



Eco ADVENTURE TOURS Newsletter

Miami-Dade Park's EcoAdventures... Naturalist Guided Tours Crafted by Nature!

Miami-Dade Park's EcoAdventures would like to help you discover the natural and historical treasures of Southern Florida. Our tours showcase some of the most amazing diversity of plants and wildlife that inhabit our parks, beaches, and coastal waters and the nearby Everglades wilderness. EcoAdventures features the best in park locations and we provide everything you'll need for a comfortable and pleasing experience with our professionally trained Interpretive Naturalist Guides who share a special passion for the environment. Our program offerings are tailored to people of all ages and abilities. We are committed to making your visit to these remarkable places highly rewarding, yet with little impact on the resources.

If you are into fitness and being outdoors, you will have lots of fun, exercise and excitement on a vigorous kayak or bike tour, or a long hike on the beach. We hope your time with Miami-Dade Park's EcoAdventures will give you a better understanding and a deeper appreciation of South Florida's rich and diverse sub-tropical natural world.

Seasonal Offerings: Some EcoAdventure tours such as the Everglades Adventures are only offered during the cooler and dryer time of the year due to unfavorable weather conditions, high water levels or excessive mosquito and related insect numbers. Check with the EcoAdventures Office for the availability of these specialized tours.

Providing Excellence in South Florida Natural History Tours!

CHECK IT OUT!

The following is our summer calendar of scheduled tours and programs including dates, times, and program ratings to help determine what activities are best suited for your ability level and interest. There are several new offerings such as the Key Biscayne Island and Boat Tour conducted on the 45' Pelican Skipper Boat and the Land and Sea Tours, that provide you access to the rock reef through the Bear Cut Preserve on our open-air tram. These tours are designed to help you to experience new and fun sites to snorkel and discover many the marine treasures of South Florida. In addition we continue to offer many of our EcoAdventures most popular tours and programs with visitors and residents alike! Coming this fall season, look for EcoAdventures new **Outdoor Institute Tours**, a series of special programs designed for the serious explorers of the outdoor world!

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

Summer Time is for Sea Turtles

When I visit the beach at Crandon Park on a busy weekend afternoon, it is hard to imagine that this area is an important habitat for several species of sea turtles. The shoreline that is dotted with colorful beach towels and umbrellas and enjoyed by thousands of beachgoers during the day is also a nesting ground for giant solitary sea turtles at night! It is a rare example of humans and endangered species being able to coexist in the same area with minimal inconvenience to beachgoers.

Sea turtles swam in the oceans when dinosaurs roamed the earth and have likely used Key Biscayne as a nesting beach since the sandy shoreline was formed. Sea Turtles are well adapted to life in the oceans and survived admirably for one hundred and fifty million years, but increasingly human impacts during the past century have taken a heavy toll on turtle populations.

Sea turtles continue to face a myriad of threats

from other human activities. Habitat loss due to coastal construction; the deadly effects of artificial lighting on hatchlings; heavy equipment operations on beaches; oil spills; fatal propeller wounds; dredging operations; intestinal blockages due to ingesting plastic debris; serious injuries from discarded monofilament fishing line; poaching and other unnatural causes have put sea turtle populations at risk. Tens of thousands of turtles have been killed in shrimp trawls and other commercial fishing gear in recent years. However, with the new regulations requiring Turtle Excluder Devices (T.E.D's) on shrimp trawlers, it is hoped that turtle deaths will be greatly reduced.

Five species of sea turtles inhabit the coastal waters of Florida. These are the highly endangered Kemp's Ridley, Hawksbill, Leatherback, Green, and the more common Loggerhead sea turtle. Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles



Female Leatherback Sea Turtle makes her way back to the water after digging her nest and laying eggs on the beach at Surfside and 94th Street on April 15, 2006 at 8:00 AM.

occasionally nest in south Florida, but have not been documented on Key Biscayne. However, the green and the loggerhead have well documented histories of using Key Biscayne as a nesting beach, with the loggerhead being the predominant species. Especially larger sea turtles such as leatherbacks and loggerheads usually prefer beaches with open-water access.

