



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

June 1, 2025

Volume 13 Issue 5 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Lakeland, FL 33810

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Park Administrator: Greg Thomas
greg.t@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-608-3984)

Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Manager: Phil Allen
phil@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Office Hours:
April 15-November 14: 9 am - Noon
November 15-April 14: 8 am- Noon

Lots Available for Lease / Sale

There are currently lots available to lease for a RV or Park Model. Call the office to find out what is available.

The home of Arlene Mahen at 5416 Zion Ave. is for sale. If you wish to make an offer, email kevin.mahen@gmail.com. Must be a current park member or an approved applicant.

Call the Park Office at 863-858-7504 for information.

News from the Park Administrator

Greetings from the Light and Life Park Office. We pray that you are well and enjoying the summer. Things are quiet in the park. However, much work is being accomplished.

Today, Doug and Ryan got the first light pole up along the sidewalk to Ebenezer Place. They have also performed maintenance on the ponds out by the goat pens. We will begin to utilize those ponds. We can then rotate the goats through the spray fields to keep the grass down and provide healthy grass for our expanding goat herd to eat.

Phil Allen just completed his Notary Public training and should receive his certificate in the next few weeks. This will allow him to provide notary service to members who need it.

Two travel trailers have been sold, and lots have been leased to our newest members of the park. Please welcome Dave and Julie Wensley, and Loren and Marie Huntley. The Wensley's will be at 5325 Ebenezer Place. The Huntley's will be at 5315 Ebenezer Place. If you know of anyone else who wants to become a member of the park and would like to purchase a trailer with the lease of a lot, please have them contact the office. We still have about 6 lots available for lease.

The park will begin selling travel trailers to members who are interested in June. The exact details have not been finalized but watch for an email from the park. The email will explain the sales process and a list of trailers available during the first round of sales. I anticipate a second round of trailer sales after everyone is done using the trailers during rebuilding.

If you will need a trailer in the fall to stay in while you continue to rebuild, please let me know. We want to sell all the trailers that the park does not need. If I don't hear from you, I can't guarantee there will be a trailer for you to use.

The next Hurricane season begins in June. It is important that there is nothing left on your lot that can blow away. Most have done a great job, but there are properties that still have building materials, furniture, plants and other items outside.

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News from Park Administrator cont.

High winds will catch these items and they will become projectiles. Placing tarps over items does not make them more secure from the wind. The grounds maintenance crew and I will begin touring the park and taking photos of properties where items need to be moved to a more secure location. I will send out emails asking you or someone in the park you have an agreement with to move the items. We want to do this before any storms develop so that when a storm is heading our way we can take other preventative measures.

May God bless you and protect you this summer.

Greg Thomas

Park Administrator

News from the Board of Directors

Greetings from Florida,

I understand that some of you in the north are still dealing with cooler weather, but here it's quite warm, very humid, and mostly dry with little rain.

As many of you are aware, the board will host several Summer Update Meetings accessible via Zoom. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

Monday, June 2nd at 9am

Monday, August 4th at 9am

Monday, October 6th at 9am

This month's major update is that the board has opted to install a new Gate System instead of repairing the existing equipment. The old Viking and Door King equipment will be replaced with new Viking and Door King models, which we expect to be of high quality, given the durability of the previous system. The company estimates it will take 5-7 weeks to receive and install the new equipment.

Your current remotes will be compatible with the new system. The call box will also be replaced but will function the same as before, so there's no need to issue new codes or change how visitors are granted access to the park.

We've established a fundraiser account for the new gate system. The proposal for the new system is \$16,676.22.

I'd also like to provide an update on the status of our other ongoing fundraisers.

Heavy Equipment:

Total Cost \$60,927.98

Funds Received to date: \$7300.00

Hood Hall Tables and Chairs:

Total Cost: \$9493.48

Funds Received to date: \$3370.00

Please prayerfully consider donating to these accounts as you feel guided.

Thank you to my Board of Directors for your commitment and insightful contributions to keeping the Park safe.

Praying for your safety wherever you are as well.

