



SCCF

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Come explore our natural world



APRIL 2010 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Nature Center, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road (1 mile west of Tarpon Bay Road)

Nature Center (239) 472-2329 www.sccf.org

Trails, Education Center, Nature Shop and Bookstore: \$3/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

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. No one knows how many bobcats there are on Sanibel and Captiva but according to the book 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. To learn more about the biology and society of this shy feline



that moves so peacefully among us, you are invited to attend “Bobcat Tales” on *Wednesday, April 7 and 21 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

BUTTERFLY HOUSE TOURS

A guide will teach you about the life cycle and behavior of butterflies. The house is also open to visitors without a guide. *Tuesdays at 10 a.m., \$1 donation.*



CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE

Explore the historic meanders of the upriver Caloosahatchee on a guided tour with Natural Resource Policy Director Rae Ann Wessel, a long-time river advocate. Rae Ann is a river researcher, aquatic ecologist and historian. Follow the river back to a time when a waterfall served as

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Week of March 28 -- Freshwater Turtles

Week of April 4 -- Bobcat Tales, Caloosahatchee

Oxbow Cruise, Islands Overview, Owl Tales, Snowy Plovers

Week of April 11 -- Fish Houses, Gator Tales, Islands Overview, Snowy Plovers

Week of April 18 -- Bobcat Tales, Owl Tales, Snowy Plovers

Week of April 25 -- Snowy Plovers

Offered Weekly -- Butterfly House Tours, Human Uses of Native Plants, Trail Walks: Explore Sanibel’s Interior Wetlands, (through April 16), Turtle Tracks

the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee and settlers braved living amongst the wilderness. *Sunday, April 11 from 1 - 3:30 p.m. Meet at Franklin Lock & Dam on the public use area off SR 80. Space is limited. Reservations required. \$40 per person. For more info call 472-2329*

DOLPHIN AND WILDLIFE ADVENTURE CRUISES

Narrated by Conservation Foundation docents, Captiva Cruises’ trips are a great way to view wildlife in Pine Island Sound. Daily, 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Pine Island Sound; departs McCarthy’s Marina, Captiva. *Fee: \$25/adult, \$15/children. Reservations required, call 472-5300.*

FISH HOUSES OF PINE ISLAND SOUND

Fish houses are an iconic part of Pine Island Sound. Placed on the National Historic Register these houses are recognized for their historic value in preserving the culture of commercial fishing in the early 20th century. SCCF is offering an opportunity to cruise near these weekend getaways and hear about



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some of the six thousand years of human history. Tales about fishing, fish houses, Calusa's, Cubans, Carolinians, current research of the SCCF's Marine Laboratory and aquaculture activities as they pertain to Pine Island Sound. The trip is provided in cooperation with Captiva Cruises. The boat is a 48-passenger catamaran with a great deck for viewing wildlife. Wednesday, April 14 from 9-11:30 a.m. The cost for the trip is \$30 per person. Reservations can be made by calling 472-2329. For additional questions, ask for trip leader Kristie Anders.

FRESHWATER TURTLES OF SANIBEL & BEYOND

Come and learn about the species of freshwater turtles found in Florida from SCCF Herpetologist Chris Lechowicz. Chris has documented the turtles found on the islands and has traveled extensively throughout the state looking for freshwater turtles. Learn about the life cycle of the young turtles you have watched swim in the Nature Center tank or nest on the lake edge behind your home. *Friday, April 2 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*



GATOR TALES

The biology of alligators is an ancient tale of survival. Florida's history of gators and humans are closely intertwined. To learn about these fascinating creatures and what we must do to ensure our safety and their survival on the islands please attend "Gator Tales" on *Wednesday, April 14 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Call 472-2329 for more information.*

HUMAN USES OF FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS

On Tuesdays at 10 a.m., a volunteer will be in the teaching shelter by the Ethnobotany Garden, making baskets from native fibers. Stop by and ask questions and then take a

self-guided tour the garden. Did you know that Henry Ford stuffed the seats of his cars with the air plant, Spanish moss, or that Thomas Edison used the giant native Seaside Goldenrod for electrical conductivity experiments? Calusa fishermen of the past used the poisonous saponins in certain native plants to harvest their fish. *Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Teaching Shelter by the Ethnobotany Garden.*

