



SCCF MEMBER UPDATE

New Marine Lab Building is Progressing



The exterior of the new Marine Lab at Tarpon Bay has been painted, and the gutters and window shades have been installed. Much more work is happening inside the Lab. Electrical and plumbing rough-ins were finished in February and drywall started in March.

How to Protect Beach Nesting Wildlife

By Audrey Albrecht, Shorebird Program Coordinator/Biologist

During the spring and summer you will notice areas of beach on Sanibel and Captiva roped off to protect our nesting shorebirds and sea turtles. February 15th marks the official start of Snowy Plover nesting season in the state of Florida, with Wilson's Plovers and Least Terns following a little later; typically nesting in late April or early May. Sea turtles begin nesting in April as well.

All three of our nesting shorebird species lay their eggs in shallow depressions in the sand. These nests are very hard to see and could easily be stepped on or run over, so they must be protected to prevent accidental destruction. Sea turtles bury their eggs in the sand, and their nests must also be roped off to



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avoid damage from heavy foot traffic.

The enclosures for sea turtle nests are much smaller than those for shorebirds, and for good reason. After a turtle lays her eggs, she returns to the sea. Only the immediate nest area must be protected, and a screen is secured on the surface of the sand to discourage digging predators.

Shorebirds must stay with their nests until the chicks hatch, and they will still need a protected area to raise their chicks after hatching. A shorebird enclosure is much larger as there needs to be a protective buffer around the nest.

If people and dogs are too close, the adults will be flushed off the nest and that is a very dangerous thing. Eggs and chicks left exposed to the elements are subject to overheating, hypothermia in the rain, and getting buried in sand in high wind conditions. These can all happen very quickly.

As a beachgoer, there are several things you can do to help protect our nesting birds.

When you see an enclosure on the beach, the first and most obvious thing you can do is stay outside the posted area. Our beach nesting birds are incredibly well camouflaged. It may not look like there is anything in that enclosure but there is. If you see something inside the enclosure, such as a piece of trash or a Frisbee, please do not attempt to retrieve it. You can report these types of things to SCCF using the phone number listed on the signs (239/472-2329). If you see a



person or a dog entering an enclosure, you can call the number on the signs to report these violations as well (Either SCCF or 888-404-FWCC for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). Sanibel Island beaches do allow dogs but they must be leashed at all times, and absolutely are not allowed to enter shorebird or sea turtle enclosures.

In addition to respecting enclosure boundaries, beachgoers can help our beach nesting species by picking up trash and not leaving food on the beach. Trash and food are big attractants for some major nest predators including crows, gulls, raccoons, and even coyotes. Trash can also kill wildlife- especially plastic bags, plastic straws, 6-pack holders and bottle caps. Animals often mistake these items for food and can die eating them, or become entangled in them. Crows and gulls are the top predator

for snowy plover eggs and chicks, and it is essential that we keep them away from nesting areas. Raccoons and coyotes are predators of both shorebird and sea turtle nests.

It is also very important to fill in any holes on the beach. Small children love digging! Unfortunately these holes can be death traps to flightless chicks and sea turtle hatchlings. If they fall in they cannot get themselves back out! Please protect our precious baby birds and turtles by filling in these holes and preventing a tragedy. There are many more things you can do to protect our beach nesting wildlife. If you are interested in learning more contact our shorebird biologist at shorebirds@sccf.org or attend a presentation about beach nesting birds every other Thursday in the Nature Center (April 12 and 26 at 2 p.m).

**You can keep up with all of SCCF's stories and news by signing up for our blog at www.blog.sccf.org
Sign up for Policy Action Alerts at sccf.org, under Resources then Action Alerts**

WHELP!

You may have already heard. There is some very challenging news about the Annual Fund Drive ending in three short months.

