# Vewsletter

here is so much for the whole family to see, do and discover in the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department's parks, beaches, and nearby preserves and wildlife areas. You are invited to explore many of these natural and historical treasures of South Florida on one of our naturalist-guided Eco Adventure tours. We offer programs tailored to all ages and ability levels from nature walks, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling, birdwatching and explorations in the Everglades. If you are into fitness while being outdoors, you will never lack for lots of fun, exercise and excitement on a vigorous kayak or canoe tour, or a long hike on the beach. For history buffs you will find there is plenty to learn and explore on our bike tour of historic Key Biscayne or reminisce of days gone by on walking tours of the culturally rich Deering Estate at Cutler. Whatever is your interest and outdoor craving, we guarantee your experience with Eco Adventures will be rejuvenating, educational, fun and a true adventure as you "Come and discover the other Wild Side of Miami!"

# **CHECK IT OUT!**

The following is a calendar of scheduled tours and programs including dates, times, and program ratings to determine what programs are best suited for your ability level and interest.

For more information on the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department visit our website at www.miamidade.gov/parks.

## Providing Excellence in South Florida Natural History Tours!

#### GUIDED TOURS AND NATURE EXCURSIONS

# **Canoe Tours**

**WHAT TO BRING?** 

■ Water (1 quart minimum)

■ Long-sleeved shirt and hat

■ Shoes you don't mind getting wet

■ Snack

■ Sunscreen

■ Sunglasses

■ Insect Repellent

Eco Adventures has put together a series of canoe tours that offer you an opportunity to explore the popular waterways of our Miami-Dade Parks and nearby wilderness preserves. The winter-spring season is the best time to explore these tropical waters as the weather is cooler, less humid, and mosquitoes are not as plentiful. Led by experienced naturalist-guides, we provide the best gear and lots of creative touches to enhance the enjoyment of your outdoor adventure. Paddlers can choose from canoe tours that vary in endurance and lengths from half day to full day tours. Be sure to check out the rating for each tour, as most are rated easy to moderate. Children under the age of 18 years are requiring a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or guardian.

For your comfort and enjoyment of your canoe trip, please

■ Sealable plastic or dry bag to secure important belongings

Reservations are required. Please call (305) 365-3018 for all

require a minimum of registrations before the trip can be

conditions and registration minimum

canoe trip reservations. Group Rates are available. Most tours

conducted. All canoe tours are subject to cancellation due to

bring the following unless otherwise stated:

#### BILL SADOWSKI'S SUNSET CANAL TO **B CORAL REEF PARK CANOE TOUR**

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2006 *Time: 3:30 PM - 7:00 PM* 

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14) Canoe rentals also available at the park

Rated: Easy

Join park naturalists for an easy sunset paddle to Coral Reef Park and back. Along the way you will observe a variety of birds and other wildlife. As our contribution to the Baynanza Clean-up we will gather some of the floating trash that can endanger sea life when the canal water is released into the Bay. We will take a rest at the park, so pack a snack and lots to drink. Meet at the Bill Sadowski Nature Center.

#### **BLACK POINT CANOE TOUR** Date: Saturdays, February 18 & March 4, 2006

Time: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rating: Moderate (vigorous paddling)

Enjoy a naturalist guided canoe outing from historic Black Point along the scenic shoreline of Biscayne Bay. Participants may see a variety of wading birds, sea birds, fish and other interesting wildlife associated with shallow water mangrove estuaries. Meet at the canoe launch in the Black Point Marina.

### BLACK POINT SUNSET CANOE TOUR

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2006

Sunday, May 14, 2006 - Special Mother's Day Sunset Canoe Tour

Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Rated: Moderate

Join park naturalists on this paddle out into Rainbow Cove to explore and encounter marine life and birds that inhabit the waters around the mangrove islands. Bring a picnic as you relax in your canoes to watch the sunset. Meet at the canoe launch near the Pirate's Cove Restaurant at 4:00 PM.

#### CHAPMAN FIELD CANOE TOUR

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2006

Time: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Join the naturalists from Castellow Hammock on this leisurely paced canoe tour through scenic mangrove creeks and along the shore of Biscayne Bay. This area is inhabited by a variety of wading birds and sea life including River Otters and Spotted Stingray. Meet at the entrance to Chapman Field Park.

#### NEW CONVOY POINT CANOE TOUR

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2006 Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rated: Moderate Enjoy a naturalist guided canoe outing from Convoy Point along the

scenic shoreline of Biscayne Bay to view a variety of wading birds, sea birds, fish and other interesting wildlife associated with this marine environment. Meet at Biscayne National Park - Convoy Point.



#### CORAL GABLES WATERWAY CANOE TOUR

Date: Saturday, May 6 & 27, 2006 Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Person, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14) Rated: Easy

Relive Miami's early history on this tranquil naturalist-guided canoe tour on the historic Coral Gables Waterway. You will view a variety of wading birds and other wildlife on your canoe journey. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

#### DEERING ESTATE'S CHICKEN KEY **CANOE TOUR**

Saturdays & Sundays

Date: February - April 2006

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Rated: Beginner to Expert

Join Deering Estate naturalists for a canoe tour on beautiful Biscayne Bay and explore the historic island named Chicken Key. Discover wildlife that inhabits the coastal waters of the bay. Registration required call (305) 235-1668 ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.

