

## The Seminole County Natural Lands Program Turns 25!



November 2015 represents a very special milestone for the Seminole County Natural Lands Program (NLP). Initiated by a group of conservation minded citizens, County staff and The Nature Conservancy, with approval and support from the Board of County Commissioners, a referendum was presented and approved by the citizens of the County in November of 1990 and the NLP was established. In the subsequent 25 years the NLP has purchased and currently manages approximately 6,600 acres, over 70 miles of trails and the Ed Yarborough Nature Center. These properties provide important ecological benefits as well as passive, resource based recreational opportunities for the citizens and visitors to Seminole County.

In that same time many complementary programs sprouted as part of the NLP's growth. A partnership was formed with our Public Safety Department to establish our prescribed burn program, an environmental education program that began with informal classroom presentations now includes a nature center, school field trips, eco-camps and special events. A volunteer program was also established to assist with land management activities and build a sense of stewardship for the County's natural resources.

One thing that has become very clear in the last 25 years is that it takes a community to care for the Natural Lands. Many other County departments regularly assist with our management tasks, the Sheriff's Office, Forest Service, other agencies and community organizations also provide their expertise and assistance. And of course, there have been and still are many, many volunteers who pitch in on a variety of assignments.

On Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated "Natural Lands Style" with an outdoor festival featuring live music, fishing, horse drawn wagon rides, a "Walk Back in Time" display, environmental programs and so much more. The Leisure Services Department would like to thank everyone who assisted both with this event and for the last 25 years helping to make Seminole County's Natural Lands such a key part of the quality of life for our community.



## Community & Youth Programs

- \*Eco Birthday Parties at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva
  - \*Programs for Civic and Community Groups
  - \*Scouting Programs/Hikes
  - \*Public and Private School field trips
  - \*Eco Programs at your school/in classroom
  - \*Private day and night hikes for groups of 15-25
  - \*Nature Center Rental for meetings, parties, and events!
- Call (407)349-0959 for more information!**

## New Observation Tower at Lake Harney Wilderness Area

The next time you are out near our Lake Harney Wilderness Area stop by and enjoy the new observation tower.

The boardwalk leading up to the observation deck slowly meanders up through the tree tops bringing you to an amazing view of the Lake Harney floodplain.



## Special Events

### Creepy Crawly Night Hike & Open House

**Date:** March 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 7:00pm-9:00pm  
**Place:** Geneva Wilderness Area  
 3485 N. County Road 426  
 Geneva 32732  
**Cost:** \$3 per person

**Snakes, Spider and Sirens, OH MY!!!**  
 Join us for a Creepy Crawly Night Hike and then enjoy meeting the animals in the Nature Center.

## Seminole County Natural Lands and Central Florida CISMA



### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual INVASIVE SPECIES MEGA-RACE



January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Join us at multiple locations in Seminole County to help with the removal of this exotic species.  
 \*Bring gloves, garden tools optional. Great event for all Ages! Families & organizations welcome!  
**Locations to be announced**  
 Have fun while helping the environment!

Call 407.349.0551 for more information on locations and how to sign up.

## Wilderness Area Property Addresses

**Geneva**, 3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva 32732  
**Chuluota**, 3895 Curryville Rd, Chuluota 32766  
**Spring Hammock Preserve**, 2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood 32750  
**Lake Harney**, 2395 Osceola Fish Camp Rd, Geneva 32732  
**Lake Proctor**, 920 E. SR 46, Geneva 32732

**Black Bear**, 5298 Michigan Ave, Sanford, FL 32771  
**Black Hammock**, 3276 Howard Ave, Oviedo, FL 32765  
**Econ River**, 3795 Old Lockwood Rd, Oviedo, FL 32765  
**Lake Jesup**, 5951 Sanford Ave, Sanford, FL 32773

## UPCOMING ECO CLASSES

### All Classes held at:

Ed Yarborough Nature Center  
3485 N. County Road 426  
Geneva 32732

### Owl Class

**Date:** March 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 6:30pm-9:30pm  
**Cost:** \$5 per person

Join a local bird expert to find out Who is watching Who at night! Come learn about owls, the silent hunters of the night! Dissect your own owl pellet and go for a hike to listen for, and hopefully see, some of these amazing creatures! Open to ages 7 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \*Pre-registration is required.

