

# Upcoming programs

## December 2018

**Call for Reservations: 386-736-5927**

**Please make sure to register for programs**

### **Bike About – Palm Bluff Conservation Area**

**December 1, 9:00 – 11:00 am Saturday**

Take a ride through St. Johns River Water Management District's Palm Bluff Conservation Area and explore the eight distinct natural plant communities. With the wide variety of habitats, this is a great place to go birding. Visitors may see a variety of species from bluebirds and brown-headed nuthatch, to turkeys, wading birds and raptors. Participants are required to wear a helmet and bring their own bicycle (large tired bike recommended). **Meet in Samsula at parking area east of CR 415, approximately 9.5 miles south of SR 44, and 1.9 miles north of Howland Blvd.**

### **Guided Hike- Smyrna Dunes Park**

**December 4, 9:00–11:30 am Tuesday**

Explore Smyrna Dunes Park with naturalists to learn about the wonders of the dune systems and importance of our local mollusks. Experts will also inform participants on sea turtles, and estuaries. **Meet at 2995 N Peninsula Ave, NSB, 32169.**

### **EcoBuggy- Tiger Bay State Forest**

**December 7, 9:00 – 11:00 am Friday**

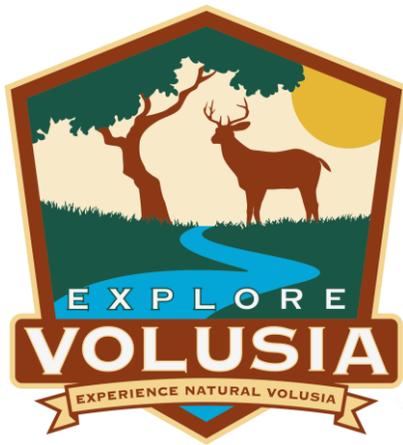
The Florida Forest Service will lead an informal tour of the Rima Ridge Tract on Tiger Bay State Forest. During this tour guests will get to see and experience the forest through the eyes of the people who protect and manage the area and deal with its challenges. Guests will have the opportunity to get off the Eco Buggy and explore unique ecosystems. **Meet at the equestrian parking area at Rima Ridge and Hwy 40. 2690 Rima Ridge Rd. Ormond Beach, FL 32174**

### **Waterbody Paddle - Bethune Park**

**December 12, 9:00 am - 11:00 am Wednesday**

Bring a canoe, kayak, or SUP for a leisurely paddling trip to view local wildlife and beautiful scenery. Leaving from Mary McLeod Bethune Park participants may encounter marine mammals while exploring the waters of the Indian River Lagoon. Must have Kayak/Canoe/SUP, life preserver and whistle. **Meet at 6656 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach (West side of road, heading south turn right on ladyfish Ave, first left and park in the dirt lot).**





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### **Eco Buggy Tour - Deep Creek Preserve**

**December 14, 9:00 - 11:00 am Friday**

Take a riding tour of this 8,000 acre natural and agricultural land to learn about important plant communities. Participants may get the opportunity to see Volusia County's endemic paw paw, a close up view of carnivorous plants, and an uncommon sighting of the Sherman's fox squirrel. **Meet at 964 S. State Road 415, New Smyrna Beach.**

### **Brunch and Learn: Lyonia Environmental Center**

**December 15, 9:30 – 11:30 am Saturday**

Learn about the importance of scrub habitat as we take a stroll through the Lyonia Preserve, keeping an eye out for scrub jays, gopher tortoises and other wildlife. Afterwards, we will meet and learn about a native animal while enjoying the provided brunch. Please wear closed toe shoes and be prepared for sun and heat. **Meet at the Lyonia Environmental Center, 2150 Eustace Ave. Deltona, 32725**

### **Bike for whales: Esther Park**

**December 18 9:00 – 11:00 am Tuesday**

Take a leisurely ride from Ester Park to Ponce De Leon Inlet and back (approximately five-mile total trip). During the ride participants will be encouraged to search the nearshore area for the endangered right whale. While chances of seeing one of the wonderful creatures may not be great due to their limited population, participants will learn about the majestic animals feeding, migrations, and general biology. We'll also learn about other marine mammals. **Meet at 551 Esther St. New Smyrna Beach, 32169.**

### **Waterbody Paddle - Blue Spring**

**December 20, 9:00 am - 11:00am Thursday**

Bring a canoe, kayak, or SUP for a leisurely paddling trip near Blue Spring State Park to explore the area while learning about local wildlife and the history of the area. Participants will also learn about water quality and the importance of Florida's springs as a manatee refuge. Must have Kayak/Canoe/SUP, life preserver and whistle. **Meet at the end of W. French Avenue in Orange city. About 1 mile past Blue Spring State Park Entrance.**

