

SCGOVNEWS

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Oct. 5, 2009

Sarasota County holds 'Watershed Awareness' events, Oct. 12-18

To help create public awareness about our watersheds, the Sarasota County Commission has declared Oct. 12 through 18 "Watershed Awareness Week with Watershed-related educational events and programs for families scheduled throughout the week. The public is invited to attend these fun, nature-based activities to learn about watersheds and how to protect them.

Member organizations of the Science and Environment Council of Sarasota County (SEC) will host and co-sponsor the events with the Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Monday, Oct. 12

- **What is Wild: Myakka, the Wild and Scenic River**, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Take a guided nature walk along the Myakka and learn about this "wild and scenic river." Meet at Sleeping Turtles Preserve North. Contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

- **Walk the Hammock Trail**, 9 – 11 a.m. Learn about the native plants and wildlife in the hammock. Rothenbach Park, 8650 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Thursday, Oct. 15

- **Hammock Nature Walk**, 9 – 11 a.m. at Pinecraft Park, 1420 Gilbert Ave., Sarasota. Join Audubon and Sarasota County staff for a guided walk through a beautiful hammock. Learn about the birds and animals that use this area and how they connect to the watershed. Contact the Sarasota County Call Center 941-861-5000.
- **Living on the Water's Edge Workshop**, Noon – 1 p.m. at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota. This workshop is a guide to low-maintenance landscaping along seawalls, bayfronts, canals, and stormwater ponds. Contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