#### DEERING ESTATE MOONLIGHT **CANOE TOUR**

Date: Tuesday, March 14 & Thursday, April 13, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Fee: \$35.00/Person (Adults - 18 years and older) Rated: Beginner – Expert

Glide across Biscayne Bay to Chicken Key by the light of the

full moon on this naturalist-guided canoe tour leaving from the estate. Registration required call (305) 235-1668 ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.

#### CRANDON PARK'S BAYSIDE **CANOE ADVENTURE**

Saturdays & Sundays

Date: February - April 2006 Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14) Residents: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14) Tour is also available on weekdays upon request,

call (305) 365-3018. Rated: Easy to Moderate (3 miles)

This naturalist-guided canoe tour explores the bayside water of Key Biscayne. Explore Biscayne Bay's peaceful water wilderness where wildlife flourishes among the mangrove fringes and nearby bird rookery. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center.

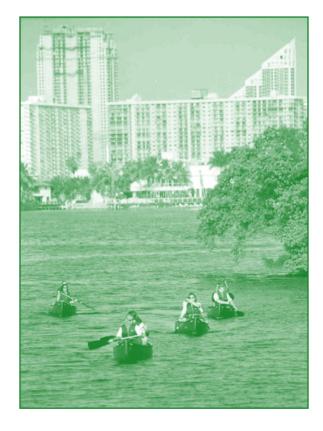


Baynanza '06 is an annual event that takes place in April 2006. The Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) hosts activities throughout the month to help improve our awareness and to get involved in protecting our air, water, land and natural resources. Also visit www.miamidade.gov/derm/baynanza for more information.









#### **CRANDON PARK'S SUNSET & MOONLIGHT CANOE ADVENTURE**

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Thursday, April 13, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14) Residents: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rated Easy to Moderate (3 miles)

View a spectacular South Florida sunset from this peaceful water wilderness and explore the forgotten and secret part of Key Biscayne by the light of the rising full moon. *Meet at the* Crandon Park Marina.

#### GREYNOLDS PARK HISTORIC OLETA **RIVER CANOE TOUR**

Date: Saturdays February 18, 25, 2006 March 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2006 April 1, 8, 15, & 29, 2006 Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rated: Moderate

On this popular naturalist-guided tour catch a view of many wading birds and mammals that inhabit the river eco-system and explore a historic Tequesta Indian midden. Tour leaves from East Greynolds Park, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach.

#### MATHESON HAMMOCK BISCAYNE BAY CANOE TOUR

Saturdays & Sundays Date: February -April 2006 Time: 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

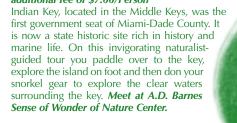
Join park naturalists on this exploration of the mangrove forestlined creeks and discover the secretive and fascinating lives of wildlife that inhabit this habitat. Meet at the Redfish Grill by

#### INDIAN KEY CANOE AND **SNORKEL TOUR**

**Date: Saturdays** February 18, March 18, April 15, & May 6, 2006 Time: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM (Full Day) Fee: \$45.00/Person

Rated: Moderate

Includes transportation in an Eco-van Rental of snorkeling gear is available at an additional fee of \$7.00/Person





Date: Saturday, April 1, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$45 00/Person

Rated: Moderate

Includes transportation in an Eco-van

Join park naturalists on this adventurous canoe tour to the pristine and historic island of Lignum Vitae located in the middle Florida Keys. Return to the Florida of the early 1900's when life styles were less hectic. Close view of marine life, wading birds, and rare sub-tropical plants will be featured on this tour. The group will be greeted by a Florida State Park guide to learn more about the rich history of this state preserve. Meet at A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

#### TURNER RIVER EVERGLADES **CANOE TOUR**

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$45.00/Person Rated: Moderate

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Includes transportation in an Eco-van

Get ready for a truly unique naturalist-guided canoeing experience exploring Everglade's habitats. View spectacular wading birds, alligators, sub-tropical plants, and much more that inhabit this amazing river that flows into the heart of the Glades. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

# Kayaking and Snorkeling **Adventure Tours**

Eco Adventure's kayak and snorkeling tours are a great way to explore and experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay and the biologically rich coastal waters off shore from Key Biscayne. Led by knowledgeable and experienced naturalist-guides, tours combine kayaking and snorkeling with an introduction to the natural history and ecology of the warm South Florida tropical waters. Join us as we explore and discover colorful tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, cushion stars, herons and frigate birds that share this fragile and unique sanctuary. We provide two person "sit on top" ocean kayaks and all tours are beginner friendly for the whole family. Children under the age of 18 years must complete a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or guardian.

#### WHAT TO BRING?

For your comfort and enjoyment of your kayak and snorkeling tour, please bring the following items:

■ Snack

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- Water (1quart minimum)
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Long-sleeved shirt and hat
- Shoes you do not mind getting wet
- Sealable plastic or dry bag to secure important belongings

Reservations are required. Please call (305) 365-3018 for all kayak and snorkeling reservations. Group rates are available. Most tours require a minimum number of registrations before the tour can be conducted. All kayak tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and registration minimums.

