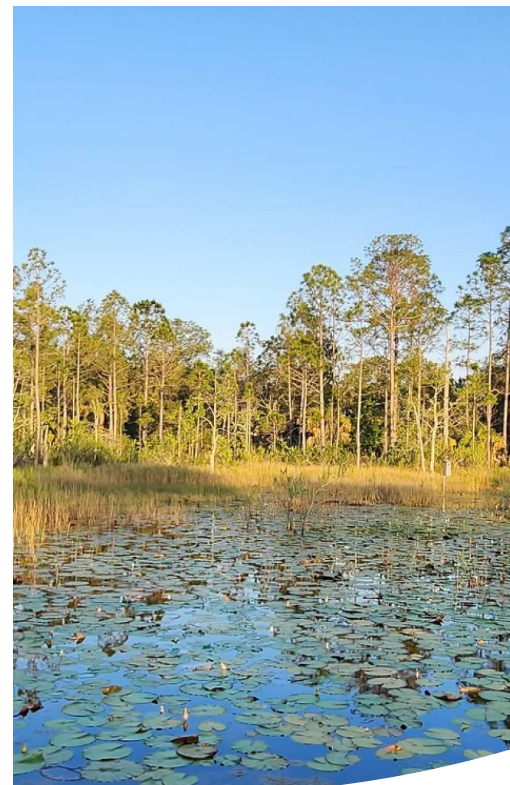


Greenways & Natural Lands Seminole Tracks Newsletter



Autumn Has Arrived...

Autumn in Florida is an enchanting time to embrace the great outdoors and savor the season's transformations. While we may not have traditional autumn leaves, vibrant native wildflowers are in full bloom, and the skies are alive with migrating birds. Each day, the air becomes cooler and crisper, inviting you to experience the magic of fall in Florida.

Seminole County Natural Lands offers many opportunities to enjoy the season; search for migrating birds, learn about wild creatures or camp out with your family. No matter what you decide, we can't wait to see you out there!

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Last Season...

Summer 2024



During summertime, Natural Lands suspends most hikes and events to welcome campers back to Eco Camp. This summer was full of fun, friendships and learning about the natural world!



Crafty Critters



Dissections



Investigations



Building Forts



Fishing and Trapping



Meeting the Locals



New Discoveries



Exploring



Knot Tying



Fun in the Sun

A BIG thank you to all of our amazing guest speakers and volunteers who donated their time for our campers!

- Dr. Rosie Stanbrook– UCF: Dung beetle safari & presentation
- Dr. Hannah Bevan– Curator: UCF Mammalogy Lab
- Creations from the Sand: sand art with Crafty Critters week
- SERV Team: Macro-Invertebrates lab and presentation
- Cuplet Fern Chapter of the FL Native Plant Society– plant presentation
- Dr. Daisy Fiore: Audubon Birds of Prey Center: Climate change lesson and bird crafts

Junior Counselor

Volunteers:

- Lucas Rodriguez
- Nicholas Rodriguez
- Owen Thomas
- Jack Woodward

New Nature Center Name!

May 2024

Before Summer Eco Camp kicked off, Seminole County leaders celebrated the newly-renamed Ed and Imogene Yarborough Nature Center. Earlier this year, the Board of County Commissioners voted to rename the former Ed Yarborough Nature Center to honor the late Mrs. Imogene Yarborough, a passionate advocate for education, agriculture, and the environment.

Commissioners Zembower and Dallari unveiled the new sign, handcrafted by volunteer Mark Williams with local Geneva-harvested oak. Members of the Yarborough family attended to recognize Imogene and the family's significant contributions to Seminole County.



Location: Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Times: Saturday, 2:00pm to
Sunday, 9:00am

Dates: Oct. 12-13 (Haunted Woods)
Nov 23-24 (Fall Festival)

Cost: \$20 per person/per campout



Family Fun Campouts

This is one of our most popular Natural Lands events! Spend the night at the Geneva Wilderness Area and learn to camp with the experts.

