

Lemon Bay Conservancy Nature Outings January 2016 – April 2016

Unless otherwise noted, outings are free and open to the public. Some venues charge an entry fee. No pets or smoking please. For additional information, contact Bill Dunson at 276-233-6364 cell or text, or email wdunson@comcast.net

Ecological Differences between Wildflower and Amberjack, Jan. 9 (Sat.), 9am-noon

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). Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Plant Identification and Uses, Jan. 16 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Join naturalist Bob Cooper to learn about plants at Wildflower Preserve and how they can be of value to humans as food and medicine. Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Nature at Amberjack Environmental Park, Jan. 17 (Sun.), 9-11 am

Naturalist Dave Clayton will lead this walk thru the remarkable variety of habitats at Charlotte County's Amberjack Environmental Park. Jointly sponsored with CHEC. Amberjack is located at the end of Gasparilla Pines Boulevard off of Placida Road. 6250 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Williamsburg Way, Rotonda, FL 33946.

Ecology of Wildflower Preserve, Jan. 23 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Wildflower Preserve is a wondrous 80 acres of wetlands and uplands. Join naturalist Dave Clayton on this leisurely walk to explore Wildflower's general ecology and its remarkable qualities. 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224. The preserve is located just east of Placida Rd, Route 775, south of Englewood.

Beach and Barrier Island Ecology, Jan. 30 (Sat.), 9-11:30 am

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. State park entry fee \$3/vehicle. 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key.

Open House at Wildflower Preserve: Tarpon Ecology & Estuarine Restoration, Feb. 13 (Sat.), 8 am – 2:00 pm

Mark your calendars to join us in exploring Wildflower and learning about LBC's plans for habitat restoration at the Preserve. Visit information booths hosted by local environmental groups and participate in a series of nature walks. The day will begin with a birding walk at 8 am. A detailed activities agenda will be distributed in January.

Exploring Buck Creek Preserve, Feb. 14 (Sun.), 9-11 am

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).

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Barrier Island Ecology: Middle Beach & the Duisberg Trail, Feb. 15 (Mon.), 9-11 am

Walk from the Gulf of Mexico shore to a lagoon off Lemon Bay with naturalist Dave Clayton 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. Blind Pass Park (Middle Beach) is located at 6725 Manasota Key Rd, Englewood, FL, 34223.

Beach and Barrier Island Ecology, Feb. 26 (Fri.), 9-11:30 am

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. State park entry fee \$3/vehicle. 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key.

Ecological Differences between Wildflower and Amberjack, Feb. 27 (Sat.), 9am-noon

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). Free and open to the public. Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Birds of Wildflower, Mar. 4 (Fri.), 8-10 am

Join us for this early morning hike to learn about some of the many birds that visit and nest at Wildflower Preserve. Note that this walk begins at 8 am in order to be out when the birds are more active. Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Gordon Smith Nature Trail, Mar. 5 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Hike the Gordon Smith Trail with Dr. Bill Dunson at Myakka State Forest, 2000 S. River Rd., Englewood, FL 34223. Meet at the parking lot which is about one mile from the River Rd entrance and take a leisurely one mile hike through a pine flatwood and along the edges of a hydric flatwood pond. There is a \$2 entry fee. We will identify plants and animals and discuss the unusual ecology and water chemistry of this 8600 acre natural gem located between Englewood and North Port. The trail may be wet in spots. Note that this is NOT Myakka State Park but the state forest.

Beach and Barrier Island Ecology, Mar. 11 (Fri.), 9-11:30 am

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. State park entry fee \$3/vehicle. 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key

Nature at Amberjack Preserve, Mar. 13 (Sun.), 9-11 am

Naturalist Dave Clayton will lead this walk thru the remarkable variety of habitats at Charlotte County's Amberjack Environmental Park. Jointly sponsored with CHEC. Amberjack is located at the end of Gasparilla Pines Boulevard off of Placida Road. 6250 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Williamsburg Way, Rotonda, FL 33946.

Insects of Wildflower with "Dr. Bug", Mar. 19 (Sat.), 9:30-11:30 am

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

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walk is 9:30. Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Member Boat Trip with Dr. Bill Dunson, Mar. 21 (Mon.), 8:30-11:30am

A special adventure for Lemon Bay Conservancy members! Members are invited to join Dr. Bill Dunson for a pontoon boat excursion on Lemon Bay. We have selected the date to coincide with a low tide that should provide good opportunities for viewing shorebirds on the flats as we head south into Lemon Bay. If weather conditions permit, we will make a stop for a beach walk along the north end of Palm Island, adjacent to Stump Pass. Bill will lead the walk, pointing out interesting plants and animals along the way.

We will depart from the Lemon Bay Tours dock at 1450 Beach Road promptly at 8:30 am. The fee for this three hour adventure is \$25 per member. "Individual" members may bring a guest for \$35. Please call the LBC office at 941-830-8922 to reserve your seats.

Ecology of Wildflower Preserve, Apr. 2 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Wildflower Preserve is a wondrous 80 acres of wetlands and uplands. Join naturalist Bob Cooper on this leisurely walk to explore Wildflower's general ecology and its remarkable qualities. 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224. The preserve is located just east of Placida Rd, Route 775, south of Englewood.

Beach and Barrier Island Ecology, Apr. 8 (Fri.), 9-11:30 am

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. State park entry fee \$3/vehicle. 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key

Freshwater & Saltwater Ecology, Apr. 9 (Sat.), 9-11 am

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. Meet at the Wildflower Preserve parking lot, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224.

Please note: Outing schedules are subject to change and additional events may be scheduled. If you are not already on our email list, visit www.lemonbayconservancy.org to sign up for our newsletter/emails. We'll also be sending out updates and reminders on our Facebook page.