### Eco Crafts for Kids!

**Date:** April 16<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 9:00am-11:00am  
**Cost:** \$5 per child  
**Ages:** 5 to 7 years old

Join us for parent/child nature craft time! We will make a nature frame from items collected on our hike. Use it to frame your favorite photo! We will end with making an edible arthropod (bug)!! Using all kinds of fun candies, you will create your very own, one of a kind arthropod. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \*Pre-registration is required.

### Fishing Fun!

**Date:** April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Time:** 8:00am-11:00am  
**Ages:** 7-12  
**Cost:** \$5 per child

Come join us for a morning of fishing!! All children will receive a free fishing rod! Limited to 15 children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \*Pre-registration is required.

### Snakes of Florida

**Date:** May 14<sup>th</sup>,  
**Time:** 9:00am-12noon  
**Cost:** \$5 per person

Join a local snake expert as he gives an introduction to, and dispels some of the myths about, these often misunderstood cold blooded residents! You will have the opportunity to meet and hold some of the native snakes that live in our area. The program will end with a hike. Open to ages 7 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \*Pre-registration is required.

\* You may register at any active park:  
**Red Bug Lake Park, Sylvan Lake Park, Sanlando Park. Park Hours: 8:00am-10:00pm Monday thru Friday. 8:00am-**

## Spring Break Eco Adventure Camp!

**When:** March 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva  
**Times:** 9:00am-4:00pm (extended day available 7:30am-5:30pm)  
**Ages:** 7-12  
**Cost:** \$132/wk (extended day additional \$15/wk)

Imagine a camp where you can have fun while learning about the natural world! Seminole County Natural Lands is offering a week long day camp for your kids during their spring break. Each week has a different theme, but every week gets kids outdoors and having fun!!

**For more information call 407.349.0959**

## UPCOMING GUIDED HIKES

Join Natural Lands staff and volunteers for guided morning and evening hikes on some of our most beautiful wilderness areas. Experience the trails and learn about the amazing animals and plants that live in the variety of habitats.

**Cost:** \$3 per person (limited to 25 participants per hike). Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Children must be at least 7 years of age and accompanied by an adult. **Register at any active park (Sylvan Lake Park, Red Bug Lake Park, Sanlando Park).**

### Guided Day Hikes

March 19 **Morning Trail Trek!**  
9:00a.m.–11:00am @ Econ Wilderness Area  
April 2 **\*Birds & Bagels**  
7:00 a.m -9:00 a.m. @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area  
April 23 **\*Swamp Walk**  
8:00 am-10:00 a.m. @ Spring Hammock Preserve

\*Birds & Bagel hike will end on our new observation tower where you will enjoy bagels, coffee and amazing views of the Lake Harney Floodplain.

\*Swamp Walk will take you through thick, black mud to explore the beauty of the hydric hammock. Wear closed-toes shoes and long pants. Lots of fun for the entire family!

### Guided Night Hikes

**May 7 Reptile Ramble**  
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. @Geneva Wilderness Area  
**May 21 Nocturnal Animals**  
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. @ Lake Proctor Wilderness Area  
**June 4 Insects & Spiders**  
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. @ Chuluota Wilderness Area  
**June 18 Frog Hop Hike**  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. @ Geneva Wilderness Area

**Pre-registration is required for all hikes & programs.**

Registration is limited. Register at any active park: Sylvan Lake Park, Red Bug Lake Park, Sanlando Park. Park Hours: 8am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm Sat-Sun.