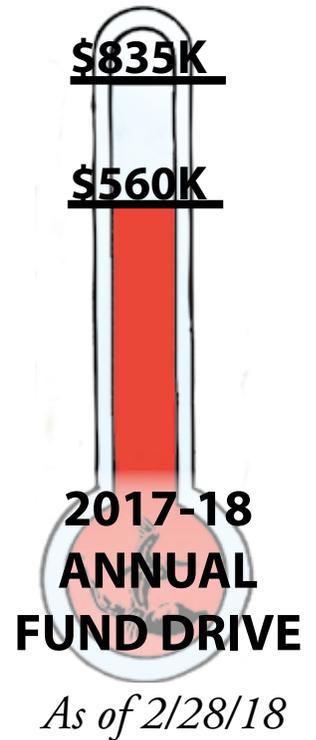
SCCF has learned we will not be receiving a \$150,000.00 operating grant we have been blessed to receive every spring for many years. The donor, a truly wonderful person, wanted to help with a deserving and unexpected need arising elsewhere, so we understandably had to take a funding break for this year. We hope things will be different next year.

For now, though, we need your help as we try to replace that essential funding. We trust you know the countless ways your support drives SCCF's mission, programs and operations.

If you have already made your FY2017-2018 gift, please consider making a second contribution to SCCF before June 30. If you haven't yet decided about renewing your Annual Fund Drive gift, please consider doing so at this time, perhaps at a higher level for this year. No matter what you decide, please know you are all truly valued members of the SCCF Family.

You can use the remittance envelope mailed to you, donate on www.sccf.org, or call Cheryl Giattini at 239-395-2768 to help us meet this funding challenge.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this heartfelt request.



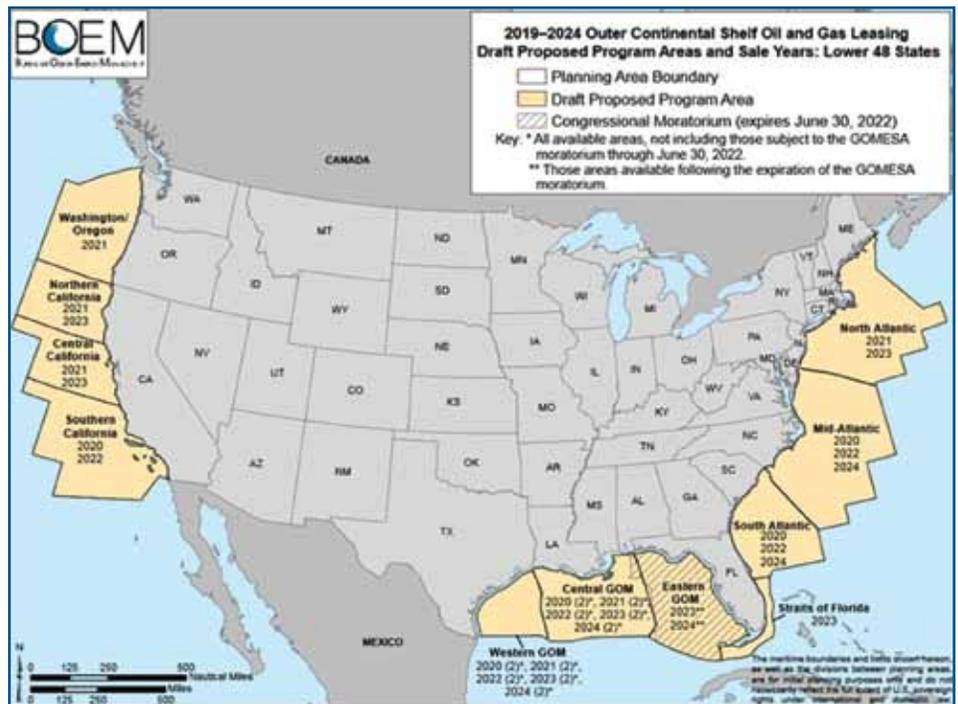
Banning Oil & Gas Drilling in the Eastern Gulf

By Holly Schwartz, Natural Resource Policy Assistant

The current ban on oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico off Florida expires in 2022 but proposals to accelerate and expand drilling areas are being developed. The Federal agency tasked with making recommendations on drilling in our coastal waters is the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The proposal to end drilling protections in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico are unnecessary, dangerous and could have devastating economic and environmental consequences associated with the expansion of drilling in our waters.

Americans feel very strongly about this issue as evidenced by the 1.5 million citizen comments that have been made through email,



phone calls and letters on the Draft Oil and Gas Leasing Program (see Proposed Outer Continental Shelf map, above) which would drastically

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Drilling -- Continued from Page 3

expand the areas targeted for oil and gas exploration.

Opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling exposes Florida's coastal waters to many threats:

- Oil and Gas exploration in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico would have a direct impact on the health of our tourism economy. Lee County tourism alone generates \$3 billion a year in revenue and supports one in five jobs in the county. Drilling infrastructure drives away tourism. The mere threat of oil washing up on the shores of Southwest Florida during the 2010 Deep Water Horizon spill resulted in an \$84 million dollar loss of revenue to Lee County.
- Drilling infrastructure is vulnerable to hurricanes. More frequent and intense storms increase the chance of damage to drilling rigs and associated spills
- Seismic air gun blasting used to explore for oil and gas is harmful to marine animals, interfering with communication, causing hearing and sensory loss, disorientation, pain and even death. The blasting tests take place every 10 seconds for weeks at a time, with the disturbing impacts being known to travel up to 1,000 miles through the ocean.
- Environmental damage from oil and gas exploration is not just from a large spill. Micro spills and routine leaks would have a direct impact on the health of our coastal waters and our fisheries. Smaller spills would also have an impact on our growing offshore artificial reef diving tourism market by killing the ecosystems in and around those reefs.

The evidence that a clean environment is vital to a healthy economy is getting support from newly released statistics. On February 14, 2018, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), a Division of the U.S Department of Commerce, released a report that details the power of the outdoor recreation industry with statistics from 2012 to

2016. The report stated that the impact of the outdoor recreation industry is \$373.7 billion annually, comprising of 2% of the entire 2016 U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP). These numbers reflect an important impact to the economy and the GDP as compared with other widely supported industries such as construction (4.3%), legal services (1.3%), agriculture which includes farming, forestry and fishing (1%) and most notably, mining and oil and gas extraction at 1.4%.

The BEA also states that the outdoor recreation industry is growing by 3.8%, faster than the overall economy at 2.8%. This is significant because it showcases the economic importance of investing in the health and protection of our natural environment.

While the Trump administration has fast-tracked the process to undo the current drilling protections of the Eastern Gulf and radically expanded the waters available for drilling, our Federal Legislators and our Governor have recognized the importance of continued protection of our coast.

In January 2018 Congressman Francis Rooney introduced H.R. 4770, Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act. This legislation proposes to make the current Eastern Gulf drilling moratorium permanent. The Florida State Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC) is also considering a proposal to address the drilling ban with Commission Proposal 91, GENERAL PROVISIONS, Natural resources and scenic beauty; prohibition on drilling for oil or natural gas in coastal waters; Section 7 of Article X of the State Constitution to prohibit the drilling for exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas in specified coastal waters.

Thanks to those of you who submitted comments through our Action Alert to make your voices heard. *Stay Tuned.*

Sugar Reform

Provided by the Coalition for Sugar Reform, www.sugarreform.org

Good news: There is bi-partisan legislation, Sugar Policy Modernization Act of 2017 (H.R.4265 / S.2086), moving through Congress. The bills introduced in the House by U.S. Representatives Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Danny Davis (D-IL) and in the Senate by U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) would reform the U.S. sugar program so that American companies who use sugar as an ingredient in their products have access to adequate amounts of the commodity at reasonable market prices.



EAA Reservoir Project Moving Forward

Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director

The EAA Reservoir project approved as Senate Bill 10 in last year's Florida legislature is now state law and is on a fast track for making the Federal 2018 Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) authorization bill this year. WRDA is the federal bill that authorizes critical water projects for the entire nation and is the vehicle for advancing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). To expedite the process the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has taken the lead to model project alternatives to meet the very aggressive timeline set out in the state law.

The proposed alternative, called C240A, is located on existing state-owned land that is part of the previously authorized Central Everglades Plan (CEP). Since the EAA reservoir project will change the project features authorized under CEP, the plan requires a Post Authorization Change Report (PACR) from Congress.

The selected alternative uses 10,500-acres for a deep water storage reservoir of 240,000 acre feet with water levels 23-feet-deep, the equivalent of 78 billion-gallons. The water would be treated on 6,500-acres of stormwater treatment area, all on the state-owned A-2 parcel and land to the west.