#### CRANDON PARK'S KAYAK AND **SNORKEL EXCURSION**

Two person "sit on top" kayaks Saturdays & Sundays

additional fee of \$7.00 Children (Ages 9-17) are welcome after completing a

There is simply no better way to experience the beauty of the clear waters of Key Biscayne and its rich marine life than from the seat of an ocean kayak. This tour is a great introduction to snorkeling. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne



#### PELICAN HARBOR KAYAK & SNORKELING ADVENTURE

Two person "sit on top" kayaks Date: Saturday, March 4, 25 & April 8, 2006 Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Date: Sunday, March 12, & April 2, 30, 2006 Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$35.00/Person

Rental of snorkeling gear available at an additional fee of \$7.00

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Children (Ages 9-17 years) are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Kayak around a series a small islands located in North Biscayne Bay that have been restored to provide viable habitats for coastal birds and marine life. You will have fun snorkeling and discovering marine plants and animals that inhabit some of these islands, all living within sight of nearby Miami Beach. Meet at the Pelican Harbor Marina, 1275 NE 79th Street Causeway.

#### NEW EAST GREYNOLDS OLETA RIVER 🖪 KAYAK TOUR

Two person "sit on top" kayaks Sundays

Date: February 26, March 5, 26, & April 9 & 23, 2006 Time: 10:00 ÁM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Person

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Join park naturalists on this kayak exploration of the historic Oleta River where many wading birds and other wildlife can be viewed up close. You will also have an opportunity to visit an undisturbed Tequesta Indian midden located on the river. Meet at East Greynolds Park, 16700 Biscayne Boulevard.

#### KAYAK RENTALS

Fully equipped "sit on top" ocean kayak rentals available at the following Miami-Dade Park sites:

CRANDON PARK VISITOR AND BISCAYNE

6767 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne

Nature Center Phone: (305) 361-6767, Ext. 112 (Weekday Rentals available)

Kayak Aquatic Concession Phone: (305) 365-3067

Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Rates: Single or 2 Person Kayak: \$15.00/Hour

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or \$30.00/3 Hours Snorkeling Gear Rental: \$7.00 Daily

North Beach Kayak Aquatic Concession located on the beach southeast of the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center. Enter at North Beach Entrance Parking Lot # 1.

# **GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE** Fully equipped "sit on top" ocean kayaks 17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach Phone: (305) 948-2891 & Park Office (305) 945-3425 Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays

Time: 10:00A.M. – 5:00P.M. Rates: \$4.50/Adult, \$3.00/Child - Per Half Hour Rentals are located at the Boathouse

#### CANOE RENTALS

Fully equipped canoe rentals are available at the following Miami-Dade Park sites:

**GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE** 17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach Phone: (305) 948-2891 & Park Office (305) 945-3425 Saturdays & Sundays & Holidays Time: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Rates: \$4.50/Adult, \$3.00/Child - Per Half Hour Rentals are located at the Boathouse

**BILL SADOWSKI PARK & NATURE CENTER** 17555 S.W. 79th Avenue, South Miami Phone: (305) 255-4767 Saturdays & Sundays Time: 10:00AM - 5:00PM Rates: \$7.00/Adult, \$4.00/Child - Per Hour

Rentals are located at the Nature Center

All participants must sign a Rental Agreement. A Release of Liability form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for participants of minority age (under 18 years of age) for all rentals.











# **Bike Tours**

South Florida's spring season's blend of lower humidity and cooler temperatures is a great motivation to go outdoors and do fun things like biking park bike trails! Miami-Dade Parks offers a variety of naturalist-guided bike tours where you can exert some of that energy exploring and enjoying the rich natural and cultural history of South Florida. Our bike tours are designed for all skill levels from beginners to experienced cyclists. All biking equipment including safety helmet (required) is provided, and we use hybrid Mountain bikes for tours. Participants must be nine years of age and older. Children sized bikes are not available. It is encouraged they bring their own bikes.

#### WHAT TO BRING?

For your comfort and enjoyment of your bike tour, please the following:

- Snack
- Water (1 quart minimum)
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat
- Insect repellent

Registrations are required. Please call (305) 365-3018 for all bike tour registrations. Group Rates are available. Most tours require a minimum number of registrations before the tour can be conducted. All bike tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and registration minimums.



#### NEW CASTELLOW HAMMOCK – BLACK **POINT PEDDLE-PADDLE**

Saturday, March 25, 2006 Time: 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Fee: \$35.00/Person (Includes canoes, life vests, paddles,

bikes and helmets)

(You may bring your own bike)

Rated: Moderate - Vigorous

If you are into a true adventurous workout in the outdoors, this activity is for You! Enjoy a moderately paced bike ride from Castellow Hammock Park to historic Black Point where participants will then board canoes for a naturalist guided canoe trip along the shores of Biscayne Bay. Meet at Castellow Hammock Park.

#### CRANDON PARK'S KEY BISCAYNE **BIKE ADVENTURE**

Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9 - 14) \$20.00 (Ride your own bike)

Rate: Easy - Moderate

Come and explore beautiful Key Biscayne as you bike along the streets and scenic paths of this historic barrier island. Meet at the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center.

#### ECO-BIKE TOUR AT METROZOO IS Back! Saturdays, February 18, March 4, 18, & April 15, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Fee: \$25.00/Person – Includes bike & helmet rental \$20.00/Person - Ride your own bike

(Includes a Zoo admission pass for a future zoo visit) Rate: Easy to Moderate

Join the naturalist from Castellow Hammock Park on this leisurely paced round-trip bike ride through endangered pine rockland habitat that surrounds Miami Metrozoo to view native plants and birds. In partnership with Miami Metrozoo you will learn about their conservation efforts to manage the pine rockland and get an up-close glimpse of the zoo before hours as the animals and keepers are beginning their day. After your bike adventure, you can spend the day at the zoo experiencing many of the wildlife exhibits and fun activities, or come back another day. Meet in front of the campground store in Larry and Penny Thompson Park's campground.

