

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK AT THE ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 10 – 16, at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. National Wildlife Refuge week was established to heighten public awareness about the National Wildlife Refuge System. With at least one refuge in every state and one near most major cities, the National Wildlife Refuge System offers something for everyone.

The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge will be celebrating National Wildlife Refuge week by offering many opportunities for people to enjoy the refuge.

Sunday, October 10, 2004

Butterflies & Wildflowers Walk

Enjoy a walk through the refuge's Butterfly Garden. Learn about butterflies and the wildflowers and plants they depend on during all stages of their life. Walk will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center.

Swamp Stroll

At 2:00 p.m., take a guided tour through the refuge's Cypress Swamp located at the Visitor Center. Learn about the swamp ecosystem from cypress tree knees to animals that call the swamp home.

Saturday, October 16, 2004

Bird Walk

Join a naturalist for an early morning bird walk at 7:30 a.m. around the Marsh Trail.

Canoe Trip

At 8:00 a.m., enjoy a beautiful canoe tour through a portion of the refuge interior. Tour leaves from the Headquarters Boat Ramp. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

LILA (Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment) Tour

Accompany project leader, Eric Cline, for a walk at 9:00 a.m. at the Marsh Trail, as he explains the LILA project and what it means to the future of the Everglades.

Kid's Story and Craft Hour

Children age five to eight are invited to a story and craft hour at 2:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

To make a reservation or obtain more information, please contact the Visitor Center at (561) 734-8303.

The refuge is located off U.S. 441/SR 7, two miles south of SR 804 (Boynton Beach Blvd.) and three miles north of SR 806 (Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue). The refuge is currently open from 6 am to 8:30 pm, seven days a week. Refuge hours change seasonally and are posted at each entrance. The Visitor Center hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Wednesday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The Visitor Center is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays through mid-October. The Visitor Center is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. An entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per pedestrian is charged. A variety of annual passes, including a \$12.00 refuge specific annual pass, are available. For additional information, please visit the refuge website at <http://Loxahatchee.fws.gov> or call the Administration Office at (561) 732-3684.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 100-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of over 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit our home page at www.fws.gov.

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