

A Eco ADVENTURE TOURS Newsletter



Great Fall Adventures

Summer may be over, but the prime fall Eco-adventure season is just beginning. Escape from the daily pressures of the urban sprawl and enjoy the opportunities and beauty that South Florida's pristine sub-tropical environment has to offer. Our line-up of eco-adventure activities will appeal to a wide range of individuals who enjoy the outdoors and have a desire to go beyond the usual "boundaries" to see and learn about unique areas of Miami-Dade Park's resource-based parks that are rich in nature and history. These activities will appeal to every one of all ages – whether singles, couples, teens, or families. Our fall outings might find you paddling a canoe under a bright moonlit sky or gliding over the sparkling waters of Biscayne Bay in a kayak. Get ready for a real adventure when you don your snorkeling gear to explore rich marine habitats teeming with colorful tropical fish, cushion stars and spotted eagle rays. Or wade through knee-deep water to experience the peace and beauty of the Big Cypress Swamp, or bicycle along remote trails on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park to witness the wealth

of fall wildflowers tucked away in the River of Grass. Be sure to check out our calendar for naturalist guided nature hikes that are offered at the Miami-Dade Park's countywide nature centers. These leisurely trail tours provide fascinating opportunities to learn more about the history of past Native Americans, observe wildflowers, colorful butterflies, iridescent dragonflies or migratory neo-tropical birds.

Do you want to do something different this Halloween that is really eerie and chock full of surprises? Take a ghostly night tour of Arch Creek Park and learn of its spooky past, or explore park trails at Castellow Hammock, Greynolds and Bill Sadowski Parks on our popular bat and owl walks that feature Screech Owls and other nocturnal creatures that lurk in the dark. See our calendar for dates and times of these tours.

Whatever activities you choose, you can count on Miami-Dade Parks and its well-trained naturalist staff to provide you with the best in eco-adventure tours and programs. We guarantee your experience will be rejuvenating, educational and a fun adventure!

Canoe Trips



We are excited about the fall line up of Eco Adventure canoeing in our urban and wilderness parks. Our naturalist's aquatic team has put together a series of tours that offer professionally led outdoor adventures, with the best gear, great park locations, and lots of creative touches. Be sure to check out the rating for each trip. Most are easy to moderate. For all canoe trips, unless otherwise stated, bring snacks, water (1-quart minimum), sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, a wide-brimmed hat and shoes you can get wet.

It is suggested that you place important belongings in a sealable plastic bag or waterproof container. Fee includes all canoeing equipment. Don't forget your binoculars for viewing fall birds and other wildlife. Participants 18 years of age and younger are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form by a parent or legal guardian. County regulations require life vests to be worn at all times by all participants. Children are welcome (under 18 years of age) after completing a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or guardian.

Please call (305) 365-3018 for all canoe trip reservations and more information unless otherwise stated.

BILL SADOWSKI PARK TO CORAL REEF PARK SUNSET CANOE TOUR

Sunday, November 21, 2004

Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Children (Age 14 and under)

Rated: Moderate

We'll take a leisurely paddle to Coral Reef Park in search of wildlife, have a rest and snack, and then head back in time to enjoy a beautiful sunset and flocks of ibis heading to roost. (An adult must accompany children under 18.) Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.

BLACK POINT PARK SUNSET CANOE TOUR

Fee: \$25.00/Adults, \$15.00/Children (Age 14 and under)

Rated: Moderate – Basic canoeing skills required

Join the Bill Sadowski naturalist staff and paddle out to Rainbow Bay to explore marine life and mangrove islands. Bring a picnic to eat and enjoy as you relax in your canoes and watch the sunset. Children under 9 not recommended. (An adult must accompany children under 18.) Please call (305) 365-3018 for more information and future dates. Meet at Black Point Marina restaurant, 24775 S.W. 87 Avenue, Cutler Ridge.

DEERING ESTATE'S CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

Saturdays

November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11, 18, 2004

Sundays

November 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 2004

Time: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$25/Adults, \$15/Children (Ages 9 - 14 years)

Rated: Beginner to Expert

Join Deering Estate Naturalists for a canoe tour of Biscayne Bay and explore the historic island named Chicken Key. The program is designed for beginners and experts alike. Canoe excursions are weather-dependent. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Deering Estate Visitor Center

DEERING ESTATE'S "MOONLIGHT" CANOE EXCURSION

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Time: 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Fee: \$35/Adults (Ages 18 and older only)

Rated: Beginner to Expert

Glide across Biscayne Bay to Chicken Key under the light of the full moon. Canoe Excursions are weather-dependent. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Deering Estate Visitor Center.

CRANDON PARK'S CANOE ADVENTURE

Saturdays

Time: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Sundays

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM (3:00 PM – 5:00 PM after October 31st)

Holidays

Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11, 2004

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25, 2004

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2004

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31, 2004

Time: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11, 2004

Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26, 2004

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Children (Age 14 and under)

Resident Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$ 15.00/Children (Age 14 and under)

Group rates also available.

Rated: Easy-Moderate (3 miles)

This naturalist-led canoe trip explores the forgotten and secret part of Key Biscayne. Explore this peaceful water wilderness where great blue herons, spotted eagle rays, upside down jelly fish, and green iguanas lurk among the mangrove fringes. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

CRANDON GARDENS CANOE TOUR

Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$15.00/Children (Age 14 and under)

Resident Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$ 15.00/Children under 14 years.

Group rates also available.

Rated: Easy-Moderate

This naturalist-led canoe trip takes you back in time as you explore the site of the original Crandon Park Zoo. As you canoe down the garden's serene channels, you're sure to spot basking iguanas, rare and exotic birds and on occasion an endangered salt water crocodile. Call (305) 365- 3018 for more information and future dates. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

GREYNOLDS PARK HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TOUR

Saturdays

November 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2004

December 4, 11 & 18, 2004

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Age 14 and under)

Rated: Moderate

Join Greynolds and Arch Creek naturalists to view the many wading birds and mammals that inhabit the river ecosystem and visit an undisturbed Tequesta Indian midden. Reservations are required. Please call at least one week in advance. Tour leaves from East Greynolds Park, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach.

MATHESON HAMMOCK MANGROVES CANOE TOUR

Saturdays and Sundays

Time: 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM

Fee: \$25/Person

Rated: Easy

Be a part of our A.D. Barnes Park naturalist-led canoe trips out of Matheson Hammock Park and through Biscayne Bay. Explore a mangrove forest and discover the secretive lives of the wildlife that inhabit it. Meet us by the Redfish Grill.

