

All outings are free and open to the public. Location information for the various outings is shown at the end of the document. No pets or smoking please. For additional information, contact Bill Dunson at 276-233-6364 cell or text, or email wdunson@comcast.net

<u>Date/Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time/Location</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
Nov. 14/Fri	Beach Ecology at Stump Pass State Park	9-11 am (SP)	Bill Dunson
	Expert biologist Dr. Bill Dunson will lead this beach walk from the Stump Pass State Park parking area to the Pass at the southern end of the island and back. This walk will be about 2.5 miles round trip. We will investigate the different portions of the beach and the forest behind and learn about barrier island plants and animals. Bring water, lunch and a shady hat. Info and directions, (276) 233-6364. State park entry fee \$3/vehicle. No fee for the outing. Jointly sponsored by Lemon Bay Conservancy and the Sierra Club.		
Weekly beginning Nov. 14/Fri	Pole Walk around Wildflower Preserve	8-9 am (WF)	Lucia Schatteleyn
	Join volunteer Lucia Schatteleyn for a weekly exercise walk on the trails at Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve. Pole walking uses upper as well as lower muscles and is a total body workout. Using poles also helps reduce the chance of getting off balance. Fitness walkers without poles may also join these sessions. Walks will continue weekly if there is sufficient interest. Call Lucia at 941-830-8334 to confirm walk dates or get more information.		
Nov. 15/Sat	Birds, Bugs & Blooms at Wildflower Preserve	9-11 am (WF)	Bill Dunson
	Take a leisurely two mile walk around Wildflower Preserve with expert biologist Bill Dunson and learn the common animals and plants that are encountered along the way. There is no predicting what might be seen, butterflies, birds, dragonflies, or various flowers, but whatever we see will be interesting. Repeated visits to the same site often yield different species. Learn to be a true naturalist, fascinated by whatever we find.		
Nov. 22/Sat	Nature Walk at Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	10:30-11:30 am (CSP)	Bill & Margaret Dunson
	Join Bill & Margaret Dunson for a short nature walk in Tippecanoe Environmental Park as part of the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival. This walk is jointly sponsored with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) and is part of the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). LBC and other local environmental organizations will have booths at the festival.		
Nov. 24/Mon	Edible & Medicinal Plants at Wildflower Preserve	9-11am (WF)	Bill Dunson
	Discover the hidden world of plants and how they can be of value to humans as food and medicine. Learn also about the hidden dangers of such uses and the potent chemicals that plants produce to discourage their consumption by herbivores. The careful study and preparation of plant chemicals has yielded many benefits but learn how to avoid many dangers of such attempts to cure human diseases with plants. Dr. Bill Dunson will lead you on an exploration that may change your perception of the benign nature of plants.		
Dec. 5/Fri	Kayak Buck Creek to Stump Pass - Beach Ecology	9 am-noon (BC)	Bill Dunson
	Want a little something more than just paddling a kayak? How about paddling over to a barrier island and enjoying a nature walk with an expert? We will launch from the new Buck Creek launch site on Placida Road and go over to the south side of Stump Pass, about 4 miles roundtrip. Our guide will be the expert biologist Dr. Bill Dunson. We will investigate an island lagoon and learn about barrier island plants and animals. Bring water, lunch and a shady hat. Jointly sponsored by the Sierra Club and LBC.** Reservations Required: Call Allain Hale at (941) 423-2713 **		
Dec. 6/Sat	Tarpon and Estuarine Creek Ecology at Wildflower Preserve	9-11 am (WF)	Bill Dunson
	Lemon Creek within Wildflower Preserve provides a quite unusual opportunity to explore the natural history of juvenile tarpon and their dependence on tidal creeks very low in oxygen. Such habitats minimize the effect of competition and predation by other fish. We will hike about two miles down to Lemon Creek and back, examine how the surrounding land affects the creek, explore the natural history of the creek and attempt to catch some fish with a cast net. Your guide will be Dr Bill Dunson.		
Dec. 18/Thur	Uplands & Wetlands Ecology at Myakka River State Park	9-11 am (MR)	Bill Dunson
	Join the fun as we walk a 3 mile Loop (Lower Fox Rd) in the Myakka State Park with biologist Dr. Bill Dunson. Our walk will take us through a wet and dry riparian creek corridor. We will consider the changes that have occurred since pioneer days, mainly driven by a large decline in groundwater levels. Dr. Dunson will point out plants and animals as we walk. Bring drinking water and a shady hat. Call Bill for directions if needed to north end of park road 276-233-6364. State park entry fee \$6/vehicle. No fee for the outing. Jointly sponsored by LBC and the Sierra Club.		
Dec. 19/Fri	Plants and Animals: A Love Hate Relationship	9-11 am (WF)	Dave Clayton
	Animals need plants. Plants need animals. But, these are complex relationships, at times mutually beneficial while at other times detrimental to one or the other. Join local wildlife expert Dave Clayton to explore examples in the relationships of some of the flora and fauna of Wildflower Preserve.		
Dec. 29/Mon	Ecology of Wildflower Preserve	9-11 am (WF)	Dave Clayton
	Wildflower Preserve is a wondrous 80 acres of wetlands and uplands. This walk will explore its general ecology and its remarkable qualities.		
Jan. 10/Sat	Ecological Differences between Wildflower and Amberjack	9 am-noon (WF)	Dave Clayton/Bob Cooper
	Join expert naturalists Bob Cooper and Dave Clayton on a 2.5 mile round trip hike from LBC's Wildflower Preserve "south of the border" to adjacent, county-owned Amberjack Environmental Park. The differences in habitat types between these adjacent preserve areas are astounding, as are the ecological ties that bind them together. The amazing bird life in Lemon Lake cannot exist without the tidal flow up Lemon Creek and through Wildflower, yet the lake dries up completely in some months. Bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes. This is one of our longer hikes and usually takes approximately 3 hours. Co-sponsored by LBC and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC).		