This event is tailored for families with children ages 4-12 who want a crash course in camping. Meals included! We will have tent pitching assistance, cast iron cooking, a live animal program in the nature center, hiking, and treats by the campfire.



This season, there are 2 dates to choose from. In October, enjoy a fun and spooky night in the Haunted Woods. In November, celebrate gratitude with a Fall Festival themed camp out.



Winter Break Eco Camp!

Winter Break Eco Camp is like Summer Camp, just without the heat and bugs!

Your kids will have a blast while learning about the natural world! Campers will explore the Geneva Wilderness Area through fishing, hiking, setting live traps, and learning about native wildlife and plants. Inside the nature center, they will create works of art, play games and meet our live animals. Scholarships available.

Find out more by visiting the Eco Camp webpage!



Dates: December 30 & 31, Jan 2 & 3

Location: Ed & Imogene Yarborough
Nature Center

Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm
(Extended Day Care available from
7:30am - 5:30pm)

Cost: \$132/week (Extended Day
Care an additional \$15/week)

Ages: 7-12

Register online at recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Classes and Programs

Come learn something new by experiencing it first-hand! Natural Lands' classes and programs offer learning opportunities for everyone. This Fall, we have a variety of events to choose from. Just make sure you register before you arrive. Classes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Crazy Cool Craniums

Animal bones can tell stories! Learn to read animals' skulls to discover what they eat, how they're built and how they live. This fun and informational class will introduce you to the world of animal skulls and how to identify animals from their bones. Meet and greet with live animals in the Nature Center and piece together tiny skeletons by dissecting an owl pellet!

Date/ Time: Saturday, **August 24**, 9:00-11:00 AM
Location: Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva
Cost: \$8/person
Ages: 7+ (Children must be accompanied by an adult)



Crocodilians of the World

Join a local expert as she introduces you to familiar and not-so-familiar crocodilians! Learn the fascinating evolution of this group of reptiles and the incredible adaptations that have helped them survive for hundreds of millions of years. Find out how we can live alongside these ancient animals in Florida. End the class with a live alligator encounter!

Date/ Time: Saturday, **August 31**, 9:00-11:00 AM
Location: Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva
Cost: \$8/person
Ages: 7+ (Children must be accompanied by an adult)



Snakes of Florida Class

This program will introduce and dispel some of the myths about these often misunderstood cold-blooded residents! Learn to identify common local snakes and meet live snakes in the Nature Center. End with a hike on the trails in search of wild snakes!

Date/ Time: Saturday, **September 14**, 9:00 AM-noon
Location: Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva
Cost: \$8/person
Ages: 7+ (Children must be accompanied by an adult)



Nature Crafts: Living Grapevine Wreath

Create a fun wintry craft from nature! We will begin the morning with a hike through the woods collecting natural treasures. From the items you collect, you'll weave a beautiful grapevine wreath that you can give as a gift or decorate your door with!

Dates: Saturday **December 7**, 9-11 AM
Location: Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva
Cost: \$8 per person, adults must accompany children
Ages: 7+ (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Guided Hikes

Did you know the Natural Lands Program manages over 6,600 acres of preserved land? Let our knowledgeable guides walk you through some of Seminole County's most beautiful wilderness areas. Hikes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

All hikes are \$5 per guest. Children must be 7 years or older (unless otherwise noted) and accompanied by an adult to attend. All Natural Lands hikes require pre-registration. Call 407.665.2211 for more information.

SEPT
7

Nature BINGO Hike

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am @ Econ River Wilderness Area

Explore the park while playing nature BINGO! The more you observe, the more chances to win!

Hike Rating
EASY

SEPT
17

Harvest Moon Hike

Tuesday 7:30-9:30 pm @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Take a break on this Tuesday night to see the splendor of this rare supermoon and search for hidden night creatures. Enjoy views of the moon high above on the observation deck overlooking the floodplain.

