

SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

Policy Round-up

By Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director

Florida Legislative News

Florida's 2018 session will begin early next year on January 9th in part because it is an election year. As a result the legislature will begin committee meetings this fall starting in September.

Everglades Update - Save the Date

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us Tuesday, November 14th at the Sanibel Community House for an early Everglades Update to catch up on the latest news, prepare and become engaged in issues of interest emerging in the 2018 legislative session.

University of Florida Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute Explores the Caloosahatchee

On August 17 the XVII Class of the University of Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) ventured out onto the Caloosahatchee to learn about the Everglades connection, the river and estuary's natural history, management issues, water quality and health.

Besides a great morning on the river with resource professionals from all over the state, we also had an unusual sighting of a group of about 10 black-bellied whistling ducks!

The NRLI is a specialized leadership training program geared toward training natural resource professionals from sectors that impact or are impacted by natural resource issues and provide them with the training required to find inclusive solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverlore Cruises

November begins the 22nd year of Oxbow and Riverlore cruises on the Caloosahatchee. The guided 2.5 hour trip starts upriver at the WP Franklin Lock and heads upstream to the historic settlement of Alva, exploring the oxbows, the old meanders of the river, and revisiting the activities of the pioneers who traveled the same river to find paradise. Stories



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of the settlements and their adventures are blended with an understanding of the river's natural history, the wild creatures that call it home and the challenges the river faces.

Cruise dates are: Friday, November 24, 2017 and in 2018: Sunday, January 28; Sunday, February 4; Sunday, February 18; Sunday, March 11; Sunday, March 25; Sunday, April 15 and Mothers Day, Sunday, May 13. Cruises depart at 1 p.m. and return by 3:30 p.m. from the south side of the river at the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam off SR 80 in Olga.

Reservations are required and can be made online. Visit sccf.org, click on the Resources drop-down at upper right for Caloosahatchee Cruise. For questions about the cruise call 239-472-2329.

Save the Date! *33rd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference* — January 11-14, 2018
Everglades for Everyone: Building Connections for Progress — Hutchinson Island, Stuart, Florida

New Interns at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center

The Native Landscapes & Garden Center has been lucky to welcome three recent college graduates to its internship program this summer. Please stop in to say hello to our new faces!

James Burlage graduated in May from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Chemistry. He has a variety of interests in the environmental field, including sustainable landscaping and gardening, which he was introduced to in a work-study position with the campus landscape designer. While at St. Vincent, he helped the city of Latrobe kick off a tree inventory program by leading a survey on a multi-use trail downtown. He hopes to engage the public in similar projects in his future career, and to promote the use of native plants whenever possible.

Shannon Jackson began her internship with the Native Landscapes and Garden Center in May. She is from Gainesville, Florida. In April, she graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. Prior to graduation, Shannon held research internships with



Interns Shannon, James and Maxine in the gardens

the University of Florida and St. Johns River Water Management District. She enjoys working in nature and learning about the native plants and ecology of Sanibel.

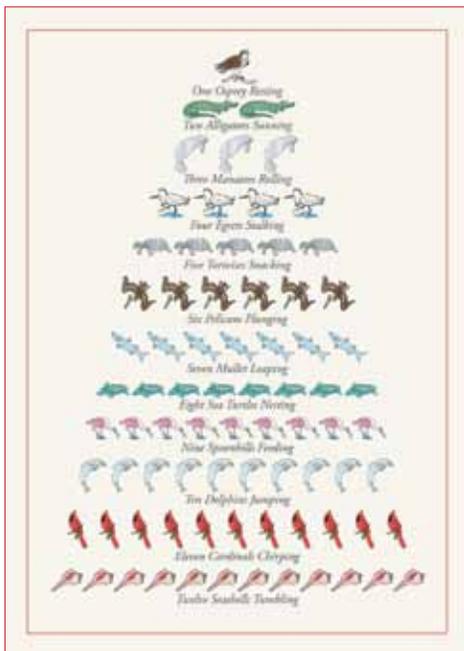
Maxine Marvosa is a recent graduate from Rutgers University, where she studied Biology in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Maxine was born and raised in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. She looks forward to having a career in conservation and restoration ecology and hopes to obtain a graduate degree in ecology.

SCCF Christmas Cards

Message inside:

*May the Days of the Season
Bring You Joy*

Don't miss out! Reserve now. (Reserved cards must be picked up and paid for by Dec. 4) 10 cards & envelopes for \$15. Available at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center. We can mail your cards to you for an extra priority mailing charge. Mail orders must be received by Dec. 8.



October 2017 Programs

BAILEY HOMESTEAD: MAKING THE LAND WORK

This one-hour walking tour of the Bailey Homestead Preserve blends SCCF's mission-driven work on the historic property, the history of the land itself and some stories about the Bailey family, which farmed the land for three generations. *Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10 a.m. No reservations. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Conservation Gateway Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, near the entrance. Call Kristie or Dee at 472-2329 for more information. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

CALOOSAHAATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE

Come with us to experience the historic meanders of the upriver Caloosahatchee on this 2.5-hour cruise guided by Rae Ann Wessel. Departs at 1 p.m. from the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam Park off SR 80 in Olga. *Cruise dates: November 24, 2017 and in 2018 (all Sundays): January 28, February 4 and 18; March 11 and 25; April 15 and May 13 (Mother's Day). Advance reservations and payment required; visit www.sccf.org, click on "Resources" dropdown upper right, then on "Caloosahatchee Cruise."* \$45 per person. Space is limited, call 472-2329 for info about the cruise.