#### NEW MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK **BIKE TOUR**



Time: 9:00AM

Fee: \$25.00/Person - Includes bike 7 helmet rental \$20.00/Person – Ride your own bike

Rate: Easy to Moderate

This naturalist-guided biking adventure takes you along wooded trails and the scenic bay shore of beautiful Biscayne Bay for a leisurely peddle through Matheson Hammock Park and places of interest on Old Cutler Road. Participants will learn the history of the park and view birds of the park and view birds and other interesting wildlife. Meet at the Redfish Grill by the atoll pool for start of the tour.

#### REDLAND HISTORIC BIKE HIKE

Date: Saturday, March 25, 2006 Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Person - Includes bike & helmet rental \$20.00/Person - Ride your own bike

Rated: Moderate (12-mile round trip)

Join Castellow Hammock naturalists on this 3 hour, leisurelypaced, 12-mile bike hike through the Redland with a stopover nt Redland Fruit & Spice Park. You will learn about James Castellow, Hainlin's saw mill, Anderson's Corner, Redland Farmlife School, the Bauer Family, and more. Meet at Castellow Hammock Park.

# **Everglades Wilderness Eco Adveníures**

Pack your "Sense of Adventure" and come enjoy a funfilled day of exploration where you have an opportunity to see wildlife up close as you return to the old Florida charm found in some of South Florida's wilderness parks and preserves. We take pride in minimizing impact on the environment while you encounter and unlock the magic of places like the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp. For your comfort, you will be transported in our air-conditioned Eco-vans. Fee includes transportation and interpretive naturalist guide. For information, reservations and group and customized tours, call Eco-Adventures at (305) 365-3018.

#### **WHAT TO BRING?**

For your comfort and enjoyment of your Eco Wilderness tour, please bring the following unless otherwise stated:

- Dress for weather
- Long-sleeved shirt and hat
- Lunch and Snack
- Water (1 quart minimum)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses ■ Insect Repellent
- Shoes you don't mind getting wet
- Sealable plastic or dry bag to secure important belongings

Registrations are required. Please call (305) 365-3018 for all wilderness van tour registrations. Group Rates are available. Most tours require a minimum number of registrations before the trip can be conducted. All tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and registration minimums.

#### CYPRESS SWAMP TROMP

Date: March 4, April 1, & May 6, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Full Day) Fee: \$45.00/Person, \$20.00/Child (Ages 9-17)

Rated: Easy to Moderate (A wet wading tour through a Join park naturalists on this fun hike exploring wet prairies,

sloughs, and cypress swamps to view wildflowers, wading birds, colorful butterflies, and other wildlife that inhabits this watery wilderness. You will get wet pending water levels in the swamp. Bring a change of shoes. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

#### NEW EVERGLADES EXPLORATION ECOTOUR

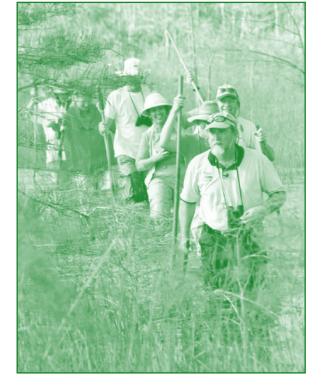
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Date: February 24, March 10, 24, April 14, & 28, 2006

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$45.00/Person (Airboat ride and lunch are extra) Rated: Easy to moderate

Experience the true Everglades as you travel and explore with our naturalist guides into the heart of Glades country to view spectacular wading birds, alligators and other amazing wildlife and sub-tropical plants. You will explore this unique watery wilderness area by van, airboat, and a short hike through Everglade's habitats. Your tour will be highlighted by a





genuine Glades lunch consisting of frog legs, alligator tail and an assortment of sandwiches at the Coopertown Restaurant (Children's menu is available). *Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors* and Biscayne Nature Center.

#### FAKAHATCHEE SWAMP ECO TOUR

Saturday, March 18, & April 8, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$45.00/Adult, \$20.00/Child (Áges 9-17) Rated: Easy to Moderate (Pending water levels)

This is wild Florida at its best. Leave your inhibitions behind and follow your naturalist guide into the heart of the Fakahatchee Strand, a botanical wonder rich in ferns, palms, and a variety of air plants and orchids. Here too is where your footprint may mingle with those of the Florida panther, Black bear, Whitetailed deer and Everglades mink. Prepare to wade through water pending levels in the swamp. Bring a change of shoes. Transportation is provided in our eco-vans. Meet at Trail Glades Range on U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail).

#### LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE **REFUGE TOUR**

Date: Saturday, February 19, March 26, & April 23, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$45.00/Adult, \$20.00/Child (9-17 years)

Rated: Easy

Spend a day exploring the northern Everglades with Greynolds Park naturalists. This trip features a cypress swamp boardwalk and marsh trail explorations. Spot wading birds, hawks, alligators, and waterfowl that inhabit the area. Bring lunch and water. *Meet* at the Greynolds Park Boathouse.

