Join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty

Photo Credit: Pam DeNeve

In partnership with

Hillsborough County, Florida
Welcome to the Florida Birding and Nature Festival!

We are delighted you have joined us. We celebrate the Centennial Year of the Migratory Bird Treaty and highlight the importance of wildlife corridors. Of course we are also celebrating the wonders of the birds, wildlife and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida. We hope that you will see new birds, find new places to go, and learn new things about our area as you participate in this festival.

Our field trips are chosen to showcase some of the best natural areas of our counties, protected as public parks or preserves, as private lands or more. The trips will search for birds, butterflies, ants and dragonflies, turtles and wild flowers. Some trips are on foot, but there are wagon rides, boat trips and even exercise disguised as kayak trips to explore the preserves.

Our first night’s social honors the foresight of Hillsborough County government in setting up ELAPP. Many of the field trips visit areas this program has long protected, so join us Thursday evening to meet these visionaries. Friday night we’ll hear David Johnson from the Global Owl Project speak about their work in 65 countries. Saturday night’s speaker is our own Carlton Ward Jr, discussing about the Florida Wildlife Corridor Initiative. Dinner and drinks are included with your ticket.

Programs are even more wide-ranging. Yes, certainly birds, but panthers and bears, turtles and gators, landscaping and butterflies are included. From beginning birding to birding by ear, there is something for everyone. For photographers there’s a whole series of presentations your chance to learn from the pros.

Don’t forget the Expo, both inside and out. Some vendors are local, but some have migrated great distances to show, invite and educate you. Visit the raptor rehab booth and join their scavenger hunt! Or choose new binoculars, the perfect pottery gift, or plan your next vacation, here or abroad. There are booths in the Expo and a seminar as well on tours for birders.

While you’re outside visit the new car display. If you’re hungry, visit the food trucks out front. Learn about the amazing water of Florida’s natural springs in the back parking lot. You can even see a new home for translocated burrowing owls in the back yard.

Festival Highlights

FIELD TRIPS Our field trips are chosen to showcase some of the best natural areas of our counties, protected as public parks or preserves, as private lands or more. The trips will search for birds, butterflies, ants and dragonflies, turtles and wild flowers. Some trips are on foot, but there are wagon rides, boat trips and even exercise disguised as kayak trips to explore the preserves.

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Please join the experts in their seminars! Ask our field trip leaders the questions you’ve always wondered about. They’re leading the trips because they know the areas and what lives there. Visit the booths in the Expo. Check out the children’s art work. It’s part of the Florida Federal Junior Duck Stamp contest. Most importantly, it’s a Festival, so have fun!
SOCIAL EVENTS

Buffet dinner included
Social Events at the Firehouse Cultural Center
101 1st Ave NE, Ruskin, FL 33570  |  Doors Open 5:30 PM

October 13, 2016 – Kick-off
Stewards of the Land: A History of Florida’s Largest Local Government Environmental Lands Program

Joe Guidry (retired Tampa Tribune editor) moderates a panel of eco-visionaries who founded local and statewide environmental land protection programs. Panelists include former governor Bob Martinez, who started Preservation 2000 (which became Florida Forever), county commissioner Jan K. Platt and others who pioneered Hillsborough County’s Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP): Gus Muench, Sally Thompson, Joel Jackson, Rob Heath, and Jan Smith.

October 14, 2016 – Keynote #1
David H. Johnson, MS, Director of the Global Owl Project (GLOW)

Mr. Johnson will give an overview of the long-term, worldwide project to advance foundational aspects of science and conservation for the world’s owls. He will offer recordings of vocalizations, insights into the unique morphology and the scientific literature on the owls of the world, and present distribution maps. Join Mr. Johnson for an eye-opening event on these fascinating birds of the night.

