August 2020

- **The importance of bees and beekeepers**: 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. What’s the buzz all about? Master Beekeeper Marlin Athearn will explain the basics of honey bee biology during an online Zoom program. Athearn, owner of Marlin’s Bees, will also discuss Florida’s native bees and their important role as pollinators for our food supply.

- **Creative composting**: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8. Learn how easy it is to compost kitchen waste. Megan Martin, Volusia County’s Be Floridian Now program coordinator, will discuss the science behind composting during an online Zoom program. She will also explain how compost can help your garden grow while saving you money, reducing waste, and protecting surface and ground waters.

- **Fantastic fungi hike**: 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15. Join LEC staff for a wild mushroom adventure. Learn how to identify local fungi, including the edible ones. Participants will venture out onto the trails of Lyonia Preserve to search for these somewhat camouflaged mushrooms.
• **Searching for scrub jays hike**: 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. Search for the Florida scrub jay during a guided hike along some of Lyonia Preserve’s trails. Learn about this amazing Florida native bird species, its closest relatives, its behavior, and why it depends on scrub habitat to survive. Be prepared to hike 1.5 miles on unpaved sugar sand trails.

• **Skink Saturday**: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29. Stop by the LEC to wish a happy birthday to one of the LEC’s resident reptile ambassadors, a blue-tongued skink. Staff will share interesting facts about this species, including habitat, how they are different from native skinks, and the role they play in their ecosystem.

LEC staff has established public program procedures based on current guidelines. These procedures are subject to change based on guidance at the local, state and federal levels. Programs may be modified at any time as needed.

If you will be walking through Lyonia Preserve, wear closed-toe shoes, bring water, and be prepared to hike on sugar-sand trails.

We are able to provide many of our programs free of charge thanks to the generous support of **The Friends of Lyonia Environmental Center**. To continue this support of our education programs, your donations are always appreciated. To learn more about the friends group and to donate please visit [http://www.lecfriends.com/](http://www.lecfriends.com/).