Hike Rating
EASY

SEPT
21

Morning Birding Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30 am at Econ River Wilderness Area

Join an expert birder as you search for feathered friends during the early Fall migration. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound through diverse ecosystems around the Econ River.

Hike Rating
EASY

SEPT
21

Fall Frog Hop Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30 pm @ Geneva Wilderness Area

Learn to identify frogs by sight and sound during this frog-tastic night hike! Explore the fascinating science behind amplexus and why these croaking creatures are essential to a balanced ecosystem.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

SEPT
28

Tracks & Scat Hike

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am at Geneva Wilderness Area

Hike in search of nature's clues. Discover how to identify wildlife sign and test your detective skills during this exploratory experience. End the hike at the nature center for an Open House event!

Hike Rating
EASY

Property Addresses

Econ River Wilderness Area
3795 Old Lockwood Rd. Oviedo 32765
Lake Proctor Wilderness Area
920 E. SR 46, Geneva 32732
Lake Jesup Wilderness Area
5951 Sanford Ave. Sanford 32773

Chuluota Wilderness Area
3895 Curryville Rd. Chuluota 32766
Lake Harney Wilderness Area
2395 Osceola Fish Camp Rd, Geneva 32732
Geneva Wilderness Area/Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva 32732

Guided Hikes (Continued)

All hikes are \$5 per guest. Children must be 7 years or older (unless otherwise noted) and accompanied by an adult to attend. All Natural Lands hikes require pre-registration. Call 407.665.2211 for more information.

OCT
12

Owl Prowl

Saturday 7:00-9:00 pm @ Spring Hammock Preserve

Explore the park after dark in search of owls! Learn how to identify owls by sight and hoots.

Hike Rating
EASY

OCT
19

Butterflies & Blooms

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am @ Chuluota Wilderness Area

Join a local expert in search of fragrant colorful flowers, and the many pollinators that visit them. Moderate rating due to sandy terrain.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

NOV
2

Fall Foraging Hike

Saturday 8:00-10:00 am @ Econ River Wilderness Area

Learn to identify seasonal wild edible plants while strolling through diverse habitats in the Econ River Wilderness Area.

Hike Rating
EASY

NOV
9

Nocturnal Animals Hike

Saturday 7:00-9:00 pm @ Lake Proctor Wilderness Area

Explore the park after dark! Search for night creatures as you walk around Lake Proctor.

Hike Rating
EASY

DEC
14

Morning Migration Birding Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30am @ Lake Jesup Wilderness Area

Join an expert birder as you search for feathered friends. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound as they make their fall migration.

Hike Rating
EASY

Property Addresses

Econ River Wilderness Area
3795 Old Lockwood Rd. Oviedo 32765
Lake Proctor Wilderness Area
920 E. SR 46, Geneva 32732
Lake Jesup Wilderness Area
5951 Sanford Ave. Sanford 32773

Chuluota Wilderness Area
3895 Curryville Rd. Chuluota 32766
Lake Harney Wilderness Area
2395 Osceola Fish Camp Rd, Geneva 32732
Spring Hammock Preserve
2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood 32750

Private Hikes, Rentals and Programs

- Location:** Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva
- Cost:** \$170, includes 3-hour facility rental and the Natural Lands party host.
- Registration:** To coordinate times and availability, please email:
nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov



Eco Birthday Parties



Create a birthday party experience your child will never forget! A trained staff member will welcome your party guests, present an exciting live animal program and take the group for a hike on our 180-acre property. Enjoy time in the Nature Center for exploration and your refreshments.

Private Hikes

Do you want to take a hike with your favorite people? Schedule a private hike with Natural Lands! Great for scout groups, field trips, team building and family reunions.

One of our knowledgeable staff members will guide you through the trails of the wilderness area of your choice. Along the way, hikers can ask questions and the instructor will stop to point out notable sights. Hike takes approximately 2 hours. \$5 per person. Up to 25 guests.

