



FOLK

Friends of Lovers Key Happy New Year!! 2026



GALA TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Havana Nights

“Beauty and the Beach Gala”

Lovers Key Welcome and Discovery Center

5:30 p.m. - Midnight

February 21, 2026

Benefiting Lovers Key State Park

Open bar

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

Multi-course gourmet dinner catered by Black Salt Culinary
Spirited luxury live auction showcasing trips and experiences

High-energy performance band

Havana style attire suggested, dress to impress!

All VIP Experience \$500 Free Valet Parking

30th ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR



Sponsorships Available
CONTACT: Jan@FriendsOfLoversKey.org
Mailing address: PO Box 4044
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33932

**Bid early and often in the spirited luxury live auction
showcasing trips and experiences sure to delight!**

DRESS TO IMPRESS!

ALL VIP EXPERIENCE \$516

Free Valet Parking

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT: [jan@FriendsOfLoversKey.org](mailto:Jan@FriendsOfLoversKey.org)





30th ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR



As we ring in the new year, Lovers Key State Park will be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

We are grateful to share that our **30TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR is the ALEX KING GROUP & KING FAMILY FOUNDATION**, They enthusiastically requested to be the official 30th Anniversary Sponsor, celebrating three decades of love, nature, and community at this treasured destination.

We are thrilled to bring back our signature events that supporters know and love.

Highlights include our Valentine's Day Vow Renewal Ceremony on February 14th, a heartfelt celebration of love set against the beauty of Lovers Key beach, and our annual gala, *Beauty and the Beach*—our largest fundraiser of the year—featuring this year's vibrant theme, *Havana Nights*.

Throughout the anniversary year, we'll also host the "Turtle Trot 5K", "Adopt-a-Turtle Nest", "Beach, Band & Brews" night in the fall, and even some organized stargazing evenings.

Together, these events honor the resilience of Lovers Key State Park, while raising critical support to protect, preserve and support it for generations to come. We can't wait to celebrate this milestone year with our community.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Beach & Estuary Walk

SOLD OUT



January 2, 10am to 11:30am

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.

FREE Registration Required

Shell Walk



January 9, 10am to 11:30am

Join a park ranger for a relaxing shoreline hike and learn the seashells that wash ashore at the park, fun facts about them and creatures who craft them.

FREE Registration Required

ADULT SPEAKER SERIES

January 15 at 6pm

Fairy Podmother

“The Dolphin Lady”

\$28.52

Fee Includes Park
Entry Fee

“All About dolphins!!!”

Monica Lynn

Ranger Mitch Bellock

YOGA BY THE SEA



Gentle flow and guided meditation on the beach
Feel the healing power of movement and breath

11



Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 9 AM – 10 AM

Yoga by the Sea

8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL, United States, Florida 33931

\$30

Fee Includes Park
Entry Fee

Walk ^{on} the **Wild Side!**

Black Island Trail



January 16, 10am to 11:30am

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail.
Reservations required.

FREE Registration Required



January 17, 10am to 11am

Join park staff for a Junior Ranger educational program and accompanying activity.

FREE Registration Required



Marvelous Manatees

January 20, 10am to 11am

Join a Park Ranger for an interesting and informative lecture on our local, loveable manatees and how you can help protect them.

FREE Registration Required

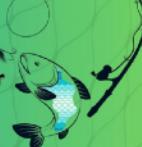
Fishing Clinic

with

Valerie and Bob Lindner

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Welcome and Discovery Center



January 21, 10am to 11:30am

Join park naturalists to learn more about fishing in Southwest Florida. Reservations required.

FREE Registration Required

Shorebird Stroll



January 23, 10am to 11:30am

Join a park ranger on a guided walk down the shoreline and learn about the birds here at Lovers Key home, their diet, behavioral and nesting habits.

FREE Registration Required

Painting on Glassware
Painting Class

23



Friday, January 23, 2026 at 9 AM – 12 PM

Painting on Glassware - Painting Class

8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL, United States, Florida 33931

\$49

Fee Includes Park Entry Fee

Beach Cleanup
9 AM - 10:00 AM



January 24, 9am to 10am

Join a park ranger for a beach cleanup at Mid-Beach.

