



**Daggerwing Nature Center  
Information**

11435 Park Access Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33498  
561-629-8760

**Facility Operating Hours:**

Closed Until Further Notice

**Boardwalk Hours:**

Closed During Repairs

Be sure to check out additional announcements on our website and keep up-to-date with what's happening on our Facebook page.



## Message From the Manager

Thank you for your participation in the national Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz campaign through the iNaturalist app during the month of September. There were over 940 observations noted on 366 pollinator species and flowering plants all over Palm Beach County. Some of the most frequently observed species were the firebush (*Hamelia patens*), western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), and atala butterfly (*Eumaeus atala*). All three of these popular finds can be seen while visiting the Daggerwing Nature Center butterfly garden!

Daggerwing Nature Center staff has been active during the closure, creating educational videos. Check out the latest [Animal Encounters-Eastern Lubber Grasshoppers](#) episode and [What's That Plant?-Firebush](#) episode which are now on YouTube.

In addition, a new Assistant Naturalist has joined our team. Please welcome Autumn Horne and read her introduction article below!

Naturally,  
Sean Mallee

---

# October Program Calendar

---

All programs have been suspended until further notice. Please check back on our website and Facebook Page for updates!

---



## **Assistant Naturalist...**

## **Autumn Horne**

Autumn is a South Florida native who has spent the majority of her life as a nomadic artist, performer, and naturalist. She has experience as a professional actor; aerialist; artist and collaborator with the American Littoral Society, the Wild Bird Fund, Sara Lewis, Eric

Sanderson, and the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary; artist-in-residence with the NYC Audubon Society on Governors Island; and educator with the Florida Master Naturalist program. The common thread that can be found running throughout her life and work is her love of animals and nature. From her first experience with animal care, encounters, and environmental education, while volunteering at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, to her current project running a virtual nature journaling club in the time of COVID, she has always known her calling: education through art, nature, and science. Creating the stories humans need to hear. She can think of nothing better than creating the stories humans need to hear, bringing the public closer to nature by introducing them to something new, or bringing a new perspective to everyday experiences.

Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize, said, “You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.” How better to do that than through an environmental education program like the one here at Daggerwing? Autumn hopes to use her life experience as a lover of nature and animals and all things wild to inform and empower, to plant seeds of change and knowledge, and maybe create a little magic and silliness there too.

---



**Animal Profile...**

**Mr. Muffins**

Daggerwing Nature Center is proud to feature Mr. Muffins, a Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) and the only North American marsupial. Mr. Muffins was donated to Daggerwing Nature Center in June of 2019 from Busch Wildlife Center. A wildlife caretaker found a female opossum hit by a car and discovered Mr. Muffins and his siblings inside his mother's pouch. The young orphans arrived at Busch Wildlife Center for treatment and care and were nursed to health and eventually released. However, Mr. Muffins was imprinted on humans and sought the attention of humans. Since this could be dangerous in the wild, wildlife veterinarians deemed him non-releasable.

Despite their name, Virginia opossums have a large habitat range. They are found in forests throughout the east and west coast of the United States. They are also found in Central America. Opossums are scavenging omnivores which are not particular about their food. In the wild, they are nocturnal and use their powerful noses to find their meals.

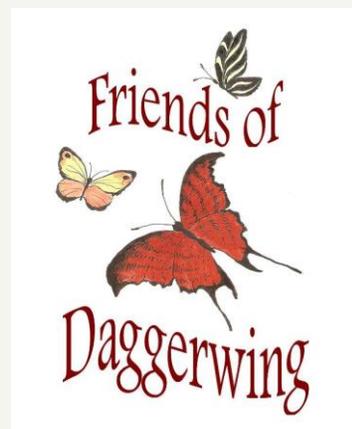
Mr. Muffins is a very relatable opossum. He is messy and does not like to keep his room clean. He also loves to take naps on his back. Even though Mr. Muffins sleep cycle is not disturbed by human activity, he always wakes up when it is time for food. His favorite foods include fruits and corn on the cob.

---

## Friends of Daggerwing

This non-profit charitable organization was formed to help support the nature center and expand the programs and activities offered to the families and schools in the local community. You can show your support for the nature center by becoming a member!

Members receive an animal sponsorship, newsletters,



invitations to special events, as well as discounts in the gift shop and on “Friends” sponsored programs. As an animal sponsor you can select one of the nature center’s education animals and you’ll receive a certificate along with a photo and fact sheet about your animal.

Memberships make great gifts!

Join Friends of Daggerwing’s efforts and help shape the future of YOUR nature center by clicking [HERE!](#)

**FOD is seeking Board and Committee Members. If you would like to get involved, please contact [FriendsofDaggerwing@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofDaggerwing@gmail.com).**

An Amazon Smile banner with a green background of grass and a brown butterfly. The text reads: "amazon smile" in black and orange, "Daggerwing Nature Center" in small black text above the butterfly, "You shop. Amazon gives." in large black text, and "Support us while you shop! Select 'Friends of Daggerwing Nature Center' as your Charitable Organization." in smaller black text.

**amazon smile** Daggerwing Nature Center

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Support us while you shop!  
Select “Friends of Daggerwing Nature Center”  
as your Charitable Organization.

**You can support Daggerwing Nature Center's programs and animals just by shopping online!** Select "Friends of Daggerwing Nature Center" as your charity of choice and make purchases through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). **Donation credit only applies if you shop directly through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and not Amazon.com.**

**If you haven't signed up, yet...**

IT'S AS EASY AS:

1. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)
2. Choose Friends of Daggerwing Nature Center
3. Shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) every time

---

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Join the Team!

Help Daggerwing Nature Center work toward the mission of educating people about the environment and inspiring people to become personally involved in conservation efforts! Volunteer positions currently available include:

- SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

### General requirements for volunteering:



1. Be at least fifteen years old.
2. Complete the application process.
3. Commit for a minimum of six months.

Visit our website or [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about how to become a volunteer and complete the volunteer interest form!

---