

Nature Walks (continued)

Pine Flatwoods Ecology along the Gordon Smith Trail (MSP), 9 - 11 am, Jan. 25 & Feb. 22.

The Myakka State Forest is a remarkably large and well preserved example of hydric pine flatwoods. We will hike along a trail that passes through wetter and drier areas, identify plants and animals, and discuss the factors that control their distribution. This trail can be damp in spots, so be prepared. Led by Bill Dunson.

Walk and event schedules are subject to change and additional activities may be scheduled. If you are not already on our email list, visit www.lemonbayconservancy.org to sign up for our emails and receive notices on upcoming outings and events.

You can also receive updates and reminders by “liking” our Lemon Bay Conservancy Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lemon.conservancy/

Lemon Bay Conservancy is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization managed by volunteers and funded by donations, memberships and grants. Please consider donating to our conservation efforts and participating in our volunteer projects!

Lemon Bay Conservancy

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941-830-8922

www.lemonbayconservancy.org

Locations & Addresses:

- **BP - Blind Pass Park** (Middle Beach) is located on Manasota Key at 6725 Manasota Key Rd, Englewood, FL 34223.
- **CSP - Charlotte Sports Park** is along Route 776 at 2300 El Jobean Rd, Port Charlotte, FL 33948. The nature festival is held behind the stadium.
- **MBC - Manasota Beach Club** is located on Manasota Key at 7660 Manasota Key Rd, Englewood, FL 34223.
- **MIP - Myakka Islands Point Preserve** is at 1289 Campbell St, North Port/Port Charlotte, FL 33953.
- **MSF - Myakka State Forest** is located at 2000 S. River Rd., Englewood, FL 34223. Note that this is NOT Myakka State Park but the state forest. There is a \$2 entry fee.
- **SP - Stump Pass State Park** entry fee is \$3 per vehicle. 900 Gulf Boulevard, Englewood, FL 34223. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key.
- **WF - Wildflower Preserve** is located at 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood, FL 34224. The preserve is located just east of Placida Rd, Route 775, south of Englewood.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers make our LBC programs a reality. We can use help with event planning, publicity, trail work, juvenile tarpon research, water quality sampling, butterfly habitat maintenance *and more*. Please add your talents to our team! Call the office at 941-830-8922 to volunteer!



Nature Walks and Special Events

*November 2017
through
April 2018*

Special Events

Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival (CSP), 10 am - 3 pm, Nov. 18.

Join Lemon Bay Conservancy and other local environmental organizations for this free, fun and informative nature festival hosted by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. There will be booths, plant sales, and a variety of activities for children.

“Toast to the Coast” Fundraiser (MBC), 11:30 am - 2:30 pm Jan. 28.

Save the date to attend Lemon Bay Conservancy’s premier fund-raising event, the “Toast to the Coast.” Festivities are being planned for the beautiful Manasota Beach Club on Manasota Key. Preliminary plans include a buffet brunch, entertainment, and live auctions. To reserve your seat, call the LBC office at 941-830-8922.

Special Events (Continued)

Wildflower Preserve Open House (WF), 8 am-2 pm, Feb. 10.

Our free, annual "Open House" will include a series of walks and presentations about Wildflower and our habitat restoration project, beginning with an 8 am "Early Bird" birding walk. Plus, booths featuring local environmental groups. More details will be announced in December.

Luncheon Presentation: "Converting a Golf Course to a Nature Preserve: The Story of Wildflower Preserve" (MBC), Noon - 1:30 pm, Feb. 26.

Jim Cooper and Eva Furner will discuss how Lemon Bay Conservancy, our partners and our volunteers are working to transform the former Wildflower Golf Course to a beautiful nature preserve. This program is part of the popular Manasota Beach Club Luncheon Lecture Series. Tickets are \$25, which includes a buffet lunch. Seating is limited and advance reservations are required. To reserve your seats, call MBC at 941-474-2614. Your ticket also includes a special tour at Wildflower Preserve on Feb. 28 with guides Bob Cooper and Dave Clayton.

Nature Walks

All walks are FREE unless otherwise noted!

Nature of Wildflower (WF), 9 - 11 am, Nov. 11, Dec. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 24, Mar. 24

Wildflower Preserve is home to a great diversity of plants and animals. During this

leisurely two hour walk, we will observe some of these and discuss plans to improve the preserve habitats over time. Guided by Dave Clayton (Nov. 11, Dec. 27), Susy d'Hont (Feb. 3), Bob Cooper & Dave Clayton (Feb. 24), and Bob Cooper (Mar. 24).

Beach and Barrier Island Ecology at Stump Pass State Park (SP), 9 - 11:30 am.

**Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Dec. 26, Jan. 9,
Jan. 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20, Mar. 6, Mar. 20,
Apr. 3.**

A 2.5 mile walk from the Stump Pass State Park parking area to the pass at the southern tip of Manasota Key. The natural and human history of the area will be discussed, along with the dredging of the pass and the jetty. Guided by Susy d'Hont (Nov. 14), Bill Dunson (Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Jan. 23, Mar. 20, Apr. 3), Susy & Charlie Woodruff (Dec. 26), and Bill & Charlie (Jan. 9, Feb. 20, and Mar. 6)

Introduction to Wildflower (WF), 9-11 am, Nov. 25, Dec. 30, Apr. 7

Join our naturalist guides to discuss the conversion of a former golf course into Wildflower Preserve. Along the way we'll look at some of the plants and animals that are found here. Led by Charlie Woodruff (Nov. 25), Bob Cooper (Dec. 30) and Susy d'Hont (Apr. 7).

Wildflower Preserve Habitat Restoration (WF), 9 - 11 am.

Dec. 9, Jan. 27, Mar. 3

Join our knowledgeable guides for a first-hand look at the major habitat restoration project currently underway at Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve and observe some of the many plants and

animals within the preserve. Guided by Charlie Woodruff (Dec. 9), Bob Cooper (Jan. 27) and Dave Clayton (Mar. 3).

Barrier Island Ecology - Mangroves, Hammocks and Beaches at Middle Beach Park (BP), 9 - 11 am.

Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 13, Mar. 13.

Blind Pass (Middle Beach) park is an unusually nice place to study the community ecology of Manasota Key. A short walk from the parking lot reveals very nice examples of natural coastal communities which will be discussed by our expert guides. Guided by Bill Dunson (Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Mar. 13) and Dave Clayton (Feb. 13).

Wildflower to Amberjack "South of the Border" Ecology Hike (WF), 9 am-noon, Jan. 13.

We will meet in the Wildflower parking lot and hike to adjacent Amberjack Preserve, observing the changes in ecology, fauna and flora along the way. The turn-around point will be Lemon Lake, which can have spectacular water birds when the water is low. Note that this is one of our longer hikes. The ground can be a bit irregular in spots and possibly wet, so boots would be advisable. Guided by Dave Clayton and Bob Cooper.

Tidal Marsh and River-side Forest Ecology (MIP). 9 - 11 am, Jan. 18 & Feb. 15.

Join Bill Dunson at this unique Sarasota County nature preserve for a close view of estuarine marshes and a rare island hammock community. The identification of the biota will be accompanied by a discussion of how water salinity and fire interact to control the ecological communities.