



SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

SCCF's Partnership with the Calusa Land Trust

By Erick Lindblad, Executive Director

In 2017, SCCF was given 11 acres of beachfront on North Captiva, the Miller parcel. Not too long after that, Executive Director Erick Lindblad received a call from John Kendall, President of the Calusa Land Trust, about a North Captiva parcel they had been given in 2010. SCCF and the Calusa Land Trust have cooperated in the past to acquire York and Coconut Islands (in 1998) and Longcut Preserve (in 2000), all on Pine Island. All three are co-owned by SCCF and CLT.

Since the CLT parcel, 7.75 acres donated by the Eric Flanagan Family, was just down the beach from the parcel donated earlier to SCCF, the close proximity of both parcels would help streamline the stewardship of both.

SCCF and the Calusa Land Trust celebrated the transference of the Flanagan parcel on June 26, 2017.



From left: SCCF's Rae Ann Wessel and Erick Lindblad with John Kendall, President of the Calusa Land Trust, at the June 26, 2017 handover of the Eric Flanagan Family parcel on North Captiva to SCCF's stewardship. Photo courtesy Breeze Newspapers



Left: on North Cap, the Miller and Flanagan Preserves. Right below: York, Coconut and Longcut Preserves on Pine Island, co-owned with the Calusa Land Trust.



SCCF Honored

On November 6, SCCF received proclamations from both the City of Sanibel and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners honoring us for 50 years of conservation!



SCCF staff with four current Trustees, Mary Ellen Pfeifer, Secretary Linda Uhler, Vice President John Morse and President Gwenda Hiett-Clements with Sanibel Vice-Mayor Mick Denham standing in for Mayor Kevin Ruane.



SCCF staff and Trustee Robin Krivanek in the BOCC chambers with Commissioners Frank Manning, Brian Hamman and Larry Kiker.

Caloosahatchee Update & EAA Reservoir Planning Kicks Off

By Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director

Caloosahatchee & Everglades Update

In November SCCF Marine Lab and Policy staff and an Everglades Foundation research scientist presented a Caloosahatchee and Everglades Update program for the community following Hurricane Irma. *The Caloosahatchee and Everglades: In the Eye of the Storm* provided a perspective on the record-setting wet season of 2017, the hurricane impacts and water quality in the Caloosahatchee estuary as well as the conditions in the greater Everglades ecosystem. This year's wet season, in just four wet months, surpassed the previous rainfall record set in 1947 that prompted the flood control drainage projects that we now are working to undo in order to restore the Everglades and Caloosahatchee.

Although it is hard to notice the incremental progress being made on Everglades restoration projects, several are progressing toward completion in 2018 and 2019. These will be critical to opening up the southern end of the Everglades so that more water can move south. Last year's passage of the bill to establish the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee will work in tandem with these projects to add water storage capacity south of Lake Okeechobee to feed needed water to the Everglades and Florida Bay and reduce harmful levels of water currently dumped to the estuaries.



Marine Lab Director Eric Milbrandt, Ph.D., explaining how the Caloosahatchee and Everglades are linked.

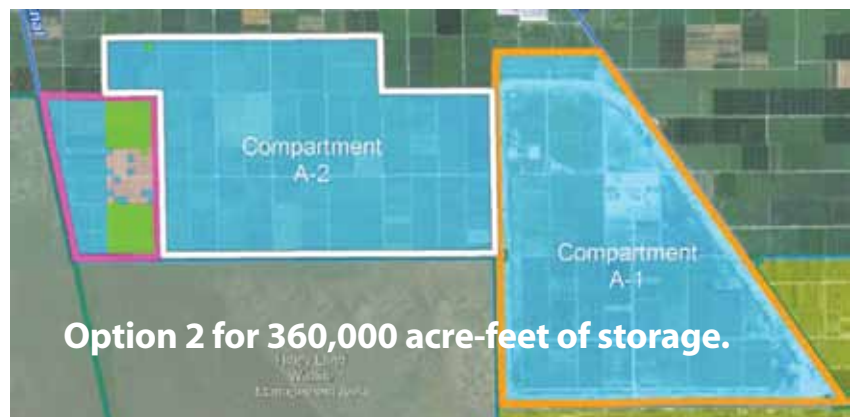
EAA Reservoir Planning on a Fast Track

Early modeling results by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) provided details in mid-November about how much land is needed for two different sized reservoirs that could fit on state-owned land in the EAA (Everglades Agricultural Area). The volume of water is referenced in acre feet (AF) which can be visualized as a football field covered with one foot of water.

