

NATURE for FAMILIES

2nd Saturday of each month * 12:30 - 2:30 pm
RSVP * \$3 per person

Eco-Explorers February 14, 2009

Learn about ecology and have a blast! Eco-Explorers is about having fun while learning about energy and wildlife. We will be playing games on the trail, so bring a water bottle and a hat. Dress appropriately. Ages 6 & up.



ANIMAL HOMES March 14, 2009

Have you ever wondered what lives in that hole in the ground? Find out as we visit several animal homes and learn what makes an animal feel safe and comfortable. You will put your knowledge to use by finding homes out on the trail and making your own to take home. Ages 6 and up.

Mask Making April 11, 2009

It is that time of year when we make our animal costumes for the Earth Day "Salute to Wildlife" parade! Bring recycled materials such as plastic bottles, lids, and containers, and make your own animal mask for the parade. Parental supervision is required. Ages 8 & up.



What's for Dinner? May 9, 2009

Would you have dinner with a snake or bird? Find out what our native animals like to eat for dinner. Then make a special treat of your own to take home. All ages.



Pond Adventure June 13, 2009

Get up close and personal with our watershed as we go on a pond adventure. Find out what lives in the ponds and canals near us and why they are important indicators of water quality. Please bring a change shoes as participants will get muddy. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.



NATURE WALKS



Every Saturday morning at 10am, join us on a guided nature walk through the Oxbow forest and learn about St. Lucie's wildlife and wild lands. FREE. November through May.

TUESDAYS at the OXBOW

Critter Chat

Every other Tuesday * 3:30 pm

Meet some of the Oxbow's wild residents who serve as our environmental ambassadors. These reptiles and amphibians help teach visitors about the importance of preserving habitats and keeping our waterways healthy. Appropriate for all ages, this is a free program.



Swamp Tales

Every other Tuesday * 3:30 pm

Get lost in a book and take an adventure with our storytellers. Imagine taking flight on the back of a bumble bee, rattling with a snake, or swimming with a sea turtle! Appropriate for ages 2-6, this is a free program.



*** Wake Up Call Lecture Series ***

JOIN US the first Saturday of the month through April and expand your understanding of going "green". Lectures are free and begin at 11am, unless otherwise noted. Bring a coffee mug and enjoy some delicious bird-friendly coffee!

February 7, 2009 * Trash to Treasure

Deb Kruger, Executive Director of the Re-Use Center

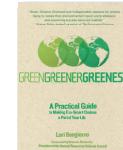
Learn how to turn your trash into treasure at this hands-on lecture given by Deb Krueger, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Re-Use Center. The Re-Use Center takes business discards, like unwanted stock, business samples and packaging supplies, and redistributes them for free to youth and community organizations for artwork, theatre, education and therapy. You can learn more at www.reusecenter.org



March 7, 2009 * Special time: 2:00pm * Making Eco-Smart Choices

Lori Bongiorno, Author of *Green, Greener, Greenest*

From 'armchair environmentalists to eco-warriors', "*Green, Greener, Greenest*" has something for everyone. Author Lori Bongiorno presents a three-tiered system that allows you to pick and choose how to contribute to the health of the planet ... from simple, no-cost changes to major commitments and investments.



April 4, 2009 * Finding Power in Small Packages

Peter McCarthy, Ph.D, Research Professor, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute



Explore the exciting new field of 'green' biotech as Dr. Peter McCarthy talks about the power of marine microbes. Dr. McCarthy is currently researching the use of cold-water microbes as a way to produce alternative fuels that have the potential to power our future.

NATURE AT NIGHT

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The presentation is \$5 per person and advanced ticket purchase is required.
Tickets can be purchased on site or by phone (Visa or MasterCard).
Red lens flashlights will be used during the hike.

February 27 Prowling with Night Creatures



What noises go bump in the night? Maybe it's a raccoon, a bobcat, a panther, or armadillo. Join Arnold's Wildlife as it presents 'Night Creatures' and meet some of their residents of their rehabilitation center in Okeechobee.

Take a hike on the moonlit trails following the presentation as we search for signs of nocturnal animals.



March 27 A 'Bat-astic' Adventure

Have a bat-astic good time, as the Florida Bat Conservancy shares some interesting facts about Florida's only flying mammal. Bats serve at least one important role ... they can devour up to 3,000 insects (including mosquitoes) in a single night! You'll have the opportunity to meet some of Florida's thirteen bat species, residents from the Conservancy.

Following the presentation, "Batman" Ken Gioeli, Natural Resources Agent with the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Service, will lead on a hike along the trails, using special sonar equipment to find these nocturnal creatures.

River Kayak Tours

9am to 12:30pm

3rd Saturday of each month



Take a journey down the St. Lucie River by kayak where you might catch a glimpse of eagles, mullets, turtles, herons, alligators, manatees, and river otters. Cost is **\$15 per person**. Reservations must be made in advance on-site or by phone (Visa/MasterCard). Kayaks and life jackets provided.

Step Up, Step Out Florida

Step outside on February 21st and become a part of **Step Up Florida**, a statewide initiative to promote physical activity. Sponsored by the St. Lucie County Health Department, Step "Out" Saturday will take place at the Oxbow Eco-Center with several guided hikes offered throughout the day, including birding, geocaching, and general nature. Trails are open from dawn until dusk if you'd like to hike on your own. FREE!

Volunteer and Change the World

A new year, a new you? Are you looking for ways to stay committed to your New Year's Resolution of meeting new people or giving back to your community? Then sign up to be an Oxbow volunteer! Donate your time to guide hikes, greet visitors, maintain trails, lead field trips, educate young people, and more!

You can also be a part of the area's largest Earth Day festival by designing special exhibit booths, developing fun wildlife crafts, leading our wildlife parade, or guiding visitors at the welcome booth.

If you are interested, call or email Jen Howard at 772-785-5833 or Howardj@stlucieco.org today!

*"what you keep to yourself, you lose.
what you give away, you keep forever."*

Mother Teresa



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The Oxbow Express

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"Living Green" Earth Day Festival

April 18th * 10am—3pm

Join us for the 9th annual Earth Day Celebration at the Oxbow Eco-Center on Saturday, April 18th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Explore "Living Green" by visiting exciting interactive displays. Stroll through the healthy home, practice recycling, discover what makes a building green and much more.

Get up close and personal with some of Florida's reptiles, amphibians and birds of prey. Join in the "Salute to Wildlife" Parade by making your own mask and bringing a musical instrument along. Dance in the street to live music, follow a guide through the Oxbow forest, test your knowledge in the eco-challenge, and enjoy some tasty treats.



- This event is free and designed for all ages to enjoy.
- For more information please call 772-785-5833 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow.

GREEN TIPS ...

Mailing newsletters is not only costly, but consumes a lot of resources. Therefore, in our quest to act responsibly, we will no longer be mailing out our printed newsletter. Instead, it will be posted on our website, and we can e-mail it to you. Simply send an e-mail to oxbow@stlucieco.org and request the newsletter electronically.



www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow