What do iguanas, tobacco, and manatees all have in common? They were named by the Taino.

The Taino were the American Indians who were living in the Caribbean in 1492, when our old friend Christopher Columbus “discovered” them. Since Columbus didn’t know where he was, or what he was looking at, he kidnapped six local Taino and brought them along as indentured tour guides.

Sordid though this past may be, many of the words we use to describe the “New World” came from those Taino interpreters. The Spanish adopted and adapted the Taino terminology, and we still use many of these words today. These include place names (like Haiti), local plants (guava) and animals (barracuda), landscapes (savannahs), climate (hurricane), and even cooking styles (barbecue).

As with many indigenous peoples, the Taino’s population was decimated by newly introduced diseases, then compounded by European slavery, violence, and dislocation. However, this story has a happy ending. Across the Caribbean, Taino-descendant are leading a cultural revival, developing the language, arts, and traditions believed to have been long lost. You may be surprised by how much Taino you already know! 

Clockwise from bottom left: 
Cayaman (caiman/alligator)  
Mahzi (maize/corn)  
Canoa (canoe)  
Cayo (key/island)  
Guayaba (guava)
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

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
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and all property are 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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Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Inc.

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Friends of Gumbo Limbo
Happy July and Welcome to another exciting edition of Hammock Happenings, Gumbo Limbo’s bimonthly newsletter. You can access Hammock Happenings at any time at www.gumbolimbo.org/HammockHappenings. As always, hardcopies are available in the Nature Center.

There is so much to love about July. First of all, Fireworks! If you live locally, I hope you can join us at the City of Boca Raton’s Fabulous July Fourth Celebration from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at the Spanish River Athletic Complex @ deHoernle Park (1000 NW Spanish River Blvd). There will be fun, family-friendly activities for all and of course... Fireworks!

July is also Parks and Recreation Month. Boca Raton has so many fabulous parks and recreation facilities, we are known as a “City within a Park!”

The month of July has been declared “Plastic Free July” and I encourage you to participate. At Gumbo Limbo, we try our best to limit our use of single use plastics in every way, from having bottle filling stations throughout the property, to all of the fabulous sustainable items for sale in the Gift Store. Come by and check out the newest items including silicone reusable straws, collapsible water bottles, and all types of sustainable tote bags.

Also in July, we are looking forward to the long-awaited opening of our renovated boardwalk. The construction of the boardwalk loop and rebuilding of the handrails on the southern extent is almost finished. I can’t wait to be able to walk it with you!

Coming up this Summer is a City-wide recreation needs assessment. Our City wants to hear from you! Be a part of planning for Boca’s future parks, trails, beaches, libraries, facilities, fields, programs, and services. This includes Gumbo Limbo! Find out more at www.BocaRecreates.com.

Sometimes, it’s hard to keep up with all that’s going on. I encourage you to sign up (bit.ly/GLNC_EmailSignUp) for email updates and to “Like” us on Facebook, so you don’t miss a thing!

Until next time...

Welcome to Our Summer Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Interns Ashley Jenkins and Lisa Anne Esposito!

Ashley (left) joins us from the University of Florida where she is currently studying zoology in a pre-veterinary program, and Lisa (right) is a recent graduate of Florida Atlantic University where she completed a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences with an environmental emphasis. We are thrilled to have them joining us this summer helping care for our sea turtle patients! Make sure you say hello next time you see our interns in action!
What’s New with Friends of Gumbo Limbo

In April, we bid a fond farewell to Diane Bilodeau, our Store Manager and Finance Director, as she headed into retirement after fifteen years working for Friends. She’s planning to travel but we hope to see her around now and then!

Diane has left some big shoes to fill, so we have some new faces to introduce.

Kim Cantoli has taken the helm of the Gift Store. She brings boutique experience from running her own stores in Maryland and Florida and has already started finding special merchandise to keep our store at the top of everyone’s shopping list.

Heather Wimberly has also joined as our Accountant and Business Coordinator. She is handling all the myriad of details it takes to run a small business, including accounts payable, licenses, insurance and the like.

