

Martin Luther King Beach Clean-up Project

January 16, 2012

To commemorate Martin Luther King Day, each Virginia State Park had an event or a volunteer project. Here at False Cape State Park, in Virginia Beach, we asked our volunteers to help in a beach clean-up. With the temperatures' dipping in the low 20's on Sunday night we were not sure how many of the 24 volunteers that had sign-up the week before would show up to walk the beaches and pick-up the trash. Well, by 8:50 A.M. with the temperature at 33 degrees we had 28 smiling faces standing next to the Terra Gator ready to load, for the 6 miles ride into the park. With no vehicular traffic into False Cape we pick up our volunteers at Back Bay Wildlife Refuge (BBWR) and head over the ramp leading to the beautiful, white beaches that run through BBWR, down through False Cape State Park to North Carolina. At least they are beautiful now after the volunteers pick-up 52 bags of trash weighting about 900 pounds.

Bruce Julian, one of the long time volunteers had the job of recurring, transporting, and distributing the other 27 volunteers down the beach in a leap frog fashion in order to cover the entire 6 miles of ocean front that False Cape State park has. With precision driving, and great cooperation from all the volunteers and the help from Rebecca, (maintenance ranger) picking up all the bags after they were full, with a little help from Dewey, this was completed in less than 6 hours. We also had time to pick-up trash on the other side of the fence there at the state line around the gate and on the way back north we stopped at the Outdoor Classroom and pick-up two bags of trash there.

At False Cape it's not all work and no play, so Bruce drove the group over to the bay side of the park there at Wash Woods, so everyone could see the old Swain Hunt Club, now the park's Environment Education Center and the beautiful Back Bay. We stayed here about 30 minutes and then headed up to Barbour's Hill, where the parks office and visitor center is located. Here Rebecca had the office and the gift shop open for us and more important the bathrooms. On the beaches there are not too many trees which one can use, so everyone made a bee line to the restrooms. We also had time for some group pictures and hopefully will have one with this write-up. We finished around 2:45 P.M. and back at the parking lot everyone headed to the local pizza parlor for a good meal.

We want to thank all the volunteers for coming out and volunteering on a day as cold as this one started out.

Thanks to all,
Bruce Julian