October 15, 2016 – Keynote #2
Carlton Ward Jr., MS, Conservation Photographer, National Geographic Explorer

Join photographer and explorer Carlton Ward, Jr. as he shares inspiring photographs and stories from recent expeditions through the natural heart of Florida, bringing new attention to a state vision to keep Florida wild. Mr. Ward will answer questions and be available for book sales and signing after the talk. Saturday’s event also includes live bluegrass music by the Ft. Green Pickin’ Society.
Butterflies 10:00 – 10:45 am  | PF1-2
Butterfly expert Dr. Marc Minno author of BUTTERFLIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA: A GUIDE TO COMMON & NOTABLE SPECIES shares his observational insights and key details about butterflies, caterpillars and plants that attract them.

Bird Watching Basics 2:00 – 2:45 pm  | PF1-4
Jim Cox of the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy provides an overview of some of the tools needed to get you started in this great activity and explains the key processes skilled birders use to identify different species.

Conservation of the Swallow-tailed Kite 2:00 – 2:45 pm  | PF2-4
Dr. Ken Meyer reviews what RACI has discovered since 1988 with its ground-breaking, year round research on the conservation biology of the swallow-tailed kite, a species he has been studying for 38 years.

The Warblers of Central Florida 2:00 – 2:45 pm  | PF3-4
Ken Tracey reveals the secrets of finding warblers by studying the effects of weather, knowing their migration timing, learning their preferred habitats, and locating food sources.

Bird of Prey 11:00 – 11:45 am  | PF3-5
Dianna Flynt has been a professional avian rehabilitator in Florida since 1974 and is currently the Rehabilitation Supervisor at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland. This presentation isn’t about how to rehab raptors; it’s about what a raptor needs to survive in the wild and the special adaptations required for each species.

Owls in Myth and Culture 3:00 – 3:45 pm  | PF2-5
David Johnson is the Director of the Global Owl Project and this program will explore research that pulls back the curtain on owl myths. Are owls dangerous spirits (not birds) who can take your soul or do they represent the Creator Being who started the earth? Dr. Johnson’s presentation delves deeply into beliefs about owls – and how societies change their beliefs over time (or not).

Top Tips for Tempting Pollinators 2:00 – 2:45 pm  | PF5-4
Manette O’Hare’s interactive presentation will highlight simple tips for attracting bees, butterflies, moths and beneficial wasps to your own piece of Florida paradise. The talk will highlight a recommended “Pollinator Palette” of specific wildflowers, trees, and shrubs for west central Florida landscapes.

Biodiversity at Duette Preserve 4:00 – 4:45 pm  | PF4-6
Mike Elswick, Manager of the Manatee County Natural Resources Division, will explain the management techniques that have maintained the biodiversity at Duette Preserve, a 22,000 acre parcel that protects the headwaters of the Manatee River.

Native Plants to Feed and Attract Birds 4:00 – 4:45 pm  | PF5-6
Dr. Shirley Denton will talk about native trees, shrubs and flowers that will bring birds to your yard without the need for bird feeders. Learn about natives that attract a variety of birds seasonally and year-round.

Eagles! 4:00 – 4:45 pm  | PF2-6
Michele Vandeventer, FWC, will talk about bald eagles, their biology, behavior, nesting habits, and their current status in Florida and the rest of the country.

Photo by Mary Miller
PROGRAMS
On campus at Hillsborough County Community College, South Shore • SATURDAY • OCTOBER 15, 2016

Florida Birding and Nature Festival 2016

Photo by George Heinrich

Identifying Non-Marine Turtles of the Tampa Bay Region
9:00 – 9:45 am | PS1-1
Turtles are ecologically important and visible elements in many ecosystems. George L. Heinrich will teach you basic identification techniques for the 13 non-marine turtles that occur in the Tampa Bay region.

Alligator: Iconic Creature of Southern Wetlands
10:00 – 10:45 am | PS1-2
Dr. Kent Vliet will present the American alligator, an iconic figure in the natural ecology of Florida. He will present new research about these ancient creatures, management programs, and ways to co-exist safely with these large reptiles.

Butterflies
9:00 – 9:45 am | PS3-2
Florida leads the country in the number of butterfly species, 1400. Tiffani Johnson will discuss the different species in the region.

Herons and Egrets of Florida
2:00 – 2:45 pm | PS14
Amy Paul is the Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator for the Alafia Banks Coastal Island Sanctuary. She will be talking about our most easily recognized and beautiful waterbirds, the 12 species of herons and egrets that live in Florida.