Becky Smith

Board President

Board of Directors 2025

Becky Smith, President

Larry Putnam, Vice President

Dave Moffitt, Treasurer

Ken Kendall, Secretary

Ron Foster

Jim Falconer

Jim Thomas

Larry Osborne

Roxanne Smarszcz



So far we have two couples that we plan to honor at the 2026 Golden Anniversary celebration. Both of the wives are daughters and caregivers of Ed and Ruth Harrow, and nieces to Barbara Dunn. If you or someone you know was married in 1976 and is a resident of L&L park please contact:

Carolyn Lindley, chair
50th Anniversary Celebration

Carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com

(517)262-1482

Metal Cans

There are containers over in the enclosed space by the Garbage containers for recycling your metal cans and are picked up by Errol.

Pop/Soda cans are to be placed in the bins designated for aluminum cans and are to be separated from other metal cans.

Errol uses the proceeds from the metal to support his son who is a Pastor of a very small church.

Dinner at the Max Thursdays 5:30 pm

Hey Everyone!

We will continue to have Dinner at the Max throughout the summer (which in Florida means all year). However, during the off season months of June through October, Dinner at the Max will be held on THURSDAY evenings at 5:30 (as we used to do) in order to accommodate some of our neighbors who are unable to attend on Friday.

Dinner at the Max will return to Friday evenings in November to allow everyone to participate in both DATM on Friday and activities at Hood Hall on Thursday.



SUMMER DINNERS AT HOOD HALL



The June summer dinner will be on Monday, June 2 at 5:30 pm in Hood Hall. The menu for the dinner is as follows: Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Green Salad with Dressings, Dessert and Beverage

The cost is \$8.00 a person. Help with clean up after the dinner is requested from those who are able. Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship together. Please be sure to sign up by Friday, May 30.

Any questions, call Dave Cook 248 250-2863.



The family of Robert and Gail Barnard would like to invite family and friends to a graveside memorial service for them in Alpena, MI. The service will be held on June 30 at 11 am at Wilson Cemetery, 3699 King Settlement Road, Alpena, MI. Lunch and fellowship to follow at Wilson Township Hall.

For further information, contact Babette at bhaas83977@yahoo.com or phone 317-408-1598.

What is That?

If you are a fairly new member of the park, you may have heard some interesting names thrown around that you are unfamiliar with. I came to Florida for three years before I knew what the "Sugar Creek Gang" was about.

Last month Becky Smith introduced you to some of the park committees and you may have not known what they were based on their titles. There are also groups that were not listed, such as The Bucket Listers and The Sugar Creek Gang.

Therefore, let's take a deeper dive into what these groups are and how you can become involved. This month we'll explore the Sugar Creek Gang, Martha's Place, and the Beautification Committee. We'll look at other groups and committees as the summer progresses.

THE SUGAR CREEK GANG is an informal group of individuals who roll up their sleeves and assist when there is a special need. They may work under the direction of the park administrator to do a special project, or assist a handicapped park member with a repair on their home.

Each January or thereabouts a meeting invitation is sent out for those who are interested in being a gang member. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the SCG regardless of skill level.

The gang was inactive during the 2024-25 winter season, mostly due to so many having to care for their own homes.

There is a need for someone to take a leadership role in the Sugar Creek Gang. If this sounds appealing to you, please come to the informational meeting to be held in January or contact a board member.

THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE exists to make the park attractive by planting flowers, weeding, cleaning up the property, etc.

Garden tools, mowers, and other equipment is available for loan at the Beautification sheds, which are located across from the pond near the dumpsters. Be sure to sign out what you borrow!

A golf cart parade is sponsored by the

Beautification committee, usually in February. Prizes are awarded for the most outstandingly decorated golf carts. A memorial cart usually leads the parade, in memory of those residents who passed away during the previous year.

If you would like to be a part of this committee, contact Tom Lake @ 269-207-5776



MARTHA'S PLACE is a small house located on Beulah Land. It was donated to the park by a former residents Vern & Martha Swain, and was originally used for making ceramics. Later it was taken over by a group of men who used it for a wood shop.

Some ladies approached the board of directors and requested that a building be given to the women of the park for crafting, sewing, and quilting. So the women took over Martha's Place and the wood shop guys turned the pavilion at the RV park into a building for their equipment. Husbands of the sewing ladies came together to create a bathroom, and over the years the women have made significant improvements to the building.

Martha's Place offers the use of sewing machines, a cutting table, iron and ironing board, and all you need for sewing a new set of curtains or joining in the fun of creating quilts for charitable causes. During the covid-19 pandemic, thousands of masks were made and shipped to nursing homes around the country, as there was a shortage of masks at that time.

