Happy Birthday Luna!

Luna is swimming back from the ocean to celebrate her birthday with all of her friends! She is so excited; come help us make her 11th birthday party the best one yet!

**Sunday, September 8  •  12:00 - 4:00 pm**

Meet on the engraved paver walkway at 1:25 pm to sing Happy Birthday to Luna! Our celebration will continue with birthday cake and Luna Meet & Greets in the Lab! Watch an environmentally-themed puppet show by Ooopsy Entertainment at 2:30. Don’t miss games and Kona Ice (for sale) on the front lawn!

Visit the classroom to work with local artist Tony Bevilacqua to create a unique giant piece of recycled art with items salvaged from the beach in honor of Luna and her ocean friends. Be a part of this project that will be auctioned off at Boca Gumbofest!

Visit our [website](bit.ly/GLNC_37) to learn more about Luna’s Birthday party, including a schedule of events and Meet Luna times.

All ages welcome; children under 18 must participate with an adult. No reservations required. Free!

P.S. Shhh! Don’t tell Luna! We have a special secret surprise birthday present for her- but we need your help to make it!
Hours

Nature Center & Aquariums Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sunday Noon - 4:00 PM
Nature Trail Hours: Daily 7:00 AM - Dusk
Nature Trails Closed: Sunday, October 20, 7:00am-12:00pm
Entire Property Closed: New Year’s Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

Admission
Suggested donation of $5 per person.
Your donations go to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc. to support Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, including, but not limited to, feeding the animals, purchasing supplies and services for the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Program, and creating exhibits.

Contact Us
General Information (561) 544-8605 · Program Sign-up (561) 544-8615 · Volunteer (561) 544-8538
Friends of Gumbo Limbo (561) 544-8608 · Gift Store (561) 544-8610

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Welcome Fall! Where does the time go? It’s hard to believe our summer camps are already over, and the kids have started a new school year. To help get you back into the swing of school, Gumbo Limbo has joined with the Boca Raton Public Library and the Children’s Science Explorium at Sugar Sand Park for another “STEAM through September.” Join us for a month-long initiative promoting the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math programs offered across the City. Stop into any of our facilities to pick up a passport for a chance to win some great prizes!

We have so many great programs and events to look forward to this Fall. In September we are celebrating Luna’s Birthday and you are invited to the party! Halloween in the Garden is back for the littlest explorers in October; we always sell-out so be sure to reserve your spaces ASAP for this great event. Our Education Team has been hard at work and have created some great new programs this fall. We have added evening paddling programs as well as The Art of Nature and The Science of Nature programs that are open to families and adults (no kiddo required). And thanks to popular demand, Homeschool Workshops are here!

Blink, and the holidays will be here! Speaking of holidays, it is never too early to think about keeping the kids busy during days off from school. Check out our Animal Adventures Camp (below) and sign-up your elementary school-aged kids before we fill up.

Finally, I am so excited to announce that the entire Gumbo Limbo Boardwalk is now open for your enjoyment! Available from 7:00 am until dusk every day, the elevated boardwalk offers visitors a chance to explore the maritime coastal hammock forest – one of only three examples of this habitat remaining in Palm Beach County. The entire ½ mile loop is now open for you to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy a shaded walk through the hammock and along the intracoastal waterway. Stop along the walk to get an up close look at several archeological middens that have been dated to be nearly 2500 years old. These ancient shells are proof that Gumbo Limbo has been a popular destination for visitors for thousands of years! Native trees you may see on your walk include Gumbo Limbo, Strangler Fig, Mastic, Mangroves, and Paradise Tree. Make sure to pick up a guide to the trees of the hammock available at the nature center before you begin your walk.

Until next time -

Leanne

**ANIMAL ADVENTURES CAMP**

Join us during school holiday breaks to explore topics in science and nature. Register for one, two, or all three days! Each day 8:30am-12:00pm. Cost per child per day: Member $25, Non-Member $30. Reservations required (561) 544-8615 or gumbolimbo.org.

**Day 1, Shark Science:** Find out about the fascinating lives of sharks with shark themed games, lessons, and even get up close with our stingrays.

**Day 2, Animal Anomalies:** Platypuses, pangolins, penguins and more! We’ll learn all about special animals with amazing adaptation combinations.

**Day 3, Sensational Sea Turtles:** Come discover why Florida is so important to these fascinating reptiles and see them up close in our Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility.