Please say hello if you see these smiling new faces around the Center next time you’re here. This is all part of a growing Friends organization to support the mission we share with the Center of inspiring stewardship of coastal and marine environments thanks to your ongoing support!

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

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.
Summer is an exciting time for birdwatching in Florida. Unlike most of the country, Florida exhibits a unique trend as its summer bird densities go down. Most of Florida’s winter migratory visitors have returned to their breeding grounds, leaving us with our year-round residents. While this does mean fewer bird species, it is an excellent time for viewing breeding birds! Roughly 200 species of birds are known to breed in Florida. Many species can be observed building nests and feeding young, and it is fun to see new fledglings taking flight for the first time.

Watch for the following year-round resident species in trees surrounding the buildings and parking lot, and in the shaded nature trails of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center:

**Northern Mockingbird.** Known as Florida’s state bird, mockingbirds treat us with many beautiful trills and songs from dawn to dusk, and sometimes even in the dark of night. They have been known to mimic not only birds, but insects and frogs! They prefer to nest in heavy brush or thickly foliated trees for protection, and they are fiercely protective of their nests, aggressively divebombing humans and pets that get too close!

**Northern Cardinal.** There is nothing like the stark contrast of a bright red male cardinal against white winter snow; unless maybe it is the sight of this beautiful bird in a tree on a warm Florida evening. Whether from the north or south, bird watchers have always favored these colorful birds. Even the duller brown female with her striking red beak draws our attention in the shadowy forest. Male cardinals are vocal protectors of their nests, using special songs to mark and defend their territories.

Females are the nest builders, but males are great providers, working alongside their mates finding food for the chicks. If you have a birdfeeder, sunflower seeds are sure to attract them.

**Blue Jay.** In the same family as crows and magpies, blue jays are very intelligent, and can be taught new behaviors, even how to fetch! They have beautiful coloring and markings but can be a bit obnoxious with their loud, raucous calls. They set up an alarm all over the forest if a predator approaches the nest. They are known for mimicking other bird songs and have an uncanny ability to shriek like a red shouldered hawk! Both males and females build the nests, often decorating with colorful bits of paper, cloth and string, and both feed their young. Their diets are more varied than other songbirds, including acorns, insects, seeds, fruit, even carrion and eggs (which they take from other bird’s nests).

Gumbo Limbo was selected from a number of sites for inclusion in the Great Florida Birding Trail. The trail is a network of bird watching sites that offers birdwatchers opportunities to explore the avian-rich Atlantic and Gulf coasts and showcases more than 470 species along the 2,000-mile route around Florida’s perimeter. Join us for our weekly trail walks or a guided bird walk in the winter to learn more about South Florida’s native birds and other flora and fauna.
Parrotfish can be found worldwide in tropical waters where corals occur. They are found in a striking variety of color and have a lot of unique adaptations. Many species secrete a cocoon of mucus to sleep in overnight. While the purpose of this is not entirely understood, it is thought by scientists that it may mask their scent while they are sleeping from hungry predators.

They get the name Parrotfish because the mouth is made up of fused teeth that form a beak-like structure that closely resembles the mouth of a parrot. Parrotfish use these strong teeth to scrape algae off the rocks. They keep the algae from covering and killing corals in the wild. In addition, if a bare spot is made by a parrotfish chewing on a rock it becomes a new clean area that baby coral can settle.

When parrotfish eat algae from the hard substrates in the ocean they end up with small amounts of rocky material going into their digestive system. This does not pose any hazard to the parrotfish, as they have a specialized digestive system designed to handle rocky material and it exits the parrotfish as sand. A parrotfish can produce over 100 pounds of sand per year.

Parrotfish are sequential hermaphrodites. This is a scientific term simply meaning that in a parrotfish’s life it will be both male AND female, but not at the same time. They first develop as female and when the need arises for a male in any given area the highest-ranking female will change genders and become a male. Most parrotfish live in loose family groups comprised of multiple females and lead by a single mature male. This type of social behavior is known as a harem.

