



**FLORIDA BIRDING  
& NATURE FESTIVAL**



*Fall 2017*

Hosted by



In partnership with



**HCC**

SouthShore Campus



**Hillsborough  
County Florida**

# Experience the power of nature at the Manatee Viewing Center



Open every  
November 1 through April 15  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

6990 Dickman Rd. Apollo Beach, FL 33572  
(813) 228-4289 • Admission is free!



[tampaelectric.com/manatee](http://tampaelectric.com/manatee)

Habitat Trails • Rays Touch Tank • Observation Tower  
Wildlife-watching • Gardens • Games  
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WE'RE  
PUTTING SCIENCE  
TO WORK TO  
NURTURE NATIVE  
WILDLIFE.



Every day, Mosaic puts science to work right here in our community. Our team of biologists and ecologists are dedicated to ensuring the protection and stewardship of Florida's native wildlife through the most advanced relocation techniques and prime habitat development.

To learn how, visit  
[Science.MosaicCo.com](http://Science.MosaicCo.com).



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Ask our field trip leaders the questions you've  
always wondered about. They're leading the trips  
because they know the areas and what lives there.



# HCC

## SouthShore Campus

"Welcome to Hillsborough County Community College South Shore campus, a Gold LEED® Certified facility located in southeast Hillsborough County at 551 24th St NE, Ruskin, FL 33570. When this state of the art campus opened in 2008, instead of the expected 400 students, over 1,600 enrolled. Enrollment increased by 50% the following year and is presently over 7,000. One building soon expanded to two and a third building is planned to replace the modular buildings currently housing offices and some classrooms."

Dr. Allen Witt, campus president welcomes you to the college and the festival.

# Welcome



We are delighted you have joined us! We are celebrating the wonders of the birds, wildlife, and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida. We hope that you will see new birds, find new places to go, and learn new things about our area as you participate in this festival.

## FIELD TRIPS

Our field trips to showcase some of the best natural areas of our counties, protected as public parks or preserves, as private lands or more. There are trips to search for birds, butterflies, ants and dragonflies, turtles and wildflowers. Most trips are on foot, but there are wagon rides and boat trips.

## SEMINARS

Seminars and workshops are even more wide-ranging. Yes, certainly birds, but much more on wildlife, natural areas, habitats, rehabilitation, and restoration. There is something interesting and entertaining for everyone. And for photographers, this is your chance to learn from the pros.

## KEYNOTES

Our first night's social is all about the manatee. Enjoy a wonderful dinner buffet and a presentation by Dr. James "Buddy" Powell about his life of work for manatees - all sponsored by the Tampa Electric Company's Manatee Viewing Center. On Saturday night the keynote is by Resee Collins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is on the conservation success of the bald eagle. On Sunday, at a unique seminar and lunch with a panel of experts, you hear a truly current and meaning discussion about "The Economic Value of Ecosystems." An exceptional opportunity with a Q&A session included.

## EXPO

Don't forget the Expo, both indoors and out. Both local vendors and those who have migrated a great distance to show, invite, and educate you. Enjoy books, nature, wildlife, and art. See electric vehicles up close and enjoy new Subarus. And visit the food trucks for your lunch!

## KIDS' SESSIONS

On Saturday, engaging and hands-on activities entertain our children about wildlife and nature.



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# Keynote Events

All social keynote events include a buffet meal.

Keynotes held at the Firehouse Cultural Center, 101 1st Avenue NE, Ruskin, FL 33570

**FRIDAY October 13, 2017 | Doors Open 5:30 pm**

*Sponsored by the Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center*



## Manatees: Legacy of a Life of Conservation

**Dr. James "Buddy" Powell**

James "Buddy" Powell, PhD is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Sea to Shore Alliance, a partnership of scientists and citizen volunteers with the expertise, passion, and vision to help reverse the degradation of our aquatic coastal environment and loss of species and diversity. Buddy shares his life-long experiences and work to protect manatees in Florida and worldwide.

**SATURDAY October 14, 2017 | Doors Open 5:30 pm**

## Conservation Success of the Bald Eagle

**Resee Collins**

The Bald Eagle is an Endangered Species Act success story! This presentation will highlight the natural history and recovery of the Bald Eagle in Florida through a combined approach of wildlife rehabilitation, ongoing research, citizen science, and regulatory permitting, including interesting 'eagle stories'. Resee Collins is the Eagle & Rehabilitation Permit Coordinator for the Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**SUNDAY October 15, 2017 | Doors Open 1:00 pm**

## Sunday Lunch with a Panel of Experts: The Economic Value of Ecosystems

On Sunday, at a unique seminar and lunch with a panel of experts, you hear a truly current and meaningful discussion about "The Economic Value of Ecosystems." How much are natural areas worth? Besides the economic impacts of ecotourism, a growing body of research indicates significant financial value provided through ecosystem services and savings in health care costs. Learn the economic arguments for environmental protection from an engaging panel of experts. Lunch and a Q&A session are included in this program beginning at 1:00 PM.