Grounded - Nature Photography
11:00 – 11:45 am | PS4-3
Award winning photographer Bob Croelinc talks about the award-winning public service campaign, “Grounded: Winged Survivors of Florida’s Gulf Coast.”

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ELAPP – Florida’s Largest Local Government Environmental Land Program
2:00 – 2:45 pm | PS2-4
Ross Dickerson, the current Director of the ELAPP, Florida’s largest local government environmental lands program. He will present its development since 1987, discuss plans for the future and how ecosystem services help make the case for such programs.

Snags, Woodpiles and Wildlife
2:00 – 2:45 pm | PS3-4
Donna Bollenbach, president of Suncoast Native Plant Society, will explain the value of leaving snags (standing dead tree trunks) and woodpiles in the landscape. Learn who benefits and how to provide them safely.

Cavity Nesting Birds
2:00 – 2:45 pm | PS4-4
Join nature photographer and naturalist Marina Scarr as she shares images of Florida’s cavity nesting owls and woodpeckers and recounts stories from the field, including the struggles and perils these species face. Learn about conservation efforts for endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers and ethical considerations while in the field photographing them.

Bird Watching Basics
2:00 – 2:45 pm | PS5-4
Jim Cox of the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy provides an overview of some of the tools needed to get you started in this great activity and explains the key processes skilled birders use to identify different species.

Making and Installing Artificial Burrows for Burrowing Owls
3:00 – 3:45 pm
Lisa Östberg is a Wildlife Coexistence Consultant and Everglades advocate. Her work includes providing education and outreach regarding both black bears and Florida panthers, and in this talk will provide information about Florida black bears, the areas of the state where they’re most likely to be found, and how we can all do our part to keep ourselves and our bears safe from harm.

Landscaping with Natives
3:00 – 3:45 pm | PS3-5
Troy Springer, owner of Springer Environmental Services, will provide advice on how to build and maintain your property as both aesthetically pleasing and ecologically functional.

What’s for Lunch? Photography
3:00 – 3:45 pm | PS4-5
Jim Gray, a well-known, local nature photographer and winner of the Grand Prize in Tampa Audubon’s 2012 Photo contest, will share his ethological philosophy of patience, observation, and just a little technical skill in obtaining the perfect shot.

Birds of Cuba
3:00 – 3:45 pm | PS5-5
Gary Markowski, Founder and Executive Director of the Caribbean Conservation Trust, will provide a multi-media discussion about his 20+ years of birding, citizen-science, and conservation programs for Cuba’s richly diverse avifauna and biodiversity.

Bird Behavior: A Key to Better I.D.
4:00 – 4:45 pm | PS1-6
Paddy Cunningham has been a naturalist in South Florida for 30 years. She will show you how to observe bird behavior and increase your ability to identify birds quickly in the field.

Florida Panther
4:00 – 4:45 pm | PS2-6
Jessica Sutt and Dr. Jen Korn will discuss the rebound of the Florida panther population from approximately 30 individuals in the 1990s to a current estimate of 100-180, and the challenges in providing the habitat connectivity essential to their survival.

Landscaping for Wildlife
4:00 – 4:45 pm | PS3-6
Lynn Barber, Hillsborough County UF/IFAS Extension Agent, teaches how Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles help attract wildlife to your landscape.

Ethics in Nature Photography
4:00 – 4:45 pm | PS4-6
Jim Caldwell will discuss the different ethics of art versus documentary photography and issues with “getting the shot” at any cost, including disturbing wildlife and even altering their behavior.

Counting on Birds - Video
4:00 – 4:45 pm | PS5-6
Charlie Fisher will introduce the award winning PBS film “Counting on Birds”, a documentary about the Annual Christmas Bird Count. Charlie will discuss our local count and findings over the years.
KIDS' ZONE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Give your child the chance to fall in love with nature! Join us Saturday, Oct. 15 for kid’s activities and FUN!

