With winter nearing, snowbirds flock to Florida's tropical climate to escape the frigid months ahead. Birds and people alike are amongst those who migrate south in fall for the abundance of resources that the tropics has to offer, year-round.

There are four common types of bird behaviors that take into consideration the various distances traveled. Permanent residents find adequate supplies of food year-round and do not migrate; short-distance migrants travel short distances such as higher to lower elevations on a cliffside; medium-distance migrants travel distances that span from one to various states; and long-distance migrants typically move North to South spanning over various countries, from Canada and the United States to Central and South America. Despite the strenuous journeys involved, long-distance migration is an attribute of some 350 species of North American birds.

Short-distance migration likely developed from the search for food, while the origins of long-distance migration patterns consider factors that are more complex. These long-distance migratory patterns have evolved over thousands of years and take the genetic makeup of the birds into account. Long-distance migration also incorporates responses to geography, weather, food sources, and daylight. Migrating birds often span over thousands of miles in their annual travels, following the same course year after year with little to no deviation.

Various species of birds pass over Florida during fall migration, in the months of September, October, and November. While many species will extend their stay for the wintery months that follow. The black-throated blue warbler and the American golden-plover are amongst those who travel through the state during fall migration, while the black-and-white warbler and American white pelican reside in Florida for the winter months. Every winter, 25,000 migratory sandhill cranes land on Florida soil. These cranes migrate in large groups and draw attention with the sounds of their distinctive calls that can be heard for a half-mile away. With the variety of species that travel through the state or stay for a while, winter is an exceptionally great time to go birding in Florida with rich bird life spanning over the entire state. Join Gumbo Limbo for our monthly program, Early Birding with Al, to learn more about Florida’s Snowbirds!
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center
1801 North Ocean Boulevard, Boca Raton, Florida 33432 · www.gumbolimbo.org

Hours & Information

Nature Center & Aquariums: Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Sunday Noon - 4:00 PM
Boardwalk & Nature Trails: Daily 7:00 AM - Sunset
Entire Property Closed: New Year’s Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

General Information (561) 544-8605 · Volunteer (561) 544-8538
Friends of Gumbo Limbo (561) 544-8608 · Gift Shop (561) 544-8610

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.

City of Boca Raton Recreation Services Staff

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Kristin Child

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Darlene Rosa

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Christie Collins
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Environmental Educators
Valerie Tovar

Exhibits
Exhibits Coordinator
Cory Keester-O’Mills

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Megan Barry

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Maintenance Supervisor III
Reed Benardo

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Kevin Addison

Groundskeeper
Cary Boudreau

Sea Turtle Conservation
Marine Conservationist
Kirt Rusenko, PhD

Sea Turtle Conservation Coordinator
David Anderson

Marine Turtle Specialists
Rachel Brown
Ali Courtemanche
Carlee Jackson
Sydney Jimenez
Taylor Roe

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation
Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Coordinator
Whitney Crowder

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Assistants
Caitlin Boverry
Emily Mirowski

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Manager's Corner
by Leanne Welch, Manager

Happy New Year!

We have a lot of amazing accomplishments to look back on in 2019, and even more to look forward to in 2020.

In 2019, we added many new programs, including The Science of Nature, The Art of Nature, Homeschool Workshops for different ages, and evening paddling programs – have you had a chance to take any of them? Be sure to check the program listings inside so you don’t miss out!

We also had the pleasure of hosting six Wish Kids through Make-a-Wish Southern Florida. Each of these special visitors had a wish that was near and dear to our hearts. It is a joy to share what we do and to help their wishes come true!

We also celebrated the opening of our full boardwalk loop through our Maritime Coastal Hammock. We are still adding exhibits and signage to the boardwalk; be sure to come check it out (especially now that the weather is cooler). Remember, our boardwalk and trails are open every day from 7:00 am – sunset.

We were especially honored this fall to be a part of the documentary, Troubled Waters, a Turtle’s Tale, a production of WLRN. The movie explores the impact of human behavior on our environment as seen through the lens of one of South Florida’s most beloved and fragile ocean creatures – the sea turtle. Many of our current team members (and several of our former sea turtle patients) are featured in this documentary. Missed the screenings here in Boca? That’s ok! You can watch it online at turtletale.org and the movie will be available to a national PBS audience in the Spring.