**MODERATOR:** Dr. Evan P. Bennett, Florida Atlantic University

**PANELISTS:** Dr. Michael Andreu, University of Florida

Randy Deshazo, Principal Planner with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Robert Northrop, Hillsborough County Forester for the University of Florida IFAS Extension

Dr. Taylor Verne Stein, University of Florida Professor



# Presentations

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, SouthShore

## FRIDAY

### Tips and Tricks for Nature Photography

9:00 - 9:50 am | PF2.1

Come to this class being led by Roger Sheets and Joel Jackson if you want to review the basics of nature photography, improve your picture taking and composition, and capture pictures you've been missing. You are encouraged to bring a few (1 - 3) pictures on a USB flash drive for review and positive feedback. Roger and Joel will offer suggestions, techniques, and composition ideas to help you improve your results.

### Camera Equipment

10:00 - 10:50 am | PF2.2

When it comes to photography equipment, begin with the end in mind. Are you simply documenting the moment for your personal records or do you plan on sharing the photo on social media or emailing it to a friend? Or printing the picture for scrapbooking or to hang on the wall at home? Or creating a print to be sold at a gallery? This class, led by Joe Bailey, will be based on needs or intent beginning with photographing nature with the cell phone to using that DSLR with interchangeable lens.

### Design Your Yard for Wildlife

10:00 - 10:50 am | PF3.2

Tom Heitzman, owner of Sweet Bay Nursery, will discuss native shrubs and perennials for use in the home landscape with an emphasis on plants that attract a variety of pollinators, butterflies and birds.



### Uncommon Photos of Common Birds

11:00 - 11:50 am | PF2.3

Don't pass up photo opportunities of common birds we see every day such as pigeons, doves, starlings, wrens, etc. Jim Caldwell will show examples of photos that captured unusual or interesting behavior of birds we commonly see every day. In addition, Jim will give suggestions and techniques to help you improve your wildlife photography – whether you are shooting something common or rare and exotic!

### Bird Feeding 101

11:00 - 11:50 am | PF3.3

From Lucy Polak and Greg Williams of Wild Birds Unlimited: Make your yard "bird-friendly" in order to attract the greatest variety and number of birds by providing the basics of food, water, shelter, and nesting areas. Learn the elements of a thoughtful bird feeding station, which includes different types of feeders and the foods that will work well in your yard.

### Everglade Snail Kites

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PF1.4

Dr. Paul Gray will discuss the recent population crash of Snail Kites and the apparent recovery that is now happening. The good news is an exotic apple snail is fueling the recovery and the bad news is our native apple snails seem functionally absent from many south Florida ecosystems. See what this means for Kites and ecosystem management in Florida.

### Finding Cause for Optimism in Avian Conservation

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PF2.4

Full consideration of the magnitude of conservation challenges that exist at both local and global scales can rightly leave a thoughtful person feeling bereft of hope. However, many professional wildlife biologists need some semblance of positivity in their lives to operate effectively, and support from the general public is reliant in part on positive messaging that effectively conveys conservation successes and failures that have occurred in Florida to demonstrate how one can develop a pragmatic, empirically-based optimism despite the daunting suite of threats faced by wildlife.

### Beneath the Surface: The Underwater World of Tampa Bay

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PF3.4

Nanette O'Hara helps us see the bay from a different perspective – underwater! Explore Tampa Bay's seagrass meadows, mud flats and reefs. Learn about what lives there, who eats who, and what these communities reveal about the health of our estuaries, and our planet. This virtual photo and video tour will immerse you in an amazing world of seahorses, stingrays, snook and sharks, all without getting wet!

# October 13, 2017

## Birding in East Africa

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PF1.5

In this presentation, Kevin Shelton will discuss birding in East Africa, primarily Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Kevin will take us on a virtual safari to the varied environments in this beautiful part of the world and look at the diversity of the birds inhabiting them. Then he'll look at ways to experience this adventure on a real photo safari.