In order to counter the adverse impacts of human activity on sea turtles, Miami Dade Park's naturalist staff and volunteers survey the

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SEA TURTLE AWARENESS PROGRAMS

This summer journey into the world of sea turtles and become more aware of how you can help save these amazing creatures! Join us at one of our evening lectures presented by park naturalists, followed by observing a live sea turtle release on Crandon and Haulover beaches during the height of the hatching season. Since 1980, thousands of sea turtles have been hatched and released through the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program.

CRANDON PARK

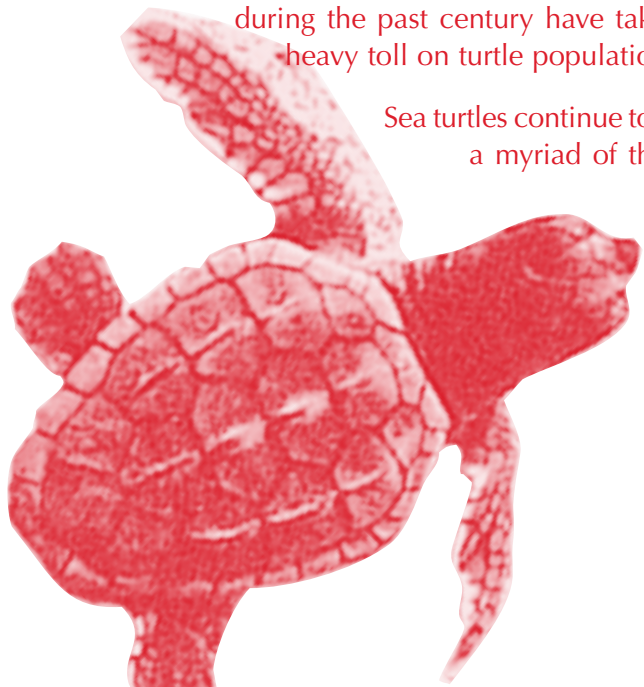
August & September
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
Time: 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person
Registration begins July 1, 2006 - Space is limited!
Registration required. For individual or group reservations, call (305) 361-6767 Ext 112. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center, Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance, 6767 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne

HAULOVER BEACH PARK

August 2 to September 1, 2006
Wednesdays & Fridays
Time: 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM
Fee: \$5.00/Person
Registration required. Call Selina Mills at (305) 947-3525, 10800 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SEA TURTLE NESTING AND RELOCATION PROGRAM? Visit the Miami-Dade Parks Web Site at www.miamidade.gov/parks/ecoadventures/turtles to learn more about the efforts of Miami-Dade Parks and how you can help!

Begin at
Crandon Park and
Haulover Park
this August and
September



Guided Tours and Nature Excursions

Canoe Tours

EcoAdventures has put together a series of canoe tours that offer you an opportunity to explore the popular waterways of our Miami-Dade Parks and nearby coastal preserves. Led by experienced Interpretive 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 excursions. Be sure to check out the rating for each tour, as most are rated easy to moderate. Children under the age of 18 years require a Release of Liability form signed by a parent or guardian.

WHAT TO BRING?

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

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

BILL SADOWSKI'S SUNSET CANOE TOUR

Saturdays, September 16 & 30, 2006

Time: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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

Canoe rentals also available at the park

Rated: Easy

Join park naturalists for an easy paddle on the C-100 waterway to Coral Reef Park and back. Along the way, you will observe a variety of wading birds and other wildlife. We will take a rest at the park, so pack a snack and lots to drink. On the return trip back to the nature center, you will enjoy a beautiful sunset as well observing flocks of white ibis heading to their roost. Meet at the Bill Sadowski Nature Center.

