



FOLK

Friends of Lovers Key

August 2025



**Your Membership
And Donation
Dollars Put To Good
Use, Supporting The
Park and Our
Rangers**



Over the last several years, our Friends of Lovers Key memberships have decreased due to 2 major events: COVID and Hurricane Ian. Prior to COVID, we had over 500 members. COVID cut our membership in half and Ian reduced it another half to a total of only 125 members. We are slowly building up our membership and are happy to report that we currently have 199 members. We know that we can do better, and that's why we are reaching out to you this month and over the next several months. Our goal is to get back over 500 members, and you can help us in this endeavor of ours.

For those of you who are current members of Friends of Lovers Key, we thank you for your continued support of our mission to help to protect, preserve, and support Lovers Key State Park. With your membership, volunteerism, and/or donations, we will continue to preserve our Florida Coastal Legacy. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors of what a FOLK membership means to Lovers Key State Park.

Since the beginning of 2025, FOLK has provided significant assistance to the park in the following areas:

- Substantial Landscaping at the Welcome and Discovery Center, entrance and tram stop
- Trailer to move UTV/ATV off site during hurricanes
- Bike Racks
- New TV and all-weather equipment for the ranger entry station
- Kitchen supplies
- And so much more

And the assistance is always ongoing. The above is just a sampling of what your donations big and small and memberships help to provide for our beautiful Lovers Key.

Please consider becoming a member today by clicking on the button. In addition to a year's membership which gives you 12 free entries to the park for up to 8 people in your vehicle, you will also receive a 50% discount on 1 Lovers Key Adventure.

Thank you in advance, and we hope to see you at the park real soon.

Membership

501(c)3 Not-for-profit

Did you know purchasing a membership gets you 12 free entries into the park with up to 8 people in your car? We offer 3 different membership levels.

Plus, the funds raised

help FOLK fund all we do for the park!

\$50 a year

\$80 a year

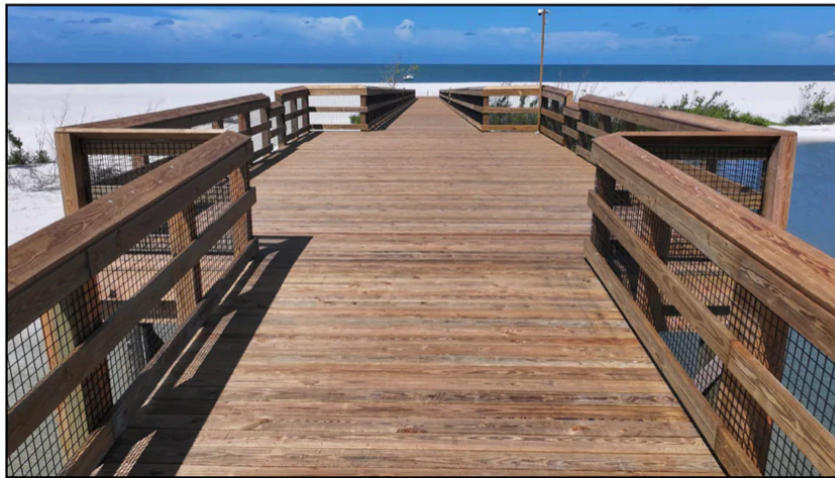
\$1,500 lifetime

		FOLK									
Friends of Lovers Key, Inc.											
Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park											
Family Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

		FOLK									
Friends of Lovers Key, Inc.											
Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park											
Patron Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

		FOLK									
Friends of Lovers Key, Inc.											
Protecting...Preserving...Supporting...Lovers Key State Park											
Lifetime Partner Membership											
Name _____											
Expires _____											
This membership card entitles holder to 12 free entries to Lovers Key State Park.											
See back for additional member benefits and important notice.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Stokes Marine has completed the long awaited for and anticipated timber boardwalk, also known as the mid-island bridge.



Picture yourself here!