PLEASE NOTE CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

OUTSIDE from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Water Ventures
Florida’s Learning Lab is a 53-foot traveling science center featuring enriching and engaging activities that offer a hands-on look at Florida’s diverse watersheds, water conservation, and recycling. WaterVentures will provide experiential learning that will inspire critical thinking and empower students and citizens to make a difference in the world around them.

Sensing Nature
Backyard Bass – line casting
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Back parking lot
Learning to cast a line into water can be a lot of fun— even more when everyone is 100% safe! Think you got what it takes to hook the biggest fish? Stop by to learn to cast a line and to practice your skillset.

INSIDE from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Discover Through Touch
Biofact Table
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
RM 109
Whether it’s the feathers on an owl’s wing or the sharpness of an alligator tooth, your sense of touch helps you discover the world around you. Sensing Nature does just that with an open biofact table. Visit leisurely all day long!

Migration Can Be A Headache!
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
| Lobby
If your family wants to do a road trip from Canada to Brazil, you’re going to have to do a lot of planning! Some of our birds do this every winter in their migration! They may not have to worry about renting a car or having a passport but face many other challenges. Pick up a card from Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue, follow instructions, and see if you can survive our Migration Headache!

The Florida Aquarium
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
| RM 110
Our oceans are connected to all wildlife, even those in the deserts and up in the mountains. Join us to discover what this connection means locally and learn about some interesting critters up close!

Jr. Duck Stamp Art Exhibit
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
| Lobby
Every year thousands of entries vie to win and be the next Jr. Federal Duck Stamp Winner. Come by and give us your input on this year’s competitors from Thompson Elementary. Along with our 60 local entries for this year’s competition you will be able to view past entries and winners from all over Florida. Want to give it a try? Join us to make your own entry or pick up a contest package with all the details. Entries are due March 15th!

Owl Pellet Dissection
10:00 am – 12:00 pm | RM 109
Wildlife biologists don’t always get to see the animal they study. For owl biologists, this isn’t too much of a problem. Most often they comb the forest looking for, yep, owl pellets! Come by for the chance to dig in and find out who our feathered friends find tasty in their own search through the forest.

Sensing Nature
Bird House Construction
10:00 am - 4:00 pm | Room 109
Want to wake up to a bird’s beautiful song by your room window? Build him a house! You can have a direct, positive effect on the birds right in your backyard. We will have all the materials, all the instructions, and chandy people to help you put together a small bird house.

Flying Wild Learning Activities
1:30 pm -2:30 pm | RM 109
2:30 pm -3:30 pm | RM 109
Flying Wild has been a popular curriculum source for all school teachers wanting to demonstrate birds, migration, and their natural habitats. Visit us for consecutive 30 minute programs. You may learn about urban birds-visitors living right in your neighborhood! You may find out how to help birds migrate. Or you can learn to identify the different flight patterns for each type of bird.
FIELD TRIPS
Carpools meet and depart from Hillsborough Community College South Shore Campus.

FRIDAY, October 14

**Ft. DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 1:00 pm | T-F-1 | $20.00
Ft. DeSoto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. Fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island’s shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast.

**Manatee Viewing Center, Newman Branch Restoration Habitats, Florida Conservation Center, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 12:00 pm | T-F-2 | $20.00
The Manatee Viewing Center is home to hundreds of manatees during the winter season, but there are also opportunities to view birds and wildlife along the Tidal Flat Walkway. The Newman Branch site contains an example of rare salt marsh, a boardwalk through a mangrove forest and a 50’ high wildlife observation tower. The trip includes a behind the scenes tour of the new Florida Conservation and Technology Center.

**Outback Key, Shell Key, Ft. De Soto County Park by boat with Tampa Bay Watch, Pinellas County**
8:00 – 11:15 am | T-F-3 | $40.00
Departure from Tampa Bay Watch Headquarters will take you on the water to learn basic identification tips for the birds we see when we visit Florida’s spectacular beaches. You see them all the time - running in the surf, perched on pilings and soaring over the water. Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at our fascinating birds of the beach.

