



# FOLK

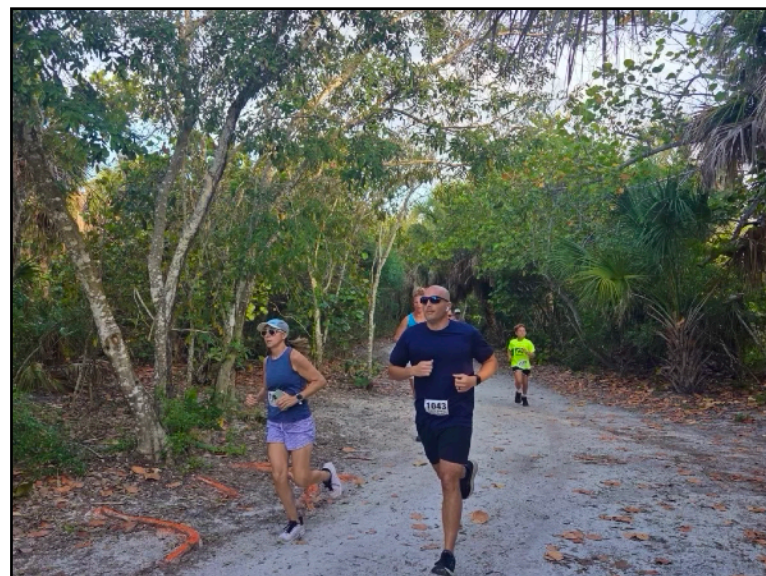
## Friends of Lovers Key May 2026

April 18, 2026 Turtle Trot Was a Tremendous Success!  
Save the Date for April 17, 2027



After playing the National Anthem, the runners and walkers took off at 8:00am





## **Friends of Lovers Key Approves Solar Project for the Lovers Key State Park Shop Complex**

By Jim Remis FOLK President and  
Miranda Murphy Lovers Key State Park Assistant Manager

*“The best way to predict the future is to create it” Peter Drucker  
“Advancing sustainability, reducing costs, and modeling  
stewardship for our Lovers Key Park community”  
Jim and Miranda*



Friends of Lovers Key (FOLK) Board of Directors partnering with Lovers Key State Park (Park) has unanimously approved an exciting new initiative that will bring clean, renewable energy to the Lovers Key shop complex. This solar installation marks a major step forward in our commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability within the park.

The project will introduce a rooftop solar array designed to offset a significant portion of the shop complex’s electricity use and provide backup power the next time a major hurricane dares hit the Park. By generating clean power onsite, the Park will reduce operational costs, shrink our carbon footprint, and demonstrate the very conservation values we work to inspire in our visitors.

“This project reflects who we are,” said Park and FOLK leadership. “Lovers Key is a place defined by natural beauty and resilience. Investing in solar energy is a tangible way to protect that beauty while supporting the park’s future.

## Why This Lovers Key Solar Project Matters

- **Environmental Impact:** Solar energy reduces reliance on fossil fuels and lowers greenhouse gas emissions—directly supporting the health of our coastal ecosystems.
- **Hurricane Resilience:** With the increasing intensity of major storms, the solar system—paired with battery backup—will help maintain essential power during extended outages. This added resilience supports park operations, protects equipment, and strengthens our ability to recover quickly after severe weather.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Lower utility costs mean more resources can be directed toward programs, education, and park improvements.
- **Community Leadership:** As a nonprofit partner to Florida State Parks, FOLK is proud to model responsible, forward-thinking environmental practices.
- **Educational Opportunity:** The installation will also serve as a real-world example of renewable energy in action, offering new interpretive and educational possibilities for visitors and students.



## What's Next With the Solar Project?

Engineering and permitting will begin shortly, with installation expected to follow later this year. Once complete, the solar array will be monitored to track energy production and savings—data that can be shared with members, volunteers, and the broader community.

This project is made possible thanks to the dedication of our Park Rangers, members, volunteers, and supporters who believe in protecting Lovers Key for generations to come. Your commitment empowers FOLK to take bold steps like this one.

Together, we are not just preserving the park, we are powering its future.

# May 2026

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					 1 <b>Shell Walk</b> 9 AM	2
 3 <b>Beach Yoga</b> 9 AM	4	5	6	7	 8 <b>Shorebird Stroll</b> 9 AM	9
10	11	12	13	14	 15 <b>Walk on the Wild Side</b> 9 AM	 16 <b>Jr Ranger</b> 10 AM
 17 <b>Beach Yoga</b> 7 PM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	 30 <b>Beach Cleanup</b> 9 AM	
31						

## Program Spotlight



### Shell Walk



Join a park ranger for a shelling trip along the Lovers Key shoreline. Learn the names of the seashells you find on your walk, fun facts about the creatures who craft them, and the shelling regulations that help protect these iconic Florida treasures

#### Registration

Registration is required for ALL events

To register, scan the QR code or visit: [WWW.FriendsofLoversKey.Org/Events/](http://WWW.FriendsofLoversKey.Org/Events/)



The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the Ranger Station at 239-707-6328.

## YOGA BY THE SEA



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

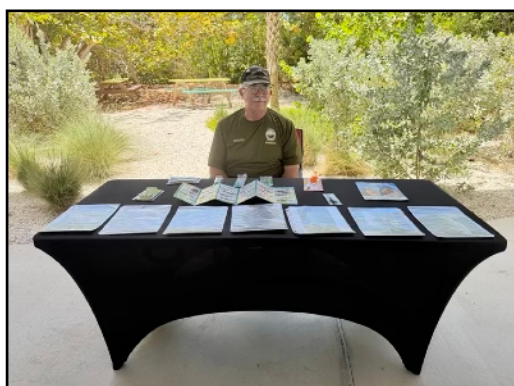


Don't miss any of the park ranger's events!  
 Be sure to "follow us" on Eventbrite!





In this exciting three-day event from 10:00-2:00, visitors dove into the wonders of nature at Lovers Key! Each day spotlighted a different ecosystem, offering a mix of learning, creativity and outdoor fun for the whole family.



*We've moved!*



Join us  
@Loverskeystatepark-Parksite

## Ranger of the Month

A Southwest Florida native, Roger graduated from Estero High School and is an Order of the Arrow Life Scout.

His childhood was filled with camping, hiking, canoeing, and exploring, fostering a deep bond with nature.

Roger served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and later in the U.S. Army Reserves as a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic.

With over 20 years as an automotive mechanic, he now channels his passion into protecting Florida's natural resources and serving his community.

A devoted father of five, Roger has been a Cub Scout committee member and leader, inspiring young people with his love for the outdoors. He remains active in community service, particularly supporting veterans.



**Did you know your donation of \$50, \$80, \$1,500 to obtain a membership is tax deductible? When you make this designated donation, we give you 12 free entries to the park for a year. Lifetime members get a new card every January All FOLK donations go directly into the park!**

### 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**

 <b>FOLK</b> 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

 <b>FOLK</b> 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

 <b>FOLK</b> 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

Show your Patron or Lifetime membership



**Island Charm CRAWL**

**MAY - AUGUST 2026**

**A SUMMER-LONG ISLAND-WIDE Charm Collecting Adventure!**

Collect unique charms at participating local businesses across the island.

Explore and discover hidden gems all summer long!

EXPLORE THE ISLAND | COLLECT CHARMS | EARN COMPLETION CHARM

Start Your Adventure **MAY 2026!**

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES | WWW.WHATSUPFMB.COM

**PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES**

- Alex King Group & King Family Foundation
- Beach Talk Radio
- Blue Parrot
- Cabana's at DiamondHead
- Detroit Dawgs
- Diva's and Dolls
- FMB Cleaning Lady
- Forever Tides
- Friends of Lovers Key
- Island Girl
- Island Pancake House
- La Ola
- Legno Italian Kitchen
- Margaritaville Beach Resort
- Mr. Waves
- Nervous Nellie's
- Pete's Upper Deck
- Smokin' Oyster Brewery
- Snug Harbor
- Sun N Fun
- The Beach Bar
- The Whale
- Tiki Bar at Lighthouse Inn
- Wahoo Willie's

Friends of Lovers Key is participating in the Island Charm Crawl on FMB We are in Bonita, but get to play along!



The Island Charm Crawl kicks off May 1 and this summer is about to look a whole lot different on Fort Myers Beach!

There are 25 participating locations. Custom charms at every stop, Bonus events all summer long.

After you sign up, pick up locations are Lovers Key State Park's Welcome and Discovery Center in Bonita and Island Girl in Fort Myers Beach.

**\$25 until April 30th**  
**\$30 May 1st and after**  
**Limited Quantities!**

**Welcome and Discovery Summer Hours**  
**Wednesday-Saturday 10:00-2:00**

# 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](mailto:Mitchell.Bellock@FloridaDEP.gov)

# How to Control Our Webcam



Embark on your virtual tour with some helpful tips below.

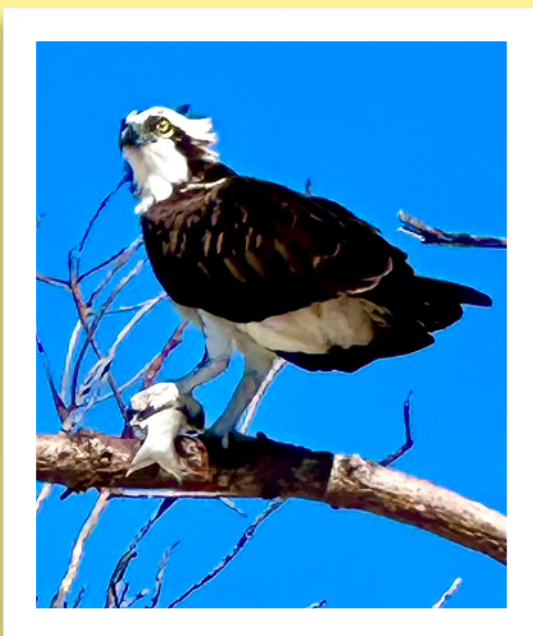
## Instructions:

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.



## **Newsletter Links**

### **Osprey Web cam**

**<https://friendsofroverskey.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://friendsofroverskey.org/adopt-a-nest/>**

### **Online Shop**

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