The project proposes to move between 300,000 to 1.3 million AF of water south through dynamic operation of the EAA reservoir, depending on conditions. Option one, for a 240,000 acre-foot reservoir, would require a total project footprint of approximately 16,000 acres: 10,000 acres for water storage and an additional 6,300 acres of stormwater treatment areas (STAs) for water quality treatment.



Map showing the placement of the two parcels in the EAA.



Option 2 for 360,000 acre-feet of storage.



Option 1 for 240,000 acre-feet of storage.

Option two, for a 360,000-acre foot reservoir would require a total project footprint of approximately 31,000 acres: 22,000 acres for storage and another 9,500 acres of STAs to meet the project needs.

To provide some scale to these numbers, in recent years, ***harmful estuary discharge volumes to the Caloosahatchee alone have ranged from 2.5 to 3.2 million acre feet (AF) of water with approximately half of the excess volumes, on average, originating from the lake vs. the Caloosahatchee watershed.***

Watch Your Mailbox Please

The Annual Fund Drive request should be arriving by mail shortly. Please take a moment to read it and consider all the important programs and initiatives made possible by your annual operating support. It shows “by the numbers” some of the many ways we put your Annual Fund Drive gifts to work.

SCCF keeps a balanced and conservative budget. Your tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund Drive is essential for funding SCCF’s mission-related work. Thank you in advance for making your most generous contribution. Please use the reply envelope mailed with the brochure, or donate online at www.sccf.org.

Please call Cheryl Giattini at 239-395-2768 with questions and instructions for gifts of stock and wire transfers. Thank you! Thank you!

EAA Reservoir -- Continued from left below

SCCF submitted comments on the project that include our concern that although the legislature directed the District to prioritize use of state-owned lands and seek willing sellers to acquire additional lands, these early results suggest that modeling should not be constrained to state-owned lands but should include a determination of the amount of land needed to optimize reservoir storage and STA treatment (Storage Treatment Area, allowing the water to reside in a marsh for water quality treatment by the marsh vegetation) to provide the greatest environmental benefit.

We also requested that this publicly funded project commit to and prioritize water from the lake — and not EAA stormwater runoff — be used to fill the EAA reservoir. This is important as current capacities of the large existing STAs have been monopolized by EAA agricultural runoff, which they are not required to store on their property. We are also sensitive to how water in the EAA reservoir will be allocated and prioritized for natural system needs of the Everglades and Florida Bay in conformance with CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) project goals.

The project is on a fast track and we will remain actively involved and vigilant to assure that Lake and estuary interests are represented.

The EAA Reservoir Bill, a/k/a Senate Bill 10, which passed in the 2017 Florida Legislative session, set an ambitious timeframe for the project. The bill, now law, establishes the state’s interest in pursuing the EAA Reservoir CERP project. This will help reduce harm to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries from high-volume freshwater discharges. These discharges have caused widespread harmful algae blooms that have impacted public health and caused extensive environmental harm to wildlife and the aquatic ecosystem.

The District is seeking landowners willing to sell or exchange property in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) that could be used for the EAA Storage Reservoir project. Interested parties should contact the District via email at RealEstate@sfwmd.gov.

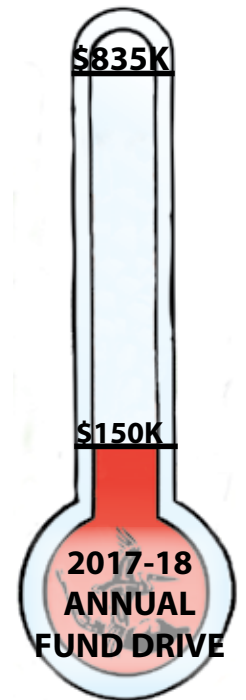
Modeling data and presentations from the meetings can be viewed at www.sfwmd.gov/eaareservoir.

Offshore Oil Drilling Bill in Congress

A Federal bill that would lift the moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico off Florida has passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 19 to 14.

The SECURE American Energy Act, H.R. 4239, was filed by Scalise (R-LA), Bishop (R-UT), Gonzalez (D-TX) and Cuellar (D-TX), to distribute revenues from oil and gas leasing on the outer Continental Shelf to certain coastal states, to require sale of approved offshore oil and gas leases, to promote offshore wind lease sales, and to empower states to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes.

