

**Thursday Oct 17, 2024**

**Thu-BT Saddle Creek and Circle B Bar Bus Trip**

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

Meet at 7:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:30 am, returns at 4:30 pm.

Limited to 30 participants. No parking fees.

Leaders: David Goodwin, Jim Eager (423)593-0059, Bob Snow, Cole Frederick (863) 651-2454

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent. Trip includes lunch.

The bus will leave FWC's Suncoast Youth Conservation Center at 7:30 am, going first to Saddle Creek Park, a well-known leading site for fall migratory warblers and songbirds in the mixed hardwood and cypress forest habitats. During migration, over 30 species have been recorded including Bay-breasted, Canada, Cerulean, Golden-winged and Wilson's warblers. Rarities such as Black-throated Gray Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo have also been seen.

The next stop is the Circle B Bar Reserve, a highlight of the Great Florida Birding Trail. The levee trails go through wetlands, along the lake and through some oak hammock. We'll look for alligators, eagles, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawks, Wild Turkey, Barred Owls, Wood Storks, White Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Purple Gallinules, Pied-billed Grebes, Black-necked Stilts, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, American Kestrels, Great Blue Herons, American White Pelicans, sandpipers, spoonbills, Great Egrets, ducks and other waterfowl, and wading birds. We might also see otters, bobcats, grey fox, armadillos, squirrels (gray and fox varieties), frogs, turtles, black racer snakes, five-lined racerunner lizards, and other reptiles, including almost certainly alligators. Many migratory birds can be found here.

Walk about 2 miles at each site. Saddle Creek is shaded, a little hilly. Circle B Bar is flat, mostly sunny.

**This trip is by bus-only.** All registrants must meet at the Festival site at **7:00 am** to begin boarding. Be sure to bring insect repellent, water, snacks, and a hat, and to wear walking shoes. **This tour includes a box lunch.**

**Directions from Brandon area:**

**Take I-75 south, use Exit 246 for Apollo Beach/Big Bend Rd, go West, cross Rt 41, and follow Big Bend as it bends left and turns into Dickman Rd, to the Center. After you cross a small bridge, the YCC entrance will be on your right.**

Meet bus at Youth Conservation Center.