CANOE WORKSHOPS

CRANDON'S TEEN CANOE WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 23, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$20.00/Teen (Age 13-18)

Rated: Beginner

What better way to pass the time during the holiday break than heading to the beach! Join other teens and have a blast learning the fundamentals of canoeing, basic strokes, steering, and safety skills. Please come prepared with sun protection, drinks, and shoes you can get wet. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

BILL SADOWSKI CANOE WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Fee: \$20.00

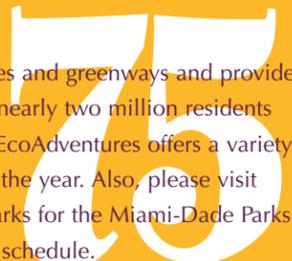
Rated: Beginner

Join the Bill Sadowski naturalists and learn the fundamentals of canoeing, basic strokes, steering and safety skills while enjoying the outdoors. Come prepared with sun protection, water and shoes you don't mind getting wet. Meet at the Nature Center.

MIAMI-DADE PARKS CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Miami-Dade Parks is celebrating its 75th anniversary of providing outstanding recreational facilities and programming to South Florida residents and visitors. The Department manages more than 12,000 acres, roughly half of which are environmentally sensitive or threatened natural areas, maintains more than 283

parks, recreation facilities and greenways and provides recreational services to nearly two million residents and visitors of all ages. EcoAdventures offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Also, please visit www.miamidade.gov/parks for the Miami-Dade Parks 75th anniversary events schedule.



Nature Centers

Nature Walks and Parks Programs

ARCH CREEK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

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

Arch Creek Park & Nature Center's new exhibit on the Tequesta Indians features the life history of these early inhabitants of the park through a collection of photographs, artifacts found on the park site and historic tours of the park. The collection also includes other historic objects that have been found in the park over time.

ARCH CREEK TRAIL TOURS

Saturdays
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 the pioneers of North Miami once lived and the prehistoric Tequesta Indians thrived for hundreds of years living off the land. **Call for reservations at least 1 day in advance (305) 944-6111. Meet at Arch Creek Museum. Group tours are available upon request.**

ARCH CREEK PARK FAMILY DAY IN THE PARK

Sunday, November 7, 21 & December 5, 19, 2004
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Fee: \$5/Person

Bring the whole family for a fun Sunday afternoon adventure at Arch Creek Park. Go on an Archaeological dig, make pottery like the Tequesta Indians, and hike along our nature trails. **For reservations call (305) 944-6111.**

ARCH CREEK GHOST TOURS

Wednesday, November 3, 10, 17, 24 & December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2004
Time: 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person

Take a night tour of Arch Creek Park and learn about its spooky past. Hear personal accounts of ghostly encounters that have occurred at Arch Creek since the late 1800's and maybe have an encounter of your own. **Meet at the Arch Creek Museum. Call (305) 944-6111 for reservations at least 1 day in advance. Special group tours are available by reservation.**

ARCH CREEK JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM

Saturday Afternoons

November 6 Park History
November 13 Birds
November 20 Butterflies
December 4 Mammals
December 11 Reptiles / Amphibians
December 18 Plants
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Fee: \$5/ Child (Ages 6 – 12)

Hey kids! Bring your parents and participate in Arch Creek's Junior Naturalist program! Take part in themed activities and games and receive a certificate at the completion of the program. **For more information and reservations required please call (305) 944-6111.**

A.D. BARNES PARK – SENSE OF WONDER NATURE CENTER

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

A.D. Barnes Park's Sense of Wonder Nature Center opened its living exhibit on reptiles featuring a living exhibit of common native South Florida snakes and exotics species such as boas and pythons. that are more popular with snake collectors The exhibit includes an informative section on venomous snakes and other venomous creatures (scorpions, spiders, and poison dart frogs) designed to teach children how to recognize these creatures, especially in the wild, and how to avoid them. The Reptile Exhibit was developed with the assistance of the Miami-Dade Fire Department's Anti-Venom Unit. Not only is it a great way to learn about native snakes, turtles and lizards, it is also a great way to see them from a SAFE distance! **For special tours and programs on reptiles call the Nature Center (305) 662-4124.**

NATURE TRAIL TOURS

Daily
Time: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

This self-guided trail tour winds through one of the few remaining native Slash pine-rockland and tropical hardwood hammock plant communities remaining in South Miami. This special area in the park provides a rich habitat for rare plants, butterflies and migratory birds. **For naturalist-guided group tour reservations, call (305) 662-4124.**

THE "DISCOVER YOUR PARK" SERIES

Saturday, November 13 & December 4, 11, 18, 2004
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Fee: \$4.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Join a naturalist from A.D. Barnes Park as we explore the paved trail of this park and discover wildlife that inhabits your neighborhood parks. **Call (305) 662-4124 for more information. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Nature Center.**

THE "NIGHT WALK" SERIES

Wednesday, November 3 & December 1, 2004
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Fee: \$4.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Come burn off some weekday steam as you take a relaxing walk through our paved trails. Be prepared to meet some interesting nighttime creatures. Don't forget your flashlights! **Call (305) 662-4124 for more information. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Nature Center.**



BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER

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

Visit the fresh water fish aquarium exhibit at Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center. This exhibit represents a collection of aquatic animals that once inhabited the finger-glades eco-systems that historically flowed through the park and emptied into coastal marshes along Biscayne Bay. Also on exhibit are many of the exotic fresh water fish that have invaded the Everglades fresh water eco-system. You will be surprised and alarmed on how many of our native fresh water fish species have been displaced by exotic fish species in their native habitats. **For special group tours and programs call the Nature Center (305) 255-4767.**

NATURE TRAIL TOURS

The park provides a self-guided nature trail system through lush tropical hardwood hammocks, slash pine rockland communities and the remnants of an Everglades slough ecosystem that features a variety of fern-covered oolitic limestone rock formations and solution holes. Park naturalists also offer guided trail tours, call (305) 255-4767.

FAMILY CAMPFIRE AND NIGHT WALK

Saturday, Nov. 6, 27; December 11, 18, 2004
Time: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Fee : \$5/ Person

Join park naturalists to learn about scary nighttime critters and then search for them on the nature trail after dark. Afterwards, enjoy a campfire with marshmallow roast and star viewing with Southern Cross Astronomical Society. **Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.**

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

Saturday, November 20 & December 11, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON
Fee: Free

Join park naturalists and Natural Areas Management staff to learn about native plants and do your part to help make our parks more beautiful. **Call (305) 255-4767 for more information. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK

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

This popular nature center offers great opportunities to observe a large variety of native colorful butterflies that are attracted to the park's extensive butterfly demonstration garden. Also look for hummingbirds, migratory songbirds, and Painted buntings during the fall and winter seasons. **Pre-registration is required for all activities at the park, please call (305) 242-7688.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK NATURE TRAIL TOURS

Naturalist-guided and self-guided nature tours lead you through a half-mile tropical hardwood hammock known for its variety of rare plants, animals, and migratory birds. Walk-in visitors are welcome from dawn to dusk.