Resilient Native Landscaping as a Living Educational Tool

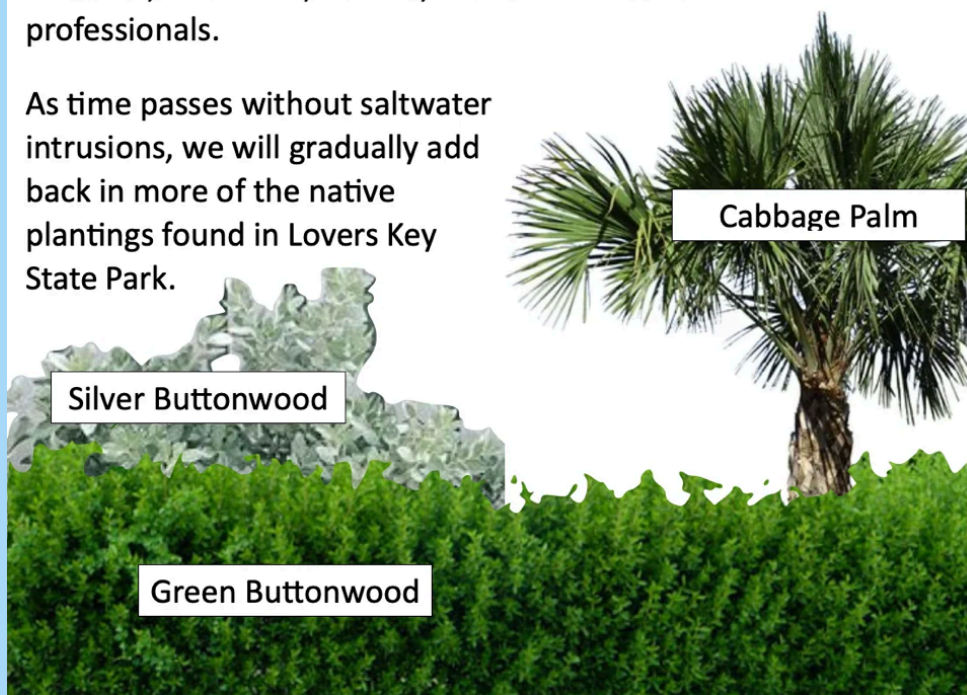
The grounds of the Welcome and Discovery Center were originally landscaped not only to enhance the beauty and functionality of the building but also to serve as an educational resource for visitors. With funds raised through community support, selections from species found within the park were required. The resulting design featured butterfly gardens, shaded areas planted with native trees, and a water garden engineered to manage excess runoff. Meandering paths guided visitors through these natural learning spaces, creating an immersive experience in native ecology.

However, following a series of devastating hurricanes, the island—and the landscape—were severely impacted. Almost all of the original plantings were lost to wind and saltwater exposure.

Rather than view this as a loss, we responded with resilience and innovation. We documented the species that survived and used this data to form a second wave of planting—this time using only those native plants that had demonstrated high salt and storm tolerance. The redesigned landscape now serves as a model of ecological sustainability specific to barrier island environments.

Today, the grounds are not only visually and environmentally restorative, but they also function as a living laboratory for students, educators, visitors, and environmental professionals.

As time passes without saltwater intrusions, we will gradually add back in more of the native plantings found in Lovers Key State Park.



Upcoming August Events in the Park

8700 Estero Blvd
FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY!

Beach & Estuary

Walk

9 AM - 10:30 AM
South Beach

Friday, August 1



Join a park ranger for a leisurely walk over the estuary and along the beach to discover the natural treasures of the Lovers Key Shoreline. Learn about seashells, crustaceans, starfish and other creatures that can be found in our waters.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Shorebird Stroll

9 AM - 10:30 AM
South Beach

Friday, August 8



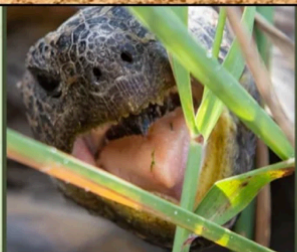
Join a park ranger on a guided walk down the shoreline and discover some of the birds that call the beach here at Lovers Key home. Learn helpful tips about how to identify these challenging birds while learning their diet, behavioral and nesting habits.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Walk *on the* Wild Side!

9 AM - 10:30 AM
Black Island Trail

Friday, August 15



Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way.

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY



**Registration
Required**

Shorebirds

Saturday, August 16



Calling all Junior Rangers!

FREE WITH PAID PARK ENTRY

Fly into the amazing world of shorebirds in this fun, hands on program. Learn all about our awesome feathered friends - what they eat, how they communicate, and where they live. Go out into the field with your very own field note/activity book to record shorebird info with Ranger Mitch, then head down to the Junior Ranger Fort for story time

Program Spotlight

Join park staff for a junior Ranger Educational program and accompanying activity. Each day we will explore one of the four components of the Florida Park Service's Junior Ranger program: natural resources, cultural resources, recreation and service. Participants will be eligible for Junior Ranger passport stamps with the successful completion of the program.



Registration is required for ALL Jr. Ranger Events



While visiting the park, Alex King with the King Family Foundation and his wife Nina, visited the Welcome and Discovery Center's Coastal Strand exhibit, which was sponsored by their foundation. They were

greeted by FOLK (Friends of Lovers Key) Board Member, John Wesley Nash and Ranger Mitch, who gave them a private tour of the park in gratitude for sponsoring a "Leatherback Nest" in our Adopt-a-Nest program.



