The Friends of the Hammock Board of Directors and the Hammock City Advisory Board meets the second Monday of every month at the Dunedin Community Center, Room 161, 1920 Pinehurst Road at 7 P.M.

All members and public are welcome. Friends of the Hammock of Dunedin, Inc. is an IRS-recognized non-profit organization.

EAGLE SCOUTS EXCELL

The Hammock Disc Golf Course got a much needed upgrade with an Eagle Scout project headed by Scott Curkan, a member of Clearwater Boy Scout Crew #135.

Helped by a dozen other Boy Scouts and his parents, Scott led his group in a weeklong task of pouring nine concrete pads and installing tee posts for the course. Their project solved a long-standing complaint by players that tee-off sites were difficult to find. With the assistance of Gordon Wolfe from the Park Department, the crew hauled 120 bags of concrete weighing three tons to the field, then hand mixed and poured it into forms that they had previously built.

Scott said it was the first time he and his helpers had ever laid cement and it was very hard work. As a finishing touch they added racks with dowels for golfers to use for their equipment.

BENCHMARK PROJECT UPDATE : The Optimist Club of Dunedin has committed to inscribing three of the remaining new benches in the Hammock. Of the twenty benches installed, only four remain for personalization. For information about this $1,000.00 tax-deductible donation please call Dunedin Parks & Recreation at (727) 812-4531.

HAMMOCK PARK WILDERNESS CAMP

Despite high heat, humidity and mosquitoes the intrepid campers in the Hammock summer program participated in great activities filled with fun, learning experiences and service to the park.

This year with a $300.00 plant donation from the Friends of the Hammock they planted 150 Sword Ferns in an environmentally sensitive and eroded site within the woods. Each week of camp focused on a different activity. One week was devoted to native culture and another to outdoor living skills and another to prehistoric discovery. To cool down campers swam, canoed and participated in sponge relay races.

Many of the activities were the same as when the program first started in 1976, according to Friends of the Hammock past president Steve Fasnacht. He was a camp counselor during the first year of the program and remembers clearing the area behind the main shelters to create a meeting site for campers. He saved a small cedar slated for removal and planted it. It is now 50 feet tall. Hiking, "creek-dipping", lanyard-making and macaroni art were part of that first year experience. At the close of camp Steve said all the participants signed each others’ Hammock tee shirts as a memento of the summer.
THE OFFICIAL “UNOFFICIAL” PHOTOGRAPHER OF HAMMOCK PARK

The Barred Owls brought Don Solari to the Hammock. He was told about an owl family rearing two babies in the park by an Audubon Society volunteer. He decided to try to photograph them and ended up spending five to six hours a day throughout the spring and summer on his quest. He succeeded in documenting their formative growth in a spectacular series of pictures. He then expanded his Hammock pictorial to include other birds, animals, reptiles and flora within the forest. A Clearwater resident, Don retired after 30 years from GTE/Verizon and became interested in scenery and wildlife photos after a trip to Alaska. He says he is not a professional photographer, but his pictures speak otherwise. He takes beautifully composed photos with a creative flare that has captures the life within the Hammock. A kiosk in the main entry area of the Hammock features his photographs. The secret to his success, he admits, is lots of patience and a very understanding wife. He enjoys the Hammock because of all the nature trails and the friendly people he has met during his many visits.

Save the Date

Join us for a December Air Potato pickup, Saturday, Dec 6 from 9–noon. The air potato leaf-eating beetle is doing a great job attacking the air potato vines in the Hammock, but your help is still needed. Bring gloves and plastic grocery bags. Learn about the City’s 2015 strategy for controlling invasives at the noon hotdog picnic.

Friends of the Hammock, Inc.
c/o Parks & Recreation
1920 Pinehurst Road
Dunedin, FL 34698

Find us on the web at hammockpark.org & on Flickr.com as Dunedin’s Hammock Park