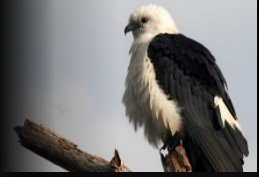


September 2019 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



Hurricane Dorian Beach Assessments: As soon as the all-clear was given, ERM staff were out on the beaches to survey the impact of Hurricane Dorian. ERM also coordinated multiple tours for representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Emergency Management, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Initial estimates indicate an average loss of approximately 23 ft. of dry beach width County-wide, which is equivalent to an estimated 1 million cubic yards of sand. ERM is working with the above agencies to secure funding for storm repair projects that will keep our County's beaches healthy and prepared for future storm events.



Berry Season: Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) berry season began in August. Deputies of the Wildlands Task Force, a unit of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, have made 7 berry busts, ticketed 9 individuals, and confiscated nearly 4,000 pounds of palmetto berries from would-be poachers. Because its berries are used as an herbal cure for prostate and urinary issues, saw palmetto is categorized as a Commercially Exploited Plant. Harvesting the berries without the required permit from the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services is punishable as a misdemeanor crime.



SWALLOW-TAILED KITE



Wildlife Research: Staff has been working with Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) to develop monitoring protocols for swallow-tailed kites. Kites will be tagged to address important questions about the species' conservation biology. Staff coordinated with ARCI to capture and tag two kites in June. They are the first representatives from Palm Beach County and you can follow their yearly migration to South America at swallowtailedkites.org.

Yamato Scrub Trail Run: ERM's Adopt a Natural Area partners, Fleet Feet, held a four-mile trail run at Yamato Scrub Natural Area. The event brought 40 runners to the site for a sunset trail run. ERM is partnering with Fleet Feet for a three-mile Halloween-themed evening run called "Screams in the Scrub" at Yamato Scrub Natural Area on Friday, October 11.



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Mack Bernard, Mayor, Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor, Hal R. Valeche, Gregg K. Weiss, Robert S. Weinroth, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay

Hurricane Dorian Turtle Impacts: Palm Beach County has had a record-breaking sea turtle nesting season with year-end counts likely to top 50,000 nests. Prior to Hurricane Dorian approximately 2/3 of those nests had already hatched. Some of the remaining nests were impacted by the waves caused by the storm but the overall impact to the population is minimal. Many beachgoers reported finding eggs on the beach after the storm. The eggs on the beach are no longer viable and, in fact, may be the remaining shells from nests that hatched prior to the storm.



HATCHLINGS



GREEN SEA TURTLE

If eggs are found exposed or in the surf the only thing to do is to leave them alone as they are no longer viable. Relocation of nests ahead of a storm is not allowed as any movement of the eggs after the 24-hour window after which they were laid would be fatal. If you find a turtle in distress you can call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert hotline at 1-888-404-3922.

Sea turtles have adapted to storms through various strategies. Each female lays 6-8 nests during a single season which means she is laying 500-900 eggs. They also place their nests at various locations on the beach. Those laid closer to the water are more prone to washing out in storms while those laid closer to the dune are more prone to predation. By laying eggs in various locations and laying multiple nests per year, they ensure hatchling survival against natural events.



HATCHLING CRAWLS

Adventure Awaits: Register NOW for a **FREE** event at [PBCERM.EVENTBRITE.COM!](https://www.pbcerm.eventbrite.com)

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- October 5: **GROWING UP WILD – TURTLES AND TORTOISES** at Juno Dunes
- October 9: **MEET THE SNOWBIRDS** at Frenchman's Forest
- October 11: **THREE MILE HAUNTED TRAIL RUN** at Yamato Scrub
- October 12: **BUTTERFLY HIKE** at Pondhawk
- October 16: **SUNSET HIKE & PADDLE** at Cypress Creek North
- October 20: **WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?** at Royal Palm Beach Pines
- October 23: **SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP** at North Jupiter Flatwoods
- October 25: **HAUNTED HIKE** at North Jupiter Flatwoods
- November 2: **LAGOONFEST** at Downtown West Palm Beach
- November 3: **WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?** At Yamato Scrub



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