OWL WALK AT CASTELLOW HAMMOCK

Thursday, November 18; December 2 & 16, 2004
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Fee: \$5/Person

Bring the entire family to join our Naturalist staff for a 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. Taped calls of the Eastern Screech Owl will be used to attempt to lure them close enough for viewing. Bring a flashlight. **Meet at the Castellow Hammock Nature Center.**

BUTTERFLY AND HUMMINGBIRD GARDENING

WORKSHOP AT CASTELLOW HAMMOCK

Saturday, November 6, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Fee: \$15/Person

In this popular class, Senior Naturalist Roger Hammer covers all aspects of gardening to help you create an oasis for hummingbirds and butterflies in your own back yard. Flowering trees, shrubs, and vines that will help you attract these winged jewels will be discussed. Fee includes an educational hand-out. **Meet at the Castellow Hammock Nature Center.**

CAMP OWAISSA BAUER OWL WALK AND CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, November 23 & December 14, 2004
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Fee: \$10/Person

Bring the entire family to join our naturalists for a guided night hike through a tropical hardwood hammock followed by a campfire program. See what creatures go bump in the night as we look for Ogrerfaced spiders, Nighthawks, Black Witch Moths and the Eastern Screech Owl. Then join us around the campfire to roast marshmallows, sing songs and tell stories. Taped calls of the Eastern Screech Owl will be used to attempt to lure them close enough for viewing. Bring a flashlight. **Meet at Camp Owaissa Bauer.**

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND NATURE CENTER

6767 Crandon Boulevard
Key Biscayne, Florida
Phone: (305) 361-6767

Enter through North Beach Parking Lot # 1

Parking Fee: \$ 5.00/Per Vehicle

The Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center is your gateway to the Bear Cut Preserve, 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 walks to birdwatching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and bicycling. Coming in November, you can also visit the center's newly renovated exhibit room containing 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.**

CRANDON PARK'S BEAR CUT PRESERVE

NATURE TRAIL TOURS

Saturdays & Sundays
Time: 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Fee: \$ 2.00/Person

Naturalist guided tours through the coastal hammock and plant scrub habitats that feature the flora and fauna that inhabit this upland plant community. Learn how the plants and animals adapt and interact with other creatures in this hostile, yet fascinating coastal marine environment. **For group tour reservations, call (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitor and Nature Center.**

CRANDON PARK'S SHORE BIRD MIGRATION WALKS

Saturday's - Starting November 6 through November 27, 2004
Time: 8:00 AM
Fee: \$3.00/Person

The seasonal migration kicks off the seasonal migration of hundreds of shore birds is distinctly visible as they forage and rest on the Crandon Flats on their southward journey. Observe and learn how to identify the many species of shorebirds that depend upon coastal parks like Crandon for survival. Look for other migratory birds along park trails.

Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.

WONDER OF BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Time: 8:00 AM
Fee: \$3.00/Person

Join a Crandon Park naturalist as you learn the basics of bird watching and butterfly and moth identification. You and your guide will explore the shoreline and trails of the Bear Cut preserve in search of these resident and migratory marvels. This is an excellent program for beginner naturalists. Be sure to bring binoculars! **Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

CRANDON 'S BUTTERFLY WALKS

Sundays - Starting November 7 through November 28, 2004
Time: 9:00 AM
Fee: \$3.00/Person

Explore the trails of the Bear Cut preserve with a naturalist guide in search of the many resident and migratory species of butterflies and moths. Learn about life cycles, host plants, behaviors, conservation issues and much more! Reservations are required. **Please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

CRANDON'S LITTLE NATURALISTS

Friday, November 26, 2004
Tuesday, December 21 & 28, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Fee: \$10.00/Child (Ages 8 and younger)

What do you do when there's no school? HEAD TO THE BEACH! Your young naturalist will have the opportunity to participate in nature hikes, habitat studies, butterfly and bird watching, sea turtle programs and much, much more! Reservations are required. **Please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Celebrate Native American Day at Crandon Park! Learn about the fascinating history of the very first inhabitants of Key Biscayne – the Tequesta's. Bring the family and participate in arts and crafts, nature walks, and canoe tours along Biscayne Bay, kayak trips, and much more. **For more information, please contact the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767.**

CRANDON'S TEEN ORIENTEERING WORKSHOP

Thursday, December 30, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$10.00/Teen (Age 13-18)

Ever wanted to participate in an eco-adventure race where map and compass skills are the key to succeeding! Here's your chance to learn the basic skills on how to navigate through the wilderness in this action packed program. Whether you are on a trail or the beach, you will learn to find your way simply using a compass and map. **Reservations are required. Please call (305) 361-6767 for more information. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY 101 AT CRANDON PARK

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$10.00/Person

Capture nature's beauty! This exciting program is perfect for the amateur photographer. Learn the basics of photographing your subjects in their natural habitats. Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Park Visitor's and Nature Center directly at (305) 361-6767. **Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

16701 S.W. 72 Avenue
Miami, Florida
Phone: (305) 235-1668

DEERING ESTATE TOURS

Daily – Please call for seasonal tour times (305) 235-1668

Times: Estate Open 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Fee: \$ 7.00/Adult, \$ 5.00/Child

(Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes)

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 vernacular architecture designed to capture those summer sea breezes. The Stone House built in 1922 is a unique example of Florida's Mediterranean Revival style architecture. **Meet at the Visitor Center.**

Bike Tours



DEERING ESTATE NATURAL AREAS TRAIL TOURS

Enjoy this naturalist-guided tour through a tropical hardwood hammock to a Tequesta burial mound as well as a half-mile boardwalk system that winds through a coastal mangrove eco-system. You will discover and learn about the estates archeological sites, rare native plants, butterflies, seasonal migratory birds and other related wildlife. Bring along a pair binoculars, drinking water and insect repellent. **Meet at the Visitor Center.**

BIRD WALK

Saturday, November 13 & December 11

Time: 7:30 AM-10:00 AM

Fee: Free with paid park admission

Learn about local and migrating birds at the Deering Estate at Cutler. Explore various habitats of the Park while finding and identifying numerous bird species. **Call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

BUTTERFLY WALKS

Saturday, November 20 & December 18, 2004

Times: 2:00 PM – 3:30PM

Fee: Free with Park admission

Deering Estate naturalist lead butterfly programs designed for beginners and experts. Explore various habitats of the Park while finding and identifying numerous butterfly species. **Pre-Registration is required, please call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

