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Spring Newsletter 2010

1 message

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Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation Summer 2010 Newsletter

News for our "Friends of the Park"

Summer is our planning season. The Foundation is working with our Park partners to bring you very exciting Fall and Winter events. The details are still in the planning stage, but we think you and your family will enjoy these events. One event coming in October is "Scarecrows in the Park". This event will run in conjunction with the Pumpkin Patch, the Halloween Train and the return of the Haunted Walk. Also, the very successful Farmers Market is returning to the park in November. Look for more information in our next newsletter or event flyer.

We have updated our Annual Partnership Programs in order to better serve you. All programs include a Partnership Card, a copy of the DVD "A Walk In The Park", and Newsletters, e-mail updates, and advanced notice of special events.

The new levels are:

- **Friend of Lakes Park (\$50)**
- **Fun for the Family (\$100)** - This level includes one free boat rental, one free bike rental, one Free ice cream cone.
- **Bird Lovers (\$100)** - This level includes; a Sunset bird

LAKES PARK LINKS:

[Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation](#)
[Lakes Park Lee County Parks and Recreation](#)
[Lakes Park Gardeners](#)
[Lee County Bird Patrol](#)
[Railroad Museum of South Florida - Train Village](#)
[Wheels of Fun](#)
[Lakes Park Blog](#)

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CONTACT US

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[Add us to your address book](#)

walk for 2 with a naturalist guide.

- **Park Patron (\$250)** - This level includes; an Annual Lee County Parks Parking Pass, (a \$60 value). [Click here to see where it is valid.](#) and everything included in either the **Fun for the Family** or **Bird Lover** benefit packages, choose one.
- **Sustaining Park Contributor (\$500)** - This level includes; Two (2) brick endowments, Free Lakes Park shelter reservation with daily parking passes for up to 50 guest., an Annual Lee County Parks Parking Pass, a (\$60 value). [Click here to see where it is valid.](#) and everything included in either the **Fun for the Family** or **Bird Lover** benefit packages, choose one.
- **Steward of the Park (\$1,000)** - This level includes; Recognition on the annals "**Stewards of the Park**" plaque in Lakes Park, Two (2) brick endowments, free Lakes Park shelter reservation with daily parking passes for up to 50 guests, annual Lee County Parks Parking Pass, a (\$60 value). [Click here to see where it is valid.](#) Everything included in either the **Fun for the Family** or **Bird Lover** benefit packages, choose one, and your choice of one of the following:
 - Guided canoe tour with park ranger for up to 10 people
 - Bird-watching tour with the bird patrol for up to 10 people
 - Private train ride with park ranger for up to 20 children
 - Guided tour of park with park ranger and presentation of park's master plan for up to 10 people.

Donations should be mailed to:

Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation

P.O. Box 61076

Fort Myers, FL 33906-1076

Community Gardens Update

Our gardeners began cultivating a few months ago and, now the Community Garden has become a great success! Gardeners have enjoyed one full crop with the produce yield including tomatoes, cukes, zucchs, beans, onions, herbs, peppers, radishes, strawberries and many kinds of lettuce. Flowers brighten the garden throughout while butterflies and birds are sharing in the fun. Lots of learning is going on between veteran and first time gardeners. Our monthly Garden Gatherings is where local professionals lecture about composting, summer gardening in the tropics, organic gardening and pest control. Garden activities coordination is being overseen by a Garden Committee and renters are being encouraged to volunteer for general garden maintenance tasks. Challenges (critters, weeds) are being vigorously addressed. Our first batch of 'homegrown' compost is ready for use. Park visitors often stop by to admire, ask questions and just thank us – for having this community garden project! All the plots have been rented, and we have a waiting list ([click here to add your name to the list](#)) for next season (1

Sept), so it appears we are definitely meeting a community need, while thoroughly enjoying all the benefits of having this wonderful Community Garden!



The Farmers Market

The 1st ever Lakes Park Friday Farmers Market was a huge success. The market will return this November, even bigger and better. Also, it will be moved to the front parking area which will allow better access and traffic flow. For those of you who may have missed the market here are some photos from a typical Friday.







What's Happening In The Park this Summer?

- Summer Programs: Camp Tahinihatchee A Fun Filled Summer days at Lakes Park. Weekly themes, arts and crafts, games and occasional field trips. This is an Open Air Camp, located in our Screened Lodge. Camp weeks run: Week 1 - 6/28 to 7/2, Week 2 - 7/6 to 7/9, Week 3 - 7/12 to 7/16, Week 4 - 7/19 to 7/23, Week 5 7/26 to 7/30, Week 6 - 8/2 to 8/6, Week 7 - 8/9 to 8/13. Pre-Register required. You can register online at www.leeparks.org or call (239) 533-7275. For ages 6-13 (by Sept 1).
- American Liberty Express: Enjoy a special ride on the train for the Fourth of July. Train runs from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tickets Prices: \$5 – 6yrs & Older, \$2 – 1 yrs to 5 yrs. Contact the Train Village for more info during daytime hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 2pm, Sat 10am to 4pm & Sun Noon to 4pm.
- Construction Update. New metal roofs for the Amphitheater, Wheels of Fun, the Tahinihatchee Lodge and restroom buildings are being installed.

Park Shots

Theses photos are from the rookeries in the park. The pink bird is a Hybrid Pink Ibis. The other is a Black-crowned Night Heron.





Did you know?

Lakes Regional Park, the \$7 million “Crown Jewel of Lee County,” opened to the public on April 21, 1984. An estimated crowd of 2000 swam, jogged, canoed, fished, and picnicked. Admission was \$1.50 for adults and 75cents for children.

GRANT RECEIVED FROM FOULDS FOUNDATION

Community gardeners will have a shady place to relax while tending their garden plots thanks to a \$5,000 grant received from the Claiborne and Ned Foulds Foundation. This is the first major grant received for the development of the Botanic Garden. “This contribution to development of the Community Garden, the first phase of the Lakes Park Botanic Garden, is gratefully received,” said Wendi Carroll, President of Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation. “Our gardeners will appreciate the opportunity to take a break or enjoy a picnic lunch under the sun shade, especially now that summer is upon us. Additionally, the fact that the donation comes from such a well-respected, local foundation is especially meaningful to the Foundation Board of Directors,” she added. The Foulds Foundation was founded in 1981 and has made a multitude of charitable grants to benefit worthy charities in Lee County.

A Contest for our Subscribers

We have a contest for you, “EVENT Photos”. We will change the 3 rotating photos on the EVENTS page at our web site in September ([click here to view the page](#)). We invite you to send your photos to us for use on our web page. Here are the rules; the photos must be taken in Lakes park and be family

friendly. By sending the photos you give permission for their use in this contest. The photos will not be returned. [Click here to enter the contest](#). Winner(s) will be notified by e-mail in September.

We Need Your Support

Please help us in our effort on continued improvement of the crown jewel of Lee county, a.k.a. Lakes Park, by making your donations to the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation. You can do this becoming a partner, or buying a brick, tree or a bench, (click [here](#) to donate online) and sharing this newsletter with your co-workers, friends, family and social networks (you can use the buttons on the right).

Your Feedback

As always we want to hear from you. What did you like, dislike and/or what would you like to see in the newsletter? Also we would like you to share your photos of the park with us. We may publish them in the PARK SHOTS section. Send your comments and photos to lpefoundation@gmail.com.



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