If you need access to a sewing machine or ironing board, you can check out a key to Martha's Place at the park office.

(Information provided by long-time resident Elaine Goldsmith)

Bucket Listers News

The Bucket Listers light poles have arrived! These solar light poles will be placed along the side walk that connects Ebenezer Place with the library, church and pool.



The Bucket Listers purchased two chair racks for Hood Hall. Each rack holds 34 chairs. These racks will help with moving and storage of the new chairs! Two more racks are on order.

Did you get a chance to see these amazing puzzle shelves in Hood Hall? These were built from repurposed wood from the library.

While you are enjoying your summer, north or south, keep your eye out for some jigsaw puzzles for the puzzle area. Last year we lost all of our Christmas themed puzzles to Hurricane Milton. We have a good variety of puzzles but we have a large group of puzzlers in the park who are quick to finish puzzles. Remember you can always join the group at Hood Hall and do a puzzle there or take one home and do it.



Thank you for your donations at movies, trivia, pulled pork dinner and cinnamon rolls at work to make our park amazing! The Bucket Listers will be back next year with more activities and fundraisers!

Thanks for your support!

Have a great summer!

CARS & COFFEE

June 14, 2025 8 am to 10am



Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes welcome at Light and Life Park 5730 Deeson Road (at the end of the road) Lakeland, FL 33810

The gates will be open. You can see cars parked in parking lot under the trees on the left. Come have coffee and donuts. Hope to see you there!

Jo Anne Thomas
540-447-0288

LOOKING GREAT!



The renovations at Hood Hall have given a bright new look to the building. The lighter weight tables and chairs have been a blessing. Each of the tables is currently priced at \$100 retail (Sam's price), and the chairs are currently priced at 4/\$120 or \$30 each. If you would like to pay for a table and/or a couple of chairs, you can make a donation by sending a check to the office – please designate that it is for the table and chairs project.

Check out the park website!

Copies of the newsletter, the Park calendar, places for sale, and much more can be found there.

www.lightandlifepark.org

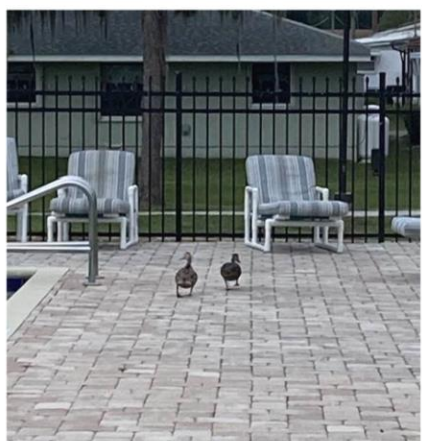
Around the Park in May...



Tristen – the summer intern at L&L FMC



Puzzlers finally back at their table in Hood Hall



Wild ducks leaving the pool after their evening swim with Marilyn Barrett-Otto



Fred and Ethel's twins are growing rapidly!



Light poles installed near the library to brighten the path at night



To God be the glory!!



The July Fellowship Dinner at Hood Hall will feature picnic foods in celebration of our nation's Independence Day. Watch for more information on Neighborhood News and Facebook. Light and Life picnics will also be held at Michigan camps this summer. All are invited to attend!



Saturday, June 28
1:00 pm

The Fourth Annual Saturday Before The Fourth Picnic at Manton Christian Camp in Manton, MI

The pavilion by the flag pole is reserved.

Potluck-Bring a dish to pass. Hosts Roy and Janet Wight will provide the meat, tableware and ice water. RSVP 989-944-4440



See you there!

(Editor's note: There is camping and overnight lodging available at the camp if you would like to make it an Up North excursion. Contact <https://www.mantonchristiancamp.org> for accommodation information.)



SOMERSET BEACH

CAMPGROUND & RETREAT CENTER

Sunday, July 13 (During Family Camp)
Gather beginning at 12 and eat at 1:00 pm
We're delighted to have some of our Canadian friends joining us!!

Somerset Beach Campground

9822 Brooklawn Ct.
Jerome, MI (off US 12 near Somerset Center)



Bring: A large dish to pass and your own place setting.
Optional: Picnic tablecloth and lawn chairs, beverage of your choice.

