

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Friends of Sarasota County Parks.. Don't forget to add FOSCPNEWS@gmail.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox! Got a tip or an event? Send us the skinny.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

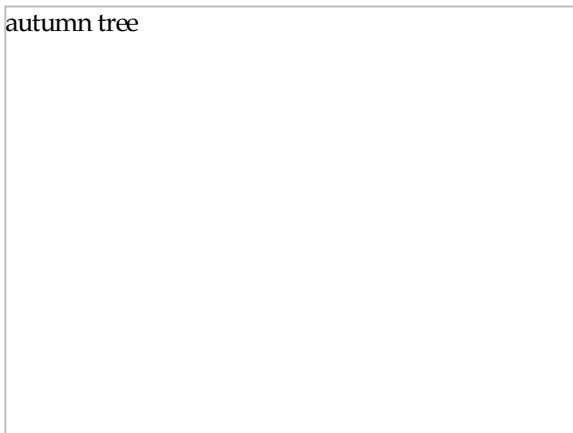


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It's already October. Keats says,

*SEASON of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;*

autumn tree



At FOSCP we say, October brings cool, dry air when outdoor activities can begin in earnest. This month is rife with Dragon Boats, both at Paddle Palooza and at Creaky Bones.

There's news about Siesta Beach, and initiatives at Tuscano and Laurel parks.

Then there's National Mountain Biking Day, National Night Out, a Sustainable Communities Workshop, a Master Gardeners' Workshop, Make a Difference Day, Tour de North Port, and BOO! it's Halloween.

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FOSCP [Chapters](#)

(Links supplied where we could obtain them)

Friends of . . .

[Arlington Park](#)

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Challenger Park

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[Englewood Ctr. Sustainability](#)

[Englewood Comm. Garden](#)

Before we get to all that and more, congrats are in order:

To Carolyn Brown, who is now Director, (dropping the "interim") of Sarasota County Parks & Rec., and

To FOSCP board member Bruce Dillon, named *Sarasota Magazine's* [Volunteer of the Year](#). "I like to see positive change," says Bruce.

Yes!



foscpc van

On The Drawing Board...

If you've not yet had the pleasure, plan to go soon to the [Celery Fields](#) - up on the hill, you get a fine breeze and wonderful sunsets. And the just-opened **Birdwalk** is superb – the other day I was out there in the early a.m. – it peacefully puts you in the midst of an ecosystem teeming with life.

celery birdwalk

Celery Fields Birdwalk

More developments coming soon:

Siesta Beach

The [Siesta Beach Plan](#) that originally was to be phased in gradually out to 2024. Recently the County is considering doing it all at once.

"This will be exciting if it happens," said Carolyn

[Garden at the Springs](#)

[Indian Mound Park](#)

[Legacy Trail](#)

[Lemon Bay Park](#)

[Myakka River Park](#)

[Newtown Estates](#)

[North Port Comm. Gardens](#)

[North Port Parks](#)

[North Water Tower Park](#)

[Nokomis Parks](#)

[Palmer Ranch Parks](#)

[Payne Park Tennis Courts](#)

[Phillippi Estate Park](#)

[Red Bug Slough](#)

[Rothenbach Park](#)

[Sarasota Adaptive Rowing](#)

[Shamrock Park](#)

[T. Mabry Carlton Reserve](#)

[Ted Sperling Park at S. Lido](#)

[Therapeutic Recreation](#)

[Urfer Family Park](#)

[Venice Community Center](#)

[Woodmere Park](#)

You could . . .

[Become a Volunteer](#)

[Start a Chapter](#)

[Become a Member](#)

If you start a Chapter, create a website or Facebook group, or begin chirping about parks on Twitter, let us know at:

foscpcnews@gmail.com

Brown. If it goes this way, it will still take a few years to complete, and will be done in sections so they don't have to close the whole park at once.

Speaking of Siesta: Did you know their [Lost-and-Found](#) rules are a little different from the other beaches?

Tuscano Park

The county is considering putting a playground on one acre of this [11-acre parcel in Venice](#) - this would satisfy deed requirements, and FOSCP might be involved in the funding.

Laurel Park

A few years ago The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons held its annual meeting in San Francisco. By the time they left, [Balboa Park](#) – a new, 3,000-square-foot playground – had been added to the community.