GREYNOLDS PARK

17530 W. Dixie Highway
North Miami Beach, Florida
Phone: (305) 948-2891

GREYNOLDS PARK GUIDED HISTORIC NATURE WALK

Saturdays and Sundays

Time: 2:00 PM

Fee: \$3/Person

See animals in their natural surroundings and learn about the park's plant life while trekking to some of the less known areas of Greynolds. **For Reservations call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Boathouse Visitor Center.**

GREYNOLDS PARK BAT ENCOUNTER & NIGHT WALK

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Time: 7:30 PM

Fee: \$5/ Person

Rated: Easy

Learn about these fascinating creatures and discover why they are so beneficial to us. Discover myths and misconceptions about these gentle animals. Find out what you can do to protect these unique mammals. Program consists of a short (30 minute) slide presentation followed by an "up close encounter" with an Egyptian fruit bat and then a night hike through Greynolds Park where we may encounter wild foraging native bats. During the hike you also get the opportunity to get to see the use of a sonar detector. Along our way, we may also visit our bat house, which can hold up to 1200 native bats. Don't forget to bring a water bottle and a flashlight. **Reservations are required, please call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Boathouse.**

GREYNOLDS PARK HISTORICAL NATURE WALK

Every Saturday and Sunday

Time: 2:00 PM

Fee: \$3/ Person, \$4/ Per Vehicle entry fee

Rating: Easy

See animals in their natural surroundings and learn about the park's plant life by visiting only one of two northern Dade counties relatively intact hardwood hammocks. Along the trek discover the parks' unique and rich history. Don't forget to bring a water bottle. **Reservations are required, please call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Boathouse.**

GREYNOLDS PARK CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Saturday, November 20 ; December 11, 2004

and January 15 , 29; February 12 & 26, 2005.

Times: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Fee: \$15/Person

Enjoy an evening around a campfire at Camp Greynolds. Begin the program with a hike learning about medicinal, edible and other important plants to our local Native Americans. Then participate in a canoe trip over to the campgrounds where an archeological campfire ring awaits to be discovered. Then relax by the campfire listening to Native American nature based stories, roasting marshmallows, and craft making. **Reservations are required (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Boathouse.**

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

9610 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, Florida

Phone: (305) 662-4124 (Programs)

Phone: (305) 666-6979 (Park)

Join A.D. Barnes naturalists at Matheson Hammock Park to participate in a variety of programs. **Call A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center (305) 662-4124 for more information.**

MIAMI METROZOO

12400 S.W. 152 Street (Coral Reef Drive)

Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 251-0400 (General Zoo Information)

Phone: (305) 255-5551 (Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida)

Fee: Zoo Admission - \$12.00/Person (Includes tax)

Call the Education Department for more information.

For information regarding guided walking tours or indoor educational programs, call (305) 255.5551, or check us out at www.miamimetrozoo.com

TWO NEW CLASSROOM PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO!

Precious Pinelands – Grades 4 - 6

Discover a very unique habitat right here in South Florida, the Pinelands! The rare and endangered Pine Rocklands are home to some fascinating creatures. Discover how the pineland animals live in this fire dependent habitat.

Early Dade County History – Grades 6 - 12

How did the Native Americans live? Join us as we take a trip back in time and see about survival in early life in South Florida, with its natural disasters, and before modern conveniences were available.

The fall season blends lower humidity and cooler temperatures to motivate you to go outdoors and do fun things like biking! We have a variety of bike trips where you can exert some of that energy into peddling on wilderness trails looking for wildflowers and birds in the Everglades, discover the rich history of Key Biscayne, or explore historic country roads of the Redland Farming District. Fees include all biking equipment. For all bike trips, unless otherwise stated, bring a snack, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat for protection against the sun. Sign up now for one of the following naturalist guided trips. Customized tours can also be arranged for groups of six or more by calling the Eco-tourism Office at (305) 365-3018.

CRANDON PARK'S KEY BISCAYNE BIKE TOUR

Saturday, November 27

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, November 28

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Saturday, December 18

Time: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 26

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Fee: \$25.00/Adult (Includes bike and helmet)

\$20.00 (Ride your own bike)

\$15.00/Child

Rated: Easy - Moderate

Come and explore beautiful Key Biscayne as you bike along the streets and paths of this barrier island. Learn about the natural and historical events, which created the Key Biscayne of today. Special group tours are available for dates not listed above. Must be 9 years of age or older. All children under

17 years must wear a helmet (which is provided) by state law. **Reservations are required. Call (305) 365-3018. On Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.**

EVERGLADES WILDFLOWER BIKE TOUR

Fee: \$25.00/Person (Includes bike, helmet, & bottled water)

\$20.00/Person (Ride you own bike)

\$10.00/Vehicle - Entrance Fee to Everglades National Park

Rated: Moderate (12 miles round trip)

Join naturalist Roger Hammer on this leisurely paced, fun and educational 12-mile bike ride on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. We will stop periodically along the trail to observe and learn about the wildflowers found in this unique region. Bring a light lunch to eat at the halfway point next to scenic Pine Glade Lake. Bottled water provided. Meet at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center in Everglades National Park. **Pre-registration is required. Call (305) 242-7688 for more information, future dates and reservations.**

REDLAND HISTORIC BIKE HIKE

Fee: \$25.00/Person (Includes bike, helmet rental and bottled water)

\$20.00/Person - Ride your own bike

Rated: Moderate (12 mile trip)

Join naturalists Roger Hammer and Janeen Feiger on this 3 hour, leisurely-paced, 12 mile bike hike through the Redland with a stopover at 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. Water provided. **Call (305) 242-7688 for more information, future dates and to register.**

Wilderness Adventures

Pack your "Sense of Adventure" and come enjoy a fun-filled day of exploration where you have a chance to learn about and experience the places where you live with a new perspective. On these naturalist-guided Eco-Adventure van tours into some of the most unique and beautiful wilderness parks of southern Florida, you will have an opportunity to return to the old Florida charm. We take pride in minimizing impact on the environment while you encounter and unlock the magic of places like the Everglades, Big Cypress Swamp, and the Upper Florida Keys. For your comfort, you will be transported in our air-conditioned ECO-Vans. Unless otherwise stated, please bring lunch, beverage, sunscreen, insect repellent, a long sleeved shirt, good walking shoes or boots, and a hat. Snacks and beverages will be provided on your journey as well as field guides and spotting scopes to help enhance your outdoor experience. Fees include transportation and interpretive guide. Call (305) 365-3018 for more information and reservations.