Our Representative Francis Rooney is working to require language that keeps the moratorium for drilling in the eastern Gulf in place, recognizing the threat it presents to Florida’s beaches and our state’s economy. We encourage all of our members and supporters, wherever you live, full and part time, to reach out and request the bill include a



As of 12/8/17

Notes from the Homestead: Snowberries

By Jenny Evans, Native Landscapes & Garden Center Manager

Every now and then in the winter, I yearn for snow. I don't miss the cold and I certainly don't want the mess, but I get nostalgic for the way it looks when it first falls. So...when that happens here in Florida, I typically go outside (without a hat or scarf needed in our beautiful weather) and find some snowberry (*Chiococca alba*). The heavy clusters of white fruit weigh down the branches of the shrub, and from a distance and with some squinting, the plant almost looks like it has a new coating of the white fluffy stuff. Even more importantly, the fruit is attractive to birds and the flowers are full of nectar for our pollinators. Growing as a vining shrub, it will often lean onto other plants and twine itself through their branches, or it can simply exist as a mounding shrub on its own. I prefer it in partially sunny locations, but it will also tolerate full sun in dry to moist soils. Place it somewhere that is visible whenever you are pining for some snow and Florida sunshine at the same time!



January Program by the Garden Center Staff

This year, in addition to the Homestead tours offered by Kristie Anders and Dee Serage, the Native Landscapes & Garden Center staff will also be offering programs, including this one in January:

MAKE YOUR OWN SOLITARY BEE BOX AT BHP

Many of Florida's solitary bees lay their eggs in hollow branches. Attract these wonderful pollinators to your own yard by making your own bee box! All materials will be provided, and participants will go home with a box and information about attracting these fascinating pollinators to your yard. Please bring your own hammer, if possible. Tuesday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. RSVP to the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at 239-472-1932. Registration: \$25.

Offshore Drilling -- Continued from Page 4

permanent moratorium on drilling, testing and seismic activity in the eastern Gulf off Florida.

Congressman Rooney recently published a guest opinion in the News-Press about recent federal efforts to allow oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. You can find it here:

<http://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/11/17/keep-oil-drilling-out-eastern-gulf/867524001/>

Stay Engaged — Sign up for Action Alerts

We encourage you to stay engaged and involved in legislative and policy issues by signing up for our action alerts. At scf.org, click on Resources (upper right), Action Alerts and look for Subscribe to Action Alerts. Our Alerts will provide informational messages and make options available to send emails, texts, tweets and phone calls to targeted decision-makers as bills move through the process.

Green Sea Turtle Nesting Numbers Are Up in Florida

By Kelly Sloan, Sea Turtle Coordinator

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), green turtle nest counts in Florida have increased approximately one hundredfold since standardized recordkeeping began in 1989. Although green turtle nesting activity is concentrated along the central and southeast coasts of Florida, a marked increase has also been documented on the Gulf coast in recent years, including the beaches of Sanibel and Captiva. We suspect that this upturn in nesting is due at least in part to an outward radiation from the increasing number of green turtles that have been nesting on Florida's east coast.

