

Honeymoon Island and the Shops at Wiregrass

We haven't been to Honeymoon Island since October 2013,
so we hear they're anxious to see us again.

After our somewhat busy schedule on Florida's Panhandle, we hope we can lure you on

Monday, October 16 from 8:30-8:30

to a more peaceful and relaxing setting on Honeymoon Island, off the coast of Clearwater. Honeymoon Island is a 2,810-acre park of which 2,400 acres is submerged. Consistently receiving more than one million visitors each year, it is the most-visited state park in Florida. After crossing a causeway, we will "drop anchor" on its 4 miles of beach and spend a relaxing afternoon swimming in the warm waters of the Gulf, fishing for trout and snook (is that a fish?), or having lunch amid the beautiful scenery.

You might prefer to enjoy a good book, play a quiet game, or set out to explore for unique shells. Shelling is particularly good here as the Gulf currents deposit an incredible variety along the shore.

Please note that we have been advised to shuffle our feet when entering the water to scare away small sting rays that sometimes burrow under the sand along the water's edge. We trust the advice that they are more afraid of us than we are of them. Also, the beach area itself has a lot of shells and rocks, so you may want to take beach shoes or just be careful when walking.

Activities include birding, fishing, and hiking. On the trails you may see many osprey, on nests, limbs, and while flying.

Showers and restrooms are available and Café Honeymoon offers food, beverages, and beach supplies. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited except, of course, at the restaurant where alcohol is sold. Rentals include:

Umbrella & 2 chairs \$25 plus tax; Single Chair-\$5 plus tax

(We still need to confirm this rental info.)

Although the famous Caladesi Island is just a short ferry ride away, our members who went there on our last trip did not find the \$14 cost worthwhile so we are not promoting it this time.

Then let's try AGAIN to visit the Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel for dinner.

(Twice we were prevented from a visit, once by a disabled bus and more recently by a bad storm.)

We just won't take NO for an answer!

In addition to browsing some of the shops there, you'll also have the choice of many restaurants (see <http://www.theshopsatwiregrass.com/dining/>) to share a relaxing meal with friends.

Well, the time has come. After 4 ½ years of roaming the beaches at the cost of \$25 a month, we must now raise the price to \$28 to cover our increased costs, including new bus fees. For example, to enter Honeymoon Island State Park, we have to pay \$120. We certainly hope this small increase will not preclude you from being able to join us. (Just eliminate one cup of Dunkin Donut coffee a month.)

If this trip interests you, print the reservation form (click on green button below) and mail it along with your check (made out to the BBC) for \$28 per person to the address below. On October 10th, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.

I/we would like to go to Honeymoon Island with the BBC on October 16th. Enclosed is my \$28 check (pp).

Print your name(s): _____

I/we wish to be on the bus with these friends (name up to four)

I/we still have a credit with the BBC and I would like to use that credit. _____

I/we wish to rent chairs/umbrellas Yes/No _____ # of chairs _____ (No money is being collected at this time for these rentals.)