KAYAKING IN PINE ISLAND SOUND

Learn about the natural and cultural history of Pine Island Sound on this kayaking adventure. You'll also learn about SCCF Marine Lab research projects and water quality studies within our back bay estuary. Part of the \$45/person fee will help fund SCCF Marine Lab programs. Space is limited so reservations are required. *Tuesday, April 27 at 9 a.m. Depart from Captiva Kayak Company located at McCarthy's Marina on Captiva. \$45/person plus tax; reservations required; please call Captiva Kayak at 395-2925.*

OWL TALES

The nesting season for Great Horned, Barn, and Screech Owls of the islands has begun. The Great Horned Owl does not make its own nest but uses one built by an osprey, hawk, or eagle. The Screech and Barn Owls nest in tree cavities made by woodpeckers or nest boxes. There is a nest box on the side of the SCCF nature center where Barn owls have nested off and on since 1980.. will they return this year? Island Screech owls are in the courting phase with males guarding territory and calling to females. *On April 6 and 20 at 10 a.m. you are invited to SCCF to learn more about the "Owls of Sanibel and Captiva." The cost of the program is \$5 with SCCF members and children attending for free.*

ISLAND OVERVIEW

Join SCCF staff for an overview of the islands' geology, natural history, living with wildlife, human history and ties to the greater Everglades. Program starts at SCCF's Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. Individuals then drive up to Captiva and board one of Captiva Cruises boats, where the group will learn about the estuary and its crucial ties to the Caloosahatchee and Gulf of Mexico. The program ends on Captiva at 5 p.m. Participants need their own transportation to and from Captiva. *Program is available Monday, April 5 and 12. Call for reservations by the Friday before the program as space is limited. The price is \$25 per person. Payment is expected at time of reservation. Please call 472-2329.*

SCIENCE AT SEA CRUISE

Be a Marine Biologist for the Day! This 90-minute trip will be a hands-on scientific inquiry and voyage suitable and fun for all ages. Crab traps and a plankton net will be hauled for a look at some of the components of the food

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chains. Learn by taking part in actual scientific research that will be utilized by SCCF's Marine Lab. Kids will use compasses for navigational aid and magnifying viewers making this a worthwhile and exciting trip for the whole family. This 1-1/2 hour trip is \$35/adult, \$20/child. Call for times and reservations, 472-5300.

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. This Everglades-like ecosystem supports a wide variety of plants and animals. 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. *Monday - Friday at 11 a.m. through April 16; Wednesday, April 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Meet at the Nature Center and proceed to the trails. \$5 for non-members; free to members and children.*



SNOWY PLOVERS

Have you ever wondered about the staked nests on the beach or the families of birds with tiny chicks running around? Do you simply want to know which of the birds on the beach actually is a Snowy Plover? Learn about the biology of the Snowy Plover, the threats to their survival, and the ongoing SCCF research and conservation efforts on Sanibel and around Florida. Join us for a short Power Point presentation at the Nature Center and then carpool to the beach to observe live plovers *Fridays, April 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10 a.m. Meet in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

TURTLE TRACKS

Sanibel Island has 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. Meet at the Nature Center for a talk and touch tank program. You will also learn about the forces that shape the beach habitat and other local marine life. *Thursdays at 9 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*



ON YOUR OWN AT THE NATURE CENTER

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Learn about the life cycle of the Zebra Longwing, the state butterfly, on a self-guided tour of the Butterfly House.

HUMAN USES OF FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS

Take a self-guided tour of our Ethnobotany garden. Signs briefly explain how Florida native plants have been used for food, shelter, medicine and art by cultures past and present.

WALKING TRAILS & OBSERVATION TOWER

Explore our four miles of walking trails through Sanibel's interior wetlands and climb our observation tower for a bird's eye view of Sanibel's ridges and swales.