



Eco-Events March 2024

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Saturday, Mar 2nd, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM – DUETTE WAGON TOUR: PIONEER TOUR – Discover over 20,000 acres of Duette Preserve from a covered wagon. With a Master Naturalist guide and a Park Ranger, discover the story of restoration and wildlife. Witness Pine Flatwoods, River Floodplain, and Scrub ecosystems, and maybe even spot a Florida Scrub-jay! Program suitable for all ages.

Program sponsored by Manatee Fish and Game Association in partnership with Manatee County. Please arrive early as the wagon will depart on time. Bring a water bottle and a seat cushion or pad to sit on. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manatee-fish-game.ticketleap.com/duette-wagon-tour---pioneer-tour---march-9th/>.

Duette Preserve – Ranger Station

Saturday, Mar 2nd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – ARCHAEO PADDLE – Journey through the mangrove forests of Robinson Preserve with an archaeologist of the Florida Public Archaeology Network and discover the historical uses of the land, ecological restoration, and how to spot the evidence of indigenous people's past. Program suitable for ages 16 and older who can meet the County's minimum eligibility requirements. Program sponsored by Florida Public Archaeology Network in partnership with Manatee County. Program suitable for ages 16 and older who can meet the County's minimum eligibility requirements. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/archaeopaddle/>.

For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044.

Robinson Preserve – North Entrance Kayak Launch

Saturday, Mar 2nd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Walk the grounds of the historic Reasoner Tract and observe botanical giants collected from around the world. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Learn about upcoming programs and exciting new additions to Robinson Preserve. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org.

Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

Wednesday, Mar 6th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – MANATEE AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDING TOUR: EMERSON POINT – Search the skies for Florida's fabulous fliers! Our Audubon guide will lead participants on a tour through Emerson Point's coastal hammock and mangrove habitats. Check out the "locals" as well as the migratory birds that are wintering here. Program suitable for adults. Program sponsored by Manatee County Audubon Society in partnership with Manatee County. Reservations are required. To register please contact billielknight@yahoo.com or call (941) 592-7622.

Emerson Point Preserve – Ranger's Station



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Wednesday, Mar 6th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – CLAY DAY – Come play in the clay! Slip into an afternoon of clay creations using the coil pot, pinch, and slab technique to create bowls. Explore different pottery styles, the history of ceramics, and create your very own, one-of-a-kind functional art. Participants must be 10 years and older. Program suitable for ages 10 and up. Reservations are required. To register please visit

*<https://parks.mymanatee.org/wbws/webtrac.wsc/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=72736475>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **\$20 Materials Fee Payable Online.***

Robinson Preserve – Canopy Zone Pavilion

Thursday, Mar 7th, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR – Join us for a guided walk through Neal Preserve as we explore the history of the Native American tribes in the area. We'll take a closer look at the reconstructed burial mounds and climb the observation tower for a scenic view of this coastal preserve. Program suitable for teens and adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/indigenousheritagetour/>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044.

Neal Preserve – Pavilion

Thursday, Mar 7th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL CREATURE FEATURE: WOODPECKER – Zoom into the natural world and focus on one wondrous animal species. Discover the identifiable movements and features of the wildlife and their favorite habitats to haunt. Then venture into one of Manatee Counties' preserves with your homeschooler to track the featured creature in the wild. This month, peck your way through Conservatory Park in search of the wild and wonderful woodpecker. Program suitable for 5-year-old and up. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/homeschool-creature-feature-woodpeckers/>.

*For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion***

*Friday, Mar 8th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – TRAIL TRIMMING WITH THE TRAM – All aboard! Come jump on our new electric tram and lend us a hand trimming the trails and viewsheds at Robinson Preserve. Program suitable for ages 16 and older. *Please wear closed toe shoes. Long lightweight clothing is recommended. Water, gloves, loppers, pruners, and all other materials will be provided.* Reservations are required. To register please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742- ext. 6035. **Robinson Preserve – Valentine House parking lot***

*Friday, Mar 8th, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – CUBAN RANCHOS HERITAGE TOUR – In the late 1600s, Florida's shores hosted thriving communities of Cuban fishermen known as Ranchos. Join us as we tour the coastal habitat of Perico Preserve and discuss the history, obstacles and namesake Rancho owner Perico Pompon. Program suitable for teens and adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/ranchosheritagetour>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044. **Perico Preserve***



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Friday, Mar 8th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TALL TAIL TRIBE: FLUTTERING FRIENDS – Fly into Emerson Point Preserve searching- for wild, marvelous moths and butterflies. Learn to identify them and what makes these fliers so interesting through games, hands-on activities, and crafts. Your preschooler will be charmed by the beauty of our jewel-winged beauties! Program suitable for preschool age children. Reservations are required. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Classroom Pavilion**

Saturday, Mar 9th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Walk the grounds of the historic Reasoner Tract and observe botanical giants collected from around the world. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Learn about upcoming programs and exciting new additions to Robinson Preserve. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org.

Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

Saturday, Mar 9th, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – HIKE WITH A LIBRARIAN – Discuss a nature-themed nonfiction book with a Manatee County Librarian while enjoying Florida's scenery. After our book discussion, a Manatee County Natural Resources guide will talk about the local fauna and flora as we walk around the park at a leisurely pace. Hike with a Librarian programs involve easier walks through local park. Read one of the following books for the discussion: Trees, Leaves, Flowers & Seeds: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Plant Kingdom or The Secret World of Plants: Tales of More than 100 Remarkable Flowers, Trees, and Seeds. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/11978810>. For more information please contact rin.henshaw@mymanatee.org or call (941) 748-5555 ext. 6334. **Conservatory Park – Pavilion**

Saturday, Mar 9th, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – PALMETTO'S HERITAGE FESTIVAL – This FREE event will have a park open house and activities for the whole family. The 1880 Heritage Station Post Office will be operational with a one-day-only cancellation designed by Kaylee Schauer, a local middle school student. Bring your stamped mail! Guided tours of the park buildings will take place at 10:30, 11:30, and 12:30. Word of Mouth BBQ will be on site with delicious food available for purchase. A special feature of this year's Heritage Festival is The Original Florida Highwaymen Art Show & Sale. Program suitable for all ages. For more information please visit <https://www.manateecountyagmuseum.com/event-details-4>. **Manatee County Agricultural Museum**

Saturday, Mar 9th, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM & 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – ROBINSON PRESERVE TRAM TOUR – Immerse yourself in Robinson Preserve on our new electric tram tour. Join our knowledgeable guides to discover the history, wildlife, and ecosystems of this unique coastal gem. Gain a deeper understanding of this site's transformation from an empty farmland to a thriving nature preserve. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/tramtour/>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – North Entrance Kayak Launch**



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Monday, Mar 11th, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – SUNSET TAI CHI AT THE NEST – Join us for this monthly class at the NEST! At sunset on the second Monday of the month, Dr. Brian Nell, a certified Tai Chi instructor, will lead the group through the gentle movements of Tai Chi. This is a great way to shake off the stressful work week. Improve your balance, loosen your joints, and improve flexibility as you relax and breathe. This class is perfect for beginners and will include an exploration of several different styles of Tai Chi and Qigong. This class is held rain or shine. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by Cypress Pillar Healing Arts in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/taichi/>. For more information please contact aedan.stockdale@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Wednesday, Mar 13th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – ROBINSON PRESERVE TRAM TOUR – Immerse yourself in Robinson Preserve on our new electric tram tour. Join our knowledgeable guides to discover the history, wildlife, and ecosystems of this unique coastal gem. Gain a deeper understanding of this site's transformation from an empty farmland to a thriving nature preserve. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/tramtour/>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – North Entrance Kayak Launch**

Thursday, Mar 14th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT: WADING BIRDS – Explore the wonderful world of wading birds at this month's Wildlife Spotlight. Learn to spot and identify Manatee County's most common wading bird species, and take a nature walk to put your birding skills to the test. Discover their amazing adaptations, and the crucial role they play in the Florida ecosystem. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/wildlife-spotlight-wading-birds/>. For more information please contact elena.burke@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Expansion**

Thursday, Mar 14th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TREETOTS: LEAVES, LEAVES, LEAVES – Some leaves are big, some leaves are small. Some leaves are green and some leaves are not. Come explore the magic of leaves. TreeTots is an interactive program that uses song, action, and play to encourage the youngest family members to explore nature. Program suitable for newborns to 2-year-olds. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/treetots-leaves-leaves-leaves/>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Thursday, Mar 14th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: MARVELOUS MANATEES – They weigh a ton and graze on the coasts of the sea - that's right, we're talking manatees! Join us to learn about manatee anatomy, biology, rescue and rehabilitation. Discover a manatee's internal organs and skeleton and rescue a baby manatee. Program recommended for students ages 7-13. *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Please note the location of this session.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/hsscmanateesrye/>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044. **Rye Preserve – Pavilion**



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*Thursday, Mar 14th, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM – GAME NIGHT – Are you ready to learn a new game, or are you interested in sharing a much-beloved board game with others? Drop into the building for an evening of tabletop gaming fun! Borrow a nature-themed game from our game library or bring your favorite game from home. Meet new people and try something new. Role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons are welcome too. We only ask that all content and conversations remain family-friendly. Snacks provided. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are not required but suggested. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/nest-game-night/>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