# **NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS**

**ESCAPE TO NATURE!** 

Miami-Dade Park's countywide nature centers offer a variety of nature-based workshops, classes, campfire programs, childrens camp programs, and a variety of nature walks, wading tours and night hikes to help you expand your knowledge of South Florida's unique sub-tropical environment. We invite you to share an outdoor adventure with your child or spouse and have fun learning something new! Special group scouts, and school tours are available at each nature center and nature-based park. Call the park for additional information and program registration.

#### ARCH CREEK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

1855 N.E. 135th Street North Miami, Florida Phone: (305) 944-6111

ARCH CREEK TRAIL TOURS

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Fee: \$3.00/Person

Join us on this naturalist-guided tour through a native tropical hardwood hammock where pioneers of present day North Miami settled and the prehistoric Tequesta Indians thrived for hundreds of years living off the land. For special group tours call (305) 944-6111. Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.

ARCH CREEK GHOST TOURS

Wednesdays February 22, 2006 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2006 April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2006 May 3, 10, 17, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Fee: \$5.00/Person Rated: Easy

Take a naturalist-guided tour of Arch Creek Park and learn about its historic spooky past. Hear personal accounts of ghostly encounters that occurred in the park since the late 1800's and maybe have a chilling close encounter of your own. For reservation and special group tours call (305) 944-6111. Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.

ARCH CREEK PARK FAMILY FUN DAY

Date: Sundays, February 26, March 12, 26, April 9, & 23, 2006 Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Bring the whole family for a fun Sunday afternoon adventure at the park. Go on an archaeological dig, make pottery like the Tequesta Indians, and hike along our nature trails learning about plants and animals in the park. For reservation call (305) 944-6111. Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.

#### A.D. BARNES PARK — SENSE OF WONDER NATURE CENTER

3701 S.W. 72nd Avenue South Miami, Florida Phone: (305) 662-4124

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

Daily - Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Explore one of the few remaining native Slash pine-rockland

and tropical hardwood hammock plant communities remaining in South Miami. Discover rare plants, colorful butterflies, and migratory birds. Nature trail is fully accessible. Stop at the nature center for a trail guide and bird checklist. Visit the reptile collection in the nature center. For group tour reservations call

NEW A.D. BARNES PARK EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK Date: Saturdays, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 29, 2006 Time: 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Rated: Fasy

Join park naturalists on an early morning tour of the park to view a variety of song birds that inhabit the woodland areas. Spring is a great time to observe migratory birds such as warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and hawks that utilizes the park as a resting and feeding area before continuing their journey north. Bring your binoculars. A bird checklist for the park will be provided. For further information call (305) 662-4124. Meet at the Nature Center.

#### BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE **CENTER**

17555 S.W. 79TH Avenue Miami, Florida Reservations: Call (305) 255-4767

#### **SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL**

Explore this trail system through a tropical hardwood hammock, lush pinelands, and remnants of an ancient Everglades slough. Look for migratory birds in the spring. Visit the large fresh water fish aquarium in the nature center. For naturalist-guided group tours call (305) 255-4767.

FAMILY CAMPFIRE PROGRAM & NIGHT WALK Date: Fridays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2006 Saturdays, February 18, April 22, & 29, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Join park naturalists to learn about scary nighttime critters and then search for them on the nature trails after dark. Afterwards, enjoy a campfire with marshmallow roast and star viewing with Southern Cross Astronomical Society. *Pre-registration is required. Call* (305) 255-4767. *Meet at the Bill Sadowski Nature Center.* 

#### CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK AND **NATURE CENTER**

22301 S.W. 162nd Avenue Homestead, Florida Phone: (305) 242-7688

#### SELE-CLUDED NATURE TRAIL

Explore a tropical hardwood hammock known for its variety of rare plants, deep limestone solution holes, wildlife, and migratory birds in the spring. Trail guides are available at the nature center.

#### **BUTTERFLY & HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN**

Castellow Hammock Park provides visitors a great opportunity to observe many varieties of colorful native butterflies as well several species of hummingbirds that are attracted to the park's extensive plantings of flowering annuals, shrubs, and trees. Walk-in visitors are welcome.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA NATIVE BUTTERFLIES? Attend the Miami-Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association that meets monthly at Castellow Hammock Park. For butterfly walks and more information check out their website, MiamiBlueEvents@bellsouth.net.

**OWL WALK** 

Date: Friday, March 31, 2005 Saturdays, March 11, & April 8, 2006

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Bring the family on this naturalist guided night hike through a tropical hardwood hammock. See what creatures go bump in the night as we look for Ogre-faced spiders, Nighthawks, Black Witch Moths, and the Eastern Screech Owl. Bring a flashlight. Pre-registration is required, call (305) 242-7688. Meet at the nature center.

NEW BISCAYNE BAY FLATS KAYAK FISHING

Date: Saturday, May 13, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fee: \$45.00/Person (kayak, life vest, paddle provided)

Sharpen your fishing skills alongside a fishing kayak expert vater fishing Participants must provide own fishing gear and other supplies. Salt-water fishing license required for all participants. For more information call (305) 242-7688. Meet at Homestead Bayfront Park parking lot.

NIGHT HIKE AT HATTIE BAUER HAMMOCK

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Fee: \$5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Castellow Hammock Park naturalists are offering the first night hike through Hattie Bauer Hammock, home of the historic Orchid Jungle. The walk will focus on Eastern Screech Owls and other night creatures. Bring a flashlight. Pre-registration is required, call (305) 242-7688. Meet at the main parking area located at 26715 SW 157 Avenue.