Looking forward to 2020 and all of the fun we have in store!

Our Eco-Watch lecture series kicks off on January 14th. This year we will be celebrating 35 years of Gumbo Limbo with a series of lectures that take a look at where we have been (and where we are headed). New for this year – our Eco-Watch lectures will be held at the Spanish River Library; we are excited to partner with our colleagues at their beautiful facility.

We are planning our Sea Turtle Day Festival for March 7 – be sure and save the date! This Spring we will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the very first Earth Day (I don’t know about you, but that makes me feel very old) and planning some great events with the City’s Office of Sustainability and the Recreation Services Department. Other programs we are bringing you include more evening paddling programs, and adding a nature walk through the hammock on our new boardwalk. The Gumbo Limbo 10k is scheduled for April 5th, so if your New Year’s resolution includes more running, you have a few months to get ready.

Perhaps the biggest news we are looking forward to in the new year is the re-construction of our iconic 40-foot observation tower along the boardwalk. Thanks to the generosity of Friends of Gumbo Limbo and our many members and donors, we will be able to have a tower that will be accessible to all, with the addition of an incline elevator alongside the 40 feet of stairs.

Thank you for being a part of our Gumbo Limbo Family; we hope to see you here soon!

Until next time,

Leanne
A big thank you to all who came out to help crown the Grand Gumbo Master of South Florida at this year’s Boca GumboFest. This annual fundraising event, in support of Friends of Gumbo Limbo, brought together over 400 people to sample gumbo from six competing local chefs from around South Florida! Attendees enjoyed St. Augustine Distillery’s Hibiscus Grapefruit Gin cocktails, Funky Buddha beers, and live music from The Lubben Brothers and The Sheffield Brothers Band. After some deliberation from our guest judges, Funky Buddha’s Craft Food Counter and Kitchen was deemed the 2019 Grand Gumbo Master! The crowd favored Boca Raton Resort and Club with the People’s Choice Award, Loch Bar was deemed the Most Innovative, and Harvest Grille the Best Traditional Gumbo. Our generous sponsors—Capital One, 4Ocean, and JM Family—helped to make this happen on a beautiful sunny day along the intracoastal waterway.

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.
This year, Boca Raton beaches saw a remarkably busy sea turtle nesting season in which two record highs were broken! We recorded 392 green sea turtle nests this season compared to the previous record of 331 nests in 2013. We also recorded 913 loggerhead nests and 18 leatherback nests. The overall total nest count was 1323 nests, which shatters the old record of 1178, also in 2013! Needless to say, our turtle conservation crew worked long hours on the beach in uncharacteristically hot weather! Some days we were on the beach up to six continuous hours in temperatures above 95 degrees.

All three species of sea turtle had higher than average nest numbers, which is a hopeful sign in otherwise discouraging environmental conditions. Another positive occurrence was the return of afternoon thunderstorms which kept the beach sand cooler and damp. As a result, the hatch success, or percentage of eggs on the beach that hatched, was 80% this year. This is very close to what used to be a normal hatch success. In 2016 we saw a very low hatch success of 42% for all species, which means fewer young sea turtles were making it to the ocean.

Unfortunately, we continued to experience higher than average predations by gray foxes and raccoons predominantly in Red Reef Park and just north. Also, for the first time in a decade, the raccoons were predating nests in South Beach Park. One way we can help decrease predation on sea turtle nests is to encourage people to stop feeding wild animals. When raccoons and foxes find extra food, their populations explode, and we lose many more sea turtle nests in that area. We continue to use hot pepper powder for predator control, but when the predator population explodes, the powder is less effective as several “fresh” predators are available to dig a nest after the first few clear the pepper away. In areas where the foxes and raccoons are not fed, we have very few predations; one such area is south of the Boca Raton inlet where only one nest was recorded as predated by crows.

