



A Eco ADVENTURE TOURS Newsletter

Come and Discover the Wild Side of Miami!

Great Fall Adventures in the Outdoors!

Migratory birds, not cooling temperatures, are the first signs of fall in South Florida. Their arrival sends a signal to many residents and visitors that this is the time of the year to start dusting off your camping gear, clean your binoculars, break in your walking shoes and plan your next outdoor adventure with Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department's Interpretive Services. We offer programs tailored to all ability levels. Our experienced naturalist guides will provide you with the best in eco adventure tours, nature programs and also teach you how to be stewards of the great outdoors in South Florida. We guarantee your experience will be a rejuvenating, educational and fun adventure! Check out our calendar of scheduled tours and programs for dates, times, and program ratings to determine what programs are best suited for your skill level and interest.

Canoe Tours

Eco Adventures has put together a series a canoe tours that offer you an opportunity to explore the popular waterways of our Miami-Dade Parks and wilderness parks. Explore these tropical waters with us as we take you on an unforgettable discovery of nature. 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 required to have a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or guardian.

WHAT TO BRING?

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

- Snack
- Water (1 quart min.)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Long-sleeved shirt and hat
- 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 canoe tour registrations. Group Rates are available. Most tours require a minimum number of registrations before the trip can be conducted. All canoe tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and registration minimums.

BILL SADOWSKI PARK TO CORAL REEF PARK SUNSET CANOE TOUR

Sunday, December 11, 2005
Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Cost: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)
Rated: Moderate

Enjoy a leisurely paddle to Coral Reef Park in search of wildlife, which could include a variety of birds, turtles, and fish. We will pull into the park for a rest and picnic, and then head back to Sadowski, taking in the sunset. An adult must accompany children under 18. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.

BILL SADOWSKI'S DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING WORKOUT CANOE TOUR TO CORAL REEF PARK

Friday, November 25, 2005
Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Cost: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)
Rated: Moderate

Get your muscles moving and burn off some Thanksgiving dinner, while exploring the winding and scenic C-100 Waterway Canal. Enjoy a variety of wildlife, including turtles, birds, and fish. We will paddle to Coral Reef Park, have a picnic and rest, and then head back to Sadowski, into the sunset. An adult must accompany children under 18. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.

BILL SADOWSKI'S MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY SUNSET CANOE TO CORAL REEF PARK

Monday, January 16, 2005
Time: 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Cost: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)
Rated: Moderate

Paddle to Coral Reef Park in search of wildlife, which could include a variety of birds, turtles, and fish. We will pull into the park for a rest and picnic, then head back to Sadowski, enjoying



the sunset as we go. An adult must accompany children under 18. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.

CRANDON PARK'S BAYSIDE CANOE ADVENTURE

Saturdays & Sundays
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)

Also available on weekdays upon request.
Rated: Easy to Moderate (3 miles)
This naturalist-led canoe tour explores the bayside waters of Key Biscayne. Explore this peaceful water wilderness where wildlife flourishes among the mangrove fringes. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center.

CRANDON PARK'S SUNSET & MOONLIGHT CANOE ADVENTURE

Thursday, December 15, 2005
Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 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 Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center.

DEERING ESTATE'S CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

Saturdays & Sundays
November 2005 & January 2006
December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 2005
Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Rated: Beginner to Expert
Join Deering Estate naturalists for a canoe tour on beautiful Biscayne and explore the historic island named Chicken Key. Discover wildlife that inhabits the coastal waters of the bay. Registrations are required. Call (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Deering Estate Visitor Center.

DEERING ESTATE'S "MOONLIGHT CANOE" EXCURSION

Thursday, December 15, 2005
Friday, January 13, 2006
Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Fee: \$35.00/Person (Adults ~ 18 years and older)

Rated: Beginner to 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. Registrations are required. Call (305) 235-1668 Ext. 242. Meet at the Deering Estate Visitor Center.

GREYNOLDS PARK HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TOUR

Saturdays
November 26, 2005
December 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2005
January 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Rated: Moderate
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.

Upcoming Special Events

OPEN HOUSE AT MIAMI-DADE PARKS NATURE CENTERS

NEW SOUTH FLORIDA NATURE GUIDE INTRODUCED!