## From Ag Field to Bird Preserve

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PF2.5

Manatee County biologist Damon Moore offers a thorough explanation on the planning, implementation, and adaptive management for restoration of former agricultural lands at Perico Preserve in Manatee County. Or in simpler terms, what was done at Perico Preserve and why.

## Life Histories of Fishes of Tampa Bay and the Gulf

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PF3.5

David Westmark presents "Some birds eat fish but all fish have ages." The how, what, why, and when of estimating the ages of fishes from the Tampa Bay area and beyond. Includes live demonstrations!

## Apalachicola River: Rivers, Birds and Water Wars

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PF1.6

Increasing human demand for freshwater has affected flow seasonality and volume of rivers around the world. Ornithologist Todd Engstrom examines the Apalachicola River drainage with records of over 330 species of birds in detail to document how river health affects birdlife.

## Benefits of Translocation of Wildlife Species

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PF2.6

Translocation of protected species is an important conservation tool that has been demonstrated to be effective for select species and habitats. Vivienne Handy presents how Quest Ecology has participated in the successful translocation of Florida scrub-jay, burrowing owl, Florida mouse, and gopher tortoise, as well as rare plant species. Site selection and management is key to making translocations work and will be the focus of this presentation.

## Restoration Aquaculture

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PF3.6

Restoration aquaculture is an emerging field that uses cultured aquatic animals or plants to actively restore habitats or populations. In Florida, restoration aquaculture is happening with finfish, oysters, seagrasses, bay scallops, and corals, to name a few. This talk by Dr. Josh Patterson will provide a general overview of restoration aquaculture including examples, legal and ethical considerations, and future directions.

## Helping Barn Owls Recover

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PF1.7

Featuring the use of nesting boxes on the perimeters of open fields, the University of Florida Barn Owl Program has greatly enhanced barn owl populations in south Florida. The program has successfully reduced the use of chemical rodenticides by growers and has resulted in some of the highest barn owl densities in North America. Not one to miss an opportunity, Dr. Richard Raid readily enlists the assistance of these raptors for outreach, showing how wildlife and agriculture cannot only co-exist, but benefit one another. This talk is filled with pictures of cute little owlets, anecdotes about owls and teachers, and graphic descriptions of eeeww! .....owl pellets!

## Restoring Wetlands and Uplands in Hillsborough County

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PF2.7

Not all of the lands acquired through the Jan K. Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program are in a pristine state. Some were converted to agricultural land and others have succeeded into hardwood forests due to lack of fire. This presentation by Ross Dickerson will show how Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Management Section restores these lands to a more natural habitat.

## Tarpon: Tampa Bay's Silver King

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PF3.7

The tantalizing tarpon has fascinated anglers since the beginning of written history. From an infant with fangs to a shark's fancy feast, this silver beauty will captivate you with its life history tricks. To learn more about the amazing abilities of Tampa Bay's Silver King and how the everyday angler can help with the conservation of the resource, please plan to attend Kathy Guindon's seminar.





# Presentations

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, SouthShore

## SATURDAY

### Dragonflies

9:00 - 9:50 am | PS1.1

Dragonflies are commonly seen but may be the least understood of any of our flying creatures. Paul Trunk will be presenting a program on the biology and natural history of dragonflies found in west central Florida. He will also highlight some of the more common local species.

### Diamondback Terrapins

9:00 - 9:50 am | PS2.1

Learn about the natural history and conservation of an imperiled estuarine turtle, the diamondback terrapin, from herpetologist George Heinrich. Although terrapins occur in 16 states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the coastline of Florida represents approximately 20% of their entire range. Five of the seven recognized subspecies occur in the state's salt marsh and mangrove habitats, including three endemics.

### Photography Critique

9:00 - 10:50 am | PS3.1

This session is for those who participated in the Friday Photography seminars and/or who went on the special Lettuce Lake Photography walk Friday afternoon. Bring 4-6 of your photos from Lettuce Lake on a flash drive to share with the rest of the group, and see what suggestions the professionals can give you to improve your technique or make the best use of the equipment you have. Professional counseling on the spot from Roger Sheets, Joel Jackson, George Veazey, and Joe Bailey! Better photographs in a day!

### Florida Butterflies

10:00 - 10:50 am | PS1.2

Come explore the wonderful world of Florida butterflies with the man who wrote the book! What's here? Where are they? How do you know who they are? Find out with Marc Minno.

