

Nature Scope

Explore, Experience, Preserve

A listing of JaxParks environmental education programs

Dec. 2007

For information on any of these activities, please call 630-CITY or visit www.jaxparks.com.

WINTER CELEBRATION!

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1
Walter Jones Historical Park
11964 Mandarin Road

This free event features hayrides, refreshments, historical re-enactors, Victorian holiday crafts, children's games, a gift shop, musical entertainment and Santa Claus. Families may visit the Mandarin Museum and see the 1875 farmhouse and barn. For more information call 268-0784 or visit www.mandarinmuseum.org.

STORYTIME SCIENCE

1 - 1:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
Castaway Island Preserve
2885 San Pablo Road S.

This program is for ages 7 and under and their adult companions. It combines literacy with science facts. We'll enjoy reading a story then examining the science involved.

WEE WORKSHOP: SQUIRREL SCRAMBLE

10 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
Camp Tomahawk Park
8419 San Ardo Road

Calling all wee nature explorers (children ages 7 years and under) and their adult companions! We are going on a squirrel scramble. While walking the trails, we'll

search for squirrel hide-outs, learn what food squirrels eat and where these mammals go to stay warm during colder months.

BEACH WALK AND TALK

10 a.m. - Noon Tuesday, Dec. 4
Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
500 Wonderwood Road,
Parking Lot # 8

Fresh air and exercise are extra benefits during a guided tour of this oceanfront park which is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail. Dress for the weather and location; use sunscreen and insect repellent, bring water and binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages, but not appropriate for use of strollers. Please note: There is a park admission fee of \$3 per vehicle for up to six occupants, plus \$1 per each additional person after the six, which must be paid to enter the park.

OUTDOOR OBSERVATIONS

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
Beach and Peach Urban Park
10013 Anders Blvd.

See what's happening in the wild here in Northeast Florida at one of our newest preservation parks. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable, close toe shoes. Use insect repellent and bring binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages. We will meet at the first gazebo.

WEE WORKSHOP: SQUIRREL SCRAMBLE

10 - 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Calling all wee nature explorers (children ages 7 years and under) and their adult companions! We are going on a squirrel scramble. While walking the trails, we'll search for squirrel hide-outs, learn what food squirrels eat and where these mammals go to stay warm during colder months.

BEACH WALK AND TALK

1 - 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
Huguenot Memorial Park
10980 Heckscher Drive

Fresh air and exercise are extra benefits during a guided tour of this oceanfront park which is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail. Dress for the weather and location; use sunscreen and insect repellent, bring water and binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages, but not appropriate for use of strollers. There is a park admission fee of \$.50.

COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

9 - 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Learn how to attract birds and butterflies to your yard while enjoying your morning cup of coffee or tea. Beverages provided.

PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park Nature Center
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Help us gather information about the birds visiting our bird feeders and learn how you

can participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's feeder research project.

WILDLIFE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

10 - 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 10
Camp Milton Historic Preserve
1175 Halsema Road N.

Northeast Florida has a fabulous diversity of animals. Here is an opportunity to get to know some of them. The habitat needs, environmental impact, and the life history of a variety of animals will be discussed. We will meet in the education center. This program is for all ages.

TRAIL WALK AND TALK

1 - 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10
Camp Milton Historic Preserve
1175 Halsema Road N.

Join us for a walk on an elevated boardwalk at this historic preservation park. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable, close toe shoes, use insect repellent; bring water and binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages.

WILDLIFE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

9 - 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Cecil Community Center
13611 - A Normandy Blvd

Northeast Florida has a fabulous diversity of animals. Here is an opportunity to get to know some of them. The habitat needs, environmental impact and life history of a variety of animals will be discussed. This program presentation is for ages 18 years and older only.

Naturescope

HOORAY FOR HOMESCHOOLERS: AIR POTATO ROUNDUP!

10:30 a.m. - Noon Tuesday, Dec. 11
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Learn about air potato and other invasive plants, what makes them so dangerous to plants and animals native to Florida, and assist us in removing some of the exotics from the park.

TRAIL WALK AND TALK

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Sal Taylor Creek Preserve
5873 Nathan Hale Road

Join us for a walk at this timberland site. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable close toe shoes, use insect repellent, and bring along water and binoculars if you have them. This program is not appropriate for very young children. Please be aware that there are no restrooms, picnic tables or other facilities, nor running water at this location.

OUTDOOR OBSERVATIONS

1 - 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12
Blue Cypress Park
4012 University Blvd.

