

Sunday, Oct 20, 2024

Sun-CF Celery Fields

Address: Celery Fields, 6893 Palmer Ave, Sarasota County

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Limited to 25 participants. No tolls or parking. Trip fee \$25.

Leaders: Lisa Sykes 585-315-7809 , Jeanne Dubi, 941-724-1709, David Simpson 321-720-5516

This 400-acre storm water retention area in eastern Sarasota County is one of the Gulf Coast’s best birding hot spots. The 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. The Least Bitterns do not know that they are ‘shy and retiring’ here, Peregrine Falcons sail overhead, and a variety of Fall sparrows spend the winter. Depending on water level, shorebirds, waders and ducks may be abundant. Sarasota Audubon provides volunteer Bird Naturalists at each of the two boardwalks to help visitors identify birds and plants. The nature center with native plant gardens is also available for visitors to enjoy. Walks are on even paths or short boardwalks, but there is little shade and only a few benches.

On your way in scan the ponds on either side of Coburn/Apex Rd for waterbirds as well.

Directions from Brandon/Tampa:

Take I-75 south to Exit 210, Fruitville Rd./Rt 780.

Exit at 210, stay in right lane. At the stoplight turn Left/ East onto Fruitville Rd.

Turn Right/South at the second light, Coburn Rd.

Continue about 1 mile on curving road. Coburn becomes Apex Rd. Continue to the stop sign at Palmer Ave.

Turn Left/East and continue over half a mile to the parking area at Visitor Center on the left to meet leaders.

