

Naples Preserve's 2023 Tuesday Nature Talk Series

1690 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, FL. 34102 Phone: (239) 261-4290

Free

10:00 a.m.

January 10th— “Gopher Tortoises are not the only Reptiles Living in the Naples Preserve”, Rebecca Speer, Naples Preserve. Learn about the diversity of our ectothermic wildlife and about an exciting find that occurred during this past summer's habitat restoration.

January 17th— “It's Not Easy Being Green”, Ranger Nicki Leiby, Big Cypress National Preserve. There's a lot to live up to when myths and folk lore crown you with the title “weather prophet.” How did this tiny animal gain such a big reputation? And can it live up to the challenge? Join Ranger Nicki to uncover the secret life of a Big Cypress resident who must adapt to an ever-changing world, all the while, spreading hope with its song.

January 24th— “Invasive Cane Toad Research Update”, Melinda Schuman, Biologist, Conservancy of Southwest Florida. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the invasive cane toad, including information on proper identification in comparison to other toad species in Naples. She will discuss the research done by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida on the species and what they have learned over the years. In addition, she will touch on why it's important to study invasive species rather than solely remove individuals.

January 31st— “Living with SWFL Wildlife”, Jayne Johnston, Senior Wildlife Assistance Biologist, Wildlife Impact Management, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Join Jayne for a talk about common wildlife found in southwest Florida communities. She will review conservation principles and basic biology. Hear her tips for protecting people, pets, property, and wildlife.

February 7th— “A Future Through Fire and Flames”, Ranger Sebastian Martinez, Big Cypress National Preserve. Gain a new understanding of the seemingly paradoxical relationship between a force of renewal and the wonder of the preserve. That if you paint with a broader brush: destruction actually signifies growth, and the amount of care needed to keep Big Cypress National Preserve healthy is never simple, but always necessary.

February 14th— “Our 8-Legged Neighbors”, Ranger Jay Kissell, Big Cypress National Preserve. Superstitions, misconceptions, and misunderstandings abound. How we feel about spiders is confusing. Why are they feared in some cultures and revered in other cultures? Are they creators or destroyers? Are they superheroes or villainous sidekicks? Why are they important to us and our environment? Join Ranger Jay as he weaves together a web of information to help us better understand and appreciate our 8-legged neighbors.

February 21st— “How You Became You”, Jack Berninger. All life begins and ends at the cellular level and each of us share in this first life around 3.5 billion years ago. Yet, each of us is a unique individual formed from one cell and nurtured to make YOU, YOU.

February 28th—“History of the Tamiami Trail”, Henry Gonzalez, Park Services Specialist, Collier-Seminole State Park. Let’s go back in time and learn what it took to build the Tamiami Trail. Learn why many people thought it was going to be impossible to accomplish this task.

March 7th— “Shy Wolf Sanctuary: Healing Hearts and Minds through Rescue, Sanctuary and Education” Debbie LoVerde, Community Education Coordinator, Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education & Experience Center. Learn about the work of the Sanctuary past, present and future and meet one of our ambassador animals.

March 14th—“Living with Panthers”, FWC Florida panther Biologist. This presentation will introduce you to the biology and conservation of Florida panthers, and how people can harmoniously coexist with them.

March 21st— “Super Sea Slugs!”, Michael Sipos, Florida Sea Grant Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Collier County. Animals that can photosynthesize? Slugs that sting? Come to learn more about the colorful, adaptive and diverse world of this group of marine gastropods!

March 28th —“The Magic of Native Plants”, Maureen McFarland, Vice President, Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Put FLORIDA back into our Florida landscape. From stunning Beautyberries to magnificent Palms, we'll suggest various options to significantly increase biodiversity and restore our community with a natural landscape. Attract birds, plant a butterfly garden, reduce the use of pesticides and irrigation -- simply by planting our native plants.

April 4th— “Burrowing Owls of Southwest Florida “, Brittany Piersma, Audubon Western Everglades. Learn about the second largest urban population of Burrowing Owls in Florida that are facing many challenges amongst increased development.

April 11th, 18th, 25th—Still to be scheduled.