See what's happening in the wild here in Northeast Florida at this beautiful site along the banks of the St. Johns River. Enjoy the thrill of discovery while experiencing the outdoors. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable closed-toe shoes; use insect repellent, bring water and binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages. Follow the driveway to the parking area by the fishing pier; we will meet there.

NATURE CRAFTS: RECYCLING & ART

10:30 a.m. – noon Friday, Dec. 14
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Celebrate recycling by using those recycled objects to create a work of art. Please bring recycled items; other material provided.

FAMILY FUN: SCAVENGER HUNT!

11 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 15
Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Join in the fun of a scavenger hunt while taking a closer look at nature. We will explore with our senses using sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste. We will be hunting outside, so please dress appropriately.

FAMILY FUN: SCAVENGER HUNT!

2 - 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
K. A. Hanna Park
500 Wonderwood Dr.

Join in the fun of a scavenger hunt while taking a closer look at nature. We will explore with our senses using sight, smell, touch, sound and taste. We will be hunting outside, so please dress appropriately. Meet the naturalist at Parking Lot #8.

BIKE HIKE

10 a.m. - Noon Monday, Dec. 17
Camp Milton Historic Preserve and
Jacksonville Baldwin Rail-Trail
1175 Halsema Road N.

Bring your bicycle and join us for a leisurely bike hike along the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail-Trail. Fresh air and exercise are extra benefits during this guided tour. We will meet in the parking lot of Camp Milton Historic Preserve. Dress for the weather, use insect repellent and bring water. All riders 16 years of age and younger must wear helmets.

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STORYTIME SCIENCE

2 - 2:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17

**Camp Milton Historic Preserve
1175 Halsema Road N.**

This program is for ages 7 and under and their adult companions. It combines literacy with science facts. We'll enjoy reading a story then examining the science involved.

BEACH WALK AND TALK

10 a.m. - Noon Tuesday, Dec. 18

**Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
500 Wonderwood Road, Parking Lot 4**

Fresh air and exercise are extra benefits during a guided tour of this oceanfront park which is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail. Dress for the weather and location; use sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages, but not appropriate for use of strollers. Please note: There is a park admission fee of \$3 per vehicle for up to six occupants, plus \$1 per each additional person after the six, which must be paid to enter the park.

OUTDOOR OBSERVATIONS

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18

**Beach and Peach Urban Park
10013 Anders Blvd.**

See what's happening in the wild here in Northeast Florida at one of our newest Preservation Parks. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable, closed toe shoes. Use insect repellent and bring along binoculars if you have them. This program is for all ages. We will meet at the first gazebo.

NATURE CRAFTS: WREATH CENTERPIECES

10 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19

**Westside Regional Park Nature Center
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.**

Join us in making seasonal wreath centerpieces that you can use to decorate your table for any occasion. Use materials from nature in your creations. This craft is for both children and adults.

TRAIL WALK AND TALK

10 a.m. - Noon Wednesday, Dec. 19

**Sal Taylor Creek Preserve
5873 Nathan Hale Road**

Join us for a walk at this timberland site. Dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable closed toe shoes, use insect repellent, and bring along water and binoculars if you have them. This program is not appropriate for very young children. Please be aware that there are no restrooms, picnic tables or other facilities, nor running water at this location.

BEACH WALK AND TALK

1 - 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20

**Huguenot Memorial Park
10980 Heckscher Drive**

Fresh air and exercise are added benefits during a guided tour of this oceanfront park, part of the Great Florida Birding Trail. Dress for the weather and location, use sunscreen and insect repellent, and bring water and binoculars if you have them. The program is for all ages but not appropriate for strollers. We will meet at the concession stand inside the park. There is a park admission fee of \$.50 per person.

Environmental
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OWL PROWL

7 - 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22

**Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.**

Whoooo is that calling in the dark? Learn about the owls living here in northeast Florida while participating in an owl prowl. We will attempt to call in owls while walking the trails. No flashlights, please!

DANGEROUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26

**Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park Nature Center
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.**

Have you heard stories about the dangerous plants and animals found here in northeast Florida? Discover what is fact and what is fiction, and learn what you can do to stay safe around these plants and animals. This program is for all ages.

STORIES BY THE FIRE

Friday, Dec. 28; 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park Nature Center
7000 Roosevelt Blvd.**

The year 2007 is coming to an end. Do you have some interesting stories about this past year? Bring your family and join us for stories around the fireplace while sipping hot cocoa. We have chairs, or you can bring a blanket.