



MAY 2010 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Nature Center, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road (1 mile west of Tarpon Bay Road)

Nature Center (239) 472-2329 www.sccf.org

Trails, Education Center, Nature Shop and Bookstore: \$3/adult, children under 17 free, members free.

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. No one knows how many bobcats there are on Sanibel and Captiva but according to the book 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. To learn more about the biology and society of this shy

feline that moves so peacefully among us, you are invited to attend “Bobcat Tales” on *Wednesday, May 19 at 10 a.m. in the SCCF auditorium. Cost of the program is \$5 per adult, with members and children attending for free.*

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Week of May 9 -- Gator Tales, Owl Tales

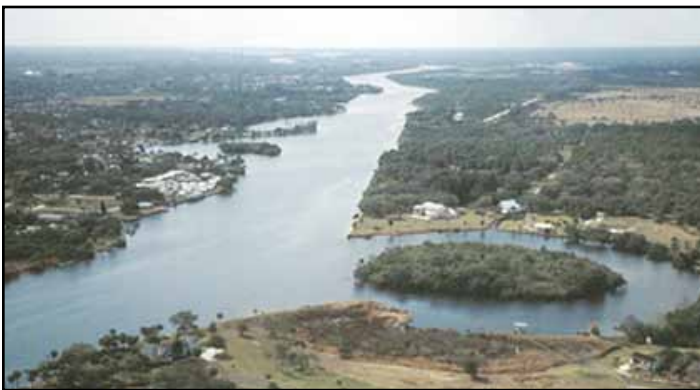
Week of May 16 -- Bobcat Tales, Otter Tales

*Offered Weekly -- Snowy Plovers (Fridays at 10),
Turtle Tracks (Thursdays at 9)*

Caloosahatchee Oxbow Cruises will resume next November. Meet at Franklin Lock & Dam on the public use area off SR 80. Space is limited. Reservations required. \$40 per person. For more info call 472-2329

DOLPHIN AND WILDLIFE ADVENTURE CRUISES

Narrated by Conservation Foundation docents, Captiva Cruises’ trips are a great way to view wildlife in Pine Island Sound. Daily, 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Pine Island Sound; departs McCarthy’s Marina, Captiva. *Fee: \$25/adult, \$15/children. Reservations required, call 472-5300.*



CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE

Explore the historic meanders of the upriver Caloosahatchee on a guided tour with Natural Resource Policy Director Rae Ann Wessel, a long-time river advocate. Rae Ann is a river researcher, aquatic ecologist and historian. Follow the river back to a time when a waterfall served as the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee and settlers braved living amongst the wilderness. *Sunday, Mother’s Day, May 9 from 1 - 3:30 p.m. This is the last cruise of the season; the*



GATOR TALES

The biology of alligators is an ancient tale of survival. Florida’s history of gators and humans are closely intertwined. To learn about these fascinating creatures and what we must do to ensure our safety and their survival on the islands please attend “Gator Tales” on *Wednesday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at the Nature Center. Call 472-2329 for more information.*

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KAYAKING IN PINE ISLAND SOUND

Learn about the natural and cultural history of Pine Island Sound on this kayaking adventure. You'll also learn about SCCF Marine Lab research projects and water quality studies within our back bay estuary. Part of the \$45/person fee will help fund SCCF Marine Lab programs. Space is limited so reservations are required. *Tuesday, May 19 at 9 a.m. Depart from Captiva Kayak Company located at McCarthy's Marina on Captiva. \$45/person plus tax; reservations required; please call Captiva Kayak at 395-2925.*



OTTER TALES

No one knows how many North American river otters live on Sanibel and Captiva. Some say there are fewer since Hurricane Charley. Come and learn about this large, aquatically adapted member of the weasel family. River otters are strong and graceful swimmers that capture the hearts of all who see them. Otter sightings have increased recently on SCCF trails. Following the program take a walk on the trail and view an otter communication sight. *Tuesday, May 18 at 10 a.m. in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*

OWL TALES

The nesting season for Great Horned, Barn, and Screech Owls of the islands has begun. The Great Horned Owl does not make its own nest but uses one built by an osprey, hawk, or eagle. The Screech and Barn Owls nest in tree cavities made by woodpeckers or nest boxes. There is a nest box on the side of the SCCF nature center where Barn owls have



nested off and on since 1980.. will they return this year? Island Screech owls are in the courting phase with males guarding territory and calling to females. *Tuesday, May 11 at 10 a.m. The cost of the program is \$5 with SCCF members and children attending for free.*

SCIENCE AT SEA CRUISE

Be a Marine Biologist for the Day! This 90-minute trip will be a hands-on scientific inquiry and voyage suitable and fun for all ages. Crab traps and a plankton net will be hauled for a look at some of the components of the food chains. Learn by taking part in actual scientific research that will be utilized by SCCF's Marine Lab. Kids will use compasses for navigational aid and magnifying viewers making this a worthwhile and exciting trip for the whole family. This 1-1/2 hour trip is \$30/adult, \$20/child. Call for times and reservations, 472-5300.

ON YOUR OWN AT THE NATURE CENTER

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Learn about the life cycle of the Zebra Longwing, the state butterfly, on a self-guided tour of the Butterfly House.

HUMAN USES OF FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS

Take a self-guided tour of our Ethnobotany garden. Signs briefly explain how Florida native plants have been used for food, shelter, medicine and art by cultures past and present.

WALKING TRAILS & OBSERVATION TOWER

Explore our four miles of walking trails through Sanibel's interior wetlands and climb our observation tower for a bird's eye view of Sanibel's ridges and swales.

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SNOWY PLOVERS

Have you ever wondered about the staked nests on the beach or the families of birds with tiny chicks running around? Do you simply want to know which of the birds on the beach actually is a Snowy Plover? Learn about the biology of the Snowy Plover, the threats to their survival, and the ongoing SCCF research and conservation efforts on Sanibel and around Florida. Join us for a short Power Point presentation at the Nature Center and then carpool to the beach to observe live plovers *Fridays at 10 a.m. Meet in the Nature Center auditorium. Cost is \$5 per adult, with members and children free.*



TURTLE TRACKS

Sanibel Island has 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. Meet at the Nature Center for a talk and touch tank program. You will also learn about the forces that shape the beach habitat and other local marine life. *Thursdays at 9 a.m. Meet at the Nature Center. Free to members and children, \$5 for non-members.*

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
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from December - April
 Closed Saturdays from May - November 21

Native Plant Nursery Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays Closed

Visit our Nature Center

- Trails
- Education Center
- Nature Shop & Bookstore

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Nature Center and Offices: (239) 472-2329

Marine Laboratory: (239) 395-4617

Native Plant Nursery: (239) 472-1932

Wildlife Habitat Management: (239) 472-3984

www.sccf.org

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