

Saturday Oct 14, 2023

T S DP Duette Preserve Wagon Ride

Meet at ranger station, 2649 Rawls Road, Duette

Time: 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Limited to 20 participants. No parking fees.

Leaders: Mike Elswick, Aedan Stockdale, Rangers; Mary Keith 813-767-5863

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent.

You will be riding on an open wagon, so you must be able to climb up onto the wagon.

Come and take a ride back in time across an austere landscape where grasses, wildflowers, and palmetto still dominate; where longleaf pine stands are being restored, Bachman's sparrows and scrub jays are thriving. Our wagon comfortably seats 20. Joining us will be the manager of our Education and Volunteer Division, Aedan Stockdale and manager of the Resource Management team Mike Elswick. We'll discuss the history of the site, the plants and wildlife found there, and the restoration and management efforts past and ongoing. The elevation of the wagon will increase our possibilities of seeing the resident Florida Scrub Jays, possibly some Burrowing Owls, and plenty of other birds. The area is a mix of pine flatwoods, oak hammock, wetlands, and scrub palmetto, so the birding possibilities are vast!

Directions from Brandon area:

Take Brandon Blvd/Rt 60 east to Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

Take the right turn onto Lithia Pinecrest and continue South for about 11.5 miles.

Turn Right/South onto Hwy 39. at light.

Continue South on 39 for just over 17 miles to light and T intersection with Rt. 62. Turn Left/East onto Rt 62.

Continue East on Rt 63 just about 3 miles to Duette Rd on your right.

Turn Right/South onto Duette Rd., go for 3.8 miles.

Duette Rd will make a sharp left turn. Just after this turn, take Rawls Rd on your Right.

The gate should be open. Continue on dirt road south past the first building until the road bends to the right. Park in the area and walk through the next gate to the small building to meet your leaders.