Join us for a day of fun and discovery of nature at Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department's six nature centers! You and your family are invited to celebrate with us the release of the new "South Florida Nature Guide—Discover the Hidden Treasures!" You will discover nature's hidden treasures on free guided nature walks and special programs that the entire family will enjoy! At each nature center, the new South Florida Nature Guide will be distributed. 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!

Saturday, December 10, 2005
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

At the following nature centers and park locations:

- A.D. Barnes Park - Sense of Wonder Nature Center
- Arch Creek Park & Museum
- Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center
- Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center
- Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
- Greynolds Park & Boathouse Visitor Center
- Deering Estate @ Cutler

For more information call (305) 365-3018.

MATHESON HAMMOCK BISCAYNE BAY TOUR

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

Explore mangrove forest-lined creeks and discover the secretive lives of wildlife that inhabit this habitat. Meet the A.D. Barnes Park naturalist guides at the Redfish Grill at Matheson Hammock Park.

EAST EVERGLADES CANOE TRIP

Saturday, December 17, 2005
Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Fee: \$35.00

Rated: Moderate (6 miles)
Enjoy a leisurely-paced canoe paddle along the edge of Everglades National Park with Castellow Hammock naturalists. See birds and wildflowers along the way. Bring a lunch to enjoy at an elevated platform along Aerojet Road. Call (305) 365-3018 for meeting location and further information.

Based on the recovery efforts from Hurricane Wilma that have affected our outdoor Eco-Adventures and Aquatic Programming at various sites throughout the county, many of the programs in this newsletter may be postponed or modified for the safety of our patrons and naturalist staff. Weather conditions impact our aquatic programs, including kayak, snorkeling, canoeing and rentals of kayaks and canoes, and the nature trails at our nature centers and ECOADVENTURES sites. Please call the Eco-tourism Office at (305) 365-3018 for the current status of our EcoAdventure Programs and the recovery progress being made by our Naturalist staff.

Nature Centers

Nature Walks and Parks Programs

Explore the outdoors this fall far away from the sounds of the city along peaceful nature trails of the tropical hardwood hammocks, pines, and coastal marshlands. Make this your time or time with your family and friends to learn about nature and experience the great outdoors at one of our six countywide nature centers and heritage parks. Call the park for more information and program registration. Special group tours are available. Self-guided trail guides are available at each of the Nature Centers.

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.

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

9610 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida
Phone: Call (305) 662-4124

ARCH CREEK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

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

ARCH CREEK NATURE TRAIL TOURS

Saturdays
November 26, 2005; December 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2005;
January 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Fee: \$3.00/Person
Rated: Easy

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. **Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.**

ARCH CREEK GHOST TOURS

Wednesdays
November 23 & 30, 2005; December 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2005;
January, 4, 11, 18 & 25, 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 have occurred in the park since the late 1800's and maybe have an encounter one of your own. **Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.**

ARCH CREEK PARK FAMILY FUN DAYS IN THE PARK

Sundays
November 27, December 4 & 18, 2005; January 15 & 19, 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 learn about plants and animals on a guided trail walk. **Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.**

BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER

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

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

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



Canoe Workshops

CANOE & KAYAK WORKSHOP AT CASTELLOW HAMMOCK

Saturday, December 10, 2005
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Fee: \$15.00/Person

This new workshop is designed to introduce participants to the joys of canoeing and kayaking in Florida. Discussions include camping and fishing gear, the pros and cons of different models of canoes & kayaks, the best places to paddle in South Florida, and an in-depth discussion of the 99-mile Wilderness Waterway in Everglades National Park. **Pre-Registration is required, call (305) 242-7688. Meet at the Castellow Hammock Nature Center.**

BILL SADOWSKI CANOE WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 4, 2005
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
Cost: \$20.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)

Join us at the park for the fundamentals of canoeing, including basic strokes, steering, and safety skills. We will be canoeing on the C-100 Waterway Canal behind the park. An adult must accompany children under 18. **Pre-Registration is required, call (305) 255-4767. Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.**

FAMILY CAMPFIRE AND NIGHT WALK

Fridays
January 20 & 27, 2006
Saturdays
December 3 & 10, 2005; January 7 & 14, 2006
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person
Rated: Easy

