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Subject: Summer Newsletter

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To: the_suttons@yahoo.com;

Date: Tue, 16 Aug 2011 13:27:00

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Summer 2011 Newsletter

It is summertime in Southwest Florida; it is hot, humid, and beautiful. The Crown Jewel of the Lee County park system, Lakes Regional Park, is undergoing some major modifications to the water flow through the lakes. Read on to see what has happened since our last newsletter and what is happening in the coming months. Also, we have a reader's poll asking for your input on what you want to see in the park and a new section called "What's In Flower." Enjoy!

The Bash Report!



The 3rd Annual Lakeside Country Bash was BACK on Sunday- May 15th in Lakes Park! A crowd of approximately 4,000 enjoyed the music of Darius Rucker, Uncle Kracker, Crystal Bowersox and The Dirt Drifters. With lots of food, giveaways, contests and GREAT country music the Bash was a day of fun in Lakes Park. All proceeds of the Bash go to Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors who made the event possible. Visit www.lakesidecountrybash.com for more information and

Lakes Park Links

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

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(239) 533-7575

<http://www.lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org/>

Meet Us

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation Board

Vicki Baugh - President

Marsha Asp - Vice-president

Mike Beck - Treasurer

photos from the Bash.



Kim Sutton - Secretary

Bob Beville

Wendi Carroll

Richard W Darrell, MD, ScD.

Bill Gray

Wesley E. Higgins Ph. D.

Sue Moore

The Botanic Garden at Lakes Park



What's in Flower

Article by Wesley E. Higgins, Ph.D.

Warm summer days with a gentle breeze invoke tropical memories here in South Florida. Remember those fragrant flower leis we associate with Hawaii? Come to the Botanic Garden at Lakes Park to see and smell the *Plumeria* flowers. Some people know them by their common name Frangipani which comes from an Italian, a sixteenth-century marquee who invented a plumeria-scented perfume. Although we connect these beautiful flowers with Hawaii they originate from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. *Plumeria alba* is the national flower of Nicaragua where it is known by the local name "Sacuanjoche".

The genus *Plumeria* is named in honor of the seventeenth-century French botanist Charles Plumier, who traveled to the New World. The genus contains 7-8 species of mostly deciduous

shrubs and small trees that can be grown in mild areas of the US (In tropical regions). These tropical deciduous trees are sensitive to cold and leaves tend to fall in early winter.

The sweet fragrance of *Plumeria* flowers are reminiscent of jasmine, citrus, spices, gardenia, and other indescribable scents. There are more than 300 named varieties of *Plumeria* with colors of whites, yellows, pinks, reds, and multiple pastels. Come to Lakes Park and smell the flowers.



Community Garden Update!



The following pictures are harvest photos of the produce donated by Community Gardeners to Community Cooperative Ministries (CCMI) in June 2011. Individual gardeners donated produce as well as the produce from the two dedicated CCMI garden beds. A total of 30 lbs. of vegetables have been donated so far this season. The garden produces an abundance of eggplant, okra, basil, everglades tomatoes, leeks, chives, all of which were in the donated 30 lbs.

The Fragrance Gardeners donated about 40 plants that they grew from seed for the Community Garden to grow in the CCMI Garden Beds. They are beautiful plants and very healthy. There will be an abundance of veggies to keep taking up to the food bank.

Joan Black has been interfacing with Meghan Madden, Food Innovation/Team Leader for CCMI in this effort



Coming Events

September



The Living MindFULLY event is blossoming into a "First Annual" with lots of plans and great events. One of the important parts of the event is the Living MindFULLY Festival and Peace Walk at Lakes Park on September 24. [Click here](#) for detail about the event.

October




Scarecrows In The Park returns for its 2nd Annual run in the park as part of the Lakes Park Fall Festival & Halloween Extravaganza, which runs from 10/15 – 10/31/2011.

Registration for this year's Scarecrows in the Park is now open! Contact Marsha Asp aka Head Scarecrow at scarecrows@LakesParkEnrichmentFoundation.org for info and/or a registration form. You can download the registration form by

[clicking here.](#)



Like Acey the Scarecrow here 



The **Farmers Market** returns for another year.

Interested in a booth? Here are the contacts for the market:

Jean Baer - jmbaer@comcast.net

Betsy Ventura - jenningsims@aol.com

NOVEMBER

Calling all 40 and 50 somthings who:

- grew up in Fort Myers
- Remember the rock quarry on Gladiolus before it was Lakes Regional Park
- Have Memories and stories you are willing to share

On Sunday, November 13, at 4:00. the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation will host an "open mike" opportunity at the newly remodeled Amphitheater (photo below) at Lakes Park to reminisce about those youthful days at the rock quarry. Swimming, parties, gatherings, hikes, dirt bikes and whatever you remember and would like to share will be welcome information at this oral history event. If you have pictures of the early days, please bring them along so we can copy them for our archives.

The Amphitheater is located behind the train tracks a quarter of a mile from the train station area. All are welcome. Seating is

limited in the structure, but bring a blanket and sit on the grassy knoll.



Lakes Park FYI

SUMMER CAMP

If you were in the park weekday this summer you probably heard the peals of laughter and the melody of young voices from the area around the Tahinihatchee Lodge. Those sounds were associated with summer camp in the park. Here are some photos from one of the fishing days.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Lee County Natural Resources is doing some renovation/excavation for water quality and flow for the Lake. The picture with yellow borders in water was an excavation of an island. Good for more flow and the island was full of NASTY exotics. The other picture is the south end of the park showing a new area for water to flow. A culvert was installed under the existing path to attach to the small waterway behind Reflection Key Condominiums. Additional trees (Pines and Palms) were planted near the area to offset the removal of some trees for the installation.

Thank you Christine Bailey Lakes Park Senior Supervisor for these updates.



TRAIL MAP

Do you want to know how far you walked in the park? [Click here](#) for a PDF park trail map.



Feedback

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation is a not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization. We exist only to serve the Park and its Patrons or as our slogan says "Enriching Our Park, Enhancing Our Community." That said, we are asking for your input. What do you want to see in the park?

For Example:

- 1) A fitness Trail (Replacing the one Charlie destroyed)?
- 2) A bird viewing platform with binoculars to observe the rookery?
- 3) More shaded picnic tables?
- 4) Other Ideas?

Tell us what you want by simply [Click here](#) and email us your thoughts. We are looking forward to your suggestions.

[subscribe](#)

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