

Programs are limited to the first 15 participants. Please register at least one day in advance. Come out and enjoy your local natural areas!

**February 7th  
Pinelands Nature Walk is "For the Birds"  
(9:00am - 11:00am)**

Come join in the Counties' kick off nature program! A Naturalist will lead a morning hike through a set of unique flatwood natural communities that offer a variety of potential wildlife encounters. Learn a little bit about the plants, animals, and ecosystems alike while hiking the trail. Birds identified along the way will be added to the Site's bird list and help biological staff create a bird checklist for the public to use whenever hiking a St. Lucie County trail.

**February 14th  
Sweetwater Hammock Bird Count  
(8:00 am - 10:00am)**

Become a "citizen scientist" for the day by identifying and counting birds for the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Held around the 2nd week of February, volunteers count birds all across the continent and enter results into a database that provides a snapshot in time of how bird populations are doing. No experience is necessary; just an interest in learning how to identify birds! We'll go over how to use binoculars and field guides (please bring if you have them), and what to look for when trying to identify birds. Then we'll go on a birding hike and put our skills to use.

Go to [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) for more information.

**February 21st  
Paleo Hammock  
Archaeological Walk  
(9:00-10:30am)**

Learn about the early people of Florida with a walk back in time as we discuss the life histories of the Paleo-Indians and other early inhabitants of this area.

**February 28th  
Pinelands Day Hike  
(3:00 - 6:00pm)**

Explore the Pinelands, 750 acres of pristine pine flatwoods, with other intermediate level hikers. The trek will cover over 5 miles, ending just before sunset. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent, and possibly camera/binoculars.

**March 7th  
FL Scrub-Jays at Sheraton Scrub  
(9:00-11:00 am)**

Come learn about the only bird species found in Florida and no where else in the world! Learn about the life history of this beautiful and unique bird, including the special habitat in which it lives and its "family values". Please bring binoculars if you have them; if we're lucky, we should be able to get a very close look at them.  
Bring binoculars.

**March 14th  
Coastal Plants at Ocean Bay  
(9:00am -10:30am)**

Ever wondered how early inhabitants of the coastlines treated toothaches? Unique coastal vegetation, including tropical hardwood hammock plants as well as beach dune vegetation is the topic of this trip, including discussion of how early peoples put these plants to use.

**March 21st  
Snakes & Birds at Dusk  
Pinelands Natural Area  
(6:00 pm - 7:15pm)**

Study snakes and birds as we travel along the road to Pinelands Natural Area. Observe snakes soaking up the last bit of heat off the road as they prepare for the cool night.

**March 21st  
Pinelands  
Owl Prowl  
(7:30 pm- 9:30pm)**

Who, who, who wants to see barred owls, screech owls, and great horned owls? Staff will try to call in our local feathered friends. Please bring a flashlight.

**March 28th  
Amazing Amphibians at Indrio Savannahs  
(7:30-9:00pm)**

Learn about the natural history of the native and non-native frogs of Florida, participate in a fun hands-on exercise to learn some of their unique calls, and hike to wetlands to try to see them and hear their calls.

**April 4th  
Lil' Tyke Hike at Ancient Oaks  
(10:30am -11:30am)**

Located just past the playgrounds within the Weldon Lewis Park, the Ancient Oaks Natural Area offers a short loop trail that winds through 150 year old oaks and cabbage palms. Join us for a scavenger-hunt based hike for children ages 2-10. Armed with a clipboard of pictures of animals and plants to find and sounds to hear, children will learn how to use their senses to truly experience nature.

**April 11th  
Spring Wildflower & Butterfly Walk  
at Indrio Savannahs  
(9:00am -10:30am)**

Celebrate spring by seeing what has bloomed in the flatwoods and in and around the depression marshes. If we are lucky we will see and identify a number of local butterflies and their host plants.

**April 18th  
10 Mile Creek Paddle  
& Wetland Plant Talk  
(8:45am - 11:15am)**

You deserve a good paddling! Come experience a short paddle up river with other intermediate paddlers along this beautiful stretch of the North Fork. Please bring your own canoe/kayak with safety gear. Drinking water and bug spray are also recommended.

**April 18th  
Stargazing at Bluefield  
(8:00pm - 12:00am)**

Calling all stargazers! Fix your eyes on the sky, miles from the city lights, with the expertise of the local astronomy club members to help guide viewing through professional telescopes. Bring a chair or blanket to view from. Binoculars, red filtered flashlights, and bug spray are also recommended.

**April 25th  
Spruce Bluff Archeological Walk  
(9:00am - 10:30am)**

Discover a ceremonial Indian mound built thousands of years ago. Learn about the immense process of constructing it and the significance behind it. Along the way, we'll talk about various plants early Indians used for food, shelter and medicine.

**May 2nd  
Non-Native Invaders Hike at Bluefield  
(9:00- 10:30am)**

Learn to identify the invasive/exotic plant and animal species that are taking over our local natural areas. We will discuss the benefits of landscaping with native plants as well as the proper methods for controlling nuisance non-native plants at home. Hiking apparel, water, and insect repellent recommended.

**May 9th  
Coffee with the Birds, Plants, & Butterflies  
at Walton Scrub  
(9:00am -10:00am)**

Learn how to attract birds and butterflies to your own backyard while enjoying your morning cup of coffee or tea. A Naturalist will lead a walk through the unique scrub natural community and discuss the rare plants and their importance to local wildlife.  
Hot beverages will be provided.