**Fall Break:** Grades 3-5. November 25, 26, 27

**Winter Break:** Grades 1-3. December 30, 31, January 2
What’s New with Friends of Gumbo Limbo

Friends of Gumbo Limbo is dedicated to the mission we share with Gumbo Limbo Nature Center of inspiring stewardship of our coastal & marine ecosystems through education, research, and conservation.

ADOPT A TURTLE

It can be tough to find the perfect gift... But look no further!

Consider giving the gift of charity to those you care about.

Hatchling or resident sea turtle "adoptions" available at GumboLimbo.org/Adopt

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of Friends of Gumbo Limbo!

Join, renew, or upgrade your membership today! All proceeds go to GLNC, Inc. 501(c)3 non-profit.

Be kept in the loop about upcoming events and programs, and enjoy exclusive discounts and early access.

Find the full list of member benefits at GumboLimbo.org/Membership

UPCOMING EVENTS

Boca GumboFest will return to Red Reef Park West to bring top chefs from South Florida together to compete for the title of gumbo Grand Master 2019! Exclusive VIP hour (complimentary first tastings of all gumbo) for VIP ticket holders.

Parking is complimentary with cost of admission and GumboBucks can be purchased on-site in exchange for bowls of delicious gumbo, beer, cocktails, and more! This event is a fundraiser for coastal stewardship and to raise money for a very special local charity. All proceeds will go to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) that works to inspire coastal and marine stewardship through many diverse educational, conservation, and research programs.
All About Our Sea Turtle Hatchlings
by Sydney Jimenez, Marine Turtle Specialist

Boca Raton’s beaches see hundreds of sea turtle nests every summer during sea turtle nesting season (March 1 to October 31). Each of these nests might have up to a hundred eggs inside. After they hatch, the hatchlings race to the ocean where they will swim upwards of 20 miles offshore to reach floating patches of sargassum seaweed. However, not all of these hatchlings will make it that far, and some might not even make it off the beach or even out of their nests.

Gumbo Limbo’s Sea Turtle Conservation team monitors every nest on Boca’s beaches and excavates and inventories each one after they hatch. Oftentimes, they find live hatchlings trapped at the bottom. These turtles, along with others that may have been found wandering and exhausted on the beach, are placed in buckets and kept in a temperature-controlled room where the hatchlings can rest and get their strength back. That same night, the hatchlings are given a second chance and released along the beach where most of them quickly scramble into the water to begin their journey.

Occasionally, some of them will still be too weak to swim or crawl to the ocean. These hatchlings are brought back to Gumbo Limbo again and are admitted into our Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility. There they will be given fluids and if necessary, a floating hammock to prevent drowning. These hatchlings, or “swimmers”, will stay with us for weeks (or even months) until they are strong enough to be taken by boat and released offshore into patches of sargassum algae, right where they need to be.

There are many ways for people to help these hatchlings; one of which is to avoid the use of bright lights on the beach at night to avoid disorienting a hatchling. Other ways to help include always leaving the beach as you found it when you visit, such as filling in any holes you dig, knocking down any sandcastles you build, or picking up any garbage that you might create. It is very easy for a hatchling to become trapped in a deep hole, get lost in the labyrinth of a sandcastle, or become trapped or entangled in garbage strewn across the beach.

If you ever find a hatchling wandering along the beach at night towards the ocean, it is always best to leave that hatchling alone and let it continue its journey. However, if you ever find a hatchling wandering along the beach during the day, we recommend bringing that hatchling to Gumbo Limbo and placing it in to our Hatching Drop Off Box located next to the front entrance of the Nature Center. This box is checked frequently, and all hatchlings are checked out and cared for according to their individual needs. Gumbo Limbo Nature Center admits thousands of sea turtle hatchlings every year, and in 2018 alone, over 8,000 hatchlings were admitted to and successfully released from Gumbo Limbo, because every hatchling deserves a second chance.
Do you love animals?  
Is education your passion?  
Do you want to join an amazing team?  
We need you!

GUMBLO LIMBO  
NATURE CENTER  

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

• Aquarium Guide  
• Green Thumb Team (Gardening)  
• Education Program Assistant  
• Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Educator  
• Aquarist Assistant  
• And More!

For more information visit our website:  
www.gumbolimbo.org/volunteers  
Call to set up an interview: 561-544-8538
What are those large, silver fish in our Shipwreck aquarium? As I’m sure our volunteers can attest, we get this question several times a day. The answer, of course, is tarpon, *Megalops atlanticus*. Interestingly, not only are tarpon the largest fish we have, but they are one of the most unique!

Tarpon have many different adaptations that allow them to thrive throughout Florida and the entire Atlantic Ocean. For example, tarpon can breathe air! Like most fish, they have a swim bladder that helps them stay neutrally buoyant in the water; in other words, so that they do not sink or float. Unlike other fish, a tarpon’s swim bladder has an opening to their mouth, and they can gulp air at the surface and move it into the swim bladder. Their modified swim bladder looks like a lung, with a lot of surface area for gas exchange, allowing them to take in oxygen to breathe. This adaptation allows them to hunt in low-oxygen waters like canals and rivers. Yes, I did say rivers, as in freshwater. Tarpon can live in any water body regardless of how much salt is in it, from completely freshwater to full strength saltwater.

In addition, tarpon have an upturned mouth allowing them to consume fish at or near the surface, like mullet, a favorite meal. They feed, as many fish do, by suction. Suction is created by opening their mouth very quickly which will pull fish deep into their throat where they swallow it whole.

Also, tarpon have the largest scales. You can clearly see them on the sides of the fish, and that is only 20-30% of the whole scale showing. Large tarpon have scales that can be the size of a person’s hand! Speaking of large tarpon, they can get up to a maximum length of eight feet and weigh over 300 pounds! More commonly, they are approximately six feet in length and weigh around 150-200 pounds. And they start their life as a less than a one-inch clear ribbon-like leptolecephalus larvae. Over the next month or more, they grow to be about three to four-inch larvae and move from the open ocean where they are spawned to the mangrove and seagrass habitats where they transition to a juvenile that looks very much like a miniature version of the adults.

Finally, tarpon can live up to 50 years; there is one individual recorded in an aquarium to be 67 years old. We estimate that our larger tarpon are approximately 8-10 years old. And although they have many years to live, they will be a little too big for us to keep much longer. We are working with another aquarium to donate them to a larger facility where they can live out their days.
Nature Program Information

• For most programs, reservations are recommended with walk-ins welcome based on availability. Reservations accepted online (www.gumbolimbo.org) or at (561) 544-8615. Exceptions are noted.
• Programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather or insufficient registrations. No refunds unless cancellation is by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.
• Many of our programs are family-oriented; children under 18 must participate with an adult unless otherwise specified.
• Friends of Gumbo Limbo members receive a discount on many of our programs. Visit our website (www.gumbolimbo.org/membership) for additional information.

NEW! THE ART OF NATURE
Do you look at clouds and see images of animals? Does the rustling of leaves in the wind sound like a symphony? We will make ephemeral art, learn to take thoughtful nature photos, and capture the beauty of nature on canvas.
• Program for adults and families.
• Ages 7-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
• Sundays, 9:00-10:30 am; September 8, October 6
• Cost per person: Member $5, Non-member $8

BEACH TREASURES
Sand dollars? Sponges? Oh, what treasures you may find... sea beans, coral, shells, and more; see what the sea has left behind! Meet at the Center to learn about shells and sea life; caravan to Red Reef Beach Park for beachcombing with the experts.
• All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
• Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 pm; September 11, October 9
• Reservations recommended.
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

EARLY BIRDING WITH AL
Pick up some new skills or sharpen the old ones! Join us for a free early morning birding adventure at Gumbo Limbo. Learn about our native and migratory birds from an experienced birder, as we walk the Ashley Trail and the boardwalk in search of warblers, gnatcatchers, woodpeckers, and other avian species.
• Binoculars recommended.
• Meet on the front porch of the Nature Center.
• Ages 10 and up; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
• Thursdays, 8:30-10:00 am; September 19, October 17
• Reservations not required.
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

GUIDED NATURE WALK
Join us for a FREE guided walk along the Ashley Trail, a quarter-mile natural trail that winds through the butterfly garden, coastal hammock, and mangroves, to a sandy beach by the Intracoastal. Observe local flora and fauna as your naturalist guides you on this island exploration.
• Meet on the front porch of the center.
• All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
• Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