Facility Rentals

Rent one of our amazing facilities for your party, family reunion, business meeting or other events!

- North Campsite/Pavilion @ GWA
- Yarborough Nature Center
- Full & half days or overnight



Field Trips & In-School Programs

Field trips to the Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center can serve as a wonderful opportunity for your students to explore natural science first-hand. Program includes a nature program in the center with live animals, a hike around the property and time for lunch. Open to public, private and home school groups. Only \$5 per student! Teachers and chaperones are free.

Let Natural Lands come to you! During the 45-50 minute in-school program, students will learn about standards-based science topics and have opportunities to view and handle skulls, biofacts and live animals. This program is FREE!

For more information, please call 407.665.2211 or email nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov

Open House & Program Partners

FREE
EVENT

Fall Open House

Seminole County Natural Lands and Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society are teaming up for a special Open House event this Fall! Meet-and-Greet with our animal residents and explore the exhibits and displays. Enjoy plant-inspired crafts, guided hikes, and a native plant sale! Call 407-665-2211 for more info.

Free Program. No registration required.

When: Saturday, **September 28** – Native Plant Day!
Where: Ed & Imogene Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva 32732
Time: 9 am-noon



Program Partners

The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society joins Natural Lands for Open Houses, plant-related hikes, plant rescue events and maintains the demonstration garden at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center. Cuplet Fern also provides several [scholarships](#) each season for children to attend Eco Camp. Thank you for all your support!



Seminole Audubon Society works closely with Natural Lands to lead birding hikes and programs, give informative presentations and hikes to our Eco Campers, provide [scholarships](#) for children to attend Eco Camp and help Natural Lands purchase materials for programming including Audubon Adventures educational materials and binoculars for Eco Camp. Thank you for your continued support of our programs!



More to Explore

Natural Lands— Wilderness Areas and Preserves

Did you know that Natural Lands manages 9 public wild lands for you to explore? No matter where you live in the county, there is likely a wilderness area close by.

Trails are open from sun rise to sun set every day of the year (unless otherwise noted). Parking and entry are always free!

Enjoy [recreational activities](#) like hiking, birding, biking, photography, horseback riding, fishing and more! Each location has a unique combination of plant communities, animals and ecosystems. We can't wait to see you out there!

Happy Adventuring!

Experience
Seminole County
Naturally



in our
Wilderness
Areas

The **Black Bear Wilderness Area**'s approximately 1,600 acres in northwest Seminole County features a 7 mile loop trail with boardwalks that showcase a variety of wetland habitats within the floodplain of the St. John's River. Wet prairie, Hydric Hammock and Cypress swamps form a mosaic of habitat diversity which host wildlife such as the White-tailed Deer, Swallow-tailed Kite and Florida Black Bear. Its large size and proximity to other public lands, make this site an important piece in a puzzle connecting natural areas between the Wekiva/St. John's basins and the Ocala National Forest.



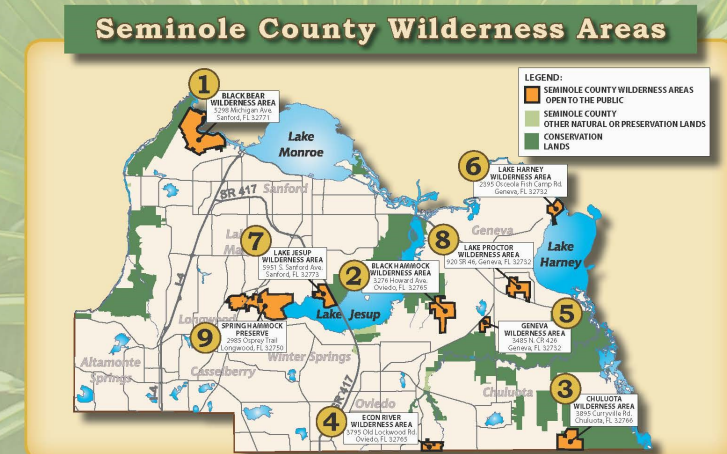
The **Black Hammock Wilderness Area** is a 700+ acre property located in east Seminole County, on the southeast side of Lake Jesup. A joint purchase with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this land was acquired as part of a comprehensive effort to preserve significant habitat along the shores of Lake Jesup. A walk on the 4.5 mile loop trail and boardwalks will take you through habitats such as hydric hammock, mixed hardwood swamp, pine flatwoods and sand pine scrub. Wildlife observed on this site includes the barred owl, white-tailed deer, bobcat and eastern coral snake.