We were all fortunate that Hurricane Dorian did not impact Florida as badly as it could have. The beach actually gained more sand from the storm instead of the usual erosion that normally accompanies a storm event. As a result, we lost fewer nests to erosion than expected. Before the storm we had about 450 nests on the beach and more than half of the loggerhead nests had already hatched. Following the storm, we lost approximately 70 actively incubating nests, less than seen in previous years where we have nothing more than a tropical storm. Fortunately, green sea turtles nest later in the season, and generally lay their nests close to the dunes. As a result, many of the green nests survived the storm without even getting wet!

We hope to have an equally (if not more) successful in 2020!
How Much Sand Do Parrotfish Poop?
by Bryan Danson, Aquarist

You may have overheard in our feeding presentation that parrotfish poop sand, but have you ever wondered how much sand they produce? It turns out, a lot!

First, in case you haven’t heard our talk yet, parrotfish eat algae off rock surfaces. When they do this, they ingest little bits of rock with each bite. That rock goes through their body and comes out as sand! Some researchers have investigated this and found that in the Caribbean the small stripped parrotfish (Scarus croicensis) can produce six pounds of sand a year! Pretty remarkable considering the stripped parrotfish is usually only about six inches long.

The truly amazing part is when we consider larger parrotfish. As parrotfish increase in size, they produce more sand, but it is not a linear increase, or one to one ratio. The amount of the sand they produce increased exponentially, in other words, an increase of one inch of fish increases the sand production by 10 to 100 times! For example, our 12-inch blue parrotfish (Scarus coeruleus) in the Coral Reef aquarium can produce not 12 pounds of sand, but 100 pounds a year! And blue parrotfish are regularly observed up to 24-inches or more. For an example of how much sand that they may produce at that larger size, we can look to the Pacific Ocean and the steephead parrotfish (Chlorurus stronglyocephalus). Two researchers working in the Maldives found that the 28-inch steephead parrotfish can produce a whopping 900 pounds of sand per year!!! When you consider these larger amounts, it is easy to understand how scientists estimate that more than 80% of the sand around tropical coral reefs is parrotfish poop!

Of course, we are not talking about our Florida beaches, most of our sand comes from the erosion of land and is transported by rivers to the coast.

I hope you enjoyed learning a little more about our parrotfish and why they are so important to tropical coral reefs. You can do your part to help these fish out by following the local regulations when fishing, as all species of parrotfish in Florida are protected at larger sizes because they are so vitally important. And make sure to come by and check out our many species of parrotfish in each of our four large aquariums!
New to the Team
by Megan Barry, Exhibits Assistant

As I walk around the grounds of Gumbo Limbo, I find the salty Intracoastal breeze and towering cabbage palms an all too familiar sight. Growing up, I spent the summers outdoors, immersed in South Florida’s natural worlds. All I wanted to do was sift through the shoreline for shells and hike through the muggy cypress swamps. I craved the mystery and excitement the environment brought to me. If I was not running around outside and barefoot as a child, I was inside painting my bedroom walls or making drawings for the refrigerator. Depicted were, of course, trees and butterflies. An occasional masterpiece would make it all the way to the long-term storage box my mom kept stowed away in our laundry room.

Prior to college I was faced with having to decide between my love for art and fascination with nature. Ultimately, I chose to pursue a degree in environmental science. With each test and paper, I gained a better understanding about what makes these environments so unique and important. I also began to understand the challenges these ecosystems faced. Pollution, land development, marine debris; it all felt so discouraging. No longer did I feel the optimism and curiosity I did as a child. As hard as learning these truths was, it became clear to me that I chose the right path. I felt I had calling to be part of a team that was working to help protect these environments.

My position as Exhibits Assistant at Gumbo Limbo has been rewarding in more ways than one. I am in a position where I do not have to choose between the science and the art. Since starting in August, I have had many great opportunities to showcase my artistic abilities through the educational exhibits. The exhibits department aims to explain science in a way that is easy to understand yet fun to learn. Our Exhibits Coordinator, Cory, has been a wonderful mentor who encourages our team to never shy away from a challenge. On top of constantly maintaining existing exhibits, we strive to develop new and exciting content for visitors. Science is always teaching us new things, and it is our job to share those new things with you.

