



Turtle Tracks

Summer 2015
Friends of Lovers Key



Chip, the injured Gopher Tortoise. Photo by Gloria Beauchamp

A Restful Place

A quiet oasis away from the roar of cars and commerce, where few buildings interrupt the tranquil landscape of sea grape, mangrove, and palm trees. Humans and animals alike flock to Lovers Key State Park to enjoy the serenity and calm. Gazing out at the gently lapping waves of the Gulf of Mexico, the soaring birds or plays of light on a leafy tree, one feels the stress of everyday life begin to melt away.

The quiet canals and beaches of Lovers Key State Park provide a peaceful refuge for nesting birds, manatee mothers and their calves, and even injured wildlife such as Chip the gopher tortoise.

Chip's shell was damaged several years ago when he was struck by a car in the Park. Chip survived the incident, and is often seen in the Park, enjoying his home on Black Island.

Park staff are trained to capture injured wildlife. The animal is then transported to the Conservancy of SWFL, CROW or other area wildlife hospital. The most common injuries are to birds: fishing line tangled on legs, a hook in the bill, a broken leg or injured wings.

Animals that just need a secure place to rest and recover from a minor injury or

stressful human interaction may **seclude themselves** in one of the Park's many quiet spots away from roads, trails, and people.

Come to the Park to unwind and enjoy this precious sanctuary where humans and animals can relax amidst some of **nature's finest work.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMAGES OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEK

Sessions at the Park with different professional photographers
November 2-6

IMAGES OF NATURE GALA DINNER

Dinner and presentation by National Geographic Photographer Carlton Ward, Jr. at the Club at Bonita Bay.
November 8

Visit www.friendsofloversonkey.org for more details about these and other programs!

[Join FOLKS!](#)

Visit www.friendsofloversonkey.org for more information about different membership levels and benefits.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

1st Place Winner: Jo Kelly, "Kayaks at the launch site"

2nd Place Winner: Mary Porter, "3 Royal Terns on the Beach"
(Pictured left)

3rd Place Winner: Lorrie Preston, "Black Skimmers in flight"

Winner in the Children's Category: Kacie Faircloth, age 12
"Pelican by the bridge"

Thank you to professional photographer John Brady for judging the entries! The committee has chosen Mary Porter's "3 Royal Terns on the beach" for the cover of our new Cookbook coming out later this year.

All of our photographers did a fantastic job! Every photograph entered in the contest will appear in the upcoming Cookbook. Check www.friendsofroverskey.org for notification of when Cookbooks are available for sale. FOLKS members will also receive an email notification. If you would like some of your favorite recipes featured in our Cookbook, please email them to Judy at fjgreenwood@gmail.com

CREATURE FEATURE: OSPREY

Unique among North American raptors for its diet of live fish and ability to dive into water to catch them, Ospreys are common sights at Lovers Key State Park, soaring over its shoreline, canals and estuary, and standing on their huge stick nests, white heads gleaming. Hunting Ospreys are a picture of concentration, diving with feet outstretched and yellow eyes sighting straight along their talons.

Ospreys are excellent anglers. Over several studies, Ospreys

caught fish on at least 1 in every 4 dives, with success rates sometimes as high as 70 percent. The average time they spent hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes—something to think about next time you throw your line in the water.

When on South Beach, keep a lookout for Ospreys eating their catch on one of their favorite picnic areas: a tree branch near the Beach Pavilion.



T Srock Photography



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

FRIENDS GATHER TO SUPPORT LOVERS KEY!



Reggae and Ribs on the Beach
Residents of Waterside at Bay Beach had fun for a great cause!



Would your community like to support the Friends of Lovers Key and enjoy an evening at the beach?

Call Susan Suarez at 239-784-4521 for details!



Dennis Goodman and Gloria Beauchamp

Thank You to
Dennis Goodman Photography for hosting a Gallery Night to benefit the Friends of Lovers Key!



David and Rosie Cordes with Sarah Horvatich



Dennis Gormely and Mike Matthews

Prefer to go paperless?

Sign up to receive Turtle Tracks electronically! Send an email to FOLKScampaign@gmail.com with your name and address as it appears on your newsletter mailing label and say "e-news please."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JUDY GREENWOOD

Originally from the South side of Chicago, Fort Myers Beach resident Judy Greenwood is now enjoying life in paradise. An active Board Member of FOLKS since 2013, Judy is the Events Coordinator for FOLKS. Judy first discovered FOLKS when she read about and signed up for the **2012 Valentine's Day Vow Renewal**. She and her husband, Frank, renewed their vows at the event. As a former wedding and party planner, Judy felt she could bring her expertise to grow and improve the **Valentine's Day Vow Renewal**. She got involved the following year,

Increasing the event to two renewals **each Valentine's Day, and has been** chairing the event since. Judy has been recognized for her hard work and has received numerous awards including, a 2013 Certificate of Appreciation from Lovers Key State Park, a 2014 National Philanthropy Day Certificate of Appreciation for Philanthropic contributions to The Friends of Lovers Key State Park, and a 2014 certificate of Recognition as a nominee for the 2014 Adult Female Volunteer of the Year Award hosted by Friends of Florida State Parks.



Judy's favorite spot in the park is the Gazebo on the Beach, where she often spots her favorite bird, the Osprey. She and Frank have two adult sons, one who was married just one year ago at the Gazebo on the beach.

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

[Thank You Business Partners!](#)

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