Benefits of this plan include reduced harmful discharges to the estuaries, improvements in water levels in Lake Okeechobee, and increase in hydrology for the Everglades. Estimates of improvements include:

- Reducing discharge volumes to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries by 55% in conjunction with completion of other southern restoration projects.
- Decrease in the average annual volume of water from Lake O to the Caloosahatchee from current conditions by 59%.
- The potential to increase flows south to 370,000 acre feet to provide needed water to the Everglades.

While all modeling has some uncertainty, this project is fundamental to changing the harmful discharges to our estuary from Lake Okeechobee. It will not eliminate the



problem. In the Caloosahatchee we still have significant storage needs in our own watershed, but no other project provides an outlet to get this much water out of the lake to reduce estuary discharges.

Additional water quality treatment will be needed to meet state water quality standards. To address our concerns, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein issued Executive Order 18-0054 to provide commitments that the project will be adapted once in operation to pursue additional actions to achieve water quality requirements. We have communicated our expectation that the project will be adapted once in operation to both continue to provide the estimated benefits for flow as well as through additional projects and policies to meet water quality standards.

The bottom line is that this project is not perfect but it is the only project that will provide the level and breadth of benefits to improve the health of the estuaries, Lake O and the Everglades — benefits that without this project are not achievable.

The City of Sanibel, the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, Ding Darling Wildlife Society and the Committee of the Islands (COTI) signed onto a letter with SCCF and 15 other groups to express support for moving the project forward. On March 8, the SFWMD Governing Board voted to advance the plan to the Army Corps by March 30, with Corps approval targeted for October 1, 2018 so the project can be included in the WRDA bill.

Sugar -- Continued from left

The bills would:

- Ensure no cost to taxpayers. The 2008 farm bill contained new sugar program features that allowed large sugar processors to default on federal government loans, thereby exposing taxpayers to indefensible costs. In 2013, this led to a nearly **\$259 million taxpayer-funded bailout** for sugar producers. The provisions of the Sugar Policy Modernization Act would guarantee that taxpayers would never again have to pick up the tab for loan defaults by large sugar processors.

See Sugar on Page 6

Celebrate the Sun on Earth Day with Luminaid

Inventor Anna Stork from LuminAID is the keynote speaker for SCCF's Earth Day Event on Sunday, April 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. Anna Stork will speak twice, at 1:30 and at 3 p.m.; seating is limited to 60 and advance reservations are required through Event Brite ("sccfeearthday.eventbrite.com") and tickets are free, first come, first served. There will also be exhibits (no ticket required) on "Hacking the Post-Hurricane Blues," with some great ideas for post-hurricane survival.

Anna and Andrea Sreshta were architecture graduate students at Columbia University when asked to work a project following the earthquake in Haiti. They eventually invented and filed patents for an inflatable, waterproof solar light. Soon after they formed LuminAid, which

now produces a whole line of solar light products.

Their story was shared with the world when they appeared on ABC's *Shark Tank* in 2015. All five sharks wanted a part of their success. But the most compelling part of their story is their dedication to serving people in need. Since Hurricane Maria, LuminAID has distributed over 50,000 solar lights. The lights have been stocked in Shelter Boxes and been distributed after the earthquakes in that rocked the Himalayan Mountains. Buy and Light, Give a Light is a way for every day consumers to be part of their humanitarian efforts.

Since April 22 is a Sunday, SCCF is theming our celebration, Sun Days. Partnering through a grant with the Lee County Electric Coop (LCEC), SCCF will have



information and exhibits about simple things that can be done to make life more comfortable during a power outage or post hurricane. Many islanders still have memories from last fall's challenges post-Hurricane Irma. The term may be over-used but this "Hack the Post-Hurricane Blues" event is a great way to see some inventive problem solving.

See Earth Day right

Sugar — Continued from Page 5

- Repeal unnecessary trade restrictions. The 2008 farm bill required the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to set import quotas (also known as tariff-rate quotas) at a legal minimum each year, with very limited flexibility to respond to changing market conditions as needed. The Sugar Policy Modernization Act would repeal these additional restrictions and provide greater flexibility to the USDA when implementing the program.
- Repeal marketing allotments that are unique to sugar production. The USDA sets detailed quotas known as marketing allotments to restrict the amount of sugar domestic producers can sell, imposing company by-company sales quotas. The Sugar Policy Modernization Act would eliminate the restrictive marketing allotments that are divided among sugar processors.
- Provide more flexibility to USDA in order to ensure an adequate supply to the domestic market. The Sugar Policy Modernization Act establishes the basic requirement that USDA administer the sugar program to provide adequate supplies of sugar at reasonable prices for U.S. businesses and consumers.
- Repeal the Feedstock Flexibility Program. The 2008 farm bill added a program that requires the government, if sugar prices fall below guaranteed levels, to

buy surplus sugar and then sell that sugar to ethanol companies, typically at a loss to taxpayers. The Sugar Policy Modernization Act would eliminate this requirement and protect taxpayers from footing the bill for this program.