### Saving the Indigo Snake

10:00 - 10:50 am | PS2.2

"An effort to save the Eastern Indigo Snake." This talk by Michelle Hoffman will include population management for the captive breeding program, challenges of breeding and raising Eastern Indigo Snakes, how to operate a reintroduction program, photos of this year's release, and goals of the reintroduction project.

### Gardening for Florida's Butterflies

11:00 - 11:50 am | PS1.3

From the author of "Gardening for Florida's Butterflies," Pam Traas, learn what plants you need to attract butterflies to your garden.

### Frog Listening Network

11:00 - 11:50 am | PS2.3

Scientists have long recognized that anurans (frogs) are "the canaries in the coal mine" for our local wetlands. In recognition of this, the Frog Listening Network teaches interested naturalists frog calls, with the objective of providing environmental education and generating data to track species richness. This talk with Dr. Neil Halstead will describe all of our endemic frog species, their habitats, and their calls.

### What's for Dinner? Photography

11:00 - 11:50 am | PS3.3

Jim Gray tells us "I am fascinated by animal behavior and I get my best photographs when birds are not responding to what I am doing but are behaving as if I was not there. Some photographers forget that birds still need rest, and that we are all creatures of mother earth and we should not interrupt birds' meals and sleep. They are more likely to successfully perpetuate the roles they play in the environment if left in peace, and that provides us with the quality of life that we enjoy." See Jim's pictures of birds having dinner.

### Water for Florida's Future

11:00 - 11:50 am | PS4.3

Florida faces major challenges with water supply and getting our diverse and changing population to conserve water. People want to do the right thing but may not know the right things to do. Dianna King Flynt from Audubon's Water for Florida's Future program will provide practical individual actions for saving water and energy in the home, outside the home and in your community.

### American Oystercatchers

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PS1.4

Audubon biologist Mark Rachal will share conservation efforts and biological history information about one of Florida's rarest species, the American Oystercatcher. Mark will talk about the fascinating behavior of oystercatchers, their long-term and very strong attachment to their mates, dedication to their semi-precocious young, and territorial defense activities.

### Tegus, Invasive Lizards

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PS2.4

Dan Quinn will discuss the background of tegus as an invasive species and the threats that they cause to the native ecosystem. Dan will also give an update on the tegu population in Hillsborough County, what the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been doing, and how others can help.



# October 14, 2017

## Waterbird Entanglement Prevention

1:00 - 1:50 pm | PS3.4

Let's don't hook the pelicans! Learn from Tampa Audubon's Sandy Reed what you can do to educate anglers and the public to prevent entanglement in your community. This program outlines some of the main causes of waterbird entanglement and the simple solutions determined by dedicated brainstorming volunteers!

## Thinking Like a Woodpecker

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PS1.5

In this presentation, ornithologist Dr. Jerome Jackson will introduce the diversity of Florida woodpeckers, how they vary within and among species, and their roles in Florida ecosystems. Is a Hairy Woodpecker really hairy? What is a "cockade"? Does a sapsucker really suck sap? And whatever happened to the Ivory-bill?

## Raptor Adaptations: Birds of prey and their adaptations for success and role in the ecosystem

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PS2.5

Dr. Gabriel Vargo will use several live birds of prey to illustrate aspects of predator-prey relationships, morphological adaptations, bioaccumulation of toxins, and their role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems. The basic natural history of each species is also discussed along with the impact of humans on their habitats and populations.

## Rehabilitating Pelicans and other Seabirds

2:00 - 2:50 pm | PS3.5

Keith Wilkins' presentation will touch upon the various dangers that pelicans and other seabirds face out in the wild every day. Learn which dangers are caused by man, and what you can do to help reduce the high number of sick and injured seabirds cared for at places like the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary treat. Also discussed is how birds are excellent indicators of when something is wrong in our ecosystem.

## Florida's Loggerhead Shrikes

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PS1.6

In this presentation, ornithologist Dr. Bette Jackson will introduce the behavior and ecology of Loggerhead Shrikes whose populations in Florida appear to be doing well, while those elsewhere are declining and endangered. What factors have influenced their success? How can we build on these successes to further help this fascinating species?

## Florida Bird Detective

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PS2.6

During this presentation, ornithologist Adam Kent will explore six clues to bird identification; body type, distinctive markings, bills, behavior, habitat, and sound. What do these clues teach us about a bird's identity? Adam designed the Bird Detective program and wrote the guide for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

## Injured Birds Rescue

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PS3.6

The volunteers of the Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue have extensive experience rescuing eagles, ospreys, hawks, owls, and many other species of birds injured in the Pinellas and Hillsborough County region. Nancy Murrah shares stories of some of the dramatic events that have unfolded during rescue work, and talks about what we, as citizens of an avian world, can do for our co-inhabitants.