HISTORIC CORAL GABLES WATERWAY CANOE TOUR

Saturdays, August 19, September 2 & 30, 2006

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

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

Rated: Easy

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

MATHESON HAMMOCK'S TEQUESTA CANOE TRAIL TOUR

Saturdays, August 5 & September 16, 2006

Sundays, July 30 & August 27, 2006

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Cost: \$30.00/Person

Rating: Moderate

Prior to the 1500's, the Tequesta Indians navigated the coastal waters of Biscayne Bay in search of shellfish, manatee and sea turtles for food. In this energizing canoe adventure from Matheson Hammock Park to the headwaters of the Coral Gables Waterway, park naturalist guides will explain many of the marine plants and animals that inhabit this rich environment. Don't forget your lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Meet at A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

DEERING ESTATE'S CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

Sundays, August 6, 13 & 27, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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

Rated: Beginner to Expert

Chicken Key was once an active bird rookery for many wading birds that inhabited the bay including the white ibis; also know as the Chokoloskee Chicken. Join Deering Estate park naturalists exploring the coastal waters Biscayne Bay and Chicken Key where you will discover the variety of wildlife that inhabits this unique area. This canoe tour is designed for both beginners and experts alike. Registration required, call (305) 235-1668 ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.

DEERING ESTATE MOONLIGHT CANOEING

Full Moons

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Time: 7:00 PM -11:00 PM

Fee: \$ 35.00/Person (Adults Only – 18 years and older)

Rated: Beginner – Expert

On this very popular park naturalist-guided canoe tour starting at the estate's boat basin, you will paddle across the coastal waters of Biscayne Bay to Chicken Key under the light of a full moon. Space is limited. Registration required, call (305) 235-1668 ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.

DEERING ESTATE'S MANGROVE MAZE CANOE TOUR

Sunday, August 20, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fee: \$25.00/Adults, \$15.00/Children (Ages 9-14)

The coastal waters of Biscayne Bay contain a fringe of mangrove forest that is interspersed with beautiful winding creeks teaming with wildlife. Join Deering Estate Naturalists for an up-close exploration of this critical habitat that is so important to the Bay. This canoe tour is designed for beginners and experts alike. Tour dates are subject to suitable tide conditions. Please call the Naturalists' Office to confirm dates and times. Registration required, call (305) 235-1668 ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.

GREYNOLDS PARK HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TOUR

Saturdays, August 12 & 26, September 9 & 23, 2006

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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

Rated: Moderate

The beauty of the Oleta River has drawn man to its shore for centuries. As early as 500 B.C., the river was home to the Tequesta Indians who camped along its shore. In 1841, the river was named Big Snake Creek and was part of the route used by Federal troops in the second Seminole War to travel south from Loxahatchee. The river linked the Seminole Indians living in the Everglades to Biscayne Bay. An Indian trading post was established at what is now Greynolds Park. Relive the river's historic past with park naturalist guides as you explore this natural haven for wading birds, osprey, fish and the endangered West Indian manatee. Registration required. Tour leaves from East Greynolds Park, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach.

INDIAN KEY CANOE AND SNORKEL TOUR

Saturdays, August 26 & September 23, 2006

Time: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$ 45.00/Person

Rated: Moderate

Indian Key Historic State Park is only accessible by boat.

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

Indian Key, located in the Middle Keys, became the first county government seat of Miami-Dade County in 1836. At that time the island was the site of a lucrative business in salvaging cargo from shipwrecks in the Florida Keys. On this park naturalist-guided tour, you will paddle to this historic island site to explore foot trials through vegetation and settlement remnants. Then don your snorkel gear to explore the clear waters surrounding the key to see coral and colorful tropical fish. Meet at A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.

LIGNUM VITAE KEY CANOE TOUR

Saturday, August 12 & September 9, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Full Day)

Fee: \$ 45.00/Person

Rated: Moderate

Lignum Vitae Key Botanical State Park is only accessible by boat. Includes transportation in an Eco-van. Join park naturalists on this adventurous canoe tour to the pristine 280-acre tropical island of Lignum Vitae Key, lush in flora and fauna unique only to the Florida Keys. Return to the Florida of the early 1900's when life styles were simpler and enriched by the natural elements of South Florida's environment. Florida State Park rangers will meet and lead the group on a tour of this unspoiled tropical hardwood hammock and a restored caretaker home built in 1919. Meet at A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center.