Bad news: So far, not one of Florida's congressmen/women or senators have signed on to the bill. Watch for action alerts on reaching out to Congress on these bills. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to our Congressional delegation.

Opportunity: Contact your local and home town elected Congressional representatives. Standing together we can make a positive change to this program. In the coming months the Agriculture committees in both houses of Congress will be passing out the 2018 Farm Bill to the floors of both chambers for a vote. This year, there are a number of unconventional partners that we are working with on a strategy to move legislative change on sugar support. Please check out the Coalition for Sugar Reform, www.sugarreform.org and commit to take action and stay engaged in this opportunity that comes around only every five years.

This year Congress can stand up for American consumers, jobs and manufacturers by crafting reforms to the U.S. sugar program. It's time we insist.

Raise a Racquet For Conservation with SCCF

On April 7 and 8, raise a racquet for conservation at the 26th Annual SCCF Tennis and Pickleball Tournament at the Sundial Beach Resort and Spa. There will be two days of tennis and one day of pickleball with all proceeds going to support SCCF's conservation efforts.

Lunch from Bailey's will be served both days and glass pieces presented as awards are by Lucas Century. There will also be a drawing for a Lucas Century glass bowl. Sundial Beach Resort and Spa is a new major sponsor as well as the tournament host site. The addition of pickleball allows a greater number of islanders to raise their racquets for conservation to support SCCF.

SCCF Tournament leader and glass artist, Lucas Century



Earth Day -- Continued from left

Many thanks to the Donald Slavic Family Foundation, which is generously sponsoring our speaker, Anna Stork.

For those who peruse the “Hack the Post-Hurricane Blues” exhibits, there will be a questionnaire/evaluation — and *those who voluntarily turn in their paper will be entered into a lottery to win one of 100 LuminAID lanterns* (which also can be used to charge a cell phone). The lanterns are funded by Lee County Electric Coop.

Full registration link: <https://sccfearthday.eventbrite.com> You can also find the link on sccf.org.

Climate Change Effects on Economics & National Security

Join us on Friday, April 6 at 10 a.m. to hear Ariel Hoover talk about climate change and its impacts on economics and national security. Free to members, \$5 to nonmembers.

Climate change can be observed all around us, from droughts to super storms to increased diseases and pests that threaten us and our crops. According to Bloomberg, in 2013 and 2014, “only .021 climate papers by climate

See Page 10 “Climate Change” listing

Notes from the Homestead: April Showers Make May Flowers

By Jenny Evans, Native Landscapes & Garden Center Manager

The author of this saying was clearly not from Florida, or a biologist. The only place where this saying might be accurate is in the desert, where a deluge of rain is often followed by a plethora of blooming plants. And for the northerners who grew up with the saying, it's actually the lengthening days (and, to a lesser extent, warming temperatures) that bring out the flowers, rather than those April showers.

Here in Florida though, spring will bring a flush of new growth and flowering to many of our native plants, though not due to an influx of rain as spring tends to be the driest time of the year. Spring's bounty of leaves and blooms is largely due to energy stored in the roots during the previous fall. In late summer and fall, the plants have ample leaves (with chlorophyll), sunlight, and water to photosynthesize more sugars than the plant can use. Some of this energy (stored as carbohydrates) is sequestered away in the roots, to be used for producing leaves and flowers during the following spring. Our plants have to depend on last year's reserves for this year's growth. Interestingly, our plants are stimulated to grow by the increasing day length in the spring (and to a lesser extent the temperature)...it's always amazing to me to see the bright green and reddish colors peeking out from many of our newly budded trees. What a refreshing sight!



