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Please congratulate the following volunteers who reached multiples of 100 hours of service during the fourth quarter of 2011 (10/1/11 thru 12/31/11). Each volunteer received four coupons for free entrance into a fee-based exhibit for every 100 hours of service. The total number of hours (rounded) served since April 1, 2005, is listed in parentheses. Junior Volunteers are indicated by ‘JV’.

4th quarter 2011
John Beaman (800)
Genell Bond (100)
Linda Bradley (100)
Valerie Bray (100)
Kaitlin Buickel (200)
Martha Cade (1700)
Lisa Campbell (200)
Sharon Castner (400)
Janice Chamberlin (200)
Janet Cornelius (1600)

Lesleyanne Drake (300)
George Edwards (1100)
Lee Edwards (200)
William Eschmeyer (600)
Barbara Fennelly (300)
Gabriella Foster (UV) (110)
Linda Goshorn (500)
Bob Gwin (L400)
Charles Hall (300)
Russell Henderson (600)
Katherine Hendy (100)

Jerry Hessels (900)
Teena Jann (200)
Danica Kemper (UV) (200)
Ronald Lange (600)
Jennifer Li (UV) (100)
Nicholas Lutz (UV) (100)
Marlyn Martin (800)
Lorraine McDowell (1000)
Pedro Mendez (300)
Barbara Omstein (700)
Annette Perry (600)

Dylan Perry (JV) (100)
Paul Roth (600)
Fat Smart (1400)
Margaret Stuebe (400)
Sharon Thomas (100)
Joyce Thompson (300)
Joyce Trunk (100)
Erich van Gorkum (JV) (30)
Minja Zhong (100)

Happy Birthday!

January
1 Teena Jann
5 Natasha Morgan
8 Rose Westmore
27 Bob Gwin

February
11 Hermel Martinez
2 Mary Ranade
5 Sue Paper
7 Gary Akker
15 David Forman
21 Ruby Shepherd

March
2 David Karpf
3 Amber Forrest
7 Amanda Vichareen
9 Laura Tirmes
11 Erin Keeford
15 Richard Roll
17 Alexandra D’Acariano
21 Suzanne Conner
23 Pat Smart

April
1 Erim Van Gorkum
2 Virginia Martinez
3 Virginia Martinez
6 Melissa Cook
8 Ruby Sullivan
11 Valerie Brown
13 Bill Gwinn

The flora, FAUNA, & FOSSIL Flash

The Volunteer Newsletter of the Florida Museum of Natural History • Spring 2012

Junior Volunteer Program Benefits Youth and the Museum
by Volunteer Program Staff

If you visited the Museum during the summer, you probably noticed a large number of young people in orange T-shirts working in various departments. One hundred and twenty four students were selected from applicants representing an area of array middle, high and home schools to become part of the Museum’s annual Junior Volunteer team. The well respected and popular program allowed young members of our community to earn volunteer service hours, although many of the students would agree that the on-the-job experience they received was just as important.

Junior Volunteers had an assortment of duties that benefitted the Museum. Participants worked in the Butterfly Rainforest or the Discovery Room, shared Discovery Cart topics or “Wild Music” information with visitors, and assisted teachers with summer camps. Two new positions were also created last summer. Plant Sale assistants helped customers with their plant purchases, and Curatorial Assistants in Lepidoptera prepared and pinned specimens for future study. In addition to their regular service, some Junior Volunteers also chose to help with various evening events at the Museum.

To celebrate their service, many of the Museum staff worked together to hold a Junior Volunteer appreciation party on August 12. Planned by Volunteer Program interns Lesleyanne Drake and Amber Hodges the event provided an evening for the JVs and their families to enjoy food, fun and fellowship. The annual Junior Volunteer Olympics was enjoyed for its team competitions, and Lesleyanne and Amber wrapped up the evening with an awards recognition for Junior Volunteers who received outstanding evaluations from supervisors and/or served more than 100 hours during the past year.