*Friday, Mar 15th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – RYE CEMETERY PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE – Join us at the Rye Cemetery to clean the gravestones, make minor repairs to the fence and gate and trim trees along the Rye Settlement Trail leading to the cemetery. Program suitable for volunteers 10 years and older. Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. *Water, gloves, and all other materials will be provided.* Reservations are required. To register please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742- ext. 6035. **Rye Preserve – Rye Settlement Trailhead***

*Friday, Mar 15th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFTING: "EGG"-CELLENT EGG DYING – Dying to color eggs? Nature's dyes occur in a rainbow of colors. Learn the secrets of natural, edible dyes from your grocery store and patterns found from items in your home. Let us clean up your mess and teach you the skills to do natural egg dying in your own home. Program suitable for ages 7 and up. Reservations are required. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

*Friday, Mar 15th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: MARVELOUS MANATEES – They weigh a ton and graze on the on the coasts of the sea - that's right, we're talking manatees! Join us to learn about manatee anatomy, biology, rescue and rehabilitation. Discover a manatee's internal organs and skeleton and rescue a baby manatee. Program recommended for students ages 7-13. *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Please note the location of this session.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/hsscmanateesemerson/>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044. **Emerson Point Preserve – Large Pavilion #1***

*Saturday, Mar 16th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Walk the grounds of the historic Reasoner Tract and observe botanical giants collected from around the world. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Learn about upcoming programs and exciting new additions to Robinson Preserve. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***



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Saturday, Mar 16th, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM – STARRY NIGHT ASTRONOMY – Join us for an astronomical extravaganza! Dozens of local astronomers will be set up in the Robinson Preserve Expansion with telescopes at the ready. Be sure to bring a sense of wonder and exploration as we view the skies through high-powered telescopes. Learn how to identify heavenly bodies, and how you can stargaze at home too. Program suitable for all ages. *Program sponsored by Suncoast Stargazers in partnership with Manatee County. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/robinsonastronomy/>. Robinson Preserve – Expansion Parking Lot*

Wednesday, Mar 20th, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – NATURE ART: SOLAR ART – Join us for a series of sun inspired creations. Watch the rays dance through the colors of your faux stained-glass frame. Explore nature to collect different shapes and textures to present in a sun print. Experiment with UV reactive beads to create a bracelet with an array of colors inspired by nature. Program recommended for ages 12 and over. *No refunds can be provided. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://parks.mymanatee.org/wbWSC/webtrac.wsc/search.html?primarycode=110008>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6044. \$10 Materials Fee Payable Online. Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST*

Thursday, Mar 21st, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – SEASHELL SHORE WALK – Calling all beachcombers and seashell enthusiasts! Join us for a relaxing walk on the beach to search for seashells and learn to identify them. This program will explore what makes mollusks unique and the amazing adaptations that help them to survive in the wild. Learn about ethical seashell collecting methods while discovering a new appreciation for our beautiful shorelines. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/seashell-shore-walk---february-2024/>. For more information please contact elena.burke@mymanatee.org. Coquina Beach South – Longboat Key Bridge

Thursday, Mar 21st, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – PLANTING EDIBLES FOR OUR GOPHER TORTOISE - GENBU – Come lend us a hand planting edible, native plants for Genbu, our rehabilitated gopher tortoise ambassador for our education team. Program suitable for volunteers 10 years and older. Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. *Water, trowels, gloves, and all other materials will be provided. Reservations are required. To register please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org or call (941) 742- ext. 6035. Robinson Preserve – Education & Volunteer Office*

Thursday, Mar 21st, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – GREEN EXPLORERS: TRACKING SCAT – Scat is where it's at! Come discover what different scats look like and who created them! Using hands-on discovery, and the participant's creativity, attendees will have a chance to play in nature. Green Explorers is a structured, highly social, and experience-based activity. Program suitable for ages 6-12 year olds, but all ages welcome. Reservations are required. To register please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. Rye Preserve – Pavilion



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*Thursday, Mar 21st, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – WILD FLORIDA 101: BIRD SONGS AT SUNSET – Have you heard the chaotic song of a mockingbird? Or the shrill call of an eagle? Join us for a sunset edition of our bird song series to listen for birds and learn the basics of bird song identification. This month, we will walk around Emerson Point Preserve at sunset to discover a new appreciation for the sounds of our crepuscular feathered friends! Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/wild-florida-101-sunset-bird-songs/>. For more information please contact elena.burke@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Large Pavilion #1***

*Friday, Mar 22nd, 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM – SUNRISE MINDFULNESS WALK – Join us for a tranquil sunrise mindfulness walk at Neal Preserve. Awaken your senses as you immerse yourself in the serene beauty of the natural world. Start your day with a peaceful journey, relax, and connect with nature as we gently explore the trails. This program is suitable for all ages. Participants under 16 must attend with a parent or guardian. *Program sponsored by Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast in partnership with Manatee County. Participants should bring a water bottle and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. We recommend sun protection, bug spray, and closed-toe shoes, no flip-flops.* Reservations are required. **Neal Preserve***