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK Date: Sunday, May 14, 2006

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Fee: \$15.00/Person plus Everglades National Park entrance fee of \$10.00/vehicle

Rated: Easy

Join naturalists from Castellow Hammock on this popular leisurely-paced walk on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. Wildflowers abound this time of the year in the prairies, pinelands, and hammocks of the Everglades. Meet at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center bookstore.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

2ND ANNUAL BIRD AND BUTTERFLY GARDENING **FESTIVAL** 

Saturday, May 20, 2006 Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Fee: \$4.00/Person

Bring the whole family and spend the day at Castellow Hammock Park for our 2nd Annual Bird and Butterfly Gardening Festival. Bird and butterfly attracting plant sales, informative lectures, garden tours, kids' corner, and whole lot more! For more information call (305) 242-7688.

#### CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND **BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER**

6767 Crandon Boulevard

Key Biscayne, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 361-6767. Special group tours are available. Enter through Parking Lot # 1, North Beach Entrance Parking Fee: \$5.00/Vehicle

The Bear Cut Preserve is a 265-acre natural barrier island habitat located on the northern tip of Key Biscayne. Guided tours and educational programs are offered year round for all ages - from low tide marine beach and wading tours, to bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling, and bicycling. Visit the center's exhibit room and aquariums with different recreated underwater habitats. Self-guided nature trails are available. Trail Guides are available in the Nature Center. The Nature Center is open daily, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

BEAR CUT PRESERVE HAMMOCK NATURE TRAIL WALK Saturdays & Sundays Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fee: \$2.00/Person

On this naturalist-guided tour, explore coastal hammock, dunes, and beach habitats of the preserve. Learn about seasonal plants and animals that inhabit this rich yet hostile environment. Reservations are required. Please call the Nature Center at (305) 361-6767 ext. 112. Meet at the Nature Center.

CRANDON PARK BIRD WALK Date: Saturday, March 11, 2006 Time: 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM Fee: \$3.00/Person

Rated: Easy Join the naturalist team at Crandon Park and learn about the local and migratory birds found in Bear Cut Preserve on Key Biscayne. Explore various habitats of the park while finding and identifying numerous bird species that inhabit this area. Reservations are required. *Please call the Nature Center at (305) 361-6767 ext.* 112. Meet at the Nature Center.



CRANDON PARK HERITAGE TRAM TOUR **Saturdays** 

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sundays

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Fee: \$2.00/Adult, \$1.00/Child

Tram rides also available on weekdays, weekends and holidays upon request for birthday parties and other special events. Spice up your party or corporate event with an adventure like no other. Enjoy a tram ride through beautiful Crandon Park and Bear Cut Preserve. Learn about the island of Key Biscayne and its fascinating history. From the Tequesta Indians, to the explorers, to the pirates and pioneers, it's been an amazing journey. Reservation are required, please call the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center at (305) 261-6767 ext. 112. For your party/event, the tram will meet your group at a picnic area where party/event is taking place.

#### CRANDON PARK NATURE ADVENTURES Available upon request

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Look what the tide washed in! Crandon Park Naturalists now offers a series of nature-based, educational programs for birthday parties, Scout groups, after-school programs or other special events. Programs offered include themed nature walks, tram tours, barrier island ecology studies, sea turtle presentations, historic carousel rides and much, much, more! Reservations are required. *Please call the Crandon Visitors and* Biscayne Nature Center at (305) 361-6767 ext 112. Meet at the Nature Center.

**CRANDON PARK NATURE ADVENTURES** 

TRAVELING PROGRAMS

Available upon request Fee: \$5.00/Person

If you can't come to us, let us bring the outdoors to you! Crandon Park Naturalists now offer a series of nature-based, educational programs for birthday parties, Scout groups, after school programs or other special events. Our traveling naturalists bring a complete classroom presentation to your home or facility. It's a great way to introduce your group to Florida's natural side. Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center at (305) 361-6767 ext 112.





TIL SUNDOWN AT CRANDON PARK 🕕 Second Sunday of the Month

March 12 – Time: 2:00 PM – Sundown April 9, and May 14, 2006 - Time: 4:00 PM - Sundown

Come relax, listen to music, learn something new about nature and enjoy Sunday's till Sundown with the naturalist team at Crandon Park. On the second Sunday of each month, Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation along with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center will be hosting a slough of exciting afternoon nature activities, guest speakers and live music from 2:00 PM till Sundown. Please call the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center at (305) 261-6767 for more details, Enter the North Beach Entrance Parking Lot # 1.

#### DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

16701 S.W. 72 Avenues Miami, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 235-1668.

**DEERING ESTATE HISTORIC & NATURAL AREA TOURS** Daily - please call seasonal tour times (305) 235-1668 Time: Estate Opens 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Fee: \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child

(Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes) Meet at the Visitor Center

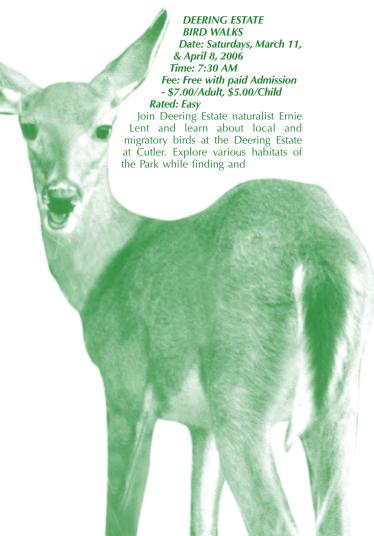
#### **DEERING ESTATE HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS**

See and walk through some of South Florida's earliest buildings. The Richmond Cottage was built between 1896 and 1916, and is one of the finest remaining examples of South Florida vernacular architecture designed to capture those summer breezes. The Stone House built in 1922 is a unique example of Florida Mediterranean Revival style architecture. Meet at the Visitor Center.