Now a Sarasota surgeon is leading the initiative to create a playground at Laurel Park. Dr. Adam Bright has put designers on the project, and is putting together a fundraising plan to make this happen when physicians gather in Sarasota for their meeting in May 2012. The plan has an estimated cost of \$250,000 plus a maintenance reserve fund. There's talk of a "Blitz Week." Much more to come..

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Calling All Volunteers

Our full list of coming events is below -- some of them might also still need a few hands.

Nov. 5: Legacy Trail Overpass Celebration

Events

[Nature Walks, Talks, Rides](#)

[Sustainable Workshop](#)

[Phillippi Farmhouse Market](#)

[National Night Out](#)

[Paddle Palooza](#)

[Little Naturalist Field Trips](#)

[Make A Difference Day](#)

[Creaky Bones!](#)

Resources

[List of Parks](#)

[October Calendar](#)

[Discover Natural Sarasota](#)

[Benefits of Parks](#)

[Sustainable Communities](#)

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Got News?

The deadline for sharing your parks events and updates in our next newsletter is Sept. 25th.

FOSCPnews@gmail.com.

Join Our Mailing List!

 Forward to a Friend

The **Celebration** is Saturday, November 5, 9 am to 1 pm at the Venice Train Depot. Volunteers needed to help with helmet fitting, directing walkers and bike riders. Also parking, set-up and take-down help. Please email MJ Rouvet, mjrouvet@verizon.net or call 484-8964.

UPCOMING EVENTS in PARKS

- OCTOBER -

Saturday, Oct. 1 - The **Light the Night Walk** at Ken Thompson Park - commemorating lives touched by cancer.

Oct 1 is also [Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day](#) - events all around the Nation (even in Mountain-challenged Florida) can be [found here](#)

Sunday, Oct. 2 - **Bike Hike with [Larry Robbins](#)** at the Carlton.

Tuesday, Oct. 4 - [National Night Out](#) is moving from Payne Park to **Urfer Family Park**. Crime Prevention and the Special Ops Unit will be among the participants.

Wednesday, Oct. 6 - **Wildflowers at [Manasota Scrub Preserve](#)**.

Thursday, Oct. 6 - [Sustainable Communities Workshop](#). Hal Knowles III and Dr. Anne E. Keller, will speak. 4740 Cattlemen Rd., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8 - [Paddle Palooza](#): Row, canoe, kayak, paddle a dragon boat and more. Paddle

FOSCP Monthly Meetings

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2011-12

All at 4:30 at Twin Lakes Conference Room unless noted:

2011

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September 22
October 27
November 17
December 22

2012

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January 26
February 23
March 22 (in North Port)
April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 15
December 20

FRIENDS OF
SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS 

Palooza happens from 9 am to 4 pm along the Cocoplum Waterway at Dallas White Park. Hosted by Vision North Port, Benderson Development, the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of North Port, and Sarasota County.

Saturday, Oct. 8 -Sarasota Master Gardeners hold their [annual plant sale](#) at Bee Ridge Park, 4430 Lockwood Ridge Rd., 8 am - 2 pm.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 - At Rothenbach Park: [Little Naturalist Field Trips](#).

Sunday, Oct 16 - [Rothenbach Ride](#) 8:30 - 10:30 am with Naturalist Jennifer Rogers.

Friday, Oct 21 - [The History of Pocono Trail Preserve](#) with Jeff Weber and Nancy Eaton, 9-11 am.

Saturday, Oct. 22 - [Make A Difference Day](#)

Saturday, Oct. 22 - [Creaky Bones](#) Dragon Boat Racing 5K at Benderson Park. [Download info and registration form here](#). More [here](#).

Sunday, Oct. 23 - [Sunday Stroll](#), Urfer Park 8-9:30 am. with Jennifer Rogers.

[Tour de North Port](#) - Online registration and information at www.peoplefortrees.com

Oct. 29 -Halloween Festival at Woodmere Community Park & Rec in Venice for kids 8 and under, \$2 per child, parents free.

Oct. 29th - Ocala - The "**Ride of the Living Dead**" is a 50/65 mile mountain bike event hosted by the Ocala Mountain Bike Association (OMBA) on the amazing Santos trails of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. This year's event will feature the brand new "blue" trails on the west end of the Greenway. Costumes are encouraged and there will be prizes! Do not delay...ride is capped at 350 entrants. For more information, visit OMBA.org. Registration is available at Active.com.

