

**Saturday Oct 19, 2024**

**Sat-NB Newman Branch Kayak Paddle and Upland Trail Walk**

Leaving from FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center, 6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL

Time: 9:00 am to 11:30 am.

Limited to 15 participants. No parking fees. Trip fee \$25.

Leaders: Stan Kroh TECO 813-293-6869, Jason Chilson, FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent. Wear shoes that can get wet and muddy.

Leaving from the Youth Conservation Center, you will paddle Newman Branch, through mangrove tunnels into Seneca Sound, a small embayment that is part of Hillsborough and Tampa bays. You will learn about the species of mangroves and their adaptations for a salty environment and also visit the restored wetlands, then a short walk in the uplands of the Newman Branch Restoration project. Possible sightings of birds include night-herons, Little Blue and Tricolored herons, and Reddish Egrets. Migrating warblers use the mangroves as well so keep your eyes and ears open.

**Directions from Brandon area:**

Take I-75 South to Big Bend Road West/ Rt 672 exit. Note that the exit ramps have recently been changed!

Continue West on Big Bend Rd. for 2.5 miles, crossing Rt 41. Follow road as it crosses under the overhead conveyor and turns left/south at the Manatee Viewing Center. After you cross the small bridge turn right into YCC.

(If front parking is full, continue south on Dickman Rd to Estuary Shores Rd.

Turn right, then take first right into larger, grassy parking area.)

Walk to the rear of the Expo area to the kayak pavilion to meet your leaders.

**From the south:** Take I-75 north to Exit 246.

Exit onto Big Bend Road West. Go west about 2.5 miles, crossing Rt 41 and under the overhead conveyor.

The road makes a sharp left turn and becomes Dickman Road. Continue south on Dickman, over a small bridge, to the YCC on the right.

Follow directions above if front parking is full.