NEW DEERING ESTATE NIGHT WALKS Date: Thursday, March 2, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fee: Free with paid Admission - \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child Rated: Easy

Come see the Deering Estate and discover a new world after dark! Take a guided hike through the natural areas looking for night critters and enjoy a cool night outdoors during these spring months. Pre-registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.





identifying numerous bird species that inhabit the area. Preregistration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**DEERING ESTATE BUTTERFLY WALKS** Date: Saturdays, March 18 & April 15, 2006 Time: 2:00 PM

Fee: Free with paid Admission - \$7.00/Adult, \$5.00/Child Rated: Easy

A Deering Estate naturalist leads butterfly programs designed for beginners and experts. Explore various habitats of the Park while finding and identifying numerous species that inhabit the area. Pre-registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NATIVE PLANT DAY AT THE DEERING ESTATE Saturday, March 4, 2006 Time: Full Day Event

Fee: Entrance to the Estate will be half-price - \$3.50/Person The annual Native Plant Day will be at the Deering Estate at Cutler. It is a full day of learning about native plants with programs, nature walks, displays, children's activities, plant and book sales and all-around good time. Programs and walks will cover a variety of landscaping and plant care topics and plants in natural areas.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA NATIVE **PLANTS?** Join the Dade County Native Plant Workshop that meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM., Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, 1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Road on SW 176th Street. The workshop focuses on the study of plant identification and taxonomy. For more information call Steve Woodmansee (305) 247-6547.

#### **NEW SOUTH FLORIDA NATURE GUIDE INTRODUCED!**

The new "South Florida Nature Guide – Discover the Hidden Treasures!" You will discover nature's hidden treasures. Pick up you copy at Miami-Dade Parks Nature Centers. This first-ever guide provides an opportunity for you and visitors to South Florida to an overview of the 45 county, state and national parks

stretching from Miami to Key West along Florida's southeast coast! Have you ever wanted to know all about the hiking trails in southeast Florida? How about all the places you can snorkel? Are you curious to find all the great bird watching spots? Well this guide is your key to unlocking the best kept nature secrets that southeast Florida has to offer! For more information or to receive your copy by mail, call (305) 365-3018.

#### **GREYNOLDS PARK**

17530 W. Dixie Highway North Miami Beach, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 948-2891 or Park Office (305) 945-3425

**GREYNOLDS PARK GUIDED NATURE & HISTORY TOURS** Saturdays and Sundays Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Fee:\$3.00/Person

Parking Fee: \$4.00/Vehicle Rated: Easy

Travel back in time with park naturalists to view plants and animals along wooded trails and hear stories of the park's rich history. Special group tours available. *Meet at the* Greynolds Boathouse.

BACK COUNTRY FISHING WORKSHOP AT GREYNOLDS PARK Saturday, February 25, 2006 Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost: \$15.00/Person

Naturalist and avid fisherman Roger Hammer is offering this popular workshop that will help sharpen your skills when fishing the shallow backcountry waters of south Florida for such popular fish as snook, redfish, tarpon, and sea trout. Fishing techniques, choosing the right bait and tackle, moon phases, understanding tides, fishing the right seasons, and other expert advice will be offered during this informative class. Pre-registration is required, call (305) 242-7688. Meet at the dining hall at Camp Greynolds located at 17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD MAMMAL – THE BAT! (PRESENTATION & NIGHT WALK)

Date: Friday, March 17, 2006 Saturdays, February 25, March 11, April 15 & 22, 2006 Time: 7:00 PM

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Learn all about bats and discover why they are so beneficial to us. Discover myths and misconceptions of bats through a slide lecture and as you encounter live bats (Egyptian fruit bats). A naturalist guided night hike through Greynolds Park will follow the presentation. Bring water and a flashlight. Reservations are required call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Boathouse.

GREYNOLDS PARK OWL PROWL

Date: Fridays, February 24, & March 10, 24, 2006 Saturdays, February 18, March 18, 25, April 8, 2006 Sunday, April 30, 2006

Time: 7:30 PM Fee: \$5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Join Greynolds Park naturalists exploring along park trails for the elusive Eastern Screech Owl and other creatures of the night. Bring a flashlight. Reservations are required call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Park Boathouse.

CAMP GREYNOLDS CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS

Date: Sundays, February 26, March 12, 26 & April 2, 30, 2006 Time: 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Fee: \$15.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Enjoy a fun evening around a campfire at Camp Greynolds hearing nature-based stories about Native American Indians, making crafts and roasting marsh mallows. The program begins at the Greynolds Park Boathouse for an adventurous hike along park trails learning about medicinal and edible plants, and then you will take a short canoe tour to the campfire ring located at Camp Greynolds on the Oleta River. This is a great program for the whole family to enjoy together. Reservations are required call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Park Boathouse for the start of the program.

#### MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

9610 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 662-4124 (Sense of Wonder Nature Ctr.)