SCCF

APRIL 2018

HAPPENINGS PROGRAMS OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 APRIL	2 Stormy Weather-10	3 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	4 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-8:30 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	5 Turtle Tracks-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	6 Hoover: Climate Change Economic and National Security Impacts-10 Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	7 Tennis Tournament
8 Tennis Tournament	9 Tides/Sea Level-10	10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	11 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-8:30 Eagle/Owl Tales-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	12 Make a Bee Box-9:30 at BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11 Shorebirds-2	13 Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	14
15 Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverfore Tour. Last cruise of the season will be Mother's Day, May 13. Meet at Franklin Lock. Advance reservations required.	16 City Almost Wasn't-10	17 Panthers & Wildlife Corridors-10 Nature Ctr Trail Walk-11	18 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-8:30	19 Turtle Tracks-10	20 Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP	21
22 Earth Day: Luminaid Exhibits: 1-5 p.m. Luminaid Talks at 1:30 and 3 pm Registration thru Eventbrite	23	24 Conservation Photography-10	25 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-8:30 Bobcat Tales-10	26 Shorebirds-2	27 Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP	28
29	30	1 MAY	2 Making Land Work tour at Bailey Homestead-8:30	3	4 Shipley Trail Tour-10@ BHP	5

AT SAN-CAP CARES!

WIN SPRANKLE SCREECH OWL



This very special screech owl carving will be auctioned off at San-Cap Cares on April 8. The piece was donated by Richard and Feyza Shipley and created by 2018 SCCF Brush of Excellence Prize Recipient Jim Sprankle. An SCCF screech owl box (including installation by the Hammerheads at the winner's home), and an "Owl Chat" and refreshments for the winner and guests with SCCF environmental educator Dee Century-Serage (location to be determined)..

Auction proceeds for this item will be split evenly between SCCF and Golisano Children's Hospital.

Your Chance to Win Two Sculptures by Jim Sprankle

AT SCCF ON EARTH DAY!

WIN SPRANKLE KINGFISHER



A drawing will be held at SCCF's Nature Center on Earth Day - April 22nd - and the winner will take home this beautiful kingfisher carving. The piece was created and donated by 2018 SCCF Brush of Excellence Prize Recipient Jim Sprankle.

Drawing tickets are \$10 each and three for \$25. You need not be present to win.

Buy your tickets now - in person or online at www.sccf.org. The proceeds will be invested in SCCF's Conservation Education Fund, an endowment created by the late Kip Koss, Darling's grandson and the standard-bearer of his legacy. SCCF's Brush of Excellence is presented each year in honor of conservationist J.N. "Ding" Darling.

4th Graders Visit the Nature Center

The Sanibel School's fourth grade students biked to SCCF's Nature Center for a day of observing and learning. Fourth Grade teachers Julie Wappes and Laura Wolf along with SCCF Educators led the students on a sensory scavenger hunt on the nature trails. At the Sanibel River students took some time to sit, observe their surroundings and write down their thoughts about "Sitting by the Sanibel River."

- Richard Finkel

See some of their essays on Page 11.



SCCF April 2018 Program Schedule

BAILEY HOMESTEAD: MAKING THE LAND WORK

This one-hour walking tour of the Bailey Homestead Preserve blends SCCF's mission-driven work on the historic property, the history of the land itself and some stories about the Bailey family, which farmed the land for three generations. *Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. No reservations. 1300 Periwinkle Way, meet at the Welcome Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, near the entrance. Call Kristie or Dee at 472-2329 for more information. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

MAKE YOUR OWN SOLITARY BEE BOX AT BHP

Many of Florida's solitary bees lay their eggs in hollow branches. Attract these wonderful pollinators to your own yard by making your own bee box! All materials will be provided, and participants will go home with a box and information about attracting these fascinating pollinators to your yard. Please bring your own hammer, if possible. *Thursday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead Preserve, 1300 Periwinkle Way. RSVP to the Native Landscapes & Garden Center at 239-472-1932. Registration: \$30.*

BOBCAT TALES

"Bobcat: Master of Survival" is how author Kevin Hansen describes *Lynx rufus*. While other wild feline species are in trouble, bobcats seem to be flourishing through most of their North American range and this adaptable feline's ability to survive close to humans is one of the reasons for the bobcat's success. Rats and mice can make up to 40% of the bobcat's diet. *Wednesday, April 25 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE

Come with us to experience the historic meanders of the upriver Caloosahatchee on this 2.5-hour cruise guided by Rae Ann Wessel. Departs at 1 p.m. from the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam Park off SR 80 in Olga. *Sunday: April 15 and May 13. Space is limited. Advance reservations and payment required. Register online: from sccf.org, click on Resources upper right and follow Oxbow Cruise dropdown. \$45 per person.*

THE CITY THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Chronicling over a century of preserving paradise, the program celebrates the forward thinking of many islanders and visitors, including Theodore Roosevelt and "Ding" Darling, establishment of the Refuge, founding

of SCCF, leading up to the incorporation and ensuing history of the City of Sanibel. Learn about many of the key steps islanders have taken and what lies ahead with most pressing issues for the islands' future. *Monday, April 16 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHY: ETHICS IN PRACTICE

With the rise of digital cameras and smartphones, the world of photography has been made accessible to just about everyone and is popular with our unique — but fragile — environments and species. Knowing the best practices to protect a species makes for an ethical photographer. Learn about conservation photography and what considerations to keep in mind when photographing the wildness around us. SCCF Public Outreach Coordinator Alexis Horn is a published professional photographer eager to share her knowledge and passion for this subject. *Tuesday, April 24 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

EAGLE AND OWL TALES

Come and hear local tales of island eagles and owls and what is being done to help them thrive. SCCF erected a nesting platform 70 feet tall in place of a dead nesting tree for a pair of eagles and they continue to nest there today. Owls of the islands include the newly returned barn owls as well as screech and great horned owls. You are invited to learn about the life cycles of these silent night hunters and the adaptations that make them so successful in the dark. Learn about how rat poisons can harm our owls and eagles. *Wednesday, April 11 at 10 a.m. Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children. \$5 for non-members.*

EARTH DAY: CELEBRATE SUN DAY

Learn more about SCCF's Earth Day celebration from on Sunday, April 22 from 1 - 5 p.m. on Page 6.

FLORIDA PANTHERS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Florida panthers are the rarest mammals in North America — and their future depends on wildlife corridors. While not found on Sanibel, they play an important role in maintaining the ecosystems of Southwest Florida. The last few years have seen record-breaking panther deaths, but there is hope in protecting their habitat and allowing the elusive cat to spread north into its historic habitat. Prior to joining SCCF, Alexis Horn ran the Sierra Club's Florida Panther program.

CLIMATE CHANGE: ECONOMICS & NATIONAL SECURITY

scientists rejected man-made global warming." That means that 99% of them agreed that humans are causing this. That also means that we humans can fix it! Hoover has a Master's in history and has taught at Tufts University. When she retired, she decided to get trained in the science of climate change so that she could explain what is happening to as many people as possible. Hoover's talk will look at the causes of climate change, and how it affects us economically and in our national security. We will also look at how the U.S. is benefiting from job growth in renewable energy sources, and how we can work to change the dire predictions we have all heard. There will be time for discussion at the end. *Friday, April 6 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

Story cont'd from pg. 7

SCCF April 2018 Program Schedule

Learn what makes Florida panthers unique and why they are so vital to our environment. *Tuesday, April 17 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

SHIPLEY TRAIL AT BAILEY HOMESTEAD GUIDED WALK

Take a guided walk on the SCCF Shipley Trail. Stroll across the Star Thomas Memorial Bridge and then connect with Pond Apple Trail. Learn how SCCF manages this property as wildlife habitat on Sanibel's populated east end. Meander along Pond Apple trail around the man-made ponds, home to wildlife such as alligators, anhingas, and woodstorks. Even eagles may be spotted. Park and meet your guide at the Welcome Kiosk at the head of the Shipley Trail, at the SCCF Bailey Homestead Preserve at 1300 Periwinkle Way. The kiosk is immediately to the left as you enter thru the gate into the preserve. This is a mostly shaded, easy walk lasting approximately one hour. *Fridays at 10 a.m. starting on January 19 through March 30. No charge for the walks.*

SHOREBIRDS OF SANIBEL & CAPTIVA

Join SCCF biologists to learn about the shorebird species that nest on our beaches, including snowy plovers, least terns and wilson's plovers. SCCF has been monitoring beach nesting birds on Sanibel since 2002. Learn how you can safely share the beach and help us protect our feathered friends. *Thursday, April 12 and 26 at 2 p.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

STORMY WEATHER

Stormy Weather looks at some of this area's most lively weather phenomena including waterspouts, hurricanes and lightning storms. Volatile weather is not uncommon in any season. South Florida is the lightning capital of the country. Collisions of clouds, tropical storms and other

severe weather events shape our islands and human existence. *Monday, April 2 at 10 a.m. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

TIDES/WHERE IS SEA LEVEL?