More?

- More October **Nature Walks and Talks** posted [here](#).
- Lots of bicycling and kayaking adventures in the [Fall Newsletter](#) of the Office of Greenways and Trails.
- A ton of other **Halloween Activities** around the area can be found on the [Escape to Sarasota Calendar](#).

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- Beyond October -

Nov. 2 - [Phillippi Farmhouse Market](#) opens 3rd Season, 9 am to 2 pm every Wednesday through April 2012, rain or shine.

Nov. 5 - [Legacy Trail Overpass Grand Opening](#).

Saturday, Nov. 12 - Jay Watch Results and Recognition Celebration At the [Archbold Hufty Learning Center](#). (352) 732-1225.

Nov. 27 - [Legacy Trail Half Marathon](#) at Palmer Ranch, 7 a.m.

Dec. 3-4 - **Siesta Beach Holiday Arts & Crafts Show** starts 10 a.m. both days.

Dec. 10 - At Siesta Beach they'll be celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the **Sandy Paws Beach Run**. (Details as they become available.)

March 24, 2012 - [Sarasota Springfest](#) at Palmer Ranch.

March 25, 2012 - The **Tour de Parks** is set for March 25, 2012, to be held in conjunction with the City of Venice's 85th Anniversary Celebration. Depart from the Historic Venice Train Depot and use the Bicycle/Pedestrian overpass, which will connect the 10 miles of trails north of Hwy 41 with the 10 miles of trails south of Hwy 41.

Much more on the [Parks & Rec Calendar](#).

Send your events to FOSCPnews@gmail.com, and share them on [Facebook](#).

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Farmer's Market @ Pioneer Park

Breaking news: The EC4S – that's the **Englewood Center for Sustainability** – is sponsoring a new venture, the **Englewood Farmer's Market**.

The market opens for the season on Thursday, Nov. 3, and will run through April at Pioneer Park on Dearborn Street. Don Musilli and Elaine Miller are the co-chairs.

Don writes: "We are still shooting for opening up the market on Thursday, November 3rd, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Wide variety of produce, some organic, and some plants. For more information people can contact us at: www.ec4s.org or find us on [Facebook](#). And...we are on Twitter: [@EC4S](#)."

Friends of the Legacy Trail Election

Friends of the Legacy Trail will elect Officers and Board members on 10/4/11, at 6 PM in the Nature Center at Oscar Scherer. The park entry fee is waived for those attending the meeting.

Below is a notice from Steve and Linda Christian, Co-Chairs of the Nomination Committee.

Plan on attending if you can. Furthermore, think about running for one of the Officer or Board positions. Officer positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. The FLT charter allows for 8 Board members. We have return commitments from the current President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and 3 Board Members. That leaves plenty of opportunity to become more involved with the FLT.

We can use your ideas and your energy to continue to enhance and improve the Legacy Trail.

You do not have to be a full-year resident to qualify to be a Board member so consider this opportunity even if you will not be returning until after the election is conducted. You do not have to be present to win.

You may be wondering what a Board member does. They do as much as their time allows. The decision making, the event co-ordination and the future of the FLT depends on Board participation as well as member support.

Call us at 941 525-7079 or email us at happytrls@juno.com with questions or for additional information on the nomination and election process.

Thanks for your ongoing support. Enjoy the trails. Plan for the Grand Opening celebration of the Overpass on 11/05. Look for the completion and a "Soft" opening sometime towards the end of September. Walk, Ride, Run and Roll

Steve and Linda Christian

Speaking of the Legacy Trail Overpass:

Here's an update on the construction and pedestrian detour:

Beginning Monday, October 3, 2011 the contractor will continue with work on the upper portion of the bridge (superstructure), the architectural work on the towers, decorative railings, painting, overhead fencing and installation of sidewalk and sod.

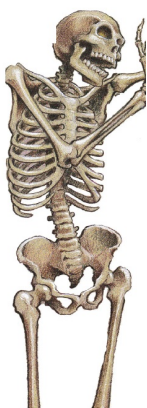
Motorists may experience temporary intermittent nighttime lane closures between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to move construction equipment across US 41 Bypass. Flagmen and/or law enforcement will be present, as needed.

