

Friday, Oct 13, 2023

Fri-SP—Schultz Preserve for Butterflies and Bugs

Starting point: Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve, Adamsville Rd, Gibsonton

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Limited to 20 participants.

Fee: No tolls or parking.

Leaders: John Lampkin, 845-367-3210, Rob Epstein, 248-346-7684, Marc Minno (352) 219-1009

Bring water, insect repellent, snack, hat, sunscreen. Wear closed-toes shoes. NOTE: THERE ARE NO FACILITIES AT THIS PRESERVE. USE RESTROOM AT SERVICE STATION IN GIBSONTON IF NEEDED.

Formerly used to deposit dredge material, the Schultz Preserve was restored to mangrove forest, coastal and freshwater marsh, coastal dunes and uplands. Native plants were planted, and more natives have colonized areas as well. The diverse habitats make it THE place for a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators, and for a few years it had the northernmost known colony of Julias. There are dozens of flies, dragonflies, and more. With three expert leaders, including the author of the book on Florida butterflies, you will see and identify more than you thought possible! Enjoy the walk through varied habitats, but please note that the walking paths are rough in places, and possibly not suitable for some. There is some shade, but most is sunny. No benches or seats either, but plenty of birds are possible too!

Directions from East Tampa/Brandon:

Go south on I-75 to Exit 250, Gibsonton Dr.

On exit ramp stay right, go West on Gibsonton Rd. Continue west 2 miles to light at US 41S/Tamiami Trail.

Turn Left/South on US 41. Continue south 2.8 miles to Adamsville Rd. **DO NOT USE GOOGLE ADDRESS OF KRACKER AVE!** Turn Right/West on Adamsville Rd. Go to the end of the road, and veer slightly right to enter the parking lot at the end.

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES VISIBLE IN VEHICLE.

From the South: Take I-75 north to Exit 246, for Big Bend Road.

Exit and go West on Big Bend to Rt 41, about 1.5 miles.

Turn right/north on Rt 41, go north a little over 1 mile. Cross RR tracks.

After the self storage units on your right, get into left lane and make a U-turn.

Go south and turn right/west onto Adamsville Rd. Go to the end of the road, and veer slightly right to enter the parking lot at the end.

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