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 (Saturdays Only). **Meet at the Nature Center.**

SOUTHERN CROSS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVENING SKY VIEWINGS

Saturdays
Time: 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Fee: Free

Rated: For All Ages

Join Southern Cross Astronomers to view the night sky through their high-tech telescopes. Look and learn every Saturday evening, weather permitting. Bring your own binoculars and telescopes. Remember lawn chairs and insect repellent. **Call the SCAS at (305) 661-1375 for more information. Meet at the Nature Center.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

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

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

Self-guided nature trails through a half-mile tropical hardwood hammock known for its rare plants, animals, and migratory birds. **Visit or call the nature center for naturalist-guided tours.**

GUIDED WOODLAND NIGHT OWL WALK

Saturday, December 3, 2005
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. **Meet at the Nature Center**

BACKCOUNTRY FISHING WORKSHOP AT CASTELLOW HAMMOCK

Saturday, December 3, 2005
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Fee: \$15.00

Learn how to fish the shallow backcountry waters from naturalist and avid kayak fisherman Roger Hammer, with an emphasis on kayaks and canoes. Class includes choosing the right boat, predicting tides, practical fishing knots, bait and tackle, and where to try your luck. For beginners and seasoned veterans alike. **Meet at the Nature Center.**

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER

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

Enter through the North Beach Parking Lot # 1
Parking Fee: \$5.00/Vehicle

The Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne 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 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 WALKS

Saturdays & Sundays
Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Fee: \$3.00/Person

Rated: Easy

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. **Meet at the Nature Center.**

CRANDON PARK HERITAGE TRAM TOURS

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 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 Crandon Park and the Bear Cut Preserve. Learn about the island of Key Biscayne and its fascinating history. From the Tequesta Indians to the pirates and pioneers, it's been an amazing journey. **Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Park Visitor and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. For your party/event, the tram will meet your group at picnic area where party/event is taking place.**



CRANDON ADVENTURES NATURE PROGRAMS

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 "Winged Wonders", "Inspect an Insect", "Tremendous Trees", "Sea Turtles on the Run", and much, much, more! **Reservations are required. Please call the Crandon Visitors and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767. Meet at the Nature Center.**

CRANDON ADVENTURES TRAVELING PROGRAM

Available upon request

Cost: \$5.00/Person

If you can't come to us, let us bring the outdoors to you! Crandon Park Naturalists now offers 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 Visitor and Nature Center at (305) 361-6767.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

16701 S.W. 72 Avenues
Miami, Florida
Phone: (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242

DEERING ESTATE HISTORIC & NATURAL AREA TOURS

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

Times: 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 Visitors 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's Mediterranean Revival style architecture. **Meet at the Visitor Center.**

DEERING ESTATE BIRD WALKS

Saturdays
December 10, 2005; January 14, 2006
Time: 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

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

Join Deering Estate naturalist Ernie Lent and 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 that inhabit the area. **Pre-Registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

DEERING ESTATE BUTTERFLY WALKS

Saturdays
December 17, 2005; January 21, 2006
Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

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

NEW! DEERING ESTATE NIGHT WALKS

Thursdays
December 1, 2005; January 5, 2006
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

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 some cool nights outdoors during these fall months. **Pre-Registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

GREYNOLDS PARK

17530 W. Dixie Highway
North Miami Beach, Florida
Phone: (305) 948-2898

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.**

CAMP GREYNOLDS FALL CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Saturdays
November 26, 2005; December 10 & 17, 2005;
January 7 & 21, 2006

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM - Begins at the Greynolds Boathouse

Fee: \$15.00/Person

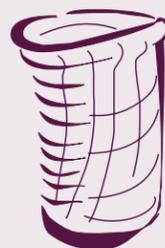
Rated: Easy

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 on the Oleta River. **Registrations are required. Meet at the Greynolds Boathouse for the start of the program.**

Nature Facts!!

The 2005 Florida Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy on September 17, 2005 at Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center welcomed 104 young volunteers. These local volunteers were part of a larger international effort that dedicated their efforts to clean two miles of Crandon Park's

Beach. Amid the sandy ocean dunes and beach and Bear Cut Preserve mangroves habitats, a total of 55 filled trash bags weighing 1,100 pounds of debris were collected. Pieces of plastic, plastic bottles, plastic lobster trap sections, plastic straws and utensils, snack food wrappers, nylon rope, sandals and used bait boxes were removed from shoreline of this natural barrier island.



