



SCCF

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Come explore our natural world



MARCH 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.

BEACH WALK AND TALK

The treasures found while walking sandy beaches offer us a glimpse of the estuary and Gulf of Mexico that surround Sanibel and Captiva. Shell egg cases, crab exoskeletons, turtle grass or sea turtle bones all tell stories of tides, winds, and currents. Come for a guided "Beach Walk and Talk" starting at the SCCF touch tank and then carpool to the beach at the historic Island Inn. *Thursday, March 4, 11 and 18 at 10 a.m. Cost of the program is \$5 for adults with SCCF members and children free.*

BIG "O" BIRDING FESTIVAL

The Big "O" Birding Festival is a remarkable celebration of the birding opportunities in the Lake O area. Hike and bird the L.O.S.T. (the trail around the rim of the lake); take one of many guided and self-guided tours of STA-5 (with fantastic birding), Big Cypress Seminole Reservation and other sites in two counties. There are speakers, birding by swamp buggy, an evening owl hoot, photography workshops and lots more. *Thursday, March 25 - Sunday, March 28 in Clewston. Visit www.bigobirdingfestival.com for more info.*

BIRDING AT THE PRESERVES

Join experienced birders on Friday morning outings to preserves owned and managed by SCCF. Both new and experienced birders will enjoy a variety of birds in a diversity of wildlife habitats. Botany enthusiasts are also welcome to help identify plants along the trails. All walks begin at 8 a.m, but the locations do vary. Walks are free for members and non-members. February schedule:



- March 5 at Periwinkle Preserve*
- March 12 at Bob Wigley Preserve*
with Brad Smith as guide
- March 19 at SCCF/Center Tract*
- March 26 at SCCF/Center Tract*

Periwinkle Preserve: Meet in the Sanibel Community Church parking lot across the street -- short walk to trail.
Bob Wigley Preserve: Located on Casa Ybel. Meet in the

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Week of February 28 -- Beach Walk & Talk, Bobcat Tales, Resident Environmental Overview, Stars Over Sanibel, Underwater with Marine Lab & RECON

Week of March 7 -- Beach Walk & Talk, Crocodile Encore, Honeybees, Horseshow Crabs, Kayaking (daytime paddle), Stars Over Sanibel, SCCF Tennis Tournament

Week of March 14 -- Beach Walk & Talk, Caloosahatchee Oxbow Cruise, Crabby Crustaceans, Gator Tales, Kayaking (new moon night paddle), Otter Tales

Week of March 21 -- Bobcat Tales, Owl Tales, Snowy Plovers

Week of March 28 -- Gator Tales

Offered Weekly -- Birding the Preserves, Butterfly House Tours, Fridays at the Center, Human Uses of Native Plants, Trail Walks: Explore Sanibel's Interior Wetlands, Turtle Tracks, Weeds and Seeds

Bank of the Islands parking lot. Approximately 1/4 mile walk from parking lot to preserve.

SCCF/Center Tract: Located at SCCF's Nature Center on Sanibel-Captiva Road, one mile west of Tarpon Bay Road.

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

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us, you are invited to attend “Bobcat Tales” on *Wednesday, March 3 and 24 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 the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee and settlers braved living amongst the wilderness. *Sunday, March 14 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*



THOSE CRABBY ISLAND CRUSTACEANS

Island decapods can be found above the water in trees, on the beach, and under water of course. Some hide in burrows, some migrate, and one eats oysters. They all are able to regenerate their limbs. Come and learn more about the life cycles of island crabs. The feeding of the live crabs will follow the program. *This Friday at SCCF talk will be on Friday, March 19 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*



A CROCODILE ENCORE

On Wednesday, March 10 at 10 am will be an encore viewing of “The Crocodile...a home video” which was played at the Crocodile Memorial. Janie Howland lived and videoed the comings and goings of Le Crocodile as she moved up and down her driveway. For years the Croc

nested in her neighborhood and could be found guarding her nest, waiting for eggs to hatch. Come and get up close with a woman and a crocodile. Now that is definitely “Living with Wildlife”. We will be taking orders for copies of the video with an introduction and narration added that will be for sale through SCCF.