At Gumbo Limbo we showcase a variety of species of parrotfish. The one we get the most questions and comments about is the Blue Parrotfish (*Scarus coeruleus*). As a juvenile they are light blue with a yellow forehead. As they age the color will generally deepen and the yellow spot will disappear. Large blue parrotfish are known to reach lengths of over three feet and have a bulbous snout that appears almost square. The next time you visit make sure to stop and see if you can find our Blue Parrotfish!
All sea turtles are either a threatened or endangered species that rely on dark skies at multiple stages of their lives. Hatchling sea turtles almost always hatch at night when it’s cool; hatchlings rely on several natural light cues to guide them to the ocean. Female sea turtles also arrive at their nesting beaches at night to lay their eggs under the cool cover of a dark sky. It is for this reason that throughout the entirety of the sea turtle nesting season (March 1\(^{st}\) through October 31\(^{st}\)) it’s lights out along A1A and any beachfront properties. Lighting laws require any lights visible from the beach, including streetlights and exterior home lighting, to be turned off to prevent sea turtles from becoming disoriented by artificial lighting.

However, sea turtles aren’t the only animals that rely on dark skies at night. Nocturnal species that hunt or forage at night rely heavily on dark skies, and many migratory bird species can become easily disoriented and exhausted by artificial lights and light pollution. Humans are also negatively impacted by artificial light and light pollution. Exposure to improper lighting into the night can disrupt our natural circadian rhythm which aids our bodies in producing certain chemicals to keep our bodies functioning properly.

There are many alternatives to creating a dark sky friendly home that is beneficial for you and the environment. The color temperature of light bulbs plays a very important role. Bulbs that give off cooler blue light add more to light pollution and are more harmful for the environment. Therefore, the use of warmer amber lights is recommended for outdoor use. The type of lighting fixture is also another important factor to consider. Fully shielded lighting fixtures which directs light downwards are highly recommended, as opposed to floodlights or globe fixtures which directly add to light pollution and have no purpose aside from aesthetics.

With the advent of light emitting diodes (LEDs) the rate of annual sky-glow increase has gone up to an estimated 8% from the 6% annual increase prior to LED lighting. One of the reasons for this is that LEDs are very energy efficient, so a fixture can emit more light using half the energy; this encourages people to over light areas with the mistaken notion that more light means more safety and less crime while still saving some money on the electric bill. The other reason is many LEDs have a large percentage of blue-light in them and human eyes are more than twice as sensitive to blue light when we are in night-vision mode. That means a blue-white LED can appear more than twice as bright at night even though the light output of the bulb is the same as a warmer color light. That is why those blue-white LED car headlights are so annoying at night!

Recently two counties in Florida passed versions of a “dark-sky” ordinance, Collier and Broward Counties. Municipalities such as Sanibel and Harmony also have “dark-sky” ordinances. Because of the increasing knowledge that artificial light at night is harmful to our environment as well as our own human health, people are becoming more aware of bad lighting. It will be interesting to see how well the newer “dark-sky” ordinances fare as more people become aware of the problems caused by artificial light at night.
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.

**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; July 24, August 21; 9:00-10:30 am
- Reservations recommended.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

**GUARDED 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.

**INTRACOASTAL ADVENTURES - 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; July 20, 1:00-2:30 pm; August 17, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- Cost per person: Member $15, Non-member $22
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

**INTRACOASTAL ADVENTURES - 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.
- Sundays; July 21, August 18; 9:00-11:00 am
- Saturday, August 10; 9:00-11:00 am
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $30
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.
INTRACOASTAL ADVENTURES - 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.
- Sundays; July 14, August 11; 9:00-11:00 am
- Saturday, July 13, 9:00-11:00 am
- Cost per person: Member $20, Non-member $30
- Reservations required.
- 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; July 6, August 3; 10:00-11:00 am
- Cost per child: Member $5, Non-member $8
- Reservations recommended.

NATURE DETECTIVES
"Why’s the sky blue? Why are plants green? What’s inside an egg? What does it all mean?" There is no end to a child’s questions! Become a nature detective with your novice naturalist as we investigate the mysteries of the world around us.
- Ages 5-7 with an adult (no charge for adult).
- Saturdays; July 6, August 3; 11:30-12:30 pm
- Cost per child: Member $5, Non-member $8
- Reservations recommended.