GREYNOLDS PARK ECO-TOUR TO LOXAHATCHEE ARTHUR R. MARSHALL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sunday, November 7, 21; December 5, 19, 2004

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Fee: \$40/ Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 9-17)

Rated: Easy

Spend a day exploring the northern Everglades with Greynolds Park naturalists. This trip features a cypress swamp boardwalk and marsh trail exploration. Spot wading birds, hawks, alligators, and migrating waterfowl. Bring binoculars, bird guides, lunch and water. **Tour meets at The Greynolds Park Boathouse.**

A.D. BARNES TOUR OF THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

Saturday, November 20

Sunday, November 7 & December 5, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Fee: \$40/Person

Rated: Easy to Moderate (A wet wading tour through cypress swamps.)

Join A.D. Barnes naturalist as we plunge into the wildlife and wild terrain of the Big Cypress National Preserve. You will see many habitats from the comfort of the Eco-Van, as well as explore a portion of the swamp on foot. Be prepared to get muddy. Bring along water, lunch, snacks, insect repellent and a change of dry shoes. **Tour meets at the A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK TOUR OF BIG CYPRESS SWAMP TROMP FOR TEENS

Saturday, November 13

Time: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fee: \$20/ Teen (13-18 years old)

Rated: Easy

Neighboring the Everglades is a watery wilderness named Big Cypress National Preserve, not because the cypress trees are so big, but because the area encompasses over 700,000 acres. On this naturalist guided tour, you will first travel across Tamiami Trail into the heart of the Big Cypress and through the Miccosukee Indian Reservation. Along the way you will see an abundance of wildlife from alligators to Zebra butterflies, and learn of the human and natural history of the area before arriving at the Oasis Ranger Station for a rest stop and overview of the preserve. Next you will travel to Turner River Road for a leisurely drive with frequent stops to view and learn about the wildlife and wildflowers seen along the way. The road ends at Bear Island where you will enjoy a lunch break in the great outdoors. **Tour meets at Castellow Hammock Park.**



Natural Areas Management

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY CALENDAR ADOPT-A-NATURAL AREA

Natural areas are the hammocks, pinelands, wetlands, mangrove forests, and seashores that once covered all of Miami-Dade County, but now remain only in undeveloped, protected areas. These habitats, and the plants and animals that live there, are all part of Miami-Dade County's natural heritage, and a resource to be treasured for generations to come. Non-native plants, introduced from around the world, have invaded these unique natural areas crowding out rare native plant species, seriously disrupting important natural processes such as storm recovery, and natural fire cycles. The control of non-native plants is considered one of the most important elements in the management of all natural habitats. The Department's Natural Areas Management (NAM) Volunteer Program gives you the opportunity to assist in the restoration of one of Miami-Dade County's natural areas by removing exotic plants, planting seedlings, or picking up trash.

Volunteers are taught to identify various invading non-native plants while gaining a greater understanding of these ecosystems. Other opportunities include historical research, fund raising and general office work. Please call (305) 257-0933 for directions and maps for these and other natural area sites scheduled for Volunteer Work Days.

NATURAL AREAS SITES & VOLUNTEER DATES

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Seminole Wayside Park/ US Highway 1 and SW 300 St.

Saturday, November 13, 2004

Charles Deering Estate/ SW 168 St. and 72 Ave.

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Florida City Pineland/ SW 345 St. and 184 Ave. (Florida City Streets: SW 1st St and 8th Ave.)

All scheduled workdays begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at Noon. Come prepared to work outdoors. For your safety, closed-toe shoes are required and long pants are strongly recommended. All participants are required to complete a release form prior to participation. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the form signed by a parent or guardian.

Please call (305) 257-0933 to pre-register yourself or your group.

Also visit www.miamidad.egov/parks/natural_areas.htm

Fall Bird Watching

Beginning Bird Watching

South Florida is a great place for bird watching any time of the year, but it gets downright exciting during fall migration even if you are a novice or seasoned veteran. Lying south of most of the North American continent, our state receives more than its share of warblers, shorebirds, hawks, and other types of migratory birds. Of the 650 or so species of birds known to breed in North America, approximately two-thirds seek food and warmer climates for the winter season in the Bahamas, Caribbean Islands, and South America.

The South Florida mainland and the Keys are often the last bits of North American land that a migratory bird may see for many months. Most songbirds migrate at night and forage and rest during the day. Hawks can be observed migrating during the day often along the coast and in large flocks called kettles. It is not unusual to observe Peregrine falcons stalking pigeons off of tall buildings in downtown Miami.

A sure sign of fall is the annual arrival and presence of Turkey vultures that habitually perch upon the pinnacle roof of the Miami-Dade County courthouse. Like gargoyles on sentry duty, the courthouse provides an excellent spot to preen, bask in sun and take a quick launch to ride the warm thermals lifting from the city. They usually arrive between the first and second week in October, with their numbers peaking to several hundred by late October.

The trick to watching migration in South Florida is to know where to go, when to go there, and having the proper equipment to take with you such as a good pair of binoculars and bird field guide. When to go is the easier question to answer. Mid-August through October is the time that most of the fall migration occurs in South Florida.

Shorebirds are the first group of birds to pass through, reaching their peaks sometimes in early September. Passerine birds and hawks, on the other hand, peak in early to mid-October. Knowing where to go is as simple as following a map – our special Eco-Adventure activity map that is featured in this newsletter. For your convenience, just look for the hawk icon that corresponds to the park directory that provides bird watching “hot spots” in Miami-Dade County. With literally millions of birds passing through some areas of South Florida, you will have a better-than-average chance of observing migratory birds in one of the Miami-Dade County Parks. Coastal areas in general are very productive because migrants tend to be concentrated along them, as well areas that has tidal mud flats, or a good stand tropical hardwood trees, oaks, and pines nearby.

If you are new to the sport of bird watching, here's a word of warning. Fall can be a frustrating but challenging time to begin! Most migratory birds lose their brightly colored breeding plumage and don colors of gray, brown, and green making their identification in the field difficult. However, most of the birds will return in the spring in fresh and colorful plumage that prepares them for their breeding and nesting rituals in their northern habitats.

So grab your binoculars and check out one of the parks listed below for great birding opportunities and witness for yourself this great mystery of nature. Even if you observe a new bird species or an old species do a new behavior, you will be rewarded by this great experience.



