



Fall 2013 • Have you renewed your membership for 2013? www.hammockpark.org

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.

Gator Alert!



This big alligator has been sighted with greater frequency in both Lake SueMar and the East-West Channel of the Hammock. As a reminder to the public the City has erected a "Do Not Feed the Alligator" sign along the lake shore. It is illegal and dangerous to feed these wild denizens. It is also one more reason to keep dogs leashed so they do not become reptile dinner.

Air Potato Warrior



The orange red Asian Air Potato Leaf Beetle is now being used to control the destructive invasive air potato plant. It eats only air potato leaves and has been approved by the USDA and FL Dept. of Agriculture. It has already been distributed throughout the State and has been recently introduced to Pinellas County. In September it will be released in the Hammock and volunteers are invited to participate in the event.

See Celebration Potluck Picnic Details in Newsletter

Fall Migratory Bird Banding Research Project



Sundays, Sept 8, 15, 22, 29, & Oct. 13, 8:00AM-Noon

Location: Kettles Trail (Southeast of Palm Trail)

Join environmental educator Jim McGinity and his research staff as they study and band birds in the Hammock. The researchers will be available to talk with you about the project and the birds who use the park as a waypoint on their southern migration.

Long Range management Plan to Be Developed

King Engineering has won the bid to prepare a long range management plan for the Hammock. The company is very familiar with the park from their involvement with the Lake SueMar/Hammock Hydrology Project. Friends of the Hammock helped the City fund the \$9,875.00 study with a contribution of \$2,875.00 raised by the Benchmark Project. The study will include identification of the habitat, both plants and animals, and how to best protect and enhance their environment. Also part of the study will be invasive control, reforestation priorities, infrastructure evaluations, safety procedures, and other concerns of how to maintain the natural state of the preserve in an ever increasing urban setting.

Help us in our efforts to preserve Hammock Park with your tax-deductible donation to the Benchmark Restoration Project.

Founder of the Century



Vivien Skinner Grant

Twenty years ago, when Vivien Skinner Grant, life-long Dunedin resident, worried that the future of the Hammock was in jeopardy she took action and became the driving force to organize The Friends of the Hammock. She wanted to be assured that this natural treasure would never be developed and that the neglect

in caring for all aspects of the park would be reversed. Leadership was her forte. The former City Commissioner, founding member of the Dunedin Historical Society, 60

year member of the League of Women Voters and a recipient of the Delightful Dunedin award did not let age stop her from putting all her energy into the new volunteer group. At 82 she was elected to the Board and spent the next 17 years in faithful service to The Friends of the Hammock. **On September 9, 2013 Vivien celebrates her 100th BIRTHDAY!** It is fitting that Andrews Memorial Chapel within the Hammock was the site chosen for her party. Her Grandfather, former Mayor Lee Bronson Skinner once owned the property that is now the Hammock. Her ties to the park are cemented in history with the naming of both Skinner and Grant Trails as a tribute to her and her family's role in the founding of Dunedin.

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

Air Potato Beetle Release & Celebration Picnic

Saturday Morning, September 21, 2013 10:00 AM

Celebrate the first day of autumn with the Friends of the Hammock as the air potato leaf eating beetle is released in the park. At 10 AM Dr. Tom Cuba, environmental expert will lead a discovery walk through the preserve and help volunteers disperse the little warriors on air potato plants. At noon celebrate with a potluck picnic. Bring a meat, salad or vegetable dish. The Friends of the Hammock will supply drinks, dessert and dinnerware.

Call Sue Wallace at (727) 736-2986 if you plan to attend and tell her what you will bring and how many people will attend.

Benchmark Project

The Hammock Benchmark Project has raised funds to purchase ten of the twenty four much needed new benches for the park. The engraved benches will be installed by the City this fall. The ongoing campaign continues to seek donations for the preservation and restoration of the Hammock and the replacement of the remaining fourteen deteriorating benches.