The contractor will be conducting construction activities on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The maintenance of plastic tarp (silt fence), for the purpose of erosion control, will continue throughout the duration of the project.

The Legacy Trail will be closed to pedestrian traffic from the Train Depot in Venice, north to Colonia Lane effective immediately throughout the duration of construction. A pedestrian detour sign is located at both locations. Weather permitting, this project is anticipated for completion in October 2011. The contractor is Zep Construction, Inc. For additional project information contact Trudy Gerena, Public Information Officer, at (813) 299-3579.



Creaky Bones!



If you miss the Dragon Boat Races at [Paddle Palooza](#), you have a second chance on Oct. 22.

Come out to Nathan Benderson Park for [Creaky Bones!](#) Join in the races!

It's a 5K Dragon Boat Festival with Kids' Monster Dashes, a pet-friendly walk, and a

Creaky Bones! one-mile walk.

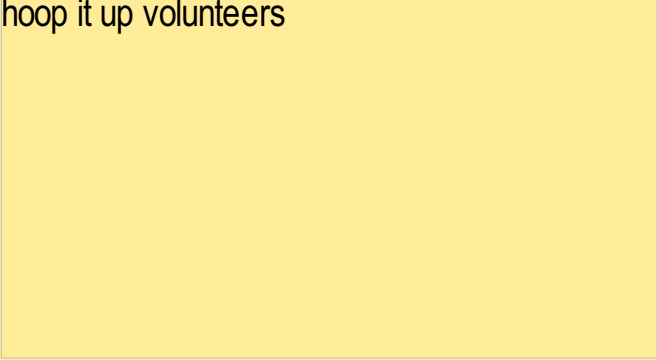
- Dragon Boats 9 a.m to 3 p.m.
- Kids Races 4 p.m.
- Pet Friendly Walk 4:30 p.m. + 5k Run 5 p.m.

More info: 941 708-3901.

[Click for more info and to download the registration](#)

They Hooped It Up

hoop it up volunteers



You might recognize these FOSCP folks - Kathy Petz, Russ Johnson and Terry Redman (r.-l.) - were serving Burgers in Venice on Labor Day weekend for [Hoop It Up and Let It Fly](#) – a traveling basketball and football contest that happened there in September. You can catch more [photos here](#) - a fun event! (They made \$255!.)

A few more things. . .

Did you know that FOSCP volunteers give over 24,000 hours of their time to Sarasota parks each year? This suggests the value we place on these precious resources.

We are not alone. Cities everywhere are recognizing the [importance of parks](#) to the health, sociability, and integrity of their communities. Two quick examples from my home town:

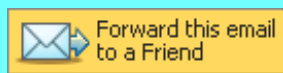
- [NYC is Going Green](#)
- [The Inside Track on NYC's High Line](#)

The Venice Area Historical Society has just published the Fall edition of the Society's Newsletter. Ask to get on their email list [here](#).

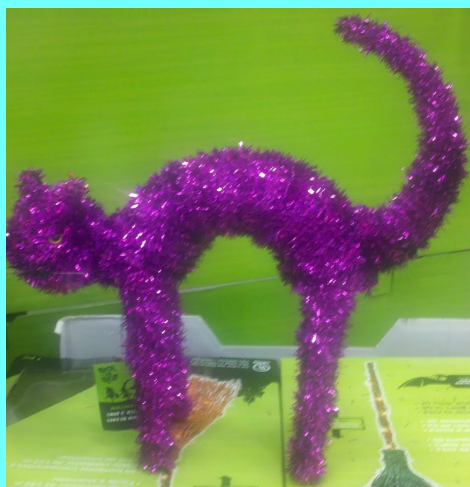
The [Pierian Spring Academy's](#) Fall Courses begin Oct. 24th, and they're offering three birding courses this year, in Fall, Winter and

Spring. [Schedule here.](#)

If you like this edition of [FOSCPNews](#), please forward it to friends.



Finally, [talk to us](#) - what can we do better? What's going on at your Chapter? Deadline for next edition: Oct. 27th.



Happy Halloween!

...and happy Autumn...

autumn tree

*The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

For the



I'm Tom M.

Contact Friends of Sarasota County Parks

Info@FOSCP.org || Phone: 941-275-9397

FOSCP South County: 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice, Florida 34293

FOSCP North County: 4012 Honore Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34233

FOSCP Mailing Address: 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, Florida 34241

