

Naples Preserve Nature Program Schedule
(If you missed a program, just click the title to view the recording.)

Jan 11: “Beauty on the Ground, Beauty in the Sky” - Learn about the night skies over southern Florida and why dark skies are important!

Angelina Guerra, Park Ranger, Everglades National Park

Jan 18: “10 Native ‘Weeds’ for 20 Butterflies” - Some plants we call “weeds” are really native host plants for butterflies! Expand your understanding of “weeds,” meet 10 native “weeds” and the butterflies that need them and learn some simple ways to make life easier for butterflies in our home landscapes.

Andee Naccarato, Naples Preserve & Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Jan 25: “Epiphytes: Livin’ Life on the Edge” - Join Ranger Danielle Page as we explore tree trunks and canopies in search of Big Cypress National Preserve’s most magical and edgy daredevils. Often viewed exclusively as a thing of beauty, epiphytes actually play an important role in the Big Cypress swamp ecosystem. Located throughout the preserve, these complex plant structures support the lives of numerous insects and more. Tune in to find out what makes a fern resurrect from the “dead” and visitors fall in love with “Casper the Friendly” Ghost Orchid.

Ranger Danielle Page, Big Cypress National Preserve

Feb 1: To be Announced

Feb 8: “Slithering Around Big Cypress” - Throughout Big Cypress National Preserve, under your very feet and high above your head, something slithers. We look at the preserve for its beauty, ecological importance and recreational activities. However, too rarely do we consider the perspectives of the animals living here. Join Ranger Ella Simon to explore how our snakes perceive and rely on Big Cypress.

Ranger Ella Simon, Big Cypress National Preserve

Feb 15: “Winter Shorebird Migration and Stewardship” - Learn about the field surveys and outreach during winter migration in Southwest Florida and how you can aid in the success of these long-distance travelers.

Brittany Piersma, Field Biologist, Audubon Western Everglades

Feb 22: “Stone Crabs” - This program will focus on the Stone Crab Research Program conducted by the Fish Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). I will discuss the history of the program, how we collect data on stone crabs along Florida’s Gulf Coast and what these data tell us about the biology and behavior of stone crabs. Further, I will touch on how this research relates to fisheries management and preview some emerging efforts to surgically tag stone crabs in order to track their movements in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mike O’Boyle, Biological Scientist, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Mar 1: “The Library Hidden Below Big Cypress” - Vast libraries of knowledge are hidden below the Big Cypress Swamp. Stories and legends of Earth’s past are tucked away below its surface. From these ancient stories, we can gain further insight into our present, and how what lies beneath affects what’s on top. Join Ranger Joseph Carlson as we page through these stories to uncover what is hidden below Big Cypress Swamp.

Ranger Joseph Carlson, Big Cypress National Preserve

Mar 8: “Carnivorous Botany” - Plants aren't always rainbows and sunshine - sometimes they feed on meat and other plants! Some are sticky, some have mouth-like structures, some even suck nutrients right out of their neighbors. Discover the plants that use alternative sources of food, all while living right under our nose in SWFL.

Julie Motkowicz, Education coordinator, CREW Land & Water Trust

Mar 15: “I Lost my Keys!” - Now, nothing works the way it should. This is what happens to an Ecosystem when a Keystone species is removed causing a cascade of destruction, imbalance and change.

Jack Berninger.

Mar 22: “More Than Just Pretty Flowers” - Enjoy a brief introduction to Naples Botanical Garden’s history and mission. Learn about ongoing conservation efforts for threatened and imperiled species across the global tropics and hear about upcoming events and educational opportunities.

Emily Kless, Interpretive Specialist, Naples Botanical Gardens

Mar 29: To be Announced

Apr 5: “Collier County’s Golden Age of Railroad” - While the rest of the country’s golden age of railroad had been well underway for over half a century, Collier County’s introduction to the railroads was just beginning. Learn how the arrival of the rails changed our region’s historic fabric, arriving with a bang and ending with only a fizzle.

Elaina Gyure, Collier County Museum Curator of Education

Apr 12: To be Announced

Use this link to view live presentations at 10 AM on Tuesday mornings:

<https://zoom.us/j/99942106468?pwd=djk0S292QzNyNTZ3K0diUG1xcWxQZz09>

Meeting ID: 999 4210 6468 **Passcode:** Preserve