- Jan. 24/Sat** **Open House at Wildflower Preserve** **8 am-noon (WF)**
 Mark your calendars to join us in celebrating the first five years of LBC's development of Wildflower Preserve. Visit information booths hosted by local environmental groups and participate in a series of nature walks. A detailed activities agenda will be distributed by mid-December.
- Feb. 7/Sat** **Management of Wildflower Preserve** **9-11 am (WF)** **Dave Clayton**
 A wildlife preserve is not an area locked up and then ignored. There are on-going management considerations: what habitat needs restoration or enhancement, how to control invasive plants and animals, what areas will be opened for public access. Join us for a walk around Wildflower Preserve while we discuss past, present and future management objectives and procedures.
- Feb. 12/Thur** **Exploring Buck Creek Preserve** **9-11 am (BC)** **Bob Cooper**
 Join naturalist Bob Cooper on a guided walk around the flatwoods, freshwater wetlands, and mangrove fringe at Charlotte County's Buck Creek Preserve. Jointly sponsored with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC).
- Feb. 16/Mon** **Barrier Island Ecology on Manasota Key** **9-11 am (BP)** **Bruce Dayton**
 Walk from the Gulf of Mexico shore to a lagoon off Lemon Bay with ecologist Dr. Bruce Dayton at Blind Pass Beach. We discuss how water, wind, sand and living things interact to create our beautiful barrier islands. The biological emphasis will be on habitats. Included are beach, dune, coastal hammock and mangrove. This is a fairly easy stroll on the beach and the Duisberg Nature Trail. Meet at the Blind Pass Park sign across the road from the parking lot.
- Feb. 21/Sat** **Ecological Differences between Wildflower and Amberjack** **9am-noon (WF)** **Bob Cooper/Dave Clayton**
 Join expert naturalists Bob Cooper and Dave Clayton on a 2.5 mile round trip hike from LBC's Wildflower Preserve "south of the border" to adjacent, county-owned Amberjack Environmental Park. The differences in habitat types between these adjacent preserve areas are astounding, as are the ecological ties that bind them together. The amazing bird life in Lemon Lake cannot exist without the tidal flow up Lemon Creek and through Wildflower, yet the lake dries up completely in some months. Bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes. This is one of our longer hikes and usually takes approximately 3 hours. Co-sponsored by LBC and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC).
- Mar. 3/Tues** **Birds and How to Manage for Them** **8-10 am (WF)** **Bill Dunson**
 Join Bill Dunson and a group from Peace River Audubon Society (PRAS) in exploring the different habitats of Wildflower Preserve and how each supports different populations of resident and migratory birds. Learn the common bird species and how to distinguish them by sight and sound. Consider how future plans will modify some of these wetlands and how these changes can be expected to affect the birds found here. Jointly sponsored by PRAS and LBC.
- Mar. 7/Sat** **Common Butterflies & Dragonflies at Wildflower Preserve** **10-11 am (WF)** **Jane Wallace**