A huge thanks goes to our adult volunteer staff who took the time to mentor many of the junior volunteers during the summer. Your enthusiasm and experience really made a difference in their young lives!

The Museum Contact Information

Exhibits & Public Programs (Powell Hall), 352-846-2000
Director of Education, Betty Dunkel…352-273-2088
Volunteer Program, Amy Hester…352-273-2055
Public Programs, Catherine Carey…352-273-2064
School Programs, Dianne Behringer…352-273-2036
McGurie Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity….352-392-5894
Research & Collections (Dickinson Hall)….352-392-1721

Mark Your Calendar!

March 9 – JV Applications Available

March 19 – Wingding!
Continuing education for Butterfly Rainforest volunteers

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April 13 – Volunteer Recognition Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m. . Powell Hall
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Museum Contact Information

Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida Cultural Plaza
3215 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611, www.fhmnh.ufl.edu

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Volunteering at the Florida Museum...

Greetings from the Coordinator

Dear Volunteers,

Hello! I am Amy, your new Volunteer Coordinator. I am excited to be working at the Florida Museum of Natural History. As a born and raised Gainesville girl and Gator fan, I grew up going to the Museum when the public exhibits were still located at Dickinson Hall. I remember the anticipation of walking through the cave and the excitement of discovering new items in the collection drawers. I’m looking forward to working at the Museum and helping to bring wonder and joy to visitors both young and old.

After attending Gainesville High School, I started my college career at Santa Fe and then moved on to the University of Florida. I received my B.S. from the College of Agriculture in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, with a minor in Zoology. I went on to receive my Master’s in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

I worked for many years for the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey conducting freshwater fish surveys throughout the southeastern United States. I realized my desire to pass on my love of science and started working as an environmental educator. I’ve been an environmental educator for 4-H, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, and Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the UK.

Most recently I was the Youth Sports and Fitness Coordinator for Kaderna Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. While this position took me away from science, I look forward to working with you to fulfill the Museum’s mission of understanding, preserving and interpreting biological diversity and cultural heritage. While I have met many of you at the recent volunteer orientation and docent trainings, I hope to meet more of you in the near future. Feel free to stop by and say hi or come meet me at the Volunteer Recognition Reception on April 13th (more details will be emailed out). Thank you for volunteering your time and sharing your experience.

Sincerely, Amy Hester
Volunteer Coordinator

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STAFF PROFILE:

Darcie MacMahon
By Kelly Schindler, former intern

“Bridging the gap between art and science” is what Assistant Director for Exhibits Darcie MacMahon is all about. Darcie began working for the Museum 21 years ago, when she was hired to help produce an archaeology exhibit on Fort Mose. With a background in archaeology and a resume that includes field work at sites like the home of author Nathaniel Hawthorne, Darcie’s passion was “conveying [her] research” to the public. This passion led her to the position she holds at the Museum today.

After working on the Fort Mose exhibit, she helped interpret information for other exhibits and spent some time in collections, helping to “rehab” the department with proper storage techniques. Her current position has helped her to bridge the gap between art and science, something she finds challenging and interesting, as “art and science don’t always speak the same language.”

Currently, Darcie enjoys gardening, cooking and teaching tai chi downtown. She also enjoys bike riding at Paynes Prairie and often bikes to work. Another favorite thing about her position is the opportunity to interface with the Museum’s volunteers, saying that “they really enhance the Museum experience.”

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Rosie Kereston
By Leidyana Drake, former intern and current docent

Since sixth grade, sixteen year old Rosie Kereston has committed her summers to serving the Museum as a Junior Volunteer. “I had always loved visiting the museum as a child,” she says, “so I felt that dedicating my time to working there would be very worthwhile and fun.” Rosie also knew that she would later need volunteer experience for college scholarships, but she wanted to volunteer somewhere she loved. The Museum was the perfect fit. “Going back to the museum is something I look forward to at the start of every summer.”