Each day the child within me reminds me why I love what I do, and places like Gumbo Limbo remind me why I do it. The mission here at Gumbo Limbo is to inspire stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems. The like-minded mentality of our team instills that childlike optimism back into me. I feel that the work we do makes a difference. People of all ages come to this center to learn and have fun. The diversity of our programs, exhibits and grounds encourage that exact experience. I am anxious to see what the future holds for our exhibits team, what we stand for, and how we can inspire our visitors to connect with our natural world.
# January Programs and Events

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<td><strong>DAILY PROGRAMS</strong></td>
<td>6:00 am</td>
<td><strong>12:30</strong> Outdoor Aquarium Feedings</td>
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<td>9:00 am Intracoastal Adventures - SUP</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Intracoastal Adventures - Goodnight Canoe</td>
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## February Programs and Events

### DAILY PROGRAMS

**12:30 pm  Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings**

**2:00 pm  Sea Turtle Talk**

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<td>2:00 pm Homeschool Workshops</td>
<td>11:00 am Guided Nature Walk</td>
<td>8:30 am Wetlands and Wildlife</td>
<td>9:00 am Intracoastal Adventures - Kayaking</td>
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Program and Event Information

- **NEW!** Registration for Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's fee based programs are now accepted using an online recreation program system. Learn how to register for the system online (myboca.us/716/Online-Program-Registration-Information) or by calling 561-544-8605. Visit gumbolimbo.org for all program information.
- For most programs, reservations are required where indicated. Programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather or insufficient registrations. No refunds unless cancellation is by Gumbo Limbo.
- 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 gumbolimbo.org/membership for additional information.
- A resident is a person residing within the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District (includes the City of Boca Raton).

**A WALK IN THE HAMMOCK**
Join us for a FREE guided nature walk along the new, quarter-mile boardwalk trail that winds through the hammock (a word for a coastal Florida forest) and along the mangroves by the Intracoastal. Enjoy the peace and quiet of this woodland habitat, interrupted only by the sounds of birds, the antics of squirrels, and the occasional visit of a fox, raccoon, or skunk.
- All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Saturdays; January 4, February 1; 10:00 am
- Sundays; January 12, February 9; 1:00 pm

**ANIMAL ADVENTURES CAMP**
Join us during school breaks to explore topics in science and nature. Register for one, two, or all three days!

**Winter Break**
- Grades 1-3
- Day 1: Shark Science, Day 2: Animal Anomalies, and Day 3: Sensational Sea Turtles
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; December 30, 31, January 2
- 8:30 am -12:00 pm
- Cost per child per day: Member/Resident $25, Non-member/Non-resident $30
- Reservations required.

**Spring Break**
- Grades 3-5
- Day 1: The Mysterious and Misunderstood, Day 2: Fear Not! and, Day 3: Mini Beasts
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; March 23, 24, 25;
- 8:30 am-12:00 pm
- Cost per child per day: Member/Resident $25, Non-member/Non-resident $30
- Reservations required.

**THE ART OF NATURE**
Join us for this new program as we explore a variety of artistic methods to view and appreciate nature. We will create ephemeral art, seek out natural subjects for photography, 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, 10:00-11:00 am
- January 5 - New Year Mindfulness Walk
- February 2 - Nature’s Valentine
- Cost per person: Member/Resident $5, Non-member/Non-resident $8
- Reservations required.

**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
- January 8, January 22, February 12, February 26
- Reservations recommended. No fee.

**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, 8:00-9:00 am; January 16, February 20
ECO-WATCH LECTURE SERIES
Gumbo Limbo’s lecture series is celebrating 35 years of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center! Learn about the past, present, and future of science and conservation. Attend one or all of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center’s presentations by a guest scientist, author, researcher, or other expert. New this year, hosted by the beautiful Boca Raton Spanish River Library. Visit gumbolimbo.org for a list of speakers and topics and to register. Meet on the 2nd floor mezzanine of the library located at 1501 NW Spanish River Boulevard.
• Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm
• January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25
• Cost per person: $5 donation
• Reservations recommended; walk-ins welcome based on availability.

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.