RENTALS

KAYAKS

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

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER
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
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
17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach
Boathouse Phone: (305) 948-2891
Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays
Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Rates: \$4.50/Adult, \$3.00/Child Per Half-Hour
Rentals are located at the Boathouse

CANOES

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

GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE
17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach
Boathouse Phone: (305) 948-2891
Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays
Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
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: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Rates: \$7.00/Adult, \$4.00/Child – Per Hour
Rentals are located at the Nature Center

All rental participants must sign 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.

Eco-Adventure Tours Newsletter

Volume 11 Nov/Dec 2005

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

Vivian Donnell-Rodriguez
Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Sally Timberlake
Editor, Eco-Adventure Newsletter
Ecotourism

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

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES NATURALIST STAFF

Jim King Interpretive Nature Coordinator	Robert Carmona A.D. Barnes Park/ Matheson Hammock Park
Sally Timberlake Interpretive Services Ecotourism	Janeen Feiger Castellow Hammock Park
Sandra Palacios Centralized Reservations and Group Sales/Ecotourism	Barbara Gouldener Bill Sadowski Park
Roger Hammer Interpretive Naturalist Supervisor	Aileen Landry Crandon Park
Ernest Lynk Interpretive Naturalist Supervisor	Karen Solms Arch Creek Park/Greynolds Park Pelican Harbor Marina
	Eduardo Salcedo Deering Estate at Cutler

CARLOS ALVAREZ
Mayor



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Joe A. Martinez, Chairperson
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairperson

Barbara J. Jordan District 1	Katy Sorenson District 8
Dorrian D. Rolle District 2	Dennis C. Moss District 9
Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler District 3	Senator Javier D. Souto District 10
Sally A. Heyman District 4	Joe A. Martinez District 11
Bruno A. Barreiro District 5	Jose "Pepe" Diaz District 12
Rebeca Sosa District 6	Natacha Seijas District 13
Carlos A. Gimenez District 7	
Murray A. Greenburg County Attorney	George M. Burgess County Manager
	Harvey Ruvim Clerk of Courts

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.

122.01-63 11/05

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
- Water (1 quart 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

Registrations are required: Please call (305) 365-3018 for all kayak and snorkeling registrations. 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
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon & 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Fee: \$50.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child - Includes snorkeling gear
Residents: \$35.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child
Rental of snorkeling gear available at an additional fee of \$7.00

Children (Ages 9-17 years) are welcome after completing a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or legal guardian.
Rated: Easy to Moderate
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 Nature Center.

PELICAN HARBOR KAYAK & SNORKELING ADVENTURE

Two person "sit on top" kayaks
Saturday, January 7, 2006
Time: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, January 15, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Fee: \$35.00/Person - Includes snorkeling gear
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 of 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. We provide two person "sit on top" ocean kayaks. Meet at the Pelican Harbor Marina, 1275 NE 79th Street Causeway.

Bike Tours

The fall season blends lower humidity and cooler temperatures to motivate you to go outdoors and do fun things like biking! 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 bike. You can customize your bike tour for a group of five or more people. Call (305) 365-3018 for all bike tour reservations.



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.

CRANDON PARK'S KEY BISCAYNE BIKE TOUR

Saturdays & Sundays
Time 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
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 Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center.

REDLAND HISTORIC BIKE TOUR

Date: Sunday, December 4, 2005
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Fee: \$25.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-14)
\$20.00/Person (Ride your own bike)
(Includes bike, helmet, & bottled water)
Rated: Moderate (12-mile round trip)

On this naturalist-guided tour exploring the back roads of the historic Redland, you will hear stories about James Castellow and other pioneers along with a refreshing stopover at the Redland Fruit and Spice Park. Meet at Castellow Hammock Nature Center.

WHAT TO BRING?

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

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

Wilderness Aventures

Pack your "sense of adventure" and come enjoy a fun-filled day of exploration where you have an opportunity to 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, Big Cypress Swamp, and the Upper Florida Keys. For your comfort, you will be transported in our air-conditioned Eco-vans. Fee includes transportation and interpretive naturalist guide. For more 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.