Meet A Native

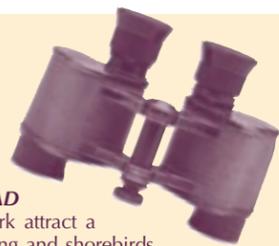
Burrowing Four-O'clock (*Okenia hypogaea*)

by Roger L. Hammer
Senior Naturalist, Castellow Hammock

If you've never seen a flowering plant of Burrowing Four-O'clock then you need to drop what you're doing, no matter how important, and drive to Crandon Park on Key Biscayne. When you get to the park, walk down to the beach and look right along the front edge of the dunes where the plants are growing closest to the sea. This is where you will find this floral beauty. Burrowing Four-O'clock is certainly one of the showiest wildflowers along Florida's coastal dunes but, being an annual, you can only find them from spring into fall. What better reason to head to the beach? The flowers are the prettiest pinkish-purple you can imagine and one plant may sport dozens of eye-catching blossoms. Each somewhat trumpet-shaped 3/4" blossom has five lobes, each of them notched at the tip. The sticky leaves are about 1 1/2" long and 3/4" wide with shallow notches along the margins, and they almost always have sand stuck to them.

The common name reflects its family, the Four-O'clock family (*Nyctaginaceae*), which includes such common cultivated plants such as Bougainvillea and Four-O'clock, the latter getting its name because the flowers open very late

Birding Hot Spots Directory



NORTH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

GREYNOLDS PARK, 17530 WEST DIXIE HIGHWAY, NORTH MIAMI BEACH

This 200-acre park of tropical forests, lakes, and open parkland is a good birding location for native songbirds, wading birds, and migratory birds. Look for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers and other migrants along park trails and in the canopy of Live Oaks in the picnic area. Wading birds, Anhingas, Double-crested cormorants and Osprey can be observed along the Oleta River and lake trails. Bird checklist is available at the Boathouse Visitor Center. **For more park information call (305) 948-2891. Parking Fee: \$ 2.00 (Weekends)**

ARCH CREEK PARK, 1855 N.E. 135TH STREET (JUST BEFORE THE RAILROAD TRACKS, ABUTTING U.S. 1)

Walk nature trails through a mixed hardwood hammock and a butterfly garden offers an opportunity to observe songbirds and migratory birds in the fall and spring. Look for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on Firebush (*Hamelia patens*). Bird checklist is available in the nature center. **For more park information call (305) 944-6111.**

PELICAN HARBOR PARK AND MARINA, 1275 N.E. 79TH STREET CAUSEWAY

Located on North Biscayne Bay, this small park offers a good opportunity to observe coastal birds that frequent the bay. Look for Brown pelicans, Double-crested cormorants, gulls, and terns on the open water. A variety of wading birds, pelicans, cormorants, Osprey, and Magnificent Frigatebirds can be observed on Bird Key Island located off the south side of the park's boat launch area. **For more park information call (305) 948-2891.**

CENTRAL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

CRANDON PARK, 4000 CRANDON BOULEVARD, KEY BISCAYNE

Located on Key Biscayne, this 1000-acre barrier island public park is a choice spot during migration. In October, numerous hawks (Sharp-shinned Hawks are the most commonly seen), and falcons (especially Peregrines), stream along the coast. For some of the better birding locations, enter the park through the North Beach Parking Lot and head north to the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center. Take any of the three nature trails that cover coastal hammock, mangrove, and beach-dune habitats. The Osprey Trail is the best for hawk watching. Look for shorebirds feeding in the flats at low tide. On the beach look for Black Skimmers, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Piping and Wilson's Plovers in the fall and winter. A bird checklist is available in the Visitors and Nature Center. **For more information call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center (305) 361-6767. Parking Fee: \$ 4.00**

A.D. BARNES PARK, 3401 S.W. 72 AVENUE

Featured in Birder's World Magazine, this park is becoming a popular location for birding – especially warblers during migration - over 20 species! Scan the trees and walk the paved trail at the Sense of Wonder Nature Center (take the road to the left from the main entrance). The stand of Slash Pines offers a good opportunity to observe Pine Warblers, Summer Tanagers and Red-shouldered Hawks. A bird checklist is available at the nature center. **For more park information call (305) 662-4124.**

KENDALL INDIAN HAMMOCKS PARK, 11395 S.W. 79TH STREET

This park consists of open parkland, Live Oaks, and mixed tropical hardwood trees and shrubs. This diverse habitat attracts a variety of migratory birds and native songbirds. Trails through the hammock on the north side of the park begin opposite the baseball fields. **For more park information call (305) 596-9324.**

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK, 9610 OLD CUTLER ROAD

The diverse habitats of this park attract a large variety of birds. For wading and shorebirds, enter the main entrance to park at the light and follow the road to the mangrove-lined tidal flats (wading beach). If you are interested in upland and migratory birds, park in the north parking lot located just beyond the main entrance of the park on the left side. Bird in the picnic area and adjacent mangroves. Then cross the Old Cutler Road and follow the trails through the hammock as well the service road on the south side. **For more park information call (305) 353-3018. Parking Fee: \$ 4.00 (Beach)**

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER, 17555 S. W. 79TH AVENUE

A walk along the park trails through a tropical hardwood hammock of oaks and pines offers a good opportunity to observe migratory and native songbirds. **For recent sightings and more park information call (305) 255-4767.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK AND NATURE CENTER, 22301 S.W. 162 AVENUE, HOMESTEAD

This is the park where birders go to see Painted Buntings at close range. Once you arrive, simply sit quietly on the benches just outside the nature center and watch the bird feeders directly in front of you. Castellow is also becoming the hot spot for hummingbirds. Flowering trees and shrubs attract Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and the rare Rufous in the winter. Bird checklist is available in the nature center. **For more park information call (305) 242-7688.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER, 16701 S.W. 72 AVENUE, SOUTH MIAMI

This 350-acre heritage park located on Biscayne Bay has diverse habitats that offer an opportunity to observe a variety of migrating passerines and shorebirds. There are also many resident wading birds that add to birding interests year-round. **For more information call (305) 2335-1668. Also visit www.deeringestate.org**

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, 40001 SR 9336, HOMESTEAD

A primary reason to visit this popular national park is for its diverse bird life. Most of the park trails and coastal areas are excellent for birding, but some of the more productive areas for fall migration are Gumbo Limbo Trail, Old Ingram Highway, Snake Bite Road, and Eco-Pond in Flamingo. Mahogany Hammock is excellent for warblers, Bald Eagles, Barred owls, and possibly Cape Sable seaside sparrows. **For more park information call (305) 242-7700. Also visit www.nps.gov**

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE, TAMiami TRAIL – HIGHWAY 41

Many wading birds can be observed along Highway 41 and Turner River Road (a 20-mile dirt road). Look for the rare Everglades Kite in the marshes where the Miccosukee Tribe operates airboat rides just west of the Miccosukee Restaurant. The Loop Road (FL-94) is great for migrants and land birds. **For more information call (941) 695-4111. Also visit www.nps.gov**