**Mosaic Wetland Reclamation, Manatee County**
8:00 – 10:00 am | T-F-4 | $20.00
See an example of a freshwater marsh reclaimed on land previously mined for phosphate. A boardwalk and observation tower provide good vantage points to see the freshwater expanse and its wildlife inhabitants, including herons and egrets, roseate spoonbills, ibis, wood storks, plus turtles and alligators. Adjacent restored upland xeric habitat provides sightings of migratory songbirds and raptors.

**Lower Green Swamp County Preserve, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 11:00 am | T-F-5 | $20.00
Lower Green Swamp is the most recent large acquisition in Hillsborough County’s ELAPP program, and it provides a wildlife corridor connection into the Green Swamp of central Florida. Ride in a tour wagon to see this 13,000-acre preserve, longleaf pine flatwoods restoration, and working cattle ranch. Possible sightings include red headed woodpeckers to the elusive Bachman’s sparrow, with wild turkeys and quail down low and raptors on high.

**Honeyymoon Island State Park, Pinellas County**
8:00 – 11:00 am | T-F-6 | $20.00
Honeyymoon Island State Park is a dynamic barrier island. Its beaches and the causeway approach to the park are known hotspots for shorebirds, from the little peeps to reddish egrets doing their ‘drunken sailor’ dance. Mangroves, lagoons and tidal flats provide diverse habitat. You will meet the leaders before the causeway and have a look at who's dining on the beach before heading into the park and walking several places along the edge, the woods of Osprey Trail as well as checking the grasslands for sparrows.

**Little Manatee River State Park, Native Plant Walk, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 11:00 am | T-F-7 | $20.00
Manatee River State Park supports a diversity of native plant communities including the river, riverine swamps, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and flatwoods. The route will be chosen based on where fall wildflowers are blooming. In October, we anticipate finding blazing stars, asters and golden asters, vanilla plant, and many other species that attract butterflies. Birds that may be seen include pileated woodpecker, red bellied woodpeckers and red-headed woodpeckers. Wading birds often frequent the river.

**Triple Creek Preserve, Butterflies and Dragonflies, Hillsborough County**
2:00 – 4:00 pm | T-F-8 | $20.00
This 971-acre tract has a mix of wetland and upland habitats, including pine flatwoods, wetland forests, and improved pasture areas. It is home to many rare species of plants including flakelet fern and grass-pink orchids. The diverse habitats ensure a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators.

SATURDAY, October 15

**Rock Ponds and Cockroach Bay Restoration Habitats, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 12:00 pm | T-Sa-1 | $20.00
The Rock Ponds (1043 acres) and Cockroach Bay (500 acres) encompass a mosaic of coastal habitats including uplands and freshwater and estuarine wetlands, high and low marshes, saltmarsh channels/lagoons, mud/sand flats, islands, artificial reefs, and deep water refugia. There is a short walk up hill for viewing but a wagon ride through restored areas.

**Lettuce Lake Regional Park, Beginning Birding, Hillsborough County**
8:00 - 12:00 pm | T-Sa-2 | $20.00
Lettuce Lake, which opened in 1992, consists of 240-acres, an interpretive center, a 5,500 foot boardwalk and an observation tower where visitors can view an extensive variety of wildlife. We expect to see a variety of water birds and upland birds, including herons, egrets, limpkins, ospreys, woodpeckers, vires, warblers, red-shouldered hawks, barred owls, and more.

**Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve Native Plant Walk, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 12:00 pm | T-Sa-3 | $20.00
The Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve provides a large expanse of diverse and increasingly rare natural habitat, such as sand pine scrub and oak scrub. The diverse array of wildflowers in fall bloom include liatris, deer tongue, goldrod, and the endangered endemic Florida golden aster.

**Circle B Bar Reserve, Polk County**
8:00 – 12:00 pm | T-Sa-4 | $20.00
Circle B Bar Preserve was once lakeside marsh drained for cattle pasture. Now jointly owned and managed by Polk County and SWFWMD, the restored marshes are home to limpkins, purple and common gallinules, bitterns and an amazing variety of wintering, migrating and resident birds from bald eagles to sparrows.
**Perico Preserve, Manatee County**
8:30 – 11:00 am | T-Sa-5 | $20.00
The 176-acre Perico Preserve property is located in western Manatee County. With support from several partners, the site underwent major ecological enhancements including the restoration and creation of wetland and upland habitats, as well as the re-establishment of beneficial native plants.