FIRE WITH A PURPOSE

Wildfire, controlled burn and prescribed fire are all different. SCCF uses prescriptive burns as a tool for managing the vegetation on some of the preserves. This tool makes the land more useful to some of our target species of wildlife including gopher tortoises and wading birds. It also reduces risk to island homeowners. *Come learn the difference on Monday, October 16 at 10 a.m. Members and children 17 and under are free. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

FLORIDA PANTHERS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Florida panthers are the rarest mammals in North America – and their future depends on wildlife corridors. While not found on Sanibel, they play an important role in maintaining the ecosystems of Southwest Florida. The last few years have seen record-breaking panther deaths, but there is hope in protecting their habitat and allowing the elusive cat to spread north into its historic habitat. Prior to joining SCCF, Alexis Horn ran the Sierra Club's Florida Panther program. Learn what makes Florida panthers unique and why they

SCCF October 2017 Program Schedule

are so vital to our environment. *Tuesday, October 17 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

GARDEN WALK AT THE HOMESTEAD

Take a guided walk through the the native plant, wildflower, kitchen and tea gardens at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. Learn about the uses of the plants by humans, butterflies, birds and pollinators. You will end your wak with a sip of tea from the gardens infused with sea grape honey from the island. *Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 9 a.m. Meet on the deck at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

GATOR & CROCODILE TALES

The biology of alligators and crocodiles is an ancient tale of survival. Florida's history of gators and humans is closely intertwined. Learn about these living dinosaurs and what we must do to ensure our safety and their survival on the islands. *Thursday, October 26 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

The preservation of the islands has been the result of prescient efforts by many. We stand on the shoulders of conservation giants. The talk features SCCF's 50 years and includes many of the key steps islanders taken over the past century; creation of the Refuge; formation of the City of Sanibel; and what lies ahead with most pressing issues for the future of these emeralds in the sea. *Monday, October 30 at 10 a.m. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

EAGLE AND OWL TALES

Come and hear local tales of island eagles and owls and what is being done to help them thrive. SCCF erected a nesting platform 70 feet tall in place of a dead nesting tree for a pair of eagles and they continue to nest there today. Owls of the

islands include the newly returned barn owls as well as screech and great horned owls. You are invited to learn about the life cycles of these silent night hunters and the adaptations that make them so successful in the dark. Learn about how rat poisons can harm our owls and eagles. *Thursday, October 12 at 10 a.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

STORMY WEATHER: HURRICANES, WATERSPOUTS & LIGHTNING
Stormy Weather looks at some of this area's most lively weather phenomena including waterspouts, hurricanes and lightning storms. When Hurricane Charley roared in from the south in 2004, it made landfall on North Captiva, and hurricanes in the 1920s split Captiva and North Captiva into two islands. Wildlife, vegetation and human existence on these islands have always been shaped by tropical storms. *Monday, October 9 at 10 a.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

TIDES/WHERE IS SEA LEVEL?

Whether it is shelling, fishing, boating, birding or just enjoying the view of the water, tides and currents affect most of our lives daily. Have you ever wondered why the islands sometimes have just one tide a day or why you can see sea grasses when the tide chart says it is high tide? What and whgere is mean sea level? Why is it important? This is an introduction how water behaves as the earth spins, the moon orbits and the winds blow. *Monday, October 2 and 23 at 10 a.m. Members and children 17 and under are free. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

TURTLE TRACKS

Sanibel Island had one of the first sea turtle monitoring programs in the country. Learn about the life cycles and habits of the sea turtles and shorebirds that nest on our beaches, SCCF's monitoring activities, and what we are doing to protect them. *Thursday, October 5 and 19 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
1 OCT.	2 Tides/Sea Level-10	3 Garden Walk <i>at BHP-9</i>	4 Making Land Work tour <i>at Bailey Homestead-10</i>	5 Turtle Tracks-10	6	7
8	9 Stormy Weather-10	10 Garden Walk <i>at BHP-9</i>	11 Making Land Work tour <i>at Bailey Homestead-10</i>	12 Eagle/Owl Tales-10	13	14
15	16 Fire with Purpose-10	17 Garden Walk <i>at BHP-9</i> Panther Corridor-10	18 Making Land Work tour <i>at Bailey Homestead-10</i>	19 Turtle Tracks-10	20	21
22	23 Tides/Sea Level-10	24 Garden Walk <i>at BHP-9</i>	25 Making Land Work tour <i>at Bailey Homestead-10</i>	26 Gator/Croc Tales-10	27	28
29	30 50 Yrs of Conservation-10	31 Garden Walk <i>at BHP-9</i>	<i>Events are at the Nature Center (or meet at the Nature Center) unless otherwise specified.</i>			4



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October 2017 Member Update



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SCCF Nature Center

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road
(1 mile west of Tarpon Bay Road) / P.O. Box 839, Sanibel 33957

SCCF Nature Center and Main Telephone:

(239) 472-2329 Fax: (239) 472-6421 www.sccf.org blog.sccf.org

Native Landscapes & Garden Center: (239) 472-1932 (at the Bailey Homestead Preserve)

Marine Laboratory: (239) 395-4617

Wildlife & Habitat Management: (239) 472-3984

SCCF is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed through:



- Environmental Education
- Land Acquisition & Stewardship
- Marine Research
- Natural Resource Policy
- Native Landscapes & Garden Center
- Sea Turtles & Shorebirds
- Wildlife & Habitat Management

Nature Center Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October - May
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June - September

Native Landscapes & Garden Center Hours:

at 1300 Periwinkle Way, Bailey Homestead Preserve
Monday - Friday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. (January through April)

Visit our Nature Center

- Trails & Observation Tower
- Butterfly House
- Education Center

\$5/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

Find the latest real-time water quality readings from our RECON sensors at www.recon.sccf.org

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