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. February's topic is For the Love of Birds.
• 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.
• Wednesday, February 12, 2:00-3:30 pm; 2:00-3:00 pm for ages 3-5
• Cost per child: Member/Resident $5 (siblings $3), Non-member/Non-resident $8 (siblings $6)
• Reservations required.

INTRACOASTAL ADVENTURES (IA)
Reservations required. Subject to cancellation due to bad weather.

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; January 25, 10:00-11:30 am; February 22, 9:30-11:00 am
• Cost per person: Member/Resident $20, Non-member/Non-resident $25

IA - Goodnight Canoe
Enjoy an evening paddle around the Intracoastal. As day wanes into eve, take in the magic of the South Florida nighttime. 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, January 12; 6:00-7:30 pm
• Cost per person: Member/Resident $20, Non-member/Non-resident $25

IA - 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.
• Saturday, February 15, 9:00-10:30 am
• Sundays; January 19, 9:00-10:30 am
• Cost per person: Member/Resident $20, Non-member/Non-resident $25

IA - Twilight Kayaking
Enjoy the moonrise over the Intracoastal; as darkness creeps in, the water takes on a whole new beauty! Must have kayaking experience and be able to get in and out of a kayak without assistance. 1-2 people per double kayak.
• Ages 8-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
• Sunday, February 9, 6:00-7:30 pm
• Cost per person: Member/Resident $20, Non-member/Non-resident $25
IA - 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.
- Saturday, January 18, 9:00-10:30 am
- Sunday, February 16, 9:00-10:30 am
- Cost per person: Member/Resident $20, Non-member/Non-resident $25
- Reservations required.

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, January 26, February 23
- Cost per person: Member/Resident $3, Non-member/Non-resident $5
- Reservations required.

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; January 4, February 1
- Cost per child: Member/Resident $5, Non-member/Non-resident $8
- Reservations required.

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, 11:30 am-12:30 pm; January 4, February 1
- Cost per child: Member/Resident $5, Non-member/Non-resident $8
- Reservations required.

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

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
- January 26 - The Science of Camouflage
- February 23 - The Science of Bug Eyes
- Cost per person: Member/Resident $5, Non-member/Non-resident $8
- Reservations required.

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

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE

Meet at Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Delray Beach (13026 Jog Road) and learn about how inland water sources affect our marine habitats. Learn about the birds and how they rely on these critical habitats. Bring binoculars/cameras for this FREE ¾ mile boardwalk stroll.

- Ages 7-adult; children under 18 must sign-up and participate with an adult.
- Fridays, January 10, February 14; 8:30am; February 28, 3:00pm
- Reservations recommended, walk-ins welcome based on availability.
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.

**Lorraine Kasper**

Lorraine Kasper was selected as Gumbo Limbo’s September volunteer of the month. Lorraine is one of the volunteers who has been at Gumbo Limbo the longest; she started in 1993! Throughout the years she’s been here, she has worked in many different assignments, but for the last 3 years had been a consistent and dedicated rehab educator. Every Thursday morning, you can find Lorraine teaching visitors about our sea turtle patients and inspiring people to protect the ocean.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo? “Since I always work at the turtle tanks, it’s telling the people about them. The turtle tanks have always been my favorite place.”

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo? “That there are numerous people who believe in caring for nature and wildlife just as I do.”

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment? “Don’t put fertilizers and other things on lawns etc. that can endanger what wildlife is left in Florida.”

**Viki Goldman and Stan Shames**

For the month of October, we have two volunteers of the month! These volunteers typically work as a team and are both equally fantastic. Viki Goldman and Stan Shames work in almost every volunteer position we offer. They come in twice a week and are always willing to fill in or switch to a different assignment to help out if needed.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at Gumbo Limbo? “Watching the rehabilitation of turtles from sick and injured, to healthy and released.” - Stan

“Interacting with wonderful people- staff and visitors from all over the world.”- Viki

What is the most interesting thing that you’ve learned since starting at Gumbo Limbo? “Was not aware of the damage plastic can do to turtles and other sea creatures. Seeing the destruction they can do is horrifying.”- Stan

“Turtles have an amazing way of laying their eggs on the beach. Seeing the nests on the beach in the summer makes me very proud to volunteer for an organization that does such amazing work.” – Viki