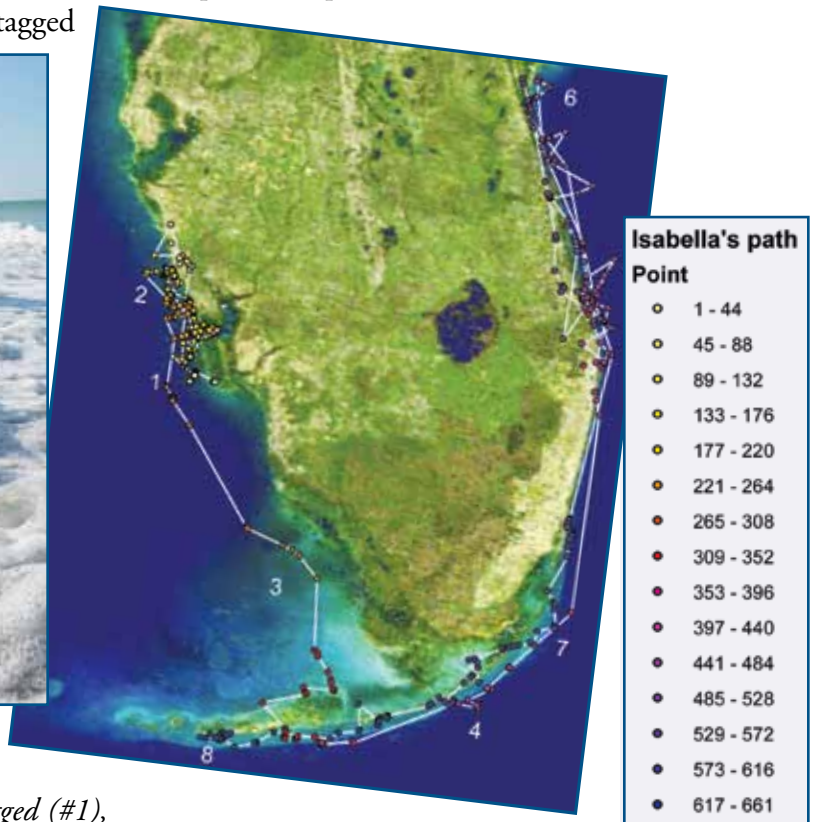
This recent increase in green turtle nesting activity presents an opportunity to collect data on their movements and feeding grounds using satellite telemetry. In 2017, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and SCCF launched a cooperative study to answer two questions – where do green turtles that lay eggs on the west coast go after they nest, and what route do they use to get there?

Of the seven satellite tagged turtles, five were tagged

on Sanibel and two were tagged on Keewaydin. Although there was substantial variation in the behavior among these turtles, all remained in shallow, nearshore waters during the nesting season.

Perhaps the most exciting turtle was Isabella, who was certainly our long distance swimmer this season! (See aerial below.) After nesting on Sanibel on June 16, she traveled north and spent some time near Manasota Key. She then swam south through the Keys and continued to hug the coastline until she was about halfway up the east coast of Florida. In early September Isabella settled in an area west of the Marquesas, which appears to be her foraging habitat. Ongoing work by the Inwater Research Group has previously identified this site has a high-density foraging area for green turtles that nest on the east coast.

Understanding what makes good habitat for green turtles is fundamental to their conservation, and the results from this project are beginning to shed light on this very important topic.



Left above: Isabel heading back into the Gulf after being tagged on Sanibel this summer. Right above: This aerial of Isabel's track shows that after being tagged (#1), Isabella made quite a journey.

You can find the tracks at sccf.org under News (upper right) then click on Green Sea Turtle tagging program.

January Super Moon

By Kristie Anders, Education Director

January 2, the moon will be 30,000 miles closer (perigee) to the earth than it is at apogee, or the furthest distance. No orbit is a perfect circle, but rather a bit elliptical in shape, meaning there are slight variances.

The full moon lines up one side of the earth and the sun to the other during a full moon. If the alignment is perfect, we witness a lunar eclipse. But the slight variations mean this is an infrequent phenomenon. The perfect alignment is also called syzygy.

On the super moon of the second day of 2018, it will appear as if there is only one high tide and one low tide,

because the mid-day tidal change will only be about 4". However, the pre-dawn low tide will be a minus 1.1 ft. and the high, occurring a little after 11 p.m. that night, will be plus 2.8 ft. That's almost a four foot difference. That will get people's attention.

When the moon is closer, it appears larger, especially as it rises and sets. It is well worth putting some time aside to gaze out at the eastern horizon a bit past sunset and watch what will hopefully be a golden orb rising in the east. Clouds be gone! Any of the first four days of January ought to be beautiful moon rises. For the early birds,



the moon setting in the western morning sky is no less spectacular. Try the Blind Pass bridge as a vantage place.

And if that moon event is not enough, January also has a blue moon. No, it will not glow blue. It is simply an expression "once in a blue moon." The second full moon in any month is given this title and it only happens about once a year.

Join Kristie on Wednesday, January 3 for Night Sky viewing at the Nature Center. See Pg.10 for info.