**May 16th  
Birds Songs 101  
at Paleo Hammock  
(7:30am -8:45am)**

Bring your binoculars and come enjoy a peaceful morning walk among the song birds of Florida. Staff will go over the basics to identifying common birds species by call.

**May 16th  
Tree Treasures at  
Teague Hammock  
(9:00am -10:30am)**

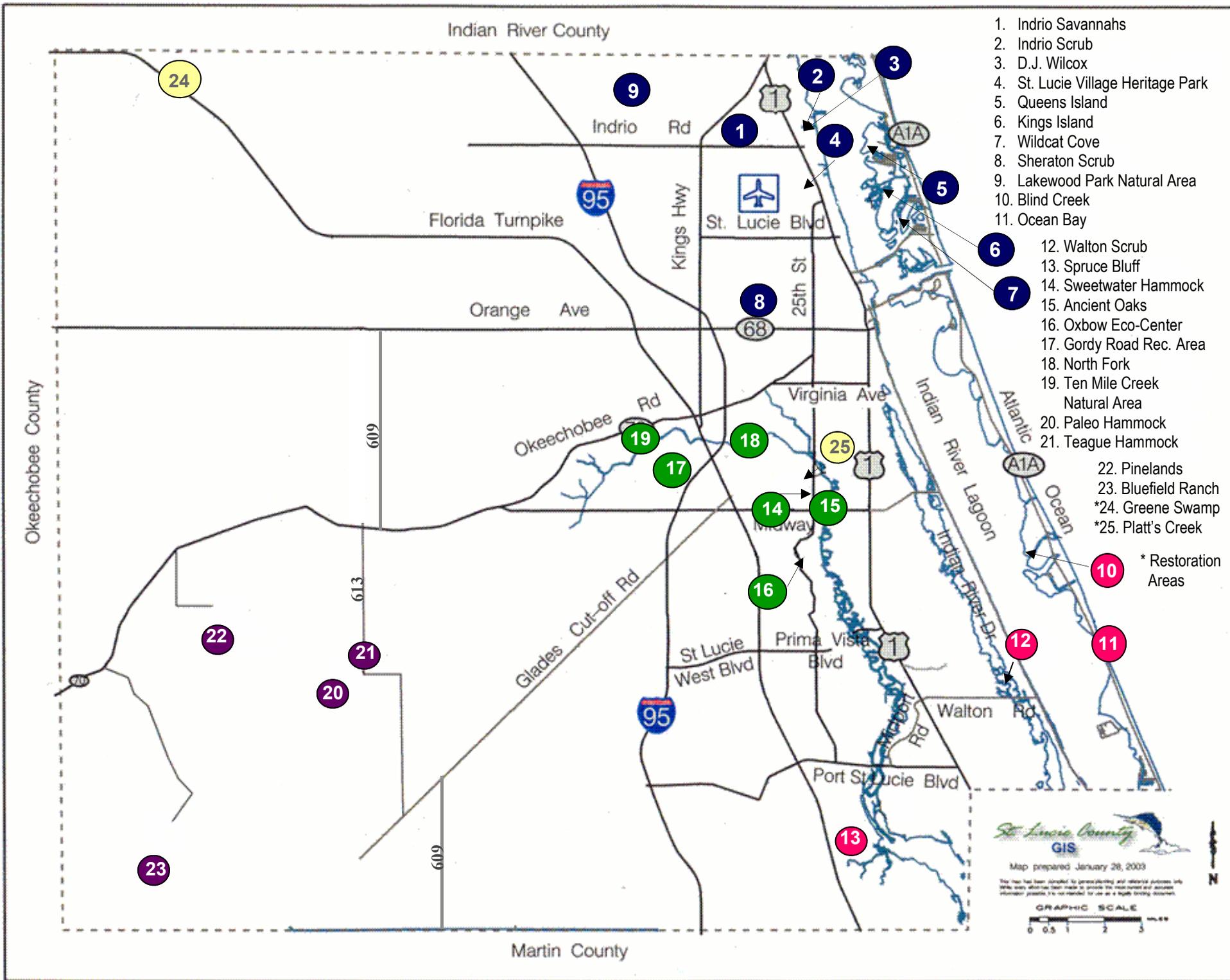
Learn how to identify a variety of Southeast Florida's trees as we walk along the trail. Find out how trees were used by the Paleo-Indians culture and their many wildlife uses.

**May 23rd  
Paleo & Teague Hammock Owl Prowl  
(7:30 pm- 9:30pm)**

Who, who, who wants to see barred owls, screech owls, and great horned owls? A Naturalist will call our local feathered friends from under an oak hammock. Flashlights are necessary.

**May 30th  
"Sounds at Dusk" at Indrio Savannahs  
(7:30-9:00pm)**

Ever hear the croaks, chirps, calls, and wisps just as the sun goes down? Come learn how to identify the different sounds of a Florida wetland by participating in a fun hands-on exercise that will teach you to focus on the unique calls of the different insects, amphibians, and birds.



## Nature Program Schedule

Winter - Spring  
2009

St. Lucie County  
Environmental  
Resources  
Department

Natural Areas  
and Preserves



Environmental Resources  
Department  
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