Canoe Workshops

BILL SADOWSKI PARK CANOE WORKSHOPS

Saturdays, August 26, September 9 & 23, 2006

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Fee: \$20.00/Adult, \$15.00/Children (Ages 14 and under)

Have you wanted to try canoeing but felt you did not have the proper skills? This workshop will teach you the fundamentals of canoeing and covers basic strokes, steering, and safety skills to handle a canoe. After the completion of the workshop session you will be prepared for some of the canoe tours that are offered by Eco Adventure's park naturalists. An adult must accompany children under 18. To register, please call 305-255-4767. Meet at the Nature Center.

RENTALS

CANOE RENTALS

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

GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE

17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach
Phone: Boathouse (305) 948-2891 & Park Office (305) 945-3425

Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays

Time: 10:00AM – 5:00PM

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

Rentals are located at the Boathouse

BILL SADOWSKI PARK & NATURE CENTER

17555 S.W. 79th Avenue, South Miami

Phone: (305) 255-4767

Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 10:00AM – 5:00PM

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

Rentals are located at the Nature Center

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

KAYAK RENTALS

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

CRANDON VISITOR AND BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER

6767 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne
Nature Center Phone: (305) 361-6767, Ext. 112
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 Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center. Enter at North Beach Entrance, Parking Lot # 1.

GREYNOLDS PARK BOATHOUSE

Fully equipped "sit on top" ocean kayaks

17530 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach

Phone: (305) 948-2891

Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays

Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00P.M.

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

Rentals are located at the Boathouse

All 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.

Kayaking and Snorkeling Adventure Tours

EcoAdventures kayak and snorkeling tours are a great way to explore and experience the biologically rich coastal waters off shore from Key Biscayne and parts of Beautiful Biscayne Bay. Led by knowledgeable and experienced park 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 the many plants and wildlife that inhabit this essential marine sanctuary to southeast Florida's quality of life. We provide two person "sit on top" ocean kayaks and all tours are beginner friendly for the whole family. Children 9 to 18 years age 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 (1quart minimum)
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Long-sleeved shirt and hat
- Shoes you do not mind getting wet
- Sealable plastic or dry bag to secure important belongings

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 ADVENTURE TOURS

Two person "sit on top" kayaks

Saturdays & Sundays

Time: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$50.00/Adult, \$15.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Residents: \$42.00/Adult, \$22.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Fee includes snorkeling gear.

Rated: Easy to Moderate

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

Kayak along the beautiful crystal clear waters of Key Biscayne and Crandon Park's Bear Cut Preserve. Join us as we explore and discover colorful tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, cushion stars, herons, frigate birds and other animals that share this fragile and unique sanctuary. This trip is a great introduction to snorkeling and kayaking. And, you get to keep your snorkel, too! **Group rates also available. Registration required. On Sundays and Holidays, call the Visitors Center directly at (305) 361-6767 Ext. 112. Meet at the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center, Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance.**

NEW LAND AND SEA ADVENTURE TOURS

Two person "sit on top" kayaks

Saturdays and Sundays

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Fee: \$40.00/Adult, \$22.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Resident Rate: \$32.00/Adult, \$22.00/Child (Ages 9-14)

Fee includes snorkeling gear.

Rated: Easy to Moderate

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

Learn about the island of Key Biscayne rich history, as you enjoy a tram ride through Bear Cut Preserve and walk along the trails and beach of one of the last remaining wild coastal barrier island preserves. Then cool off as we snorkel around 2,000 year old fossilized reef in search of sea stars, urchins, and nurse sharks! This trip is rated easy to moderate and is a great introduction to snorkeling. And, you get to keep your snorkel, too! **Group rates also available. Registration required. On Sundays and Holidays, call the Visitors Center directly at (305) 361-6767 Ext. 112. Meet at the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center, Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance.**

NEW KEY BISCAYNE SNORKEL & ISLAND BOAT TOUR

Saturday, August 13, 2006

Sunday, August 26, 2006

Time: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Fee: \$62.00/Per Person - Cost includes snorkeling gear.

Welcome Aboard! Cruise around the southernmost sand barrier island of Key Biscayne with our knowledgeable and experienced park naturalist guides. Enjoy breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and the many historical and world famous landmarks such as Stiltsville and the Cape Florida Lighthouse built in 1825– the oldest building in south Florida. Cool off by snorkeling at nearby shallow reefs. These reefs provide an ideal haven for countless numbers of marine life. You are sure to encounter conchs, stingrays, nurse sharks, reef fish, lobsters and more! And, you get to keep your snorkel, too! **Group rates also available. Registration required. On Sundays and Holidays, call the Visitors Center directly at (305) 361-6767 Ext. 112. Meet at the Crandon Park Marina in front of Dock Masters Office.**

PELICAN HARBOR KAYAK ADVENTURE

Two person "sit on top" kayaks

Sundays, August 6 & September 3, 2006

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$ 35.00/Person

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 discovering marine plants and animals that inhabit some of these islands, all living within sight of nearby Miami Beach. **Registration required. Meet at the Pelican Harbor Marina, 1275 NE 79th Street Causeway.**

NEW EAST GREYNOLDS OLETA RIVER KAYAK TOUR

Two person "sit on top" kayaks

Sundays, August 20, & September 17, 2006

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fee: \$ 25.00/Person

Rated: Easy to Moderate

Join park naturalists on this guided kayak exploration of the historic Oleta River and its mangrove-lined creeks where many wading birds and other wildlife can be viewed up close. You will also have an opportunity to visit a coastal tropical hardwood hammock where the Tequesta Indians made their home over 2000 years ago. **For the kayak tour, meet at East Greynolds Park 16700 Biscayne Boulevard.**

Nature Center Programs

ESCAPE TO NATURE!

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

ARCH CREEK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

1855 N.E. 135th Street

North Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 944-6111

ARCH CREEK TRAIL TOURS

Saturdays

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. **For special group tours, call (305) 944-6111. Meet at the Arch Creek Museum.**



ARCH CREEK GHOST TOURS

Wednesdays

September 13 & 27, 2006

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

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

ARCH CREEK PARK FAMILY FUN DAY

Sundays, August 19, September 16, 2006

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

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

A.D. BARNES PARK SENSE OF WONDER NATURE CENTER

3701 S.W. 72nd Avenue

South Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 662-4124

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

Daily

Time: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Explore one of the few remaining native Slash pine-rockland and tropical hardwood hammock plant communities remaining in South Miami. Discover rare plants, colorful butterflies, and migratory birds. Nature trail is fully accessible. Stop at the nature center for a trail guide and bird checklist. Visit the reptile collection in the nature center. **For naturalist-guided group tours, call (305) 662-4124.**

BILL SADOWSKI PARK AND NATURE CENTER

17555 S.W. 79TH Avenue

Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 255-4767

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

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

FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHTS

Fridays, September 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2006

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

Beat the heat and join park naturalists for some cool programs inside our air-conditioned nature center. Program topics will include a variety of hands-on critters, animal feeding time, and bugs permitting, an after dark walk on the nature trails with flashlights. **Pre-registration is required. Call (305) 255-4767. Meet at the Bill Sadowski Nature Center.**

CASTELLOW HAMMOCK PARK AND NATURE CENTER

22301 S.W. 162nd Avenue

Homestead, Florida

Phone: (305) 242-7688

SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAIL

Explore a tropical hardwood hammock known for its variety of rare plants, deep limestone solution holes, wildlife, and migratory birds in the fall (late August thru October). Trail guides are available at the nature center.



BUTTERFLY & HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN

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

BACK COUNTRY FISHING WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 9, 2006
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Cost: \$ 15.00/Person

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

CRANDON PARK VISITORS AND BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER

6767 Crandon Boulevard

Key Biscayne, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 361-6767, ext. 112

Special group tours are available.

Enter through Parking Lot # 1, North Beach Entrance

Parking Fee: \$ 5.00/Vehicle

What began as a sandbar is now the Bear Cut Preserve, a 265-acre natural barrier island fringed with mangroves, shallow bays, white sandy beaches, dunes, coastal hammocks and a rock reef 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 BEACH WALKS

Available Upon Request Only

Fee: \$ 2.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Join our park naturalists as they take you on a stroll along the shoreline of the Bear Cut Preserve. Learn about butterflies, birds and the many plant and animal species that inhabit the coastal environments of South Florida. Bring your binoculars along and your water shoes in tow! You never know what the tide might wash in! **For individual or group tour reservations, call the Visitors Center at (305) 361-6767 ext. 112. Meet at the Nature Center.**

SEA TURTLE AWARENESS PROGRAM

August & September

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Fee: \$5.00/Person

Registration begins July 1, 2006 - Space is limited!

Each summer (starting in April – September), Florida beaches host the largest gathering of nesting sea turtles in the United States. Sea turtles once roamed the oceans by the millions but over the past few centuries, the demand for sea turtle meat, eggs, shell, leather, oil, and loss of habitat due to urban development along the coasts has greatly reduced their numbers. This summer journey into the world of sea turtles and become more aware of how you can help save these amazing creatures! Join us at one of our evening lectures presented by park naturalists, followed by observing a live sea turtle release on Crandon beach during the height of the hatching season. Since 1980, thousands of sea turtles have been hatched and released through the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program. **Registration required. For individual or group reservations, call (305) 361-6767 Ext 112. Meet at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center, Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance.**

NEW SUNDAYS 'TIL SUNDOWN AT CRANDON PARK

Second Sunday of the Month

August 13 ~ "See Baby Sea Turtles"

September 10 ~ "Biscayne Bay"

Time: 4:00 PM – Sundown

Come relax, listen to music, learn something new about nature and enjoy "Sundays 'til Sundown" at Crandon Park. On the second Sunday of each month, Naturalist teams from Miami-Dade Parks and the Biscayne Nature Center will be hosting a slough of exciting afternoon nature activities, guest speakers and live music from 4:00 PM 'til Sundown. **Please call the Crandon Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center at (305) 361-6767 for more details. Enter the North Beach Entrance Parking Lot # 1.**

DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

16701 S.W. 72 Avenues

Miami, Florida

Phone: (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242

DEERING ESTATE HISTORIC AND NATURAL AREA TOURS

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

Time: Estate Opens 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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

(Includes Admission to the Estate and historic homes)

Meet at the Visitor Center

DEERING ESTATE ARCHITECTURE TOURS

4th Saturday of the Month

Saturdays, August 26 & September 26, 2006

Fee: Free with Paid Admission

Rated: Easy

Enjoy an afternoon with Deering Estate naturalist guides to discover distinct architectural features of some of South Florida's earliest buildings located on the estate. The Richmond Cottage was built between 1896 and 1916, and is one of the finest remaining examples of South Florida vernacular architecture designed to capture those summer breezes. The Stone House built in 1922 is a unique example of Florida Mediterranean Revival style architecture. **Meet at the Visitor Center.**



GEOLOGY WALKS

Saturdays, August 5 & September 2, 2006

Time: 3:00 PM

Fee: Free with Paid Admission

Rated: Easy

Join park naturalists as they step back in time exploring the Deering Estate's ancient and magnificent geological limestone formations. It's a unique way to spend an afternoon and have a "rocking" good time! **Pre-registration required. Call the Naturalists' Office, (305) 235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

DEERING ESTATE BUTTERFLY WALKS

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM

Fee: Free with Paid Admission

Rated: Easy

Butterfly gardening is becoming one of the most popular forms of attracting these colorful creatures to your yard. Here is your opportunity to observe and learn about many of the native butterflies that inhabit the Charles Deering Estate. Join a park naturalist guide to explore various habitats of the park on this informative tour designed for both beginners and experts. **Pre-registration required. Call the Naturalists' Office 305-235-1668, Ext. 242. Meet at the Visitor Center.**

GREYNOLDS PARK

17530 W. Dixie Highway

North Miami Beach, Florida

Reservations: Call (305) 948-2891.

