

Resource Management Accomplishments FY – 2014

Sea turtle nest protection - Over 3,700 sea turtle nests were covered with wire mesh screens to protect them from being predated. Data on each sea turtle activity (nests and false crawls) were collected and entered into database to generate reports for the Park and the State.

The Park also hosted the International and Regional Sea Turtle Coordinators from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service along with a delegation from Spain to observe and learn more about nesting loggerhead turtles that utilize the waters off the coast of Spain. This special visit was designed to highlight conservation efforts in Florida. The visit was an outgrowth of the International Working Group for the Northwest Nesting Population of Loggerheads and was intended to show the Spanish Ministry Environment Fisheries, Spanish longline industry, and fishing communities in Spain the extensive investment in conservation the National Park Service and other entities are making to protect loggerhead nesting beaches.



Restoration of disturbed lands - Utilizing a technique called “living shoreline restoration”, strips of red mangrove, salt marsh cordgrass and specially-designed oyster reef restoration mats were installed along the shore to curb erosion caused by boat wakes and storms while at the same time creating edge habitat valuable for many aquatic species. Shoreline restoration work was completed to stabilize eroding shoreline at Seminole Rest and other locations throughout the lagoon. A

child's storybook "Turtle Mound" was developed to tell the history of this important archeological site., our iPhone app that enables the user to have real-time tracking of Mosquito Lagoon through their phone - the app is linked to GIS layers to try to prevent boat strikes on seagrass and oysters.



Invasive plant control - Almost 1,000 acres of Brazilian pepper and Australian pine were on treated on the islands and swale areas around Mosquito Lagoon, as well as the upland hammock of Bill's Hill.



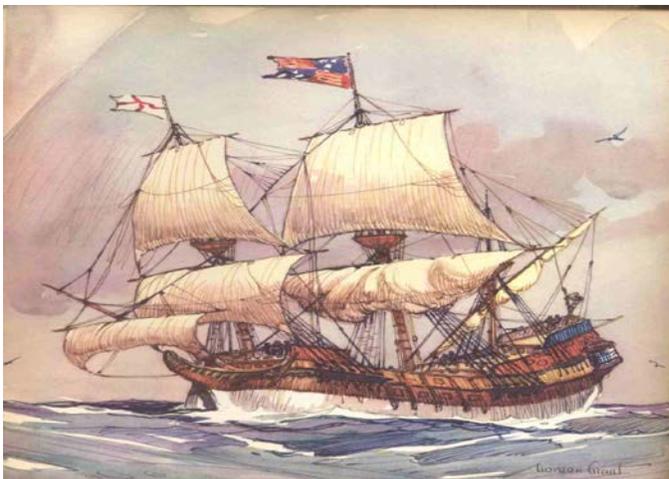
Wetland Restoration- This is a project to restore; to as natural a state as possible, dragline ditched wetlands in the Mosquito Lagoon region that were altered by people in the 1950s for mosquito control. The ditching damaged the native wetlands resulting in less productive ecological communities in about a 1200-acre area. The Volusia wetland restoration project will restore approximately 600 acres of this damaged system. Restoration efforts began in 2009 and will continue until 2016.



Inventory and Monitoring – Southeast Coast network conducted several inventory and monitoring projects at the Park, including the 12 baseline inventories being

conducted at all Parks. Additional research studies included marine benthic invertebrates.

Archeological surveys- researchers from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum on their embarked on a six-week search for the lost French fleet of Jean Ribault, which sank off the Florida coast in 1565. The fleet of 16th century French ships that was lost in a hurricane, resulting in the establishment of a Spanish colony in St. Augustine, Fla. in 1565. If discovered, these ships would arguably represent the most important shipwreck sites ever discovered in U.S. waters.



Threatened & Endangered Species monitoring - CANA jointly completed a survey of the federally-protected Southeastern beach mouse along 40 miles of coastline (essentially its entire range). Participating agencies included USFWS, NASA and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Resource Management staff and volunteers conducted 3 day annual JayWatch surveys. This survey is conducted throughout the state in partnership with the Audubon Society. These surveys help resource managers to detect distribution and range of the species of the federally-protected Florida Scrub Jay.