FREE Registration Required

President's New Year Letter

“Friends of Lovers Key is only as strong as the people who stand behind it. Thank you for your dedication, your energy, and your unwavering commitment. Together, we make a lasting impact.”

As many of you know I like to start my writing with a quote. So, I decided it was time to use a new tool to find the right one – artificial intelligence. Not bad!

It's that time of year when we think about why we are thankful for the events of the just concluded year and in our case Lovers Key State Park. Of course, the biggest reason to be thankful was no hurricanes, no storm surge and no more damage.

So, let me wander through the reasons we should all be thankful for this year at Lovers Key State Park.

We are thankful for our donors, volunteers, park rangers, our advisory committee, our board members, and all of the people who make this incredible park happen.

We're thankful that the visitors to the park have a greatly expanded and renourish beach to enjoy.

We are thankful that all the hurricane debris has been removed from the park and the first major project post hurricanes is complete - our new bridge to the beach. And what a bridge - the architects outdid themselves.

We are thankful that second major project, the ranger shop complex, has been completed which provides both new workspace and creature comforts for the rangers.

We're thankful that most of the infrastructure is back in place, including Internet, electricity and water.

Lastly, we are thankful for the resilience of our park Rangers. They faced incredible challenges and could have simply walked away. But it's because of them that the park is thriving.

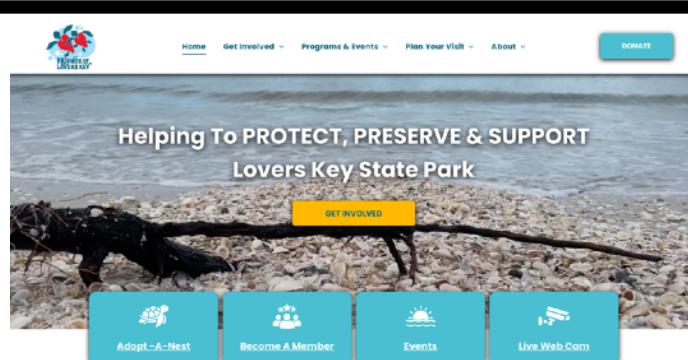
2026 will bring more reasons to be thankful, including the continued redevelopment of the park. At the December board meeting FOLK elected three new board members with

expertise in construction, finance and volunteer work. This provides FOLK with additional resources to continue to assist in the development and transformation of the park post hurricanes. It also gives us the resources to start planning board member transitions in the area of finance and development.

During 2026, we will be recruiting three additional board members. If you know someone or yourself who is interested in expanding your volunteer activities at FOLK, please reach out to me. We are an all-volunteer organization and hence we work hard, but our efforts are terribly rewarding.

In conclusion may I return to my AI generated quote and thank each of you for your dedication your energy and your commitment to Friends of Lovers Key and Lovers Key State Park. I hope you have incredible 2026 new year.

Jim Remis
Board President, Friends of Lovers Key



New FOLK Website Has Launched!

We are very excited about our new website with major improvements in an attractive and easy to use navigation format.

It gives us the opportunity to offer you so much more!

Check out the blogs, plan your visit to the park, learn about the history of Lovers Key, be introduced to our FOLK Board and park rangers.

You can become a member of FOLK and learn the advantages of membership. Don't miss anything happening in the park! As always, if you need to contact someone at the park, utilize the online ContactUs@friendsOfLoversKey.org link on the website.

Your email will be forwarded to the precise ranger or board member to respond to your inquiry.

www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org

Have You Shopped Our Updated Online Store?

Many of you have told us how much you miss our store in the Welcome and Discovery Center and we heard you!
We miss it too!

Please let us know what YOU might like to see us carry and we will try to make it happen. New items are added all the time. Order online and your items will be shipped directly to you.

Please note:

All items are custom made and as such, not returnable.



Can Cooler Sleeve



Luggage Tag



2026 Calendar



Die-Cut Vinyl Magnet

Be sure to check the size and also note, this is not a strong enough magnet to hold papers. More like a removable cling.