## Birding in Western North Carolina

3:00 - 3:50 pm | PS4.6

Western North Carolina offers some of the finest birding in the Eastern United States. Tree-covered mountains hold over 20 species of breeding warblers and colorful wildflowers carpet the forest floor before the leaves open in the spring. Join Asheville, NC resident, Simon Thompson, for an insight into the rich birding of our Southern Mountains.

## The Communal Kite: How the social nature of the Swallow-tailed Kite is imperative to its survival

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PS1.7

Unlike many raptors, Swallow-tailed Kites are social in all aspects of their behavior. By nesting and roosting in neighborhoods, forming large pre-migratory communal roosts, and foraging in large aggregations. Learn from Gina Kent just how important this distinctive sociality is to Swallow-tailed Kites, and how vital the undisturbed persistence of pre-migratory roosts are to the survival of these amazing raptors.

## Bird Migrations through Tampa Bay

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PS2.7

Migration is one of the wonders of the natural world. Not only birds, but bugs, whales, wildebeests and even shrimp migrate. Tampa Bay is a real hot-spot for avian migration. This presentation by Tampa Audubon's Dr. Mary Keith will talk about some of the most amazing flights known so far, and what we're learning about why, when, and how birds migrate. How we can help them on their way is also included.

## Rehabilitation of Raptors

4:00 - 4:50 pm | PS3.7

"Hawks, eagles and owls - oh my." Come learn from the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's Dianna King Flynt about some of the unique abilities a wildlife rehabilitator needs to know about the patients in their care.



# Around the Festival



- 1 Registration (2nd Floor)
- 2 Indoor vendors (2nd Floor)
- 3 Breezeway vendors
- 4 Kids' activities
- 5 Seminars



## Getting Here

- From the I-75 southbound, take exit 240B for FL-674 West/College Ave. Follow FL-674 West/College Ave to 24th Street NE (1.4 miles). Turn right on 24th and continue straight for 0.4 miles to the college on the right.
- From the I-75 northbound, take exit 240. Stay left at the fork, and then turn left onto FL-674 West/College Ave. Turn right on 24th Street NE (1.9 miles), to the college on the right.



**HCC**

SouthShore Campus

551 24th Street NE, Ruskin



**firehouse  
cultural  
center**

101 1st Avenue NE, Ruskin



## Friday

17 Seminars  
Vendors Expo  
Lunch Food Trucks  
7 Field Trips  
Dinner Keynote Event

Seminars 9am-5pm  
Field Trips 7am-6pm  
Food Trucks 11am-2pm  
Vendor Expo 9am-4pm  
Dinner Keynotes 5:30pm  
Lunch Keynote 1:00pm

## Saturday

22 Seminars  
Vendors Expo  
Lunch Food Trucks  
Kids' Sessions  
7 Field Trips  
Dinner Keynote Event

## Sunday

6 Field Trips  
Lunch Keynote Event (Expert Panel)



Food trucks available from 11:00am to 2:00pm Fri & Sat  
Buffet meal served with every Keynote event



# Field Trips

Carpools meet and depart from SouthShore campus

## FRIDAY



### Outback Key, Shell Key, Fort DeSoto County Park from the water with Tampa Bay Watch, Pinellas County

8:00 - 11:15 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TF1 | \$65

You see them all the time - running in the surf, perched on pilings and soaring over the water. If you think they are nondescript grayish variations on the same theme, you are only partially correct. Have fun learning identification and natural history of the common but often difficult-to-identify birds found on Florida's beaches with Eric Plage and Bo Fethe. What's the difference between a tern and a gull, or a sandpiper and a plover? Where does the willet fit in? Explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at our fascinating birds of the beach.

### Celery Fields, Sarasota County

8:00 - 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:15 am)

TF2 | \$45

The 400-acre site has been restored to a meandering stream with wetlands and grasslands nestled among the curves. A hill with walking and equestrian trails overlooks the area, and two boardwalks allow access to the stream and marsh. With 220 species recorded at the site, the swamp and open water environment is a haven for limpkins, bitterns, rails and herons. This trip is being led by Jeanne Dubi and Simon Thompson, and Sarasota Audubon provides volunteer bird naturalists at each of the two boardwalks to help visitors identify birds and plants.

