

## Sea turtle release

Friends of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, ANGARI Foundation and the Florida Park Service release two juvenile female loggerhead sea turtles into the ocean.

One-year-old Veronica and 10-month-old Freed were released off the coast of West Palm Beach from ANGARI Foundation's 65-foot research vessel, R/V ANGARI.

A team at MacArthur Beach State Park has been caring for the turtles since they were 3 months old. They are part of the park's sea turtle ambassador program, which educates visitors about the importance of sea turtle conservation.

"During their time at MacArthur Beach State Park, our sea turtle ambassadors educated thousands of visitors about sea turtles and conservation," says Veronica Frehm, CEO of Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park. "It is these personal interactions, that can spark

people's interests and can help them on their way to becoming life-long sea turtle advocates. We look forward to getting a new sea turtle ambassador in the coming months."

Veronica and Freed have both been tagged with ID numbers, which allow research teams to notify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of their condition and location if they are spotted.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is the only state park that is able to house sea turtles in Florida. The park receives their turtles from the Florida Atlantic University Research Gallery, located in the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

ANGARI Foundation, established in 2016 and headquartered in West Palm Beach, is dedicated to creating a global community interested and invested in marine and environmental sciences. ■



A juvenile turtle released off the coast of West Palm Beach.



Florida Park Services Specialist Alaina Miller releases Veronica, a Loggerhead sea turtle.

ANGARI FOUNDATION / COURTESY PHOTOS

## September swap

Palm Beach Zoo and COX Science Center allow members to swap

**September is for the Members!** Palm Beach Zoo and the COX Science Center are thrilled to announce a new collaborative program that doubles the value of your membership through enhanced educational and recreational experiences.

Starting September 1st, Swaptember allows annual pass holders from either attraction, to "swap" their membership. A membership of any level with either organization grants pass holders free admission for the entire month. Simply present your membership card at the ticket counter to access a wide range of benefits and exclusive opportunities at both the Palm Beach Zoo and the COX Science Center. Whether you are into animals and reptiles from our distant past or want to help protect those of the future, the Zoo and Science Center makes for a full day of fun. No additional purchase



PALM BEACH ZOO / COURTESY PHOTOS  
Palm Beach Zoo members checking out the bears.

or registration is needed.

"We're excited to give our members an incentive to visit other cultural pillars in our community. Both of our member bases value the importance of STEM, learning, and animals. It's a partnership that just makes sense," explained Erin Ward, vice president of marketing.

Additional membership perks like discounts at retail shops, exclusive experiences, or after-hours events are not included in Swaptember. The number of guests allowed is consistent with whatever Membership Level you may have. Parking is free at both attractions.

Together, these institutions enhance the community by combining education, recreation, STEM, and conservation, making them important pillars in fostering both personal growth and community well-being. ■



A lorikeet having a little snack.

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