



A SHOT FROM THE FORT

SPRING 2009

OFFICERS

Interim President
Chris Sutton

Vice President
Lana Bilchak

Interim Secretary
Karen Flannery

Treasurer
Judy Willis

Communications/
Membership
Colleen Gray

Directors
Lynn Ballinger and
Adrian Burke



Please mark your calendar for the next meeting of the Friends of Fort De Soto held at the Nature Center at Fort De Soto on **Wednesday, May 27, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.**

We would love to have you as a Friend! Please contact Bob or Jim at Fort DeSoto @ 727-552-1862 for membership info.



Fort De Soto Needs Your Help!

Fort De Soto needs your help! In order to restore Fort De Soto to its former grandeur, we need to raise an additional \$500,000.

The Fort was built in 1898. Its walls and ceilings are very thick and are composed of reinforced steel beams then covered with lots of sand.

According to Debbie Chayet, who works for Pinellas County, a ventilation and drainage system was built into the Fort to drain off excess water from the ceilings and walls. However, the water and condensation which has seeped into the structure over the years, have resulted in deterioration and dissolving of the walls and structural components. The visual result are indentations in the limestone walls and wall discoloration, and stalagmites hanging from walls and ceilings.

The estimated cost for restoration is broken down as follows:

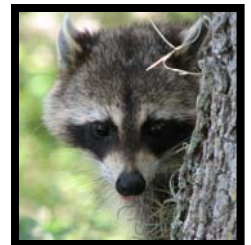
- Engineering Consultant: \$126,124. -
Construction: Estimated \$1,290,671. This is a 60% engineering estimate and may change when actually bid out.

The estimated funding is broken down as follows:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$500,000
- Save America's Treasures in the amount of \$246,000.
- \$125,000 was already budgeted for 2007-2008.
- **FUNDING SHORTAGE EQUALS: \$545,769**

We would like to request any and all help in raising the capital needed to **RESTORE THE FORT!** Following are a number of ways this can be accomplished:

- T-shirt sales
- Donation Boxes for Visitors
- Bumper Stickers
- Support from local businesses and municipalities as well as corporate donors and involving the press.
- Remember "Friends" can solicit donations, but staff cannot.
- Press releases and articles
- **Please contact Bob or Jim at Fort DeSoto @ 727-552-1862 to see how you can help out**





Friends of Fort De Soto, Inc.
Supporting the Preservation, Conservation & Promotion of Fort De Soto Park

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 9, 2009

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park - Mangrove

Sunday, May 10, 2009

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park - Soldiers' Hole

Saturday, May 16, 2009

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at John Chesnut Park

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park - Beach

Sunday, May 17, 2009

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park - Arrowhead

Saturday, May 23, 2009

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Philippe Park

Saturday, May 30, 2009

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park - Soldiers' Hole

Sunday, May 31, 2009

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Guided Nature Walk at Fort De Soto Park Headquarters

For more upcoming events go to:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?cmd=openca&cal=cal4>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Due to recent Pinellas County budget cuts, the park's staff desperately needs your help!!

**Please contact Bob or Jim at
727-552-1862
if you would like to volunteer.**

Reenactment Day



On February 20th Gray fought Blue once more at Fort De Soto to reenact a Civil War battle. The battle started Friday for area school children and for everyone else, Saturday morning. The 97th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Reenactment Regiment hosted the weekend's festivities. Guests visited encampments, listened to the fife and drum music, and witnessed a mock military trial.

A big THANK YOU to the following Friends of Fort DeSoto who helped out at the event: Adrian Burke, his two children (Jamie and Derek), Judy Willis, and Karen Flannery.