### Perico Preserve, Manatee County

8:30 - 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:30 am)

TF3 | \$45

Led by Damon Moore, Cathy Davis, and Mary Keith. With support from project partners, 56 acres of this site that was formerly abandoned farmland with many exotic plants such as Brazilian pepper and Australian pine was restored. The site underwent major ecological enhancements including the restoration and creation of wetland and upland habitats, as well as the re-establishment of beneficial native plants. Restoration of wading bird habitat and a colony was a key goal.



### Fort DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County

7:45 am - 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TF4 | \$45

Fort DeSoto County Park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded in the park over the years. Fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders and will be offered all three days! Friday's trip is led by Dave Goodwin and Jim Eager.

### Circle B Bar Reserve, Polk County

8:30 am - 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TF5 | \$45

Circle B Bar Preserve was once lakeside marsh drained for cattle pasture. Now the restored marshes are home to limpkins, purple and common gallinules, bitterns and an amazing variety of wintering, migrating and resident birds from bald eagles to sparrows. You will walk with Doug DeNeve on a loop of about 3 miles along dikes between marsh and ponds and along Lake Hancock. Besides birds there will be gators, turtles and more.

### Lettuce Lake Regional Park Photography Workshop

2:00 - 4:30 pm (carpool leaves 1:00 pm)

TF6 | \$45

The park consists of 240 acres of wetlands and uplands along the upper Hillsborough River, an interpretive center, a 3,500-foot boardwalk and an observation tower. We expect to see a variety of water birds and upland birds, including herons, egrets, limpkins, ospreys, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, red-shouldered hawks, barred owls, and more. This trip will be led by Joel Jackson, Roger Sheets, and Joe Bailey, and is specially designed for photographers to practice tips from the morning seminars.

### Sweet Bay Nursery, Display Gardens and Trails

2:00 - 4:00 pm (carpool leaves 1:00 pm)

TF7 | \$45

A nursery tour and optional hike through a pine flatwoods led by Tom Heitzman. Native shrubs and perennials for use in the home landscape with an emphasis on plants that attract a variety of pollinators, butterflies and birds, where to plant them, how to keep them growing and happy.

# Field Trips

Carpools meet and depart from SouthShore campus

## SATURDAY

### Alafia Banks Bird Sanctuary Boat Trip

9:00 – 11:00 am (carpool leaves 8:00 am)

TS1 | \$65

Join us aboard the Florida Aquarium's Bay Spirit II for a 2 ½ hour tour with Mark Rachal, Adam Kent, Gina Kent, and Carol Cassels to an Audubon sanctuary considered to be one of the most important nesting colonies in the state of Florida. Each year up to 18,000 pairs of birds representing up to 20 different species nest on this island, including a third of the state's population of roseate spoonbills and a very large white Ibis nesting colony. Although October is not nesting season, we expect to see pelicans, herons, shorebirds, and duck species. On the ride out to the island, we may see Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

### Lower Green Swamp County Preserve, Wagon Tour, Hillsborough County

8:00 - 11:00 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TS2 | \$45

Lower Green Swamp Preserve, formerly the Cone Ranch, is an area of protected lands in northeastern Hillsborough County, and the largest parcel currently in the ELAPP Program. This trip with Andy Fairbanks and Drs. Bette and Jerry Jackson will look at the Preserve from the back of a trailer. The preserve includes pine uplands and open grasslands, and a crossing over lovely small stream. Possible sightings include red headed woodpeckers to the elusive Bachman's sparrow, with wild turkeys and quail down low and raptors on high. Participants will ride on a tour wagon.

### Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas County

8:30 - 11:30 am (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TS3 | \$45

Honeymoon Island's beaches and the causeway approach to the park are known hotspots for shorebirds, from the little peeps to reddish egrets doing their 'drunken sailor' dance. Merlins patrol the edges looking for unwary dinner items. On the island the Osprey Trail, through a rare virgin slash pine forest, lives up to its name, with dozens of ospreys, plus the resident great horned owl family and migrant passerines. Mangroves, lagoons and tidal flats provide diverse habitat. You will meet Dan Larremore and John Hood before the causeway and have a look at who's dining on the beach before heading into the park.

### Fort DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County

7:45 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:00 am)

TS4 | \$45

More than 250 species of birds have been recorded over the years. Migration brings neo-tropical migratory species to the park as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders and will be offered all three days. Saturday's trip will be led by Dave Goodwin, Simon Thompson, and Jim Eager.

### Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary Field Trip: Birds and Terrapins

2:00 – 4:30 pm (carpool leaves 1:30 pm)

TS5 | \$65

You will travel by outboard motorboat from Williams Park to Hillsborough Bay. We will explore the shorelines of the Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary and find diamondback terrapins. Led by Ann Paul, Carol Cassels, and George Heinrich, who will describe the life-history of this rare estuarine turtle. Although birds will not be nesting, we will look for wading birds, and migratory shorebirds. We may see dolphins and rays.

### Triple Creek Preserve, Butterflies, Dragonflies, and More, Hillsborough County

2:00 – 4:00 pm (carpool leaves 1:15 pm)

TS6 | \$45

This 971-acre tract has a mix of wetland and upland habitats, including pine flatwoods, wetland forests, and improved pasture areas. It is home to many rare species of plants including flakelet fern and grass-pink orchids. The diverse habitats ensure a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators, discussed by Marc Minno, John Lampkin, and Joe Epstein.

### Lower Green Swamp County Preserve, Wagon Tour, Specially Designed for Families

2:00 – 5:00 pm (carpool leaves 1:00 pm)

TS7 | \$45

Through the largest parcel currently in the ELAPP Program, this trip offers parents and their children a great tour of one of Florida's most unique conservation areas. Possible sightings include red headed woodpeckers to the elusive Bachman's sparrow, with wild turkeys and quail down low and raptors on high. Participants will ride on a tour wagon with leaders Andy Fairbanks and Mic McCarty.



# Field Trips

Carpools meet and depart from SouthShore campus

## SUNDAY

### **Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge, Pinellas County**

**8:30 am - 12:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:30 am)**

**TSU1 | \$65**

Join the Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a special boat cruise with Barb and Dave Howard, Ann Paul, Charlie Fisher, and Joyce Kleen. Established in 1974 to protect migratory birds, the island is situated at the mouth of Tampa Bay and is also the site of historic Fort Dade. Three hundred soldiers served at the fort from 1898-1923 and the restored guardhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lighthouse, built in 1858, is still used for navigation. A key migratory bird fall-out site in fall migration, the island hosts a large seabird and pelican colony during the spring nesting season. We expect to see warblers, other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns, and other seabirds.

### **Lettuce Lake Regional Park, Beginning Birding, Hillsborough County**

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:15 am)**

**TSU2 | \$30**

Lettuce Lake, which opened in 1982, consists of 240-acres, an interpretive center, a 3,500-foot boardwalk and an observation tower where visitors can view an extensive variety of wildlife. We expect to see a variety of water birds and upland birds, including herons, egrets, limpkins, ospreys, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, red-shouldered hawks, barred owls, and more. This trip will be oriented to beginning and intermediate birders, and led by Megan Campbell.

### **Cockroach Bay Preserve, Hillsborough County**

**8:00 am – 11:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:30 am)**

**TSU3 | \$30**

Cockroach Bay (500 acres) is one of the largest coastal ecosystem restoration projects. It includes a mosaic of coastal habitats including uplands and freshwater and estuarine wetlands, high and low marshes, salterns, tidal channels/lagoons, mud/sand flats, islands, artificial reefs, and deep water refugia. With Mary Keith, Sandy Reed, and Mary Barnwell there will be short walk up a hill for better views across the wetlands, then a walk around the marsh and woodlands to look for grassland and woodland birds. The area is one of the better spots for catching migrants heading south, so passerines are as likely as waders, and raptors are always around.

### **Fort DeSoto County Park, Extreme Birding, Pinellas County**

**7:45 am – 1:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:00 am)**

**TSU4 | \$30**

The park is a premier birding destination in Florida. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded, and fall migration brings neo-tropical migratory species as well as occasional wanderers from the Caribbean and the western United States. The island's shorebird diversity is one of the best on the Florida west coast. This trip is intended for advanced birders and will be offered all three days! Sunday's trip is led by Dave Goodwin, Jim Eager, and Simon Thompson.

### **Dunedin Hammock Bird Banding, Pinellas County**

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm (carpool leaves 7:00 am)**

**TSU5 | \$30**

Dunedin Hammock is noted as a fall migrant trap. We hope to find Canada, golden-winged, blue winged and cerulean warblers, and many other warbler species, plus vireos, thrushes, orioles, and tanagers. Led by Jim McGinity and John Hood, you'll also observe birds in the hand at the bird-banding station.