Whether it is shelling, fishing, boating, birding or just enjoying the view of the water, tides and currents affect most of our lives daily. Have you ever wondered why the islands sometimes have just one tide a day or why you can see sea grasses when the tide chart says it is high tide? What and where is mean sea level? Why is it important? This is an introduction how water behaves as the earth spins, the moon orbits and the winds blow. *Monday, April 9 at 10 a.m. Members and children 17 and under are free. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

TRAIL WALKS: EXPLORE SANIBEL'S INTERIOR WETLANDS

Sanibel Island is a unique barrier island in Florida because it still has an interior freshwater wetland ecosystem that has not been lost to development. Join us for a guided walk through the interior wetlands and mid-island ridges of the Center Tract with discussion of native habitats, natural and cultural history and preservation efforts. *Trail walks begin on January 16 and will be offered through March on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.; last walk of the season Friday, April 13. Meet at the Nature Center and proceed to the trails. \$5 per person for non-members.*

TURTLE TRACKS

Sanibel Island had one of the first sea turtle monitoring programs in the country. Learn about the life cycles and habits of the sea turtles and shorebirds that nest on our beaches, SCCF's monitoring activities, and what we are doing to protect them. *Thursday, March 1 and 15 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

Essays about the Sanibel River by Sanibel School 4th Graders

Sanibel's River
by Anna Irene Anderson-Kilgore

I sat near the edge of the water and watched as minnows scurried by. Leaves are falling from but-tonwood trees into the peaceful water creating beautiful ripples going in every direction. I think of peace, grace and beauty. I am the luckiest girl to ever live. As I sit there thinking about grace-fulness, a hawk swoops down, cir-cling the area looking for a fish. The sounds ring through my mind as if I were listening to music. If I were to find my space of peace, I would come to the Sanibel River. It is a true blessing to live on Sani-bel Island.

Sitting by the Sanibel River
by Emalee Peach

The reflection, oh so pretty, but water ever so low. The red water colored by the mangroves. What is the water without its shimmer? I really don't know and that is the mystery of this river. It seems to go on forever and ever. Its beauty isn't triggered by some lever. Its naturalness is amazing. Now lets enjoy this river with its breath-taking red colored glazing.

Sitting by the Sanibel River
by Yen Sampas

The red beautiful river makes me wonder what lives within the watery walls of the river? Bass, minnows, tadpoles? I long to cure my curiosity, but we do not have long to stay. Soon we'll be back on our bikes, rolling away. Still I enjoy this moment, savor it while it lasts. While some people throw rocks, I watch the water ripple. The beauty of the river, the awe and joy it brings me makes me feel so lucky to live on this amaz-ing island. I am so very happy to be here, but now I must leave this amazing red river



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P.O. Box 839
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April 2018 Member Update



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www.sccf.org

blog.sccf.org

Native Landscapes & Garden Center: (239) 472-1932 (at the Bailey Homestead Preserve)

Marine Laboratory: (239) 395-4617

Wildlife & Habitat Management: (239) 472-3984

SCCF is dedicated to the conservation of coastal habitats and aquatic resources on Sanibel and Captiva and in the surrounding watershed through:



- Environmental Education
- Land Acquisition & Stewardship
- Marine Research
- Natural Resource Policy
- Native Landscapes & Garden Center
- Sea Turtles & Shorebirds
- Wildlife & Habitat Management

Nature Center Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October - May
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June - September

Native Landscapes & Garden Center Hours:

at 1300 Periwinkle Way, Bailey Homestead Preserve
Monday - Friday — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. (January through April)

Visit our Nature Center

- Trails & Observation Tower
 - Education Center
- \$5/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

Find the latest real-time water quality readings from our RECON sensors at www.recon.sccf.org

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