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

Bordered on the east by the beautiful Oleta River, Greynolds Park has experienced a rich and varied history from the time when Tequesta Indians camped on the river's shore to when Seminole Indians traded goods at a former trading post that was located in the park. Travel back in time with park naturalists to hear stories of the park's history and explore trails to learn about plants and animals that inhabited the area. **Special group tours available. Registration required. Call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Boathouse.**

GREYNOLDS PARK BAT PROGRAM AND NIGHT HIKE

Fridays, August 18 & September 15, 2006

Time: 7:30 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Learn all about bats and discover why they are so beneficial to us. Discover myths and misconceptions of bats through a slide lecture presented by park naturalists, followed by night hike through the park in search of these mysterious mammals and other nocturnal creatures. Bring a flashlight. **Registration required. Call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Boathouse.**

GREYNOLDS PARK OWL WALK

Fridays, August 4 & September 1, 2006

Time: 7:30 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

Rated: Easy

Join Greynolds park naturalists exploring along park trails for the elusive Eastern Screech Owl, South Florida's smallest owl. This elusive predator feeds primarily on insects



and lives in a variety of woodland habitats in the park. Bring a flashlight. **Registration required. Call (305) 948-2891. Meet at the Greynolds Boathouse.**

CAMP GREYNOLDS CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Saturdays, August 5 & September 2, 2006

Time: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$ 15.00/Person

Rated: Easy

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

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

9610 Old Cutler Road

Coral Gables, Florida

Phone: (305) 662-4124

(A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center)

NEW MATHESON HAMMOCK BAYSHORE WADING TOUR

Sundays, August 13, September 3 & 17, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fee: \$ 5.00/Person

Rated: Easy (Parts of tour conducted in shallow water)

The shallow coastal sand and sea grass flats of Biscayne Bay are affected by tidal rhythms that have shaped the lives of many plants and animals that inhabit this coastal zone. At low tide, you will explore the bayshore with a park naturalist to observe and discover how these marine plant and animal species adapt to survive in this critical habitat. **Special group tours available. Reservations are required call (305) 662-4124. Meet in front of the Redfish Grill.**

Miami-Dade Parks Eco Adventure Overnight Camp



Kids have fun while exploring our unique ecosystem in a safe, activity-filled setting.

Monday, August 7 – Friday, August 11, 2006

Daily fun schedule includes:

- Kayaking • Snorkeling • Hiking
- Canoeing • Campfires
- Rock Wall Climbing • Archery

Camp Greynolds at Greynolds Park

18601 N.E. 22nd Avenue, North Miami Beach, FL 33160

Call (305) 365-3018 for registration information.

Ages 11-14 • \$425 per child

Eco Adventure Tours

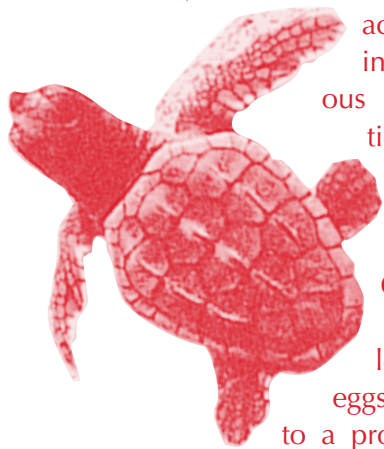
Call 305-755-7848 (v/tdd) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (five days notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.