The **Chuluota Wilderness Area** is a 625 acre site located to the east of the town of Chuluota in the southeast corner of Seminole County. This site has extensive and diverse natural communities such as pond pine flatwoods, sand pine scrub, and bayhead swamp. Its remote location and variety of habitats make it an excellent destination for bird watching, wildlife study and nature photography.



The trail system consists of two main loop trails totalling approximately 6 miles that offers visitors the chance to view an abundance of wildlife. See white-tailed deer, gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel and the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.



The **Econ River Wilderness Area** is a 240 acre property located on the Seminole/Orange County line, south of the city of Oviedo, on the west side of the Econlockhatchee River.

A scenic walking trail of approximately 3 miles leads visitors through habitats such as pine flatwoods, sandhill and river swamp. Wildlife observed on this site includes the great horned owl, white-tailed deer and golden mouse. Benches are provided at a bend in the river so you can rest and enjoy the quiet, serenity of this little piece of natural Florida.

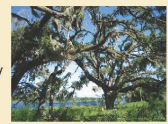


The **Geneva Wilderness Area** is a 180 acre property south of the Geneva community in east Seminole County. This site features a beautiful mosaic of flatwoods, ponds, sand pine scrub and bayhead swamp, all supporting an equally diverse collection of wildlife. A hike through approximately 2 miles of trails can reward visitors with sightings of gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and gray fox.

This property has a fishing pier, large pavilion with a barbeque and the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center which features exhibits and displays that highlight the ecology of Central Florida. The facility hosts both school programs and public classes. The Nature Center is open by appointment only.



The **Lake Harney Wilderness Area** is approximately 300 acres located on the St. Johns River, and the northwest shore of Lake Harney. This site is home to a historic crossing of the Okeechobee Branch of the East Coast Railway, several bald eagle's nests, oak hammocks and mixed hardwood swamps. A viewing tower overlooks the floodplain of Lake Harney which serves as important feeding grounds for wading birds and as a natural filter improving water quality.



The **Lake Jesup Wilderness Area** is a 490 acre site located on the north shore of Lake Jesup, west of Highway 417. Purchased in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District for the purpose of preserving significant habitat to aid in the restoration of Lake Jesup. Visitors can walk, ride their horse or mountain bike on approximately 3 miles of trails to view the extensive flood plain of this lake. Trails are seasonally flooded. Countless species of wildlife call this site home including the anhinga, bald eagle, and American alligator.



The **Lake Proctor Wilderness Area** is a 475 acre property located near the town of Geneva in east Seminole County.

A hike on approximately 6 miles of trail through habitats such as sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, sandhill and bayhead swamp can reward visitors with sightings of wood duck, white-tailed deer, red fox and Florida worm lizard. The yellow trail provides the best opportunity for viewing a variety of wild flower species.



The **Spring Hammock Preserve** is a 1,500 acre property on the west shore of Lake Jesup in Longwood. It is a well-known landmark to both residents and visitors because of its oasis-like appearance in the midst of a rapidly growing urban area and includes Big Tree Park and Soldier's Creek Park. The property offers protection to listed species such as the gopher tortoise, bipinnate cuplet fern and Okeechobee gourd which occur in the following plant communities: pine flatwoods, hydric hammock and floodplain forest, respectively. The Seminole County School Board operates an Environmental Studies Center on the property for all grade 5 classes throughout Seminole County.