 The simplest way to master the identification of confusing butterflies and dragonflies is to focus on learning the most common 5-10 species. Jane Wallace, a leader in developing Wildflower Preserve's butterfly habitat, will introduce visitors to the butterflies and dragonflies found on a leisurely walk and provide additional information for enthusiasts to use on future walks.
- Mar. 21/Sat** **Insects of Wildflower** **9:30-11:30 am (WF)** **Fred Santana**
 No one is more expert in introducing visitors to the world of insects than "Dr. BUG," Dr. Fred Santana. He will lead participants along the trail describing and identifying insects that are encountered or caught, introducing them to the insect diversity of the preserve. Enjoy the opportunity to identify and learn about their habits. Do NOT miss the occasion to learn about this important fauna. Note that the start time for this walk is 9:30.
- Mar. 28/Sat** **Animal Diversity and the Future of Wildflower Preserve** **9-11 am (WF)** **Dave Clayton**
 Wildflower Preserve includes several habitats and a variety of animal species live in the preserve either permanently or seasonally. These animals have evolved numerous adaptations allowing them to not only survive but thrive in their specific habitat. Join Dave Clayton on a walk through the preserve with discussion about how future plans for Wildflower will enhance these habitats to benefit the native flora and fauna.
- Apr. 4/Sat** **Ecology of Wildflower Preserve** **9-11 am (WF)** **Bob Cooper**
 Our very own master ecologist Bob Cooper will lead you on a hike around Wildflower Preserve and provide a very exciting account of the animals and plants found there.
- Apr. 11/Sat** **Freshwater & Saltwater Ecology at Wildflower Preserve** **9-11 am (WF)** **Bob Cooper**
 Join Bob Cooper for a visit to the freshwater wetlands and brackish Lemon Creek at Wildflower Preserve with discussions of the major differences between the two habitats.

Location Information for the Nature Outings:

- WF** Wildflower Preserve: Outings depart from the parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224. The preserve is located just east of Placida Rd, Route 775, south of Englewood.
- BC** Buck Creek Preserve: 5350 Placida Rd, Englewood, FL 34224. The parking lot has been expanded during the summer.
- CSP** Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte, FL 33948. The entrance to Tippecanoe Environmental Park is at the rear of the stadium parking lot.
- SP** Stump Pass Beach State Park: 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. Located on Manasota Key. Park admission \$3.00.
- MR** Myakka River State Park, 13208 State Rd 72, Sarasota, FL 34241. Admission \$4.00 - \$6.00. Approximately 45 minutes driving time from downtown Englewood.
- BP** Blind Pass Park (Middle Beach), 6725 Manasota Key Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. Located on Manasota Key. Meet at the Blind Pass Park sign across the road from the parking lot.

For kayak outings, kayaks can be rented in advance from Seashore Eco Tours. Call Nicole at 941-234-4311 or 697-8825

Note: Outing schedules are subject to change and additional events may be scheduled. To receive updates and reminders on upcoming activities, visit www.lemonbayconservancy.org and subscribe to "Lemon Bay Conservancy Nature Outing" e-mails.