dolphins have robust, powerful bodies that are blue-gray on top with lighter sides and bellies. As adults they are typically 6 to 12 feet long and can eat more than 20 pounds of mullet, sheepshead, pinfish, flounder and marine invertebrates each day. Bottlenose dolphins show a high degree of intelligence, have a wide range of vocalizations, and may cooperate in fishing.

Dolphins are often heard clicking. Contrary to popular thought, clicking is likely not communication, but rather the sonar system dolphins use for navigation, food-finding and avoidance of predators.

Dolphins are frequently seen in the Gulf and inland waters around Lovers Key State Park. People enjoy watching them surface, fish, and frolic in the water.

Swimming with or feeding dolphins can be dangerous for both human and dolphin and should not be attempted.

Source: FWC.com



When you use one of these online services for shopping and dining, a percentage goes to help FOLKS!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: TODD RICHARDS

To say that Todd Richards is passionate about nature and Lovers Key State Park is an understatement. Todd's days are spent in the park and on the beach overseeing many aspects of the day to day activities inside the park. As the official concessionaire at Lovers Key State Park and Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Todd is an asset to FOLKS as well, serving as a Board member and on several committees. There are few events at the park that Todd is not involved in. His love of the park and nature is shown in his commitment and the volunteer hours he puts into FOLKS. Todd states, "It's wonderful to see the

park maintained as real Florida. We have coastal areas, wetlands, and upland habitats here. It is important to understand how to educate people about and to maintain that environment." In recognition of his hard work and dedication, Todd is this year's FOLKS Nominee for the Distinguished Fundraising Volunteer for National Philanthropy Day, to be held at Hodges University on November 12, 2015.

Born in Sugar Grove, Illinois, Todd's family relocated to Southwest Florida when he was a young child. Todd has been married 7

years, and he and his wife, MariBeth have two children, Lynlee 4 years old, and Bennett, 1 year old. Todd is a real family man, though in his free time, he does enjoy a round of golf. Todd is also one of the founders of Salt Warriors. This non-profit organization helps 5 local charities to raise money and awareness.



Business Partners help support the environmental education mission of the Park.

[Thank You Business Partners!](#)

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