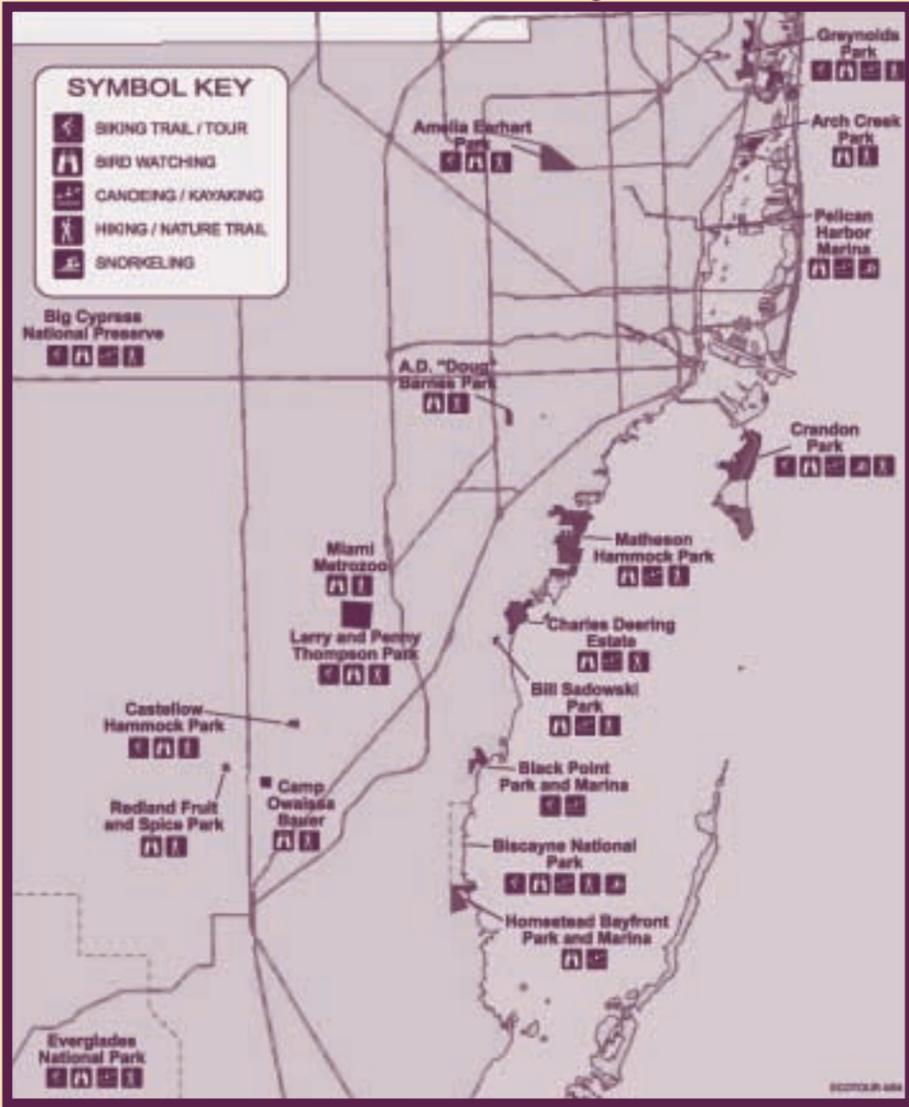
HAWKWATCH

www.hawkwatch.org

Hawkwatch presents a fascinating site for anyone interested in hawks, falcons and other birds of prey. The Florida Keys is a vital migratory route for hawks and falcons. This web page features a fine section on Hawkwatch's projects in the Marathon area, including bird counts and banding. Simple, and to the point, it also offers links to related sites of interest to the avid birder or anyone interested in these magnificent creatures of the sky.



Eco-Adventures Program Sites



Naturalists Notebook

Fall Happenings

Fall in South Florida signals that the less humid and cooler days are not far away. In fact the first real cold front should arrive around mid-November bringing with it significant changes in South Florida's weather and environment. It also means that the rainy season is technically over and the Everglades will start its transition into the dry season. This annual cycle reflects changes in animal behavior. Wading birds will eventually be nesting. Alligators will seek out water holes that provide a lifeline for other Everglades wildlife. Nature's seasonal time clock brings about other changes in South Florida's parks:

- Mullet migration begins with schools numbering in the hundreds of thousands showing up offshore and in bays and rivers. Hungry predators such as Mackerel, Snook, Tarpon, Brown Pelicans, Ospreys, and even Bald Eagles follow these migratory fish.
- Fall migration is one of the most exciting times of the year for birders, both beginners and seasoned veterans. Visit Miami-Dade County parks such as Bill Sadowski Park, Castellow Hammock, Crandon Park, Deering Estate at Cutler, A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park, Greynolds Park, and Matheson Hammock. These are all are "hot spots" during fall migration.
- Keep your bird feeders full during fall, winter, and spring because Painted Buntings and Indigo Buntings are locally common in southern Florida during these seasons. If you have never seen these birds then you are missing one of nature's grand prizes.
- The first Turkey Vultures arrive around the first week in October to make their historic annual pilgrimage to their favorite winter perch on the Miami-Dade County courthouse.
- Hoary bats migrate through Florida to South America and Mexico to spend the winter.
- Fall is a prime time to observe a multitude of wildflowers in the open prairies of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. The best prairies to explore are those that burned during the summer.
- Butterfly populations typically rebound after the summer onslaught of mosquito spraying. The butterfly garden at Castellow Hammock is a great place to see both colon and rare urban butterflies.

When crossing Alligator Alley tune into 98.7 FM or 107.9 FM to listen to the Everglades Radio Network Project. This station gives information about plants, wading birds, alligators and other animals off Interstate 75.

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

FACILITY	FEATURES																			
		Admission/Parking Fee	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Jogging/Walking Trails	Bike Trail	Fishing	Kayak/Snorkeling	Nature Photography	Nature Trail	Nature / Visitor Center	Museum	Ocean Walk	Swimming Beach	Canoe Rentals	Camp Grounds	Bird Watching Site	Guided Tours	Farm Site	Rest Rooms
A.D. Barnes Park & Nature Center 3401 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 666-5883 / (305) 662-4124		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amelia Earhart Park 401 East 65 Street, Hialeah (305) 685-8389		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arch Creek Park & Museum 1855 NE 135 Street, North Miami (305) 944-6111		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center 22301 SW 162 Avenue, Homestead (305) 242-7688		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crandon Visitors and Nature Center/ Crandon Adventures 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-6767		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crandon Park 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-5421 / (305) 365-3018		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 235-1668		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greynolds Park Boathouse Visitor Center 17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach (305) 948-2891		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haulover Park 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 79th 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 9 Nov/Dec 2004

Published by the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department.