HALLOWEEN IN THE GARDEN
Treats, crafts, games, face painting, and more! Meet and learn from some fun characters in our amphitheater and take your picture with Luna, our sea turtle friend... wear your coolest costume, the fun never ends!
• Costumes welcomed (no swords or pointy props)
• We recommend bringing bug spray.
• Carpooling strongly encouraged, parking is limited.
• Ages 2-6; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult
• Sunday, October 20, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
• Cost per child: Member $7, Non-member $10
• Reservations required; we will sell out so make your reservations early.
NEW!  HOMESCHOOL WORKSHOPS!
Join Gumbo Limbo Educators for super science-based lessons for your homeschool students, ages 3-12. Participate in science activities related to the monthly topic, prepared specifically with your student’s age group in mind.
- Students will be divided into age groups; 3-5 years (parent stays with child), 6-8 years, and 9-12 years. Younger/older siblings must participate in their own age groups.
- Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm; 2:00-3:00 pm for ages 3-5
- September 18 – ‘Mazing Mammals! What are the characteristics of mammals? Learn about some of the planet’s most amazing mammals.
- October 16 – Creepy Critters... Learn why creepy critters are not so scary and are actually helpful to people!
- Cost per Child: Members $5 (siblings $3), Non-Members $8 (siblings $5)
- Reservations required.

THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP
Come out to Spanish River Park to help remove marine debris from the beach and intracoastal mangrove environments. This worldwide cleanup effort not only takes trash out of the environment, it also provides valuable data to Ocean Conservancy to help them understand how to combat world trash issues. Using an app on the cellphone, volunteers report the trash picked up at the event.
- Free tee shirt while supplies last!
- All ages; children under 18 must participate with an adult.
- Saturday, September 21, 8:00-11:00 am
- Pre-registration is required for this event. Groups must call (561) 544-8606 to register; all others register online (www.gumbolimbo.org).
- Space is limited

INTRACOASTAL ADVENTURES (IA)
Canoeing
Nature-lovers, discover the magic of the mangroves with a Gumbo Limbo guide on a canoe paddle along the Intracoastal Waterway. Must be experienced at canoeing and be able to get into and out of a canoe without assistance. 2-3 people per canoe.
- Ages 6-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Saturdays; September 14, 10:30 am-12:00 pm; October 26, 9:30-11:00 am
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $25
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

Equinox Paddle
Prepare for the autumnal equinox by taking a pre-autumn canoe paddle around our Intracoastal. We will look for signs of autumn’s arrival to South Florida. Must be experienced at canoeing and be able to get into and out of a canoe without assistance. 2-3 people per canoe.
- Ages 8-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Sunday, September 22, 6:00-7:30 pm
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $25
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

Full Moon Spookanoe
Join us for a kid-friendly spooky evening paddle if you dare! Enjoy a creepy float in the Intracoastal, explore the shores during our full moon spooky canoe paddle.
- Ages 8-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Sunday, October 20, 6:00-7:30 pm
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $25
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

Kayaking
Beautiful scenery, fresh air, and exercise! Join us for a kayak tour as we learn about the fascinating wildlife that calls the Intracoastal home. Must have kayaking experience and be able to get in and out of a kayak without assistance. 1-2 people per double kayak.
- Ages 6-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Sunday, September 15, 9:00-10:30 am
- Saturday, October 12, 9:00-10:30 am
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $25
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.
Nature Program Information

Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP)
A whole new way to see the Intracoastal! Stand up paddling makes it easier to see into the water below. Join us for a fun paddle along the mangroves as we look for fish, turtles, and manatees!
• Ages 12-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
• Saturdays, 9:00-10:30 am; September 28, October 19
• Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $25
• Reservations required.
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

OUTDOOR MARINE AQUARIUM FEEDING
What is the connection between mangrove and coral reef communities? How do fish use these habitats? Learn about the fascinating behaviors of native fish, stingrays, and other marine life during these free presentations. Meet at the aquariums.
• All ages; children under 18 must participate with an adult.
• Daily at 12:30 pm
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

LITTLE WONDERS
Join us for stories, laughter, and fun, as we learn about everything under the sun! Gumbo Limbo, a great place to explore; aquariums, trails, gardens, and so much more! Make a craft, meet an animal, take in the scene; come back every month for a brand new theme!
• Ages 3-4 with an adult (no charge for adult).
• Saturdays, 10:00-11:00 am; September 7, October 5
• Cost per child: Member $5, Non-member $8
• Reservations recommended.

LUNA’S BIRTHDAY PARTY
Luna is swimming back from the ocean to celebrate her birthday with all her friends! Work with artist Tony Bevilacqua to create a unique giant piece of recycled art with items salvaged from the beach in honor of Luna and her ocean friends! Of course, we will sing happy birthday, eat cake, and play games too!
• All ages welcome; children under 18 must participate with an adult.
• Sunday, September 8, 12:00-4:00 pm
• No reservations required. Free!