What is one example of something you do/ someone can do to conserve the environment? “Limit the use of single use plastic. They litter the ocean and are terrible for turtles.” -Viki

“Limit the use of sunscreen that causes damage to our coral reefs. Pick up your trash when leaving the beaches. Replace plastic straws with paper straws. These small things can make a big difference.”-Stan
Play as a Tool for Discovery
by Cory Keester-O’Mills, Exhibits Coordinator

Our job, as the Exhibits Team at Gumbo Limbo, is to communicate scientific research and information to our visitors. However, as an instructor of mine once said: “No one reads scientific journals for fun!” It is our job to find ways to reduce and simplify often complex topics into bite-sized pieces that an intergenerational family can understand. This can be quite tricky sometimes; I’ve had three to four people standing around a computer for an hour as we try to write a one-sentence definition for the theory of evolution. However, these kinds of challenges are by far my favorite part of the job.

The exhibition profession, like most trades, is always developing. Every year there are new tools or ideas, there are trends and contests, and large conferences where we all get together to share and evaluate each other’s work. A few months ago, I was fortunate enough to present at the recent Southeastern Museums Conference in Charlotte North Carolina. I co-presented with some colleagues from different organizations on one of these current trends called gamification, or how to incorporate games and play into exhibition and programming. Specifically, our session was called “Myth: Playtime is for Kids,” where we discussed the benefits of games and play as it relates to institutional missions.

Play is an incredibly powerful tool for discovery. While engaging in play, participants must consider the information presented to them in the context of their own assumptions about a subject, which can lead to more robust understanding, or at least, a more engaging discussion. Play, usually, is also highly social. We want guests to talk about the subject matter within their group, with facility staff and, sometimes more importantly, with other visitors. Guests sharing experiences and perspectives, and asking questions, is the most powerful tool for education and social development. Between socialization and the questioning of assumptions, gameplay usually leads to more personalized experiences for those involved. Our ultimate objective is to provide our guests with novel, engaging and memorable experiences that promote our institutional missions.

All said, your logical next question is probably: “What games should we be playing at Gumbo Limbo?” Well, be on the lookout! Over the past few years, we’ve created several scavenger hunts and site-specific challenges that we rotate to provide new experiences to our guests. In hard construction, we add two to three new exhibits to the grounds every year. Coming soon (early 2020), we will have a new interactive exhibition about food webs, food chains and how animals hunt and eat. Next time you visit, be sure to ask the front desk what’s new!

Jolie Johnson, Development Manager of the Hillard University Art Museum; Nora Pinell-Hernandez, Creative Director of Atomic Carrots Design and Fabrication; and Cory Keester-O’Mills from Gumbo Limbo Nature Center co-presented a session at the Southeastern Museums Conference on the role of play in museums, how to encourage play, and the benefits of play as it relates to institutional missions.
HELP US BRING BACK THE TOWER

The beloved 40-foot Gumbo Limbo tower, once a local landmark for nature lovers, is being reconstructed and we need YOUR help!

The tower that created so many happy memories for countless families and visitors from around the world for over 30 years was declared unsafe and demolished in 2016. Now, thanks to the Friends of Gumbo Limbo “Bring Back the Tower” Campaign, the landmark is being reconstructed in a way that will allow everyone to enjoy its magnificent views of the lush mangrove hammock, the Intracoastal and the Boca Raton skyline. Visitors who are not able to walk up the 3-story tower will now ride in style on an inclined elevator with its secure enclosure of attractive etched glass.

The Friends of Gumbo Limbo and the Kosowsky family are reaching out for community support to raise the remaining $250,000 needed to restore the tower so that countless visitors can continue to experience its magic. Will you help to bring this landmark back to Boca Raton?

Gifts can be made online at
www.gumbolimbo.org/bring-back-the-tower
You may also call 561-544-8608 for more information.

GIFT SHOP

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

And don’t forget, Friends of Gumbo Limbo members receive a 20% discount in store. *excludes 4Ocean and clearance items

Net proceeds go directly to support the 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
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 centers: www.natctr.org

One Year Membership

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

Your Membership helps us promote coastal and marine education, conservation, and research today and into the future.

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.