### **Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve for Scrub Jays and Butterflies, Hillsborough County**

**8:45 am – 12:00 pm (carpool leaves 8:15 am)**

**TSU6 | \$30**

This 1236-acre sanctuary provides a large expanse of diverse and increasingly rare natural habitat, such as sand pine scrub and oak scrub. This site also hosts one of Hillsborough County's few remaining Florida scrub-jay populations, as well as gopher tortoises, Florida sandhill cranes, and redheaded woodpeckers. We expect to see many species of butterflies as well due to the diverse array of wildflowers. The walk with leaders Andy Fairbanks, Mic McCarty, Connie Anderson, and John Lampkin is not long, but it is in soft sand, and open sun.



# Kids' Sessions

On campus at Hillsborough Community College, SouthShore

## SATURDAY ONLY



Ongoing throughout the day will be the Jr. Birder program 'Scavenger Hunt' using paper birds posted at Expo vendor tables. Kids will take a 'birding guide' and note each paper bird they find. When all 15 are found, kids will receive a Jr. Birder Certificate!



## Morning

### ANTS AND ANT LIONS

10:00 am

Interactive discussion about these insects by Dr. George Shambaugh. The morning session will focus on ant lions.

### BIRDS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS

11:00 am

James Lingle covers a variety of bird features such as beaks, feet, nests, and food; all explored with activities.

### AQUATIC CRITTERS

12:00 noon

With a collecting pan and a scoop of river water, Dolly Cummings helps children discover the creatures that live there!

## Afternoon

### ANTS AND ANT LIONS

1:00 pm

Interactive discussion by Dr. George Shambaugh. The afternoon session will focus on local ant species.

### BIRDS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS

2:00 pm

James Lingle covers a variety of bird features such as beaks, feet, nests, and food; all explored with activities.

### AQUATIC CRITTERS

3:00 pm

With a collecting pan and a scoop of river water, Dolly Cummings helps children discover the creatures that live there!

Children (or groups of children) must be accompanied by a responsible adult, who must be present throughout the entire session.

Sessions run for 30-40 minutes.

All ages admitted at any session, but mornings are geared towards preschool to 2nd grade, and afternoons are best for 3rd to 6th graders.

To be sure to have a spot and supplies for any of these free sessions, register at <http://bit.ly/kidsessionreg> !



[spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org](http://spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org)

# EXPO Indoor Vendors

*2nd floor*

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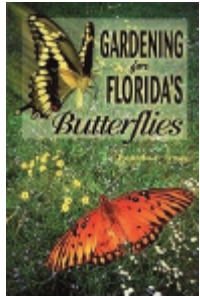
For our Camp Bayou Kids' Sessions,  
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[tampabayrefuges.org](http://tampabayrefuges.org)

# Getting Around the Area



**1** Festival Locations

**1** Hotels

**1** Camping

**1** Restaurants

## Getting Here

- From the I-75 southbound, take exit 240B for FL-674 West/College Ave. Follow FL-674 West/College Ave to 24th Street NE (1.4 miles). Turn right on 24th and continue straight for 0.4 miles to the college on the right.
- From the I-75 northbound, take exit 240. Stay left at the fork, and then turn left onto FL-674 West/College Ave. Turn right on 24th Street NE (1.9 miles), to the college on the right.

## Where to Stay

- Harborside Suites at Little Harbor (blue 1) is a resort waterfront hotel. There are also local hotels (blue 2) the Ruskin Inn, (blue 3) the Comfort Inn, and (blue 3) Sun City Center Inn.
- Recommended local campgrounds are (green 1) E.G. Simmons Regional Park, and the Lithia Springs Park on the Alafia River (not seen on the map).

## Where to Eat

- At the Festival, lunch trucks will provide comfort, southern, and healthy meal options to purchase between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm on both Friday and Saturday on campus (red 1).
- All three of the Keynote events hosted at the Firehouse Cultural Center (red 2) will include a full buffet meal.
- Outside of the Festival, there are a number of casual and fast food restaurants close by.

## program photo credits

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[www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)

**Tampa Audubon Society**  
Welcomes You!



- **Meetings:** 1st Thursdays, 7 pm Pot Luck and program, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
- **Field Trips:** monthly, most free, check web for details
- **Volunteer:** CBC, Eagle Watch, Colony Watch, Blue Birds, Bird Protection, more
- **Travel:** coming up: **Puerto Rico**, **Virginia** spring warblers, **Portugal**, more
- **Learn:** USF-OLLI, Educational Programs
- **Photo Club:** 6 pm before meetings, share and critique

**OCTOBER 12, 13, 14, 2018**



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