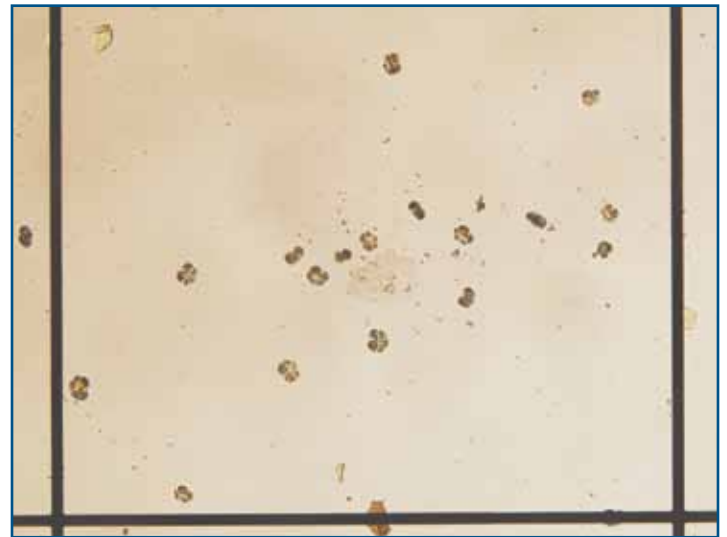
Red Tide Reappears on Sanibel

By Eric Milbrandt, Ph.D., Marine Lab Director

Background concentrations of a microscopic algae that causes "Red Tide" can be found around Sanibel and in Pine Island Sound. While it varies each year, beginning in November, conditions set up for medium (500,000 cells/L) and high (1,000,000 cells/L) concentrations of cells that form patchy blooms along the beaches and in the bay. While most scientists agree that the development of Florida's coast which increased nutrient delivery to the Gulf of Mexico since World War II has led to increased bloom frequency and intensity. The causes of bloom formation and persistence are complex, involving ocean currents, rainfall, river inputs, atmospheric deposition, and behavior of the single-celled species known to cause Red Tide, *Karenia brevis*.

Most Red Tide events last between 2-4 months, but can last as long as 8 months. The geographic area most likely to be affected spans from Tampa Bay to the Florida Keys. Florida red tides cause major economic damage to local businesses, have devastating impacts on wildlife such as marine mammals and birds and can impact human health through the aerosolization of the toxin. In fish, the toxin affects the nervous system and effectively causes a fish to stop pumping water over its gills.

The species that causes red tide is like algae in that it has pigments and uses photosynthesis to make sugar. However, it can also consume bacteria and absorb nutrition which makes it very flexible. It is also "Auxotrophic" meaning that it can use both inorganic and organic forms of nitrogen and phosphorus. The species can migrate and swarm to swim toward



Karenia brevis, the dinoflagellate that causes red tide, from a sample collected by the Marine Lab. Photo Rick Bartleson, Ph.D., and Ashley Graham.

nutrients at night and swim back to the surface for sunlight during the day. It has photoprotective pigments that allow it to resist UV effects and it has been shown to decrease ingestion rates by potential grazers like zooplankton.

The Marine Laboratory uses volunteers to collect samples and determines the abundances using a cell counting slide under the microscope. The information is shared with the City of Sanibel to be able to advise residents about the status of the event on Sanibel. Samples are counted almost daily during an event such as the one following Thanksgiving 2017.

Bring Back the Barn Owls... Again!

By Dee Serage, Living with Wildlife Educator

Last spring for the first time since 2005, barn owls were documented again on Sanibel. A trail camera set up behind the SCCF Nature Center caught a short video of one sitting on the back porch and one was spotted during an early morning walk on the Shipley Trail at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. In November, a female barn owl was documented investigating the nesting box at the Nature Center. To help barn owl numbers grow, SCCF will be installing nesting boxes and asking the community to eliminate the use of rat poisons that can harm wildlife.

A new kind of nesting box from the Barn Owl Box Company is now up and awaiting occupants at the Bailey Homestead Preserve. Once before in 1984, SCCF citizen scientists brought the barn owls back to the islands by installing nesting boxes in

place of the barns that are now gone, along with island agriculture. For 25 years the owls nested at the SCCF Nature Center.

A family of barn owls can eat thousands of rats a year. Instead of trapping or poisoning rats in the sugarcane fields and orange groves, barn owls are used by installing nesting boxes. Even the vineyards in California use barn owls for their rat control. They are cost effective and not dangerous to other wildlife. The use of rat poisons can weaken or kill the owls, eagles, hawks, and bobcats that eat the rats that ate the poison. Ozzie the male eagle that died in 2015 had rat poisons in his blood.