*Friday, Mar 22nd, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – NATURE TAIL: DIGGIN DIRT – Does your kiddo enjoy stories and nature? Join us at Conservatory Park in Nature Tales. Meet monthly at Conservatory Park for an interactive story and activities. This month, we will dig into our soils and discover what wildlife needs dirt. Program suitable for 8-year-old and younger. Reservations are required To register please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion***

*Saturday, Mar 23rd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Walk the grounds of the historic Reasoner Tract and observe botanical giants collected from around the world. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Learn about upcoming programs and exciting new additions to Robinson Preserve. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

*Saturday, Mar 23rd, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – MEET YOUR PRESERVES: EMERSON POINT – Are you new to Manatee County? Do you enjoy the outdoors? Come get acquainted with all the beautiful natural spaces Manatee County has to offer! Learn from a Natural Resources guide about the amenities, wildlife, and history of our preserves. This is the perfect opportunity to explore local areas and meet other new residents. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/meet-your-preserves-emerson-point-preserve/>. For more information please contact elena.burke@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Large Pavilion #1***



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Saturday, Mar 23rd, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM & 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – ROBINSON PRESERVE TRAM TOUR – Immerse yourself in Robinson Preserve on our new electric tram tour. Join our knowledgeable guides to discover the history, wildlife, and ecosystems of this unique coastal gem. Gain a deeper understanding of this site's transformation from an empty farmland to a thriving nature preserve. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/tramtour/>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – North Entrance Kayak Launch**

Sunday, Mar 24th, 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – REASONER HERTIAGE DAY – Learn about the almost 150 years of Reasoner's horticultural contributions to Manatee County and internationally. Among many, they are credited with introducing the world's first pink grapefruit and the iconic Royal Palm, as well as being the first inductees into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. Come hear Andy Reasoner tell stories of his family's pioneering nursery business, as well as connections to Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and the notorious Sarasota Vigilante Committee, among others. There will also be old photos and antique items on display, a tour of the old Reasoner Tropical Nursery, located nearby at Robinson Preserve, as well as a variety of unique hibiscus plants and local history books for sale. Light refreshments will be provided. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. For more information please visit <https://palmasolabp.org/> or contact palmasolabp@aol.com. **Palma Sola Botanical Park**

Tuesday, Mar 26th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – ROBINSON PRESERVE TRAM TOUR – Immerse yourself in Robinson Preserve on our new electric tram tour. Join our knowledgeable guides to discover the history, wildlife, and ecosystems of this unique coastal gem. Gain a deeper understanding of this site's transformation from an empty farmland to a thriving nature preserve. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/tramtour/>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – North Entrance Kayak Launch**

Wednesday, Mar 27th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – PINE ISLAND PADDLE CLEANUP – Join us for a paddle to the secluded Pine Island, where we will clean up the island of marine debris that floats in on the tide. Program suitable for ages 16 and older who can meet Manatee County's minimum eligibility requirements. This is an intermediate paddle suitable for strong paddlers. *Single kayaks are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, unless you prefer to bring your own. All participants must wear a life jacket and whistle.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/pine-island-paddle-cleanup/>. For more information please call (941) 742-5923 ext. 6035. **State Road 64 Boat Ramp**



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Thursday, Mar 28th, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – MEET YOUR PRESERVES: RYE PRESERVE – Are you new to Manatee County? Do you enjoy the outdoors? Come get acquainted with all the beautiful natural spaces Manatee County has to offer! Learn from a Natural Resources guide about the amenities, wildlife, and history of our preserves. This is the perfect opportunity to explore local areas and meet other new residents. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <http://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/meet-your-preserves-rye/>. For more information please contact elena.burke@mymanatee.org. **Rye Preserve – Pavilion**

Saturday, Mar 30th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – PLANTS & PEOPLE: EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT WALK – Did you know that the plants growing right outside your door can become a meal or medicine? Our beautiful and wild home state of Florida provides an incredible array of plants that can help support our health and nourish us, something that the residents of the state have known since the most ancient of times. Join Melissa “Misha” Nell, Registered Herbalist (American Herbalists Guild), botanist, and Certified Interpretive Guide, and discover the lore of our winter season plants. Misha will take you on a moderate hike through Moody Branch, one of her favorite wild sites that whispers the stories of old pioneer Florida, where you will discover how to identify and become familiar with a variety of edible and medicinal plants. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by Cypress Pillar Healing Arts in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manateenrd.ticketleap.com/plants-people-moody/>. **Moody Branch Preserve**