**Alafia Banks Bird Sanctuary By Boat, Hillsborough County**
9:00 – 11:30 am | T-Sa-6 | $40.00
Join us aboard the Florida Aquarium’s vessel, Bay Spirit II, for a 2 ½ hour tour out of one of the most important nesting colonies in the state of Florida. We expect to see pelicans, herons, shorebirds, and duck species. On the ride out to the island, you will also have the chance to see Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Enjoy a free aquarium admission for the day upon your return!

**Triple Creek Preserve, Butterflies and Dragonflies, Hillsborough County**
2:00 – 4:00 pm | T-Sa-7 | $20.00
This 971-acre tract has a mix of wetland and upland habitats, including pine flatwoods, wetland forests, and improved pasture areas. It is home to many rare species of plants including flakelet fern and grass-pink orchids. The diverse habitats ensure a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators.

**Ft. DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 1:00 pm | T-Sa-8 | $20.00
Ft. DeSoto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Spring and fall migration brings neotropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island’s shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. Birding the park is easy with access to many great birding spots involving very short walks.

**Wolf Branch Nature Preserve, Hillsborough County**
8:30 – 3:00 pm | T-Su-3 | $30.00
This 3-hour kayak bird-watching excursion leaves the Center for Conservation in Apollo Beach Florida. Kayak through the mangrove tunnels of the restored Newman Branch creek, where you will have the opportunity to see an abundance of wildlife, including our local bird population (roseate spoonbills, white ibis, and herons, to name a few) and a chance to see manatees, guided by one of the Florida Aquarium’s experienced kayak guides!

**Celery Fields, Sarasota County**
8:00 – 11:00 am | T-Su-6 | $20.00
This 400-acre storm water retention area in eastern Sarasota County is one of the Gulf Coast’s best birding hot spots. The site has been restored to a meandering stream with wetlands and grasslands nestled among the curves. A hill with walking and equestrian trails overlooks the area, and two boardwalks allow access to the stream and marsh. With 250 species recorded at the site, the swamp and open water environment is a haven for limpkins, bitterns, rails and herons.

**Little Manatee River Kayaking for Turtles Trip – Canoe Outpost, Hillsborough County**
8:30 – 3:00 pm | T-Su-3 | $30.00
The Little Manatee River is one of central Florida’s most scenic and is designated by the State as an “Outstanding Florida Water”. There will be ample opportunity for watching rivers wildlife while leisurely kayaking downriver on a six-mile stretch of this calm, tannic river. Special emphasis will be placed on the identification and natural history of riverine turtles, particularly three species of cooters (genus Pseudemys).

**Egmont Key State Park By Boat, Pinellas County**
8:30 – 12:00 pm | T-SU-4 | $45.00
Join the Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a special boat cruise to Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge/State Park. Established in 1974 to protect migratory birds, the island is situated at the mouth of Tampa Bay and is also the site of historic Fort Dade. Expect to see warblers and other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns and other seabirds at this key migratory bird fall-out site.

**Dunedin Hammock Bird Banding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 12:30 pm | T-SU-5 | $20.00
Dunedin Hammock is noted as a fall migrant trap. We hope to find Canada, golden-winged, blue winged and cerulean warblers, and many other warbler species, plus vireos, thrushes, orioles, and tanagers. Birds can be observed in the hand at the bird-banding station.

**Duette Preserve Wagon Tour, Manatee County**
8:00 – 10:00 am | T-Su-1 | $25.00
At more than 21,000 acres, Duette Preserve is the largest preserve in Manatee County. Look for species of special concern such as the burrowing owl, snowy egret, white ibis, gopher tortoise, and at least two endangered/threatened species, the eastern indigo snake and one of the largest and healthiest populations of Florida scrub-jays in the state.

**SUNDAY, October 16**

**Wolf Branch Nature Preserve, Hillsborough County**
7:45 – 11:45 am | T-SU-7 | $20.00
Wolf Branch Nature Preserve is located near the coast in Apollo Beach. It is a mosaic of coastal hammock, tidal flats, salt marsh, mangroves, freshwater ponds and restored uplands. Every season presents a new array of flora and fauna. We will walk the best route for fall color and will likely see many different birds in the ponds and salt marsh.