You can help SCCF bring the barn owls back by asking your pest control company to stop using rat poisons. SCCF and the City of Sanibel do not



use rat poisons. If you continue to use rat poisons, tell your pest control company to **not** use these: brodifacoum, bromaiolone, difenacoum, or difethia-one. These deadly rat poisons are now banned from sale to homeowners but the professionals still use them.

Contact Dee at SCCF (472-2329 or dserage@sccf.org) if you would like copies of the "Help SCCF Bring Back the Barn Owls" brochure for yourself, neighbors, or your neighborhood association meetings.

SCCF's No Child Left On Shore partnership with Captiva Cruises continues to bring children who might never have been to the beach out to the islands for a cruise of discovery. Richard Finkel guides those tours, and he also remains active at the Sanibel School. The photos bottom are from a recent trip by 4th graders to the Pick Preserve.

Reaching out to Schoolkids



SCCF JANUARY 2018

HAPPENINGS
PROGRAMS
OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	2 Garden Walk-9 @BHP	3 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Night Sky-7pm	4 Turtle Tracks-10	5	6
7	8 Tides & Sea Level-10	9 Garden Walk-9 @BHP	10 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10	11 Eagle & Owl Tales-10	12	13
14	15 City Almost Wasn't-10	16 Garden Walk-9 @ BHP Panthers/Corridors-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	17 Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Gator & Croc Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	18 Turtle Tracks-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	19 Shipley Trail Tour-10 @ BHP	20
21	22 Weeds Seeds-8:45 Severe Weather-10	23 Garden Walk-9 @ BHP Make a Bee Box-10 @BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	24 Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	25 Bobcat Tales -10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	26 Shipley Trail Tour-10 @ BHP	27
28 Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverfore Tour (Jan almost sold out). Next cruises on Feb. 4 and 18; March 11 and 25	29 Fire w/ a Purpose-10	30 Garden Walk-9 @ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	31 Bowman's Beach Walk-9 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-10 Otter Tales -10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11			

SCCF January 2018 Program Schedule

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 at 10 a.m. No reservations. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Welcome 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.*

BOBCAT TALES

"Bobcat: Master of Survival" is how author Kevin Hansen describes *Lynx rufus*. While other wild feline species are in trouble, bobcats seem to be flourishing through most of their North American range and this adaptable feline's ability to survive close to humans is one of the reasons for the bobcat's success. Rats and mice can make up to 40% of the bobcat's diet. *Thursday, January 25 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*



BOWMAN'S BEACH & BAYOU WALK

Meet your SCCF guide at Bowman's Beach at the foot of the bridge that crosses the bayou on the way to the beach. Your guide will lead you along the beach towards Blind Pass and back along the back dune/bayou trail. Keep your eyes open for shorebirds and gopher tortoises. Learn about SCCF's 50-year role in island preservation. Free to all. You must pay to park. *Wednesdays at 9 a.m. starting on January 17 through March.*



CALOOSAHATCHEE 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. Friday, November 24, 2017 (sold out) and, in 2018, all on Sunday: January

28 (almost sold out at press time), February 4 and 18, March 11 and 25, April 15 and May 13. *Space is limited. Advance reservations and payment required. Register online: from sccf.org, click on Resources upper right and follow Oxbow Cruise dropdown. \$45 per person.*

CAPTIVA CRUISES

SCCF has a partnership with Captiva Cruises that offers a variety of waterborne experiences: The Dolphin & Wildlife Adventure Cruise narrated by SCCF Docents (4:00-5:30 daily), Cayo Costa State Park Beach & Shelling Cruise, Lunch Cruises to Cabbage Key, Useppa Island, Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island with the Calusa Indian Mound Trail, Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island and Sunset Cruises. *Call Captiva Cruises for reservations and additional information. 472-5300. www.captivacruises.com.*

THE CITY THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Chronicling over a century of preserving paradise, the program celebrates the forward thinking of many islanders from the early 20th century thru today. Learn of actions of Theodore Roosevelt through "Ding" Darling, establishment of the Refuge, founding of SCCF, lead-up to the incorporation and ensuing history of the City of Sanibel. Learn about many of the key steps islanders have taken and what lies ahead with most pressing issues for the future of these emeralds in the sea. We live in a rarified place and it is not accident. *Monday, January 15 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*



Juvenile eagles trying out the platform.

Adult and juvenile in 2013. Photos by Maree Elowson.