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 outdoor marine aquariums.
- Ages 10-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Saturdays; July 27, August 24; 10:00-11:30 pm
- Cost per person: Member $7, Non-member $10
- Reservations required.
- Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.
Do you love animals?
Is education your passion?
Do you want to join an amazing team?
We need you!

GUMBO 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
Volunteer of the Month - March and April 2019
by Rebecca Mannen, Volunteer Coordinator

Gumbo Limbo’s Volunteer of the Month 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.

Victoria Garefino was selected for Gumbo Limbo’s Volunteer of the Month in March. Victoria helps as a Sea Turtle Husbandry volunteer every Thursday and Friday. She cares for our sea turtle patients by preparing food, feeding, cleaning, and assisting with minor treatments. She is incredibly reliable and is a huge help in our rehabilitation facility.

Volunteering since: January 2018

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo? “I really love interacting with guests and teaching them new things about environmental conservation. I also love being able to help take care of the sea turtle patients and watching their recovery process.”

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo? “I have learned a lot about the care and time that goes into healing the injured turtles. I love all of the veterinary experience I have gotten to assist with as it has helped direct me in my future endeavors.”

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment? “One thing I have done to conserve the environment is to reduce my plastic use. I have switched to using reusable straws and bags and invested in bamboo utensils to help reduce how much plastic I use. I also try to buy things in bulk or limit plastic covering when shopping at stores.”

Jon Wolfrom was selected as Gumbo Limbo’s April Volunteer of the Month. Jon volunteers as an Aquarium Guide, teaching visitors about the species and ecosystems represented at Gumbo Limbo and sharing our Mission to conserve these environments. Jon is an amazing help training new volunteers, filling in on shifts that need coverage, and sharing his vast knowledge about fish species with our guests.

Volunteering since: June 2017

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo? “It is difficult to pick one favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo. Just experiencing all the nature on display is amazing. And the interaction and friendship with other volunteers and staff is very rewarding. What really puts a smile on my face is seeing children’s eyes light up with excitement and wonder. It gives one hope that future generations will be good stewards of our planet.”

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo? “I have learned and continue to learn so many things, but the most interesting fact I have learned is that the temperature of the sand determines the sex of the sea turtle hatchlings.”

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment? “I think if we all challenge ourselves to be ever more responsible in our consumption and disposal habits, we will see continuous improvement. Big changes occur at the corporate level, but millions of small changes at the individual level can have a dramatic impact.”
You Can Support Gumbo Limbo!
www.gumbolimbo.org/Contribute

PRODUCTS WE'RE PROUD OF

In Gumbo Limbo's Gift Shop, we strive to provide you with the best products geared towards conservation and sustainability. Here are four products we're proud to carry this season:

**VIVAIODAYS Sunscreen with Turmeric**
This non-nano, zinc oxide SPF 30 sunscreen is reef safe, organic, and cruelty free!

**Manatee Reusable Produce Bags**
These 100% organic cotton bags are machine washable and perfect for your grocery needs.

**Shell Creek Sellers Reusable Straw Set**
This stainless steel set comes with three straws and one cleaning brush, great for on the go.

**Gumbo Limbo Reusable Bottle**
This stainless steel reusable bottle is dishwasher safe and comes in different designs.

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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.

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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
**Friends of Gumbo Limbo Membership**

- 10% discount in the gift shop
- First opportunity to make reservations for the Turtle Walk and Hatchling Release programs (limits apply)
- Discounts on select programs
- Support Nature Center operations, programs, and exhibits
- Free or discounted admission to over 160 nature centers in the USA and Canada [www.natctr.org](http://www.natctr.org)

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**One Year Membership to Friends of Gumbo Limbo**

- Individual - $25
- Family - $50
- Contributor - $100 or more
- Donor - $500 or more
- Benefactor - $1000 or more
- Other - $

With your Membership or gift you help us promote coastal and marine education, conservation, and research today and into the future. Your gift will be a lasting tribute to you, your family, and our community.

Name

Address

City    State    Zip

Phone Number

Email Address

To pay by credit card or complete online, please visit our website, [www.gumbolimbo.org/membership](http://www.gumbolimbo.org/membership).

Friends of Gumbo Limbo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.