Vivian Donnell-Rodriguez
Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Jim King
Senior Editor, Eco-Adventure Newsletter
Interpretive Naturalist Coordinator

Sally Timberlake
Editor, Eco-Adventure Newsletter
Ecotourism

Tess Yagecic
Assistant Editor, Eco-Adventure Newsletter

Send questions or comments to:

Eco-Tourism
4000 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Phone (305) 365-3018

E-mail: ecoadventures@miamidade.gov
Website: www.miamidade.gov/parks

DEPARTMENT SENIOR NATURALIST STAFF

Robert Carmona <i>A.D. Barnes Park/ Matheson Hammock Park</i>	Roger Hammer <i>Castellow Hammock Park</i>
Karen Solms <i>Arch Creek Park/ Greynolds Park/ Pelican Harbor Marina</i>	Eduardo Salcedo <i>Deering Estate at Cutler</i>
Barbara Gouldener <i>Bill Sadowski Park</i>	Joe Maguire <i>Natural Areas Management</i>
Ernest Lynk <i>Crandon Park</i>	Chris Rollins <i>Preston B. Bird and Mary Heinlein Fruit and Spice Park</i>

Sally Timberlake
Ecotourism

ALEX PENELAS
Mayor



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



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nature Watch

A Season for Birds

by Ernest Lent, Deering Estate Naturalist



Watching wild birds is a fun and popular pastime. Each year birding enthusiasts of all skill levels look forward to birding season. As the new season makes its subtle appearance in South Florida, early migrant species are beginning to arrive in Miami-Dade County parks.

Naturally, the time of year determines which species are most prevalent in the parks. During the winter months the numbers of resident species such as Great Blue Heron, White Ibis, Turkey Vulture, and Great Egret increase as migrants from farther north join them. Huge numbers of hawks, warblers, and other migratory species will be seen as they pass through South Florida en route to the Caribbean and Central and South

America, and many Miami-Dade Parks are hot spots for birders.

The Deering Estate at Cutler is well known for the great variety of birds that can be seen there and birders for the past few years have enjoyed monthly Bird Walks to view them. An on-going survey of the Estate has recorded over 150 species, including natives and exotics.

The birding experience begins as soon as visitors drive into the parking lot of the Estate. From Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting in the remains of trees killed by Hurricane Andrew, to Ospreys often seen perched on a broken pine branch behind the Visitor's Center, birds serve as the unofficial "welcome committee" for park guests. Many of the birds seen at the Estate are easily recognizable and

common throughout South Florida, but sightings of rare and threatened species occur often enough to excite even the most experienced bird watcher! White-crowned pigeons, limpkins, mangrove cuckoos, and black-whiskered vireos have been highlights of recent bird walks.

At Crandon Park birders can enjoy shorebirds and catch the fall hawk migration. A.D. Barnes Park is a hot spot for warblers; painted buntings and hummingbirds are one of the main attractions at Castellow Hammock.

Birding is a lot of fun but it's also important for birders to always respect wildlife and its environment. Promoting the welfare of birds and their habitats is a priority. During this "Season for Birds," Miami-Dade County parks are the place to be!

Kayaking and Snorkeling Adventure Tours

There is simply no better way to experience the beauty of Biscayne Bay and explore the biologically rich coastal waters of the Florida Straights than from the seat of an ocean kayak. Led by knowledgeable and experienced naturalist-guides, tours combine kayaking and snorkeling with an introduction to the natural history and ecology of the warm tropical waters of Biscayne Bay and off-shore of Crandon Park's Bear Cut Marine Preserve. Join us as we explore and discover colorful tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, cushion stars, upside down jellyfish, herons and frigate birds that share this fragile and unique sanctuary. Learn and enjoy a fascinating outdoor experience that is certain to be the highlight of your visit to Crandon Park. These trips are designed and rated for a wide range of kayaking abilities. Fee includes all kayaking equipment. Snorkeling equipment can be rented at an additional fee. For all kayak trips, unless otherwise stated, bring snacks, water (1 quart minimum), sunscreen, insect repellent, long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat. It is suggested that you secure important belongings in a sealable plastic bag or plastic container. Participants 18 years of age and

younger are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form by a parent or legal guardian. County regulations require life vests to be worn by participants at all times. **Please call the Eco-tourism Office at (305) 365-3018 for all kayak trip reservations and for more information. Customized tours can also be arranged for groups of six or more.**

CRANDON PARK'S KAYAK AND SNORKEL EXCURSION

Two person "sit on top" kayaks
(Maximum snorkeling depth: 5-8 ft.)

Saturdays

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Sundays

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Holidays

Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11;

Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fee: \$50.00/Person – Includes snorkeling gear

Resident Fee: \$35.00/Person – Rental of snorkeling gear available at an additional \$5.00 fee. Group rates also available.

Rated: Easy to Moderate

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

Kayak along the beautiful crystal clear waters of Key Biscayne. This trip is rated easy to moderate and is a great introduction to snorkeling. **Reservations are required. Call (305) 365-3018.**

On Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, please call the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center directly at (305) 361-6767 or the Crandon Aquatic Center at (305) 365-3067. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center.



GROUPS

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, including bus tours. Special arrangements can be made for box lunches and dinner at local restaurants. Special bike tours, wildlife presentations, and slide shows are available upon request. For more Group Sales information call the Eco-Tourism Office at (305) 365-3018, or (305) 365-3031.

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 the subtropical 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," by 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 6) is not met two days prior to the actual date. All Eco-Adventure tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and reservation minimums.

Kayak And Canoe Rentals

KAYAKS

CRANDON PARK VISITORS & NATURE CENTER

6767 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne

Phone: (305) 361-6767

Kayak Aquatic Concession

Phone: (305) 365-3067

Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays

Time: 12:00 Noon – 6:00PM

Call (305) 361-6767 for Weekday Rentals

Rates: \$ 10.00/Hour or \$ 25.00/3 Hours

\$5.00 Rental – Snorkeling Gear

Rentals at the North Beach Kayak Aquatic Concession,

East of the Visitors & Nature Center

Enter at North Beach Entrance Parking Lot #1

CANOEES

GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE

17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach

Phone: (305) 948-2891

Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Rates: \$ 4.50/Adult, \$ 3.00/Child – Per Half-Hour

Rentals at the Boathouse

BILL SADOWSKI PARK & NATURE CENTER

17555 S.W. 79th Avenue, South Miami

Phone: (305) 255-4767

Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Rates: \$ 7.00/Adult, \$ 4.00/Child – Per Hour

Special Group Rentals Available. Rentals at the Nature Center

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