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, January 11 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

SCCF January 2018 Program Schedule

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, January 29 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 are so vital to our environment. *Tuesday, January 16 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 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 walk with a sip of tea from the gardens infused with sea grape honey from the island. *Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Meet on the deck at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*



Photo by Suzy Carroll

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. *Wednesday, January 17 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

MAKE YOUR OWN SOLITARY BEE BOX AT BHP

Many of Florida's solitary bees lay their eggs in hollow branches. Attract these wonderful pollinators to your own yard by making your own bee box! All materials will be provided, and participants will go home with a box and information about attracting these fascinating pollinators to your yard. Please bring your own hammer, if possible. *Tuesday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. RSVP to the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at 239-472-1932. Registration: \$25.*

NATIVE PLANT FLORAL DESIGN AT BHP

Create a native plant arrangement for your favorite Valentine! Tips and tricks for utilizing native plants in cut arrangements will be discussed in this hands-on workshop. All plant materials will be provided; bring your own container or vase appropriate for a variety of cut flowers and foliage. *Tuesday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. RSVP to the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at 239-472-1932. Registration: \$10.*

NIGHT SKY VIEWING AT THE NATURE CENTER

Take a look at the winter night sky. Learn about Polaris and other common stars and constellations, then watch the full moon rise over the swale. Together we will lay back and gaze up at the night skies. Please bring your own chair. Bug spray and dress comfortable for the weather is recommended. No reservations are necessary. *Thursday, January 3 at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. \$5 per person for non-members.*

OTTER TALES



No one knows how many North American river otters live on Sanibel and Captiva. Some say there are fewer since 2004's Hurricane Charley. Come and learn about this large, aquatically adapted member of the weasel family. river otters are strong and graceful swimmers that capture the hearts of all who see them. Otter sightings have increased recently on SCCF trails. *Wednesday, January 31 at 10 a.m. The cost of the program is \$5 with SCCF members and children attending for free*

SCCF January 2018 Program Schedule

SHIPLEY TRAIL AT BAILEY HOMESTEAD GUIDED WALK

Take a guided walk on the SCCF Shipley Trail. Stroll across the Star Thomas Memorial Bridge and then connect with Pond Apple Trail. Learn how SCCF manages this property as wildlife habitat on Sanibel's populated east end. The walk will meander along Pond Apple trail around the man-made ponds that are home to wildlife such as alligators, anhingas, and woodstorks. Even eagles may be spotted. Park and meet your guide at the Welcome Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, at the SCCF Bailey Homestead Preserve at 1300 Periwinkle Way. The kiosk is immediately to the left as you enter thru the gate into the preserve. This is a mostly shaded, easy walk lasting approximately one hour. *Fridays at 10 a.m. starting on January 19 through March 30. No charge for the walks.*

SEVERE WEATHER: HURRICANES, WATERSPOUTS & LIGHTNING

Stormy Weather looks at some of this area's most lively weather phenomena including waterspouts, hurricanes and lightning storms. Volatile weather is not uncommon in any season. South Florida is the lightning capital of the country. Collisions of clouds, tropical storms and other severe weather events shape our islands and human existence. *Monday, January 22 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 where 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, January 8 at 10 a.m. Members and children 17 and under are free. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

TRAIL WALKS: EXPLORE SANIBEL'S INTERIOR WETLANDS

Sanibel Island is a unique barrier island in Florida because it still has an interior freshwater wetland ecosystem that has not been lost to development. Join us for a guided walk through the interior wetlands and mid-island ridges of the Center Tract with discussion of native habitats, natural and cultural history and preservation efforts. *Trail walks begin on January 16 and will be offered through March on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center and proceed to the trails. \$5 per person for non-members.*



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, January 4 and 18 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*



WEEDS AND SEEDS

We are a group of amateur botanists who enjoy finding and identifying native plants on Sanibel. Our walks, visiting different locations on Sanibel, last for two hours, and are guided by a leader with a plant list. The group will meet at the Nature Center porch. Depending on the location visited, you may need parking money. Please bring a hat, water, sun-block and comfortable enclosed shoes with socks. *Mondays, January 22, February 12 and 26, March 12 and 26. Meet at the Nature Center at 8:45 a.m., at the base of the porch and carpool to the site. Walks are free but donations to SCCF are welcome.*



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P.O. Box 839
Sanibel, FL 33957

January 2018 Member Update



Facebook:
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@SCCF_SWFL

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
 - 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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