Rosie has spent five summers as a Junior Volunteer, serving in a variety of capacities. From working with children in the Discovery Room, to engaging visitors at the Discovery Carts, Rosie takes on every task with intelligence and enthusiasm. “Interacting with people of all ages and sharing my knowledge with them are two of my favorite things,” she says. This is why Rosie’s favorite job at the museum is being an interpreter in the Butterfly Rainforest. She loves talking with visitors in the rainforest and learning about different species of butterflies. This summer, Rosie was excited for the opportunity to volunteer in the McGuire Center collections because it provided her with hands-on experience in working with Lepidoptera.

Recently, Rosie’s passion and hard work have enabled her to earn a volunteer position in the McGuire Center laboratory where she will assist a team of scientists in analyzing Lepidoptera genetics. Rosie is currently a Junior in high school, and she plans to attend college after graduation. Although she has not decided what she wants to study, Rosie’s work at the Museum has sparked her interest in biology and chemistry. “Without question,” she said, “Volunteering at the Museum has already impacted my earliest career decisions.” Just as Rosie benefited from volunteering at the Museum, Rosie prospered because of the work of talented and dedicated volunteers like Rosie.
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Most recently I was the Youth Sports and Fitness Coordinator for Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. While this position took me away from science, it gave me the opportunity to work with over 350 volunteers and helped me realize how critical they are to an organization.

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Barbara Fennelly 300
Gabriella Foster JV 110
Linda Goshorn 500
Bob Gwin L400
Charles Hall 300
Russell Henderson 600
Katherine Hendy 100

Jerry Hessler 900
Teena Jain 200
Danica Kemper JV 200
Ronald Lange 600
Jennifer Li JV 1100
Nicholas Lutz JV 100
Martlyn Martin 800
Lorraine Mcdowell 1000
Pedro Mendez 300
Barbara Omstein 100
Annette Perry 600

4th quarter 2011

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Happy Birthday!

JANUARY
1 Teena Jain
5 Nathaly Morgan
6 Rose Heitstom
7 Bob Gwin
8 Sandy Ohanian
9 April Geiger
10 Mary Lou Markert
11 Irma Riley
12 Amy Koester
13 Rita Patekas
16 Barbara Fennelly
17 Greg Guzman
18 Martha Carlo
20 Ron Bertie
22 Neil White
26 Cindy Rolli

FEBRUARY
1 Harriet Martinez
2 Mary Ranade
4 Sue Paper
5 Carolee Alber
5 Jose Padiila
7 Amanda Farrell
7 Richard walker
11 William Eschmeyer
12 Ruth Sherwood
13 Maureen Nersmith
14 Yong Shao
14 Emily Warchol
18 Carolyn Caracausa
19 Gloria Comstock

MARCH
2 David Karp
2 Amber Forest
2 Amanda Ybarra
3 Laura Times
3 Eric Keford
4 Richard Roll
4 Aleksandra D'carrino
5 Suzanne Conner
5 Pat Smart
6 Martha Kendall
6 Paige Carpenter

21 Mary Fischer
21 Diwattention pep
23 Julia Uthmeier
23 James Foster
27 Mari Bjerger
27 Zachary Randall
28 Ann Tison

26 Nancy Ryan
28 Clauda Leonzi
29 Verda Naylor
29 Katherine Wilson

APRIL
1 Eni Van Gorkam
3 Virginia Martinez
6 Melissa Cook
8 Ruby Sullivan
11 Vivien Brown
11 John Cherry
13 Lorraine McDowell
13 Debra Castle
15 Helen Whisley
18 Joan Smith
20 Faun Carlson
20 Holly Cherry
22 Lillian Brown
22 Nicki Lane
24 Justine McCoy
24 Jennifer Torres
26 Carmen Elbenberger
27 Diane Perdomo

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