Continue the Legacy

The Hammock is a special place worthy of our care and concern. For 25 years the Board of the Friends of the Hammock has volunteered to protect, fund projects and educate the community about this urban oasis. Many on our board have served for decades and are looking for a new generation of community volunteers to join them and help continue this legacy. If you love this beautiful serene park, why not commit your time and your ideas to keep advancing the progress we have made? We are looking for people who are proactive and able to contribute to this special environmental calling. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees or would consider becoming a member of the board, go to info@hammockpark.org and let us know you would like to join our team.

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

Please Renew Your Membership for 2020 at hammockpark.org/renew
For those who would rather mail in a check, please fill out this form and mail to Parks & Recreation. Thanks for your continued support!

Please mail check (no cash please) to:
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Visit us at hammockpark.org and on flickr at flickr.com/hammockpark

Mikell Herrick
A Photographic Pursuit by Mikell Herrick
This year’s presenter at the Annual Meeting is local writer/journalist Mikell Herrick. With an artistic eye she has captured stunning nature photographs throughout the Dunedin area that she will share at the Friends’ meeting. She will offer tips about what she has learned about improving skills and producing better nature and wildlife images. She will explain where and how she photographs Florida birds in action and a little about the editing process to produce a final image.

Two New Bridges to Span Hammock Waterway
The contract has been awarded to replace the Harvard Avenue and Cedar Trail wooden bridges that cross the canal along Skinner Trail. Long-lasting aluminum spans are scheduled to be installed in mid-January. The project will necessitate the closure of Skinner Trail east from Cline Trail to Grant Trail for several weeks. Public notices will be posted before the scheduled closings.
Delightful Dine-Out
Friends of the Hammock held their third annual Dine-Out at Casa Tina’s Restaurant in October. The event brought out lots of supporters, including City officials, Hammock visitors, Butterfly Garden volunteers and members of the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA. The 50/50 Raffle earned one lucky winner $204 for a dollar entry. The Friends of the Hammock is grateful to local photographer Mikkel Herrick who donated four of her Florida bird prints for a raffle and to Casa Tina’s owner Tina Avila who donated $1000 of her night’s profit to help the Hammock.

At Long Last — Fern Trail Boardwalk
The construction of the 6 foot wide 1,343 feet long ADA compliant boardwalk will have a minimum impact on the park environment because of the modular design. The installation of the wooden walkway will require no heavy machinery and no deep drilling because of the non-penetrating pad feet design. Wickcraft Boardwalks are made with tubular structural steel supports that are hot-dipped galvanized because of the environment. The installation of the wooden walkway will have a minimum impact because of the modular design. The installation of the wooden walkway will require no heavy machinery and no deep drilling because of the non-penetrating pad feet design. Wickcraft Boardwalks are made with tubular structural steel supports that are hot-dipped galvanized with fabrications.

Paid in Full!!!
In just three years the Dunedin City Commissioners paid off the $13 million dollar debt for the purchase of the important environmental Hammock land from the Catholic church in 2016. BP funding from the county trust, donations from the Friends of the Hammock, a grant from the Florida Communities Trust, land dedication fees spurred on by a robust economy and the tireless effort of the Parks and Recreation Department to obtain funds made it all possible. The significance of preserving this eight-acre parcel has been confirmed by the preliminary confirmation by Heinrich Environmental Services that this area is the primary habitat of the endangered Sopher tortoises in the Hammock. The upcoming survey in February will identify the tortoise habitats throughout the park and estimate the population.

Invasive Removal Day
The annual invasive plant removal day sponsored by the City of Dunedin and the Friends of the Hammock will be held on Saturday February 1, 2020 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Volunteers are needed to help remove a multitude of exotic growth that harms native plants and trees. Some plants that will be targeted include air potatoes and the Balsam Apple vine. The event will also be used to clean Hammock Park benches. Cleaning supplies, gloves and water will be supplied. Grilled hot dogs with drinks and chips will be available for volunteers. Bottled water will also be provided. Since this is an off-trail event, long pants, closed shoes and gloves are recommended.

Waldorf School Lantern Walk
On a beautiful mid Fall evening 100 parents and children of the Suncoast Waldorf School in Palm Harbor gathered in Hammock Park for their traditional lantern walk celebrating St. Martin’s Day.

Butterfly Garden Gets New Chairperson And She Is Natural
Susan Foote, a Friends of the Hammock Board member, has accepted the position as chairperson of the Butterfly Garden Committee. She will manage the garden, replacing Mary Grace McCaffrey who is stepping down after a year of extraordinary work revitalizing the garden and establishing a solid volunteer base. Susan grew up on a produce farm in Ohio and has been gardening all her life. When she moved to Florida 15-years-ago, she planted her own garden and set a goal to eat fresh produce from it daily and according to her, has succeeded. She has a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and Business Administration and owns The Canvas Yard, Inc., a local business customizing marine fabrications.

Much Loved Mulberry Tree Removed
A Florida mulberry that graced the intersection of Sugarberry and Skinner Trails was removed by the Park Department after being severely damaged in two separate incidents. Individuals decided to climb the tree and rip and break branches off to pick the fruit. The second occurrence happened soon after the first, and was significant enough to damage the main trunk and made it non-sustainable. According to Dunedin arborist Craig Wilson, mulberry trees are very soft wooded and cannot accommodate such human interaction. Although the tree was significant to feed wildlife in the park, it will not be replaced for several reasons. Arborist Wilson said he has not been able to find a suitable tree for sale and that there is concern if a tree were replanted in such a visible place, incidents like this would occur again by those who have no regard for the environment. Fortunately, this was not the only mulberry tree in the park and the others will continue to be used by birds as an important food source.

Adults and children gathered for a traditional lantern walk

Storytelling with school founder Barbara Bedingfield
The legend of the patron saint of beggars and outcasts says he brought light and warmth to all those lives he touched. The children of the school made their lanterns and lit them with battery operated tea lights for the walk to honor the inner light and divine spark within each person. The Lantern Walk affirms to the families that the light continues to shine even as the light and warmth of the sun wanes. School founder, Barbara Bedingfield began the celebration with songs about light and stories about the meaning of the festival. As it grew dark the group gathered to walk along a (battery- lit) luminary lined path to the Harbor Bridge, carrying their lanterns as they looped through the park. The school worked with Jorie Peterson, Dunedin Special Events Coordinator to plan the event.

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In addition, she is avid sailor and sailboat racer and author of the book, The Sailing Adventures of La Bouette. She has sailed over halfway around the world and now races weekly with the Windlasss in Dunedin. She gained a great deal of experience organizing volunteers when she chaired their Race Committee. Before her husband passed away last year, they would walk the Hammock daily and she said it was his medicine. A fellow Windlass member urged her to get involved with the Friends of the Hammock. Susan is hitting the ground running and is already searching for additional volunteers to adopt the care of beds A, B, C, D, E and G in the garden. She is also looking for “shell gardeners” to help manage weeds in the shelled pathways of the garden. One of her first tasks will be to contact a home-schooling organization that does service projects and see if she can recruit volunteers. If you have a green thumb or want to acquire one and become a gardening angel contact Susan at dunedinbutterflies@gmail.com

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