LOXAHATCHEE ARTHUR R. MARSHALL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sundays
December 11, 2005
January 21, 2006
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Person, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-17)
Rated: Easy (A walking tour on trails & boardwalks)

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. Meet at the Greynolds Park Boathouse.

CYPRESS SWAMP TROMP

Saturday, January 2006
Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Person, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-17)
Rated: Easy to Moderate (A wet wading tour through cypress swamps)

Join A.D. Barnes Park naturalists on this fun hike exploring wet prairies, sloughs and cypress swamps. Heighten your awareness by looking for wildflowers and animals (from reptiles and amphibians to birds, mammals and colorful butterflies) that call these habitats home. Bring a change of dry shoes. Meet at the A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center. Call (305) 365-3018 for more information.

AN EVERGLADES ADVENTURE

Saturday, January 14, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Fee: \$40.00/Adults, \$15.00/Child (Ages 7-14)
Plus \$10.00 Everglades National Park Entrance Fee

Join Bill Sadowski Naturalists on a fun and educational tour of Everglades National Park. Take a walk on the wild side at the Anhinga trail, where alligators, turtles & a variety of wading birds are commonly seen. Explore the pine rock- lands, hammock & lake trails. Bring your binoculars. We will stop on the way back for milkshakes & other goodies! Meet at Bill Sadowski Park.



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

Presorted
First-Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Miami, FL
Permit #8788

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

About Eco-Adventures

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department offers a variety of Eco-Adventure Tours designed to introduce residents and visitors to some 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," 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.

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. 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 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																			
	Administration/Parking Fee	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Logging/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 & Nature Center 1855 NE 135 Street, North Miami (305) 944-6111																				
Castellon 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																				
Crandon Park 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-5421																				
Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Miami (305) 235-1668																				
Greynolds Park & Nature Center 17530 W. Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach (305) 945-3425 / (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 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																				

Natural Areas Management

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

To volunteer and participate in future Volunteer Workdays, please call Natural Areas Management at (305) 257-0933 or visit the web site at www.miamidade.gov/parks/preservation.asp for more information, work sites, dates and to register you or your group.

Nature Watch Signs of Fall

If you have lived in South Florida longer than ten years, you have been here long enough to notice the subtle change that signals that the less humid and tolerable days of fall are not far behind. Soon, the first real cold fronts will be arriving in late November which hopefully means that hurricane season is finished for another year. It also means that the rainy season is technically over and the Everglades will start its annual transition into the dry season. This is a wonderful time of the year to get outdoors and explore the parks and preserves that have been so prohibitive due to the heat, humidity and mosquitoes. Nature's seasonal time clock brings about other changes in the parks and possibly, in your own backyard!

- Fall is a prime time to observe a multitude of wildflowers in the open prairies of the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp.
- Butterfly populations are on the rebound and visible at butterfly gardens in the nature centers and yards.
- Fall migration is one the most exciting times of the year for birders, both beginners and seasonal veterans. Visit Miami-Dade County parks for the "hot spots" birding locations. For a daily posting of what birds are being seen in the area, go to the Tropical Audubon Society web page and click on the Birdboard.
- The first Turkey Vultures arrived in late September and early October to make their historic annual pilgrimage to their favorite winter perch on the Miami-Dade County courthouse. Also, look for them along the Rickenbacker Causeway perched in the Australian Pines especially in the early morning hours.
- Keep your bird feeders full for visiting Painted Buntings. If you have never seen these birds then you are missing one of nature's grand prizes.
- Magnificent Frigatebirds begin to depart for the warmer tropical waters only to be replaced with greater numbers of Osprey along our coast.
- Check the skies in November for migrating birds of prey, especially large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks passing overhead. Look for Peregrine Falcon and Merlin along the coast especially on Key Biscayne and the Florida Keys.
- Pick up the new South Florida Nature Guide at a Miami-Dade County Park nature center and visit one of the 45 local, state, and national parks along the southeast coast to the Florida Keys for more fall nature discoveries.

JIM KING, Interpretive Nature Coordinator, Ecotourism