"WHALE OF A DAY"



Your Adventure Begins at Sea

- Boston "Whaler" Fishing Charter for 6 people.....\$1,800
 - Up to 8 hours on open water
 - Catch-of-the-day experience
- Chef Rhys will prepare your fresh catch at The Whale for up to 12 people....\$600
- Whale Gift Card included for drinks and extras....\$150

Deck Yourself Out in Premium Whale Gear for 2

- Whale logo denim jackets (2)....\$240
- Sun shirts, t-shirts, visors (2 each)....\$175
- Whale cooling towels and tumblers....\$70
- Whale Sunny Cleaners & Phone Cases....\$25



YETI Outfitting for Serious Adventure

- YETI Hopper 17L cooler....\$320
- YETI dry bag.... \$100
- Two YETI travel mugs....\$80

Gear Up for the Beach and Beyond

- Rugged beach dolly with big wheels for sand....\$115
- Whale-shaped wagon....\$100
- Charcuterie board....\$50
 - Turtle & shell-themed cheese spreaders

Gill Performance Apparel

- Men's XL Gill water/windproof rain jacket....\$220
- Women's L Gill water/windproof rain jacket....\$220

Lovers Key Exclusives

- Hats, hoodies, sun shirts, koozies (2 each)....\$209
- Lovers Key Family Membership (up to 8 in vehicle)....\$50

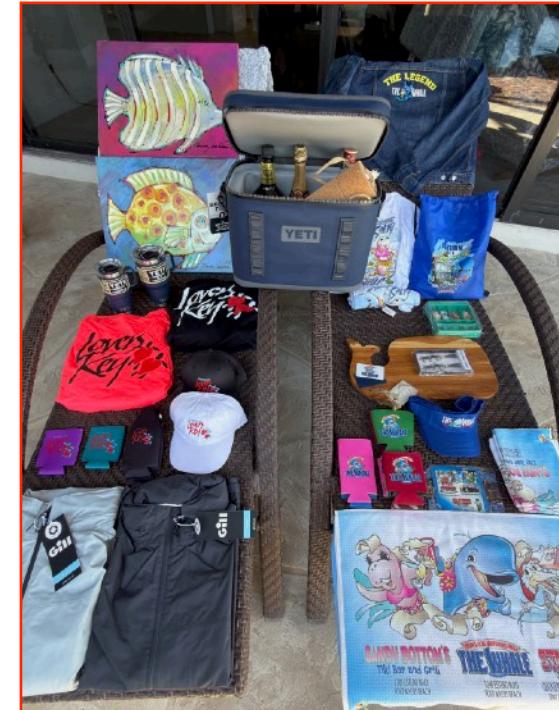
Art and Premium Spirits

- Two signed Rasa original fish paintings....\$250
- Premium bottle of bourbon....\$20
- Premium bottle of scotch....\$28
- Premium bottle of champagne....\$50

TOTAL: \$4,872

Come find us at the FMB Woman's Club "Putt & Pub" golfing event at the Whale Restaurant, where we are partnered with them and showcasing our over-the-top raffle basket!!!

January 17th



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
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 **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
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 **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
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Show your membership card at Flippers for a 15% discount on food, excluding alcohol

2026 Adult Speaker Series

January 15 at 6pm

Fairy Podmother

“The Dolphin Lady”

“All About dolphins!!!”

Monica Lynn

Ranger Mitch Bellock

February 19 at pm

**“Botanical Birds and Butterflies
Walking Tour”**

How to spot and interact safely

Wendy Sprague

Ranger Mitch Bellock

March 19 at 6pm

“Mollusks and Local Shells”

**Shells found in the park and
respectful shelling**

Jose Leal

Ranger Mitch Bellock

April 16 at 6pm

“Lovers Key Water Education”

**Current state initiatives and waterway
health**

Chaucy Goss

Michael Parsons

Come Visit Us in Paradise!