Kathy Nash, Chair of the Adopt A Nest Program here at Lovers Key was pleased to welcome the Alex King Group to the Park. The King Family Foundation and the Alex King Group sponsored a \$2,500 "Leatherback Nest". When you sponsor a Leatherback Nest, you receive an exclusive private tour of the park with a ranger. Alex's wife Nina, along with Rita Murray and Trista Walker, visited the park and their nest, also welcomed by John Wesley Nash, Board Member of FOLK (Friends of Lovers Key).



Ranger Mitch gave a wonderful tour of the park. We thank Alex King for all his support!





ADOPT-A-NEST PROGRAM



FRIENDS, join the second annual Adopt-A-Nest program! This is a fundraiser centered around sea turtle nesting season and the sea turtle program. Sponsors are given the opportunity to symbolically "Adopt-A-Nest."

Funds will assist in providing Lovers Key State Park with the needed supplies used to protect their nests. It will also help pay for other resource management needs within the park. There are four levels of sponsorship.

HATCHLING LEVEL \$20

Sponsors will have a laminated photo of a hatchling with donor's name on it in the "Lovers Key Nest Chamber" kiosk at the WDC for the entire nesting season. Does not include nest sign.

LOGGERHEAD LEVEL \$250

Sponsor will receive a personalized nest sign, certificate of adoption, nest photo, and adoption photo frame.

GREEN "Business" LEVEL \$500

Sponsor will receive a personalized nest sign displaying business logo, certificate of adoption, nest photo, and adoption photo frame.

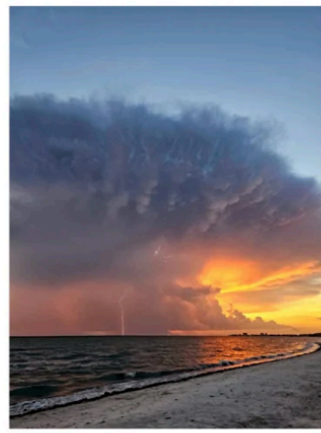
LEATHERBACK LEVEL \$2500

Sponsor will receive a specialty designed and personalized nest sign that could include a photo, logo, or simply text, certificate of adoption, nest photo, adoption photo frame, a tour of the park by park staff, and a FOLKS merchandise package.





📷 John and Kathy Nash



📷 Ranger Hollis



If you would like to see
your photos in the park
featured on our Facebook
and in the newsletter,

submit to: ContactUs@friendsofroverskey.org

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK



Should you need assistance, please contact the Ranger Station at 239-707-6328

How to Control Our Webcam



Embark on your virtual tour with some helpful tips below.

Instructions:

Click the icon with four arrows whenever you're watching the webcam livestream. This

will put you in a queue for taking control of the webcam for a preset period of time. **Only one viewer can control the camera at a time.** The icon will turn yellow while you're waiting and



turn green when you're

in control. Once you have control, click the eye icon in the top right corner of the video player to change the camera position.

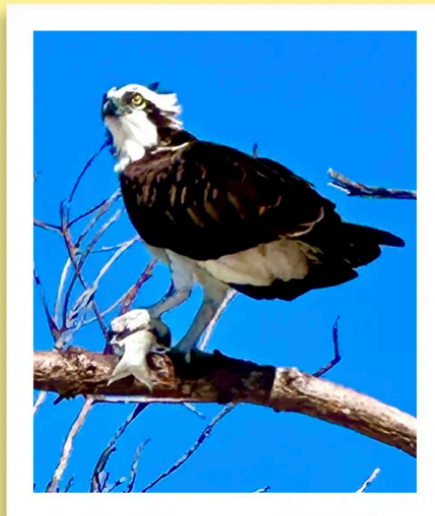


Photo Credit: Board Member, Frank Cassise

Meet Ranger Miranda Murphy

Miranda Murphy is the Assistant Park Manager at Lovers Key State Park, where she combines a love for wild places with over a decade of experience in conservation and public engagement. She's passionate about sustainability, habitat restoration, and finding creative ways to help people fall in love with Florida's natural beauty. Miranda was honored with the 2021–2022 Joe Kenner Interpreter of the Year Award and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Ecological Restoration to deepen her knowledge and enhance her work in the field. When she's not working, you'll likely find her hiking a trail, paddling through the mangroves, or quietly soaking up the magic of wild Florida right in her backyard.





Volunteer



Make a Difference
Volunteer!

FLORIDA STATE PARKS

- Beach Docent
- Discovery Center Docent
- Maintenance
- Tram Driver
- Roving Park Ambassador
- Volunteer Workday / Projects
- Gardener
- Trail Ambassador



Fund A Need



Wishlist
amazon