

# FRIENDS OF GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK

January 2024

Newsletter

Issue #4

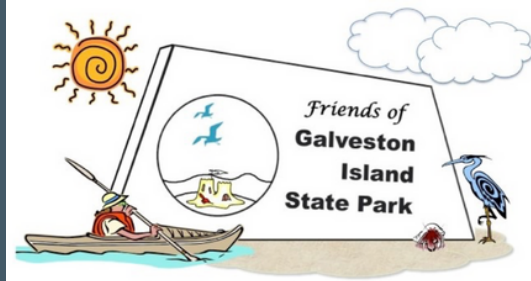
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



**Annual membership is only \$20!!**

**Make 2024 the year to volunteer!!**

**Scan the code with your smartphone camera  
for details on how to donate or volunteer!**



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## 2024 Camp Wild

### MARY ROSS- NEW CAMP WILD DIRECTOR

Mary Ross, a new FoGISP board member, has graciously stepped into the roll of Camp Wild Director as of December 2023 to fill the void left by the passing of the previous director, Terry Gaustad. The FoGISP board and volunteers of Camp Wild will rally behind Mary to make the 2024 Camp Wild a huge success. Our thanks and gratitude go out to Mary!

## New FoGISP Board Members

### TWO BOARD POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED

Chris Mantooh was nominated and approved by the board to fill the remaining 9 month term left by Terry Gaustad ending in September 2024. Larry Brasfield has been nominated and approved by the board to replace a vacated 3 year board position that extends through September, 2026. On behalf of Galveston Island State Park and the FoGISP board members please accept our gratitude and many thanks for your service to the Park!

## January Events at the Park

January is full of fun in the Park including guided hikes, fishing and birding events. Click on the link below for the full schedule of events, times and locations.

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/galveston-island/park\\_events](https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/galveston-island/park_events)

# Thank You

Heavily influenced by his grandmother, who taught him during the Great Depression that giving to others "fills a God-sized hole in your heart," together, the McGovern's began leaving a stamp of goodwill and giving across the Greater Houston area.



**Kathrine G. McGovern**  
**09/15/1933 - 12/01/2023**



Katherine McGovern was a quiet support and donated to Friends of Galveston Island State Park for many years. The board was very surprised to receive a check for \$25,000 that had been sent just days before her passing. For that, we are forever grateful to her and will make sure to honor her legacy with programs that will continue to make her proud, such as Camp Wild.

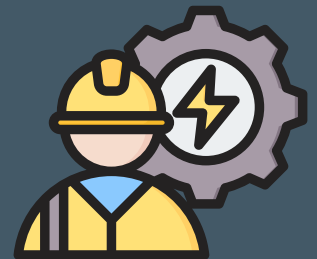
Katherine and her husband never sought the social spotlight-preferring instead that their actions and gifts speak for themselves.

Following her husband's death in 2007, Kathrine became president of the John P. McGovern Foundation and chair of the foundation's board for more than 15 years while creating her own legacy of generosity and community service.



## Thank you CenterPoint Energy!

CenterPoint Energy made a significant donation to FoGISP due to the inconvenience of their construction work on 13 mile Road east of the Park border. Tip your hat to CenterPoint Energy!!



**Thank you to all the new FoGISP members in 2023 !!**

**Don't forget to renew your membership on the due date in 2024!!**



# Monofilament Recycling Saves Wildlife

Fishing is a beloved activity by thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors, myself included. But, we might not think much about what happens to lost fishing line or a rats nest that was cut off from a reel and dropped on the shoreline. Every year, hundreds of birds are injured or killed by fishing line. Entangled sea turtles are reported by fishermen or passersby who notice a turtle in distress. A sea turtle is attracted to the bait or the lure even if it is a derelict line accidentally or purposely left behind. It will drown if can't make it to the surface to breathe or get flippers tangled up and not be able to move. It is a painful and often fatal outcome.



## How can you help?

**Fishermen:** Don't leave any fishing line behind if at all possible. If you can safely collect snagged tackle, please do.

**Beachcombers:** Collect any fishing line you find and deposit it in the nearest recycling tube.

**Volunteer** for beach and bay monofilament clean ups near you.

**24 hour hotline to report an injured sea turtle is: 1-866-turtle 5**



Beach access #36 in Galveston

We can't gather all of the fishing line lost in the Gulf and Bays due to a snags but, there are plenty of tasks we can do to greatly reduce the amount of these wildlife deathtraps. It is our duty to do as much as we can to collect our own fishing line and clean up what is already out there.

Monofilament recycling tubes for the fishing line are located at most popular fishing areas in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

If you know of a location that doesn't have a tube, please let us know and we'll look into getting one installed. Galveston Island State Park has tubes along the beach and bay sides of the park.



Sea turtles photos provided by Gulf Coast Sea Turtle Research



Pelican skeleton with fishing tackle around its beak.