MATHESON HAMMOCK BAYSHORE WADING TOUR

Date: Sundays, March 12, 26, April 9, 16, 23, May 7, 21 & 28, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Fee: \$5.00/Person

Rated: Easy (Parts of the tour are conducted in the water)

On this naturalist-guided tour you will explore the shoreline and sea grass flats of Biscayne Bay. You will be amazed how rich this viable marine community is in marine plants and animals. Learn how important the tidal flats and mangrove-lined forests of the Bay are to the survival of many plants and animals that inhabit this area. Special group tours available. Reservations are required call (305) 662-4124. Meet in front of the Redfish Grill.

MATHESON HAMMOCK WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR Date: Sundays, February 19, 26, March 5, 19, April 2, 30 & May 14, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Fee: \$3.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Join park naturalists on this exploration of a tropical hardwood hammock rich in sub tropical trees, shrubs, ferns and epiphytic plants (airplants). Learn about the animals that have adapted to this unique environment. Special group tours are available. *Reservations* are required call (305) 662-4124. Meet in the nature trail parking lot located across from the picnic area on Old Cutler Road.

# **About Eco-Adventures**

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department offers a variety of Eco-Adventure Tours designed to introduce residents and visitors to some of South Florida's most pristine parks and historic sites. Participants will discover the beauty and diversity of this sub-tropical paradise on canoe trips, bike trips, kayaking trips, snorkeling trips, marine wading tours, wildlife encounters, bird watching, and wilderness van tours into some of the best remote wilderness areas of the Everglades, Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida Keys, and local coastal parks. Our naturalist guides are well trained in safety and outdoor skills and have a thorough knowledge of South Florida's natural history. The naturalist-guided tours provide the opportunity to learn historic facts, see native wildlife, study new tropical plants and wildflowers, be mentally and physically refreshed, and enjoy other great experiences. Eco-

Adventures is committed to the principles of

"Leave No Trace," teaching and practicing ways of reducing visitor impact on natural areas and enhance the visitor's experience of the environment.

# Reservation and Registration Information

To make reservations for the tours listed, please contact the Eco-Tourism Office at (305) 365-3018. Some tour reservations can also be made directly by calling the nature center that is offering the activity (see tour listings). Tours are limited to small groups and reservations must be made in advance and are held by credit card. (Group Reservations are confirmed and guaranteed after payment is received.) Credit Cards (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express) are accepted by phone. There is a 24 hour registrant cancellation policy. Standbys will be called to fill spaces. Please make checks or money orders payable to: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. Tours may be cancelled if the minimum number of reservations (Total 4) is not met. All Eco-Adventure tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and reservation minimums.

#### **ECO-ADVENTURES OFFERS CUSTOMIZED PRIVATE** AND GROUP TOURS

For those who like to explore nature and its unique ecosystems, let us help you design your very own naturalist-guided EcoAdventure Tour of the Miami-Dade County's resource-based parks, the Everglades, Big Cypress or Florida Keys! Tell us what your group wants to do and see, and we'll design a special tour for you. We can accommodate groups from six and up. Special kayak, snorkeling, canoe and bike tours are available upon request. For more information and for Group Sales Rates call the Eco-Tourism Office at (305) 365-3018.





**MIAMI-DADE** Delivering Excellence Every Day

**Park and Recreation** 

**Eco-Adventures** 4000 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, FL 33149

#### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# MIAMI-DADE PARKS AND NATURE AREAS

For information on access for persons with disabilities, please call our Leisure Access Services Office at (305) 755-7848

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Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center 22301 SW 162 Avenue, Homestead (305) 242-7688 **Chapman Field Park** 13601 Old Cutler Road, Miami (305) 365-3018

Eco Canoe Tours-Reservation Only

Crandon Visitors and Nature Center/ Crandon Adventures 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-6767 ext 112

4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-5421 Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 235-1668

**Haulover Park** 

**Greynolds Park & Nature Center** 17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach (305) 945-3425 / (305) 948-2891

10800 Collins Avenue, North Miami Beach (305) 947-3525 Kendall Indian Hammocks Park 11345 SW 79 Street, Miami (305) 596-9324

**Larry and Penny Thompson Park** 12451 SW 184 Street, Miami (305) 232-1049

Pelican Harbor Marina 1275 NE 79 Street Causeway (305) 948-2891

Matheson Hammock Park 9610 Old Cutler Road, Miami (305) 666-6979 Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Avenue, Miami (305) 255-4767 **Preston B. Bird and M. Heinlein Fruit & Spice Park** 24801 SW 187 Avenue, Homestead (305) 247-5727

**Miami Metrozoo** 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami (305) 251-0400 / (305) 255-5551

Camp Owaissa Bauer 17001 SW 264 Street, Homestead (305) 247-6016 Group Camp Facility-Reservation Only

# **Eco-Adventure Tours Newsletter**

Volume 12

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Published by the Miami-Dade County

Vivian Donnell-Rodriguez Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Sally Timberlake Editor, Eco-Adventure Newsletter **EcoAdventures** 

Send questions or comments to: **EcoAdventures** 4000 Crandon Blvd. Key Biscayne, FL 33149 Phone (305) 365-3018 E-mail: ecoadventures@miamidade.gov Website: www.miamidade.gov/parks

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Aileen Landry Crandon Park

Karen Solms Arch Creek Park/Greynolds Park Pelican Harbor Marina

Eduardo Salcedo Deering Estate at Cutler

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Miami-Dade Parks provides quality and diverse recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. Call (305) 755-7848 (V/TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (request 7 days in advance) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.