Park Hours: 8 a.m. until sundown 365 days a year
Welcome and Discovery Center Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Admission Fees:

\$8 per vehicle (2 to 8 people per vehicle)
\$4 single - occupant vehicle and motorcycles
\$2 pedestrians, bicyclists, extra passengers, over 8 passengers in vehicle with holder of annual Entrance Pass

FOLK MEMBERSHIP: Free Admission with up to 8 passengers in your vehicle

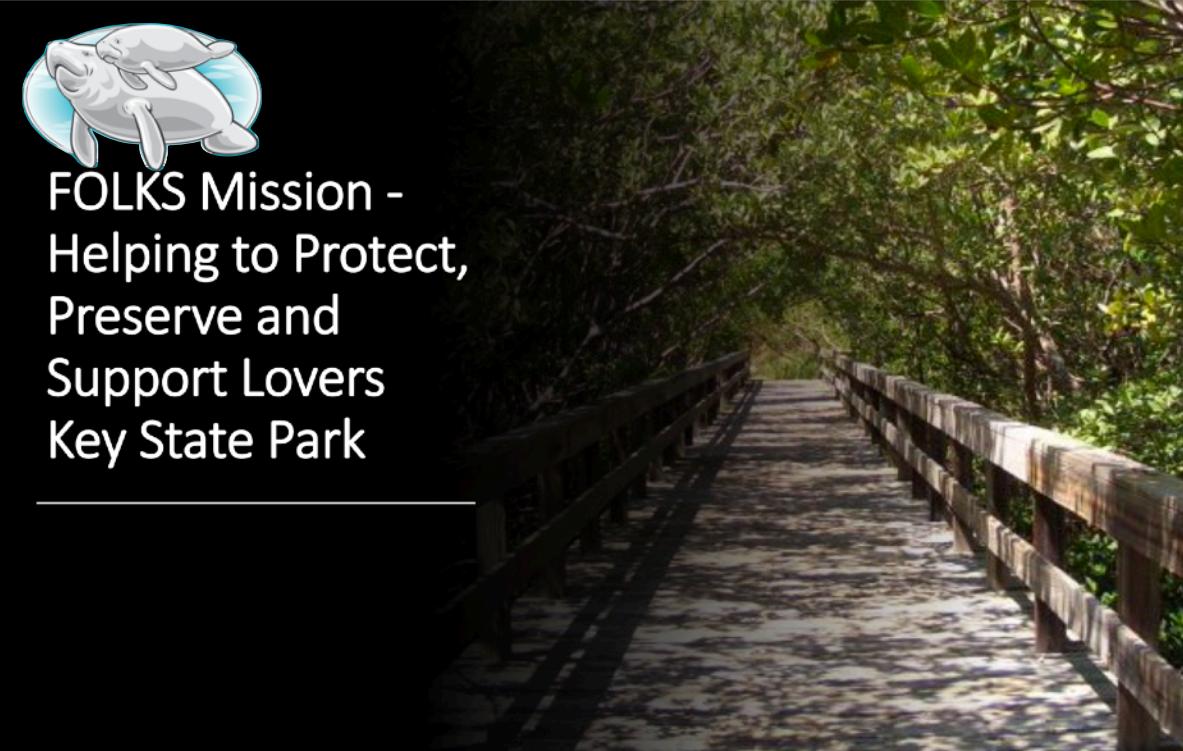
~A Punch Card with 12 FREE Visits Per Year

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK





**FOLKS Mission -
Helping to Protect,
Preserve and
Support Lovers
Key State Park**



Friends of Lovers Key



Have You Thought About Becoming a Volunteer?

The park needs a lot of volunteers in many capacities. Are you good at mechanics, a Mr./Ms. Fixit? We have a lot of machinery that needs repair and maintenance. Do you enjoy building things, or how about gardening and landscape maintenance. No green thumb necessary! As a volunteer you also have opportunities to help out during our events and being an ambassador for the park.



To inquire about becoming a Volunteer
Email: Mitchell.Bellock@FloridaDEP.gov

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

Newsletter Links

Osprey Web cam

<https://friendsofloverskey.org/live-web-cam/>

EventBrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-lovers-key-inc-17957393962>

Membership

<https://friends-of-lovers-key.myshopify.com/products/folk-membership>

Adopt-A-Nest

<https://friendsofloverskey.org/adopt-a-nest/>

Online Shop

<https://friends-of-lovers-key.myshopify.com/collections/all>