Sea Turtles

continue from page 1

beach from the north tip of Crandon Park south to Bill Baggs State Park at dawn each morning during the four-month turtle nesting season. Nesting activity on Key Biscayne begins in late April or early May and extends through August. Staff continues to check the beach until the last hatchlings are safely offshore in late September or early October. Nests are located on the beach by the tracks that are left behind by the female turtle, which are different for each species. The nest site has a shallow body pit and small sand mound. When a nest is found, the naturalist documents the nesting activity. Nests that are in jeopardy from various beach-related activities are relocated to a hatchery on Crandon Park beach. Nests located in the Bear Cut Preserve or Bill Baggs State Park are left in place. Sea turtle eggs that must be moved to a protective enclosure on the beach are reburied in natural sand at the same depth as the original nest. Eggs are then subjected to the same natural conditions they have would have received in the natural nest.



The loggerhead is the primary sea turtle species utilizing Key Biscayne as a nesting beach. The reddish-brown turtle is named for its large head, which may be up to 10-inches wide. Powerful jaw muscles allow the loggerhead to crush heavy-shelled clams and crustaceans. Adult loggerheads weigh an average of 200 to 350 pounds and measure about 3 feet

in length. Loggerheads nesting on Key Biscayne generally lay between 110-120 ping-pong ball sized eggs. The length of incubation depends upon temperature levels of the nest environment with cooler weather causing longer incubation periods. Under normal summer conditions the average hatchling emerges from the nest in approximately fifty days after the eggs were laid.

Hatchlings generally emerge at night to avoid becoming easy prey for birds and other predators as they crawl across the beach to the water. It is the cooling sand that triggers the hatchlings to leave the nest. As the hatchlings in the uppermost section of the nest sense it is night and begin to emerge from the nest, their movements trigger the rest of the hatchlings into action. Soon a hundred or more hatchlings are scrambling towards the water. The young turtles are drawn to the water by the light reflecting from the ocean, moving away from the darker dunes or vegetation line. Artificial beach lighting can be deadly to young turtles as they can be drawn away from their natural course towards the water. On their first day at sea, young loggerheads avoid many predators in the sea as they seek and find floating mats of sargassum weed where they spend the juvenile stage of their life.

The unintentional harassment of sea turtles by insensitive turtle watchers can disrupt the natural nesting and hatching cycles of sea turtles. You can learn more about these ancient giants of the sea by attending one of Miami Dade Park's Sea Turtle Awareness Programs that are offered either at the Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center or at Haulover Beach Park. Reservations are required for this popular activity.

— **Miami-Dade County Park's Sea Turtle Nesting and Relocation Program**



"In Situ" Leatherback Sea Turtle nest is left in its natural location and marked to protect the nest and eggs.

NEW SOUTH FLORIDA NATURE GUIDE INTRODUCED!

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

Have you ever wanted to know all about the hiking trails in southeast Florida?

How about all the places you can snorkel? Are you curious to find all the great bird watching spots? Well this guide is your key to unlocking the best kept nature secrets that southeast Florida has to offer! For more information or to receive your copy by mail, call (305) 365-3018.



About EcoAdventures

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

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



Reservation and Registration Information

To make reservations for the tours listed, please contact the EcoAdventures 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 EcoAdventure tours are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions and reservation minimums.

Groups

ECOADVENTURES 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 EcoTourism Office at (305) 365-3018.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MIAMI-DADE PARKS AND NATURE AREAS

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

FACILITY	FEATURES																			
	Administration/Parking Fee	Picnic Shelter	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 & Nature Center 1855 NE 135 Street, North Miami (305) 944-6111																				
Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center 22301 SW 162 Avenue, Homestead (305) 242-7688																				
Chapman Field Park 13601 Old Cutler Road, Miami (305) 365-3018 Eco Canoe Tours-Reservation Only																				
Crandon Visitors and Nature Center/ Crandon Adventures 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 361-6767 ext 112																				
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																				

EcoAdventure Tours Newsletter

Volume 13 Summer 2006

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Park and Recreation Department.

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Sally Timberlake
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EcoAdventures**

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Phone (305) 365-3018

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	Eduardo Salcedo <i>Deering Estate at Cutler</i>

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CARLOS ALVAREZ
Mayor



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

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