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.*

FRIDAYS AT SCCF

Join us at 10 a.m. on Fridays for programs that cover different topics each Friday. Talks are \$5 per adult, with members and children free. The schedule is below; please see individual topics for more information. Nature Center auditorium.

March 5 - Underwater with Marine Lab & RECON

March 12 - Horseshoe Crabs

March 19 – Those Crabby Island Crustaceans

March 26 – Snowy Plovers

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, March 17 and 31 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Call 472-2329 for more information.*

HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

Seems everyone has heard that honeybees are in trouble... but what is happening with our local bees. Have the Africanized honeybees made it into our local hives? Local author and entomologist, Tom Allen, will update us on what is happening with local bee populations. Tom will have a live demonstration hive with him. *Tuesday, March 9 at 10 a.m. The cost of the program is \$5 with SCCF members and children attending for free. Reservations not required.*

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HORSESHOE CRABS

Come and learn about the importance and life cycle of this ancient creature more closely related to spiders than crabs. Presenter, Mark Thompson, is research associate from the



SCCF Marine Lab and knows about all things *Limulus polyphemus*. Horseshoe crabs can live over 20 years and you may find a "molt" on one of your beach walks. Come and learn why the state

wants you to report live sightings of this living fossil whose ancestors go back 350 thousand years. *This Fridays at SCCF talk will be on Friday, March 12 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

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. On March 15, there will be an evening paddle on the night of the New Moon. Space is limited so reservations are required. *Daytime paddle on Wednesday, March 10 at 9 a.m. New Moon Night Paddle on Monday, March 15 at 6 p.m.*



Depart from Captiva Kayak Company located at McCarthy's Marina on Captiva. \$45/person plus tax for the daytime paddle; \$55/person plus tax for the New Moon Night Paddle; 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 Tuesday, March 23 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.*

OTTER TALES

No one knows how many North American river otters live on Sanibel and Captiva. Some say there are fewer since 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. Following the program take a walk on the trail and view an otter communication sight. *Tuesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*



RESIDENT ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The group assembles at the Nature Center of the Conservation Foundation a talk on nature of the islands, geology and the human history of the islands. 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. Program starts at SCCF at 1:30 p.m. and ends on Captiva at 5:30. *Program is available Monday, March 1. Call for reservations as space is limited. There is no cost for residents. Visitors are welcomed for a cost of \$25 per person. 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

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food 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.

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? Join us March 26 at 10 am to 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. *This Fridays at SCCF talk will be on Friday, March 26 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

STARS OVER SANIBEL

Indulge your natural curiosity about the mysteries of the universe. Richard Finkel leads this discussion of constellations, our solar system, and distant stars within the Milky Way galaxy. The program lasts about 1-1/2 hours on a clear night; on cloudy nights, a night sky DVD may be shown. *Wednesdays, March 3 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. Meet on the Nature Center porch, proceed to trails. Space is limited so reservations are required. Call 472-2329 for reservations and more info. \$5 person donation to SCCF Environmental Education Fund.*

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Don't miss SCCF's 18th Annual Tennis Tournament at The Dunes on March 13-14! Format is doubles team competition with first round consolation and winners advance to finals. Categories are Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles. Opening Reception at SCCF on Friday, March 12. Deadline for entries is Wednesday, March 11. For more info, contact Louis Vosloo or Diane Limeri at The Dune, 472-3522. If you would like to be a sponsor, please

give Marti Bryant a call at 472-2329.

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. and also on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Meet at the Nature Center and proceed to the trails. \$5 for non-members; free to members and children.*

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.*

UNDERWATER WITH THE MARINE LAB AND RECON

Have you ever seen a patch reef or wondered about how Marine Lab staff keep those RECON sensors running? Come and see underwater video taken during research trips narrated by lab staff, AJ Martignette and Jeff Siwicke. Meet the plants and animals they have encountered while diving local waters. *This Fridays at SCCF talk will be on Friday, March 5 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*



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.