

Saturday Oct 19, 2024

Sat-BC Blackwater Creek

Meet at Blackwater Creek, 2469 Patrinoastro Road, Plant City, FL

Time: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Limited to 25 participants. No parking fees. Trip fee \$25

Leaders: Charlie Fisher 813-495-7734, Rebecca Winch 813-210-7019, Dr. Mark McRae

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent.

This is a flat walk, but some areas are sandy, others wet and muddy, some have roots across the trail.

Depending on which loop seems to have the most birds, you will probably walk about 5 miles.

If there have been recent rains, please be prepared for wet conditions. Waterproof hiking boots are definitely a good idea. Sneakers, crocs or tennis shoes would not be good ideas. Unless there is a lot of rain in the previous week, rubber boots will not be essential.

This 2,200 acre preserve includes some of the finest remaining examples of longleaf pine-dominated mesic pine flatwoods and blackwater streams, interspersed with hardwood hammocks, cypress domes, freshwater marshes, and wet prairies. Join Preserve Manager Rebecca Winch and expert birders Charlie Fisher and Mark McRae to find Wood Storks, Sandhill Cranes, hawks and herons, sparrows and woodpeckers, and fall migrants. The area also has fox squirrels, up to 28" long and 3 lbs! Blackwater Creek's former cattle pastures and tree farms were acquired between 1997-2003, and are now preserved for water supply, and open to the public to allow hiking and wildlife viewing. The site is scientifically managed to preserve these environmentally sensitive lands.

Directions from Tampa area:

Take I-4 East to Exit 21. Turn Left/North onto Alexander St., which is Rt 39.

Continue North on Rt 39 for 6.7 miles, to Patrinoastro Rd on your left.

Turn Left/West onto Patrinoastro Rd, continue to parking area at end of road.

Alternate Route from Brandon:

Take Rt 60/Brandon Blvd East for 10 miles to Rt 39.

Turn Left/North on Rt 39, go 13 miles North, through Plant City, to Patrinoastro Rd.