S’MORE SCIENCE
Join us for this fun campfire program in our garden amphitheater with a yummy treat.
• All ages; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
• Sundays, 5:00-6:00 pm, September 29, October 27
• Cost per person: Member $3, Non-member $5
• Reservations required.
• Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

SEA TURTLE TALK
Get the inside scoop on our sea turtles. Meet some of our current patients and hear their stories. Why are they here? What can you do to help?
• Meet in the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility.
• All ages; children under 18 must participate with an adult.
• Daily at 2:00 pm

THE SCIENCE OF NATURE
What is the name of the science that studies insects and spiders? What does a dendrologist do? Come find out for yourself! We will explore the science of nature and conduct some scientific experiments and activities of our own. Program for adults and families.
• Ages 7-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
• Sundays, 11:00 am-12:00 pm; September 29, October 27
• Cost per person: Member $5, Non-member $8
Gumbo Limbo’s Volunteer of the Month and Volunteer of the Year Program is designed to recognize Volunteers who go above and beyond their assigned or expected duties. These volunteers have made a significant contribution to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center through their dedication and service. They have donated their time, talents, and energy, and share a common goal of inspiring generations to learn and experience nature through observation and education. Volunteers are nominated and selected by Gumbo Limbo staff.

Interview with the May 2019 Volunteer of the Month
Name: Ilo Whitesell Start date: July 2016

Ilo volunteers twice a week greeting visitors at Gumbo Limbo’s front desk. She is friendly, welcoming, and provides excellent customer service to all our guests. She has been very helpful this month training new volunteers and dealing with calls and questions about our public programs. She has also come in extra days or stayed late to help with additional projects.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo?
“The opportunity to explain all of the great things about Gumbo Limbo Nature Center - a very enjoyable experience.”

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo?
“Meeting interesting people, working with other great volunteers.”

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment?
“Recycle - respect the environment. Enjoy nature.”

Interview with the June 2019 Volunteer of the Month:
Name: Laura Stephens Start date: February 2019

Laura Stephens was selected as Gumbo Limbo’s June Volunteer of the Month. Laura volunteers about 3 times every week helping at the desk, aquariums, or as a rehab educator. She has also started training to become an animal husbandry volunteer and take care of our tortoises and other terrestrial animals. Laura is always upbeat, positive, happy to help, and excited to be here. She is great at teaching visitors and making them feel welcome.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo?
“Interacting with everyone that works at and visits Gumbo Limbo.”

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo?
“That the green moray eel has two sets of jaws. The second set is to pull food down the eel’s throat.”

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment?
“Pick up trash even if it’s not yours. It only takes a second to make a difference.”
SUPPORT GUMBO LIMBO
Participate in the Boca Raton recreation needs assessment

Please visit
www.BocaRecreates.com
and voice your support for Gumbo Limbo Nature Center as a crucial part of our city's recreational offerings. Watch for a soon-to-be available survey being sent to random households and online. This assessment is a joint effort by the City of Boca Raton and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District and will be used to help prioritize their efforts in recreation amenities.

GIFT SHOP
Gumbo Limbo's gift shop offers something for everyone, such as reusable bottles and straws, reef-safe sunscreens, books, jewelry, toys, and so much more! Gift certificates are also available.

And don't forget, Friends of Gumbo Limbo members receive a 20% discount off of everything in store. *excludes 4Ocean

Net proceeds go directly to support the operation and mission of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

PAVE THE WAY
An engraved paver at Gumbo Limbo is a personalized way to show your support for our mission.

ONE PAVER
$150 EACH

TWO PAVERS
$135 EACH

THREE PAVERS
$125 EACH
Don’t Miss STEAM through September!

(S)cience (T)echnology (E)ngineering (A)rt (M)ath

Jump back into the swing of school! Challenging your youngsters to a city-wide scavenger hunt!

Explore the amazing educational exhibits & programs offered throughout Boca Raton during the month of September.

Collect a STEAM through September Passport at any of the participating locations.

Complete the challenges and win a prize!

Activities geared for children ages 5 to 12.

#LOVEboca #STEAMboca
ScienceExplorium.org/STEAM
Become a Friend of Gumbo Limbo!

- Advanced sales for Turtle Walk and Hatchling Release reservations (limits apply).
- 20% Gift Shop discount
- Discounts on select programs
- Support Nature Center operations, programs, and exhibits
- Reciprocal benefits at over 180 center: www.natctr.org

One Year Membership

_____ Individual $25
_____ Family $50
_____ Contributor $100 or more
_____ Patron $500 or more
_____ Benefactor $1000 or more
_____ Other $________

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

To renew by credit card, visit www.gumbolimbo.org/membership.

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.