**Kayaking from the TECO/Florida Aquarium Conservation Center, Hillsborough County**
8:30 – 11:30 am | T-SU-8 | $50.00
This 4-hour kayak bird-watching excursion leaves the Center for Conservation in Apollo Beach Florida. Kayak through the mangrove tunnels of the restored Newman Branch creek, where you will have the opportunity to see an abundance of wildlife, including our local bird population (roseate spoonbills, white ibis, and herons, to name a few) and a chance to see manatees, guided by one of the Florida Aquarium’s experienced kayak guides!

**Ft. DeSoto County Park, Beginning Birding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 1:00 pm | T-Su-9 | $20.00
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This 971-acre tract has a mix of wetland and upland habitats, including pine flatwoods, wetland forests, and improved pasture areas. It is home to many rare species of plants including flakelet fern and grass-pink orchids. The diverse habitats ensure a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators.

**Ft. DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 1:00 pm | T-Sa-8 | $20.00
Ft. DeSoto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Spring and fall migration brings neotropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island’s shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. Birding the park is easy with access to many great birding spots involving very short walks.

**Wolf Branch Nature Preserve, Hillsborough County**
8:00 – 11:00 am | T-SU-6 | $20.00
Wolf Branch Nature Preserve is located near the coast in Apollo Beach. It is a mosaic of coastal hammock, tidal flats, salt marsh, mangroves, freshwater ponds and restored uplands. Every season presents a new array of flora and fauna. We will walk the best route for fall color and will likely see many different birds in the ponds and salt marsh.

**Kayaking from the TECO/Florida Aquarium Conservation Center, Hillsborough County**
8:30 – 11:30 am | T-SU-8 | $50.00
This 4-hour kayak bird-watching excursion leaves the Center for Conservation in Apollo Beach Florida. Kayak through the mangrove tunnels of the restored Newman Branch creek, where you will have the opportunity to see an abundance of wildlife, including our local bird population (roseate spoonbills, white ibis, and herons, to name a few) and a chance to see manatees, guided by one of the Florida Aquarium’s experienced kayak guides!

**Ft. DeSoto County Park, Beginning Birding, Pinellas County**
7:00 – 1:00 pm | T-Su-9 | $20.00
Ft. DeSoto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Spring and fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island’s shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. Birding the park is easy with access to many great birding spots involving very short walks.
HCC CAMPUS FESTIVAL SITE

Getting around the festival

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) SouthShore is festival headquarters. From the entrance at 551 24th St. NE, drive all the way around campus to the southeast parking lot. Here is where you will find festival parking, outdoor exhibits and activities, and the meeting point for carpools to field trips.

Registration, indoor exhibits, and the kid zone are inside the science building. Registration is open 4-5 PM on Thursday, and 6AM-4PM on Friday and Saturday. Volunteers will help you with check-in and getting oriented.

The vendor expo starts in the science building and spans the breezeway that connects to the administration building. Follow the signs west and then south to modular classrooms for all daytime programs.

Where to eat

There will be coffee and bagels provided for early morning carpools in the southeast parking lot. Food trucks will be serving lunch just north of the vendor expo on Friday and Saturday.

Dinner is included for those attending social events on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at the Firehouse Cultural Center, 101 1st Ave. NE. It’s an easy 2 miles west on Shell Point Road from HCC SouthShore, one block east of US-41. Doors open at 5:30 PM.
Tampa Audubon Society
Welcome You!

www.tampaaudubon.org

- Meetings: 1st Thursdays, 7 pm Pot Luck and program, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
- Field Trips: monthly, most free, check web for details
- Volunteer: CBC, Eagle Watch, Colony Watch, Blue Birds, Bird Protection, more
- Travel: coming up: Cuba 1/14/17, Texas 9/24/17, more
- Learn: USF-OLLI, Educational Programs
- Photo Club: 6 pm before meetings, share and critique
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