Hosted by: Carolyn Lindley 517-262-1482



Missionary Church Campgrounds

Brown City, MI

Thursday, August 7 (During Camp Meeting)

Time and location TBD



Hosted by: Carol Zeller 248-330-4474

Fishing for Retreat

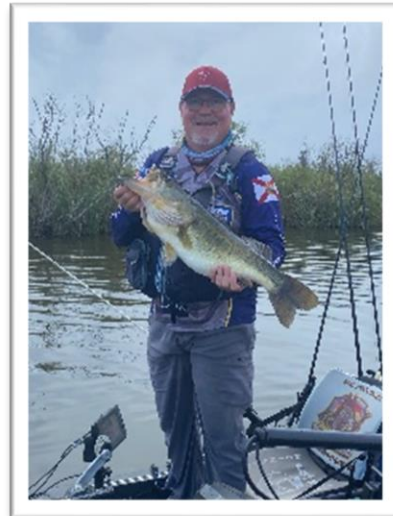
We all have special activities we enjoy, whether it is creating something with our hands, reading a great book, cooking for others, or even being close to nature. These are things we look forward to often by ourselves or with small groups.

~~Greg Thomas is a very active member of the Florida Bass Nation Kayak Series Association. He is a member of the Central Division and has won several tournaments. He is a very active member of the Florida Bass Nation Kayak Series Association. He is a member of the Central Division and has won several tournaments.~~
Our very own fearless administrator, Greg Thomas, has his own favorite past time—mixing kayaking with bass fishing and competing with others. Greg belongs to the Florida Bass Nation Kayak Series Association. It is broken into four areas: North, South, East, and Central. He is one of the tournament directors for the Central Division. This competition occurs from December through June, usually once a month within a two-hour drive from his home to one of the nearby lakes or rivers.

The tournament is usually on a Saturday with up to twenty participants in their own kayaks. Using depth finders, they locate where the bass are located, usually by the banks or within the weeds. Lures are used to entice the fish to bite such as rubber worms, jigs ,or top surface floaters. The fishermen may catch as many as they can, measuring each fish, taking its picture, and then throwing the fish back in the lake. Then they score the top five longest fish and add their lengths together for the final score. The top five people win prizes of money.



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In 2023, Greg won four Central Regional Tournaments along with the State Championship in which he won a \$5,000 brand new kayak! He's hoping to qualify for the State Tournament this year also.

The joy of being on the peaceful rivers and lakes, communing with God and nature, and enjoying a great competition at the same time draws him to this year after year. What a fantastic way to spend a weekend resting and coming back to work refreshed for another stress-filled week!

- Submitted by Gloria Welton



This Saturday is the first Saturday of the month (June 7) and is time for the men's breakfast and fellowship time.

Meet at the church at 7:55 to carpool. For more information contact Dale Schantz 989-975-6710

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Many of us are snowbirds. However, the need for funds for Spanish Christian literature continues year round. Thankfully no matter where you are any day of the year you can continue to LOOK for, CUT (with a 1/4-1/3 inch border), and SAVE postage stamps, foreign or domestic, commemorative or standard, also preprinted, cancelled or not, new or old, as well as postcards, which are then sold to collectors. From fall through spring you can take them to Hood Hall.

Your relatively small efforts produce huge results as we're working toward the second million in dollars raised. Please contribute your stamps and PRAY for this worthy cause. THANKS!



The monthly newsletter is a great way to stay informed, but there are also other resources available.

There is a Facebook page hosted by Chuck Tomasello, and an email service called Neighborhood News. You must include your name and contact information when using this service. If you would like to subscribe contact Judi Purdy at judith_purdy@yahoo.com

L&L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & well being. Routines are choreographed to music and designed to promote improved muscle strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

No previous experience required!

Splash times are offered year round and free of charge. Upcoming June dates include:

Thursday, June 5th @ 9:30AM

Thursday, June 26th @ 9:30 AM

(Note: NO Thursday Splash the 2nd & 3rd week of June due to Vacation Bible School. Although prayers for a "Blessed VBS" is greatly appreciated☺).

Please look for more updates via L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News.

Karen Castle-Williams,
ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor



Articles and announcements for the newsletter should be submitted to: Carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com by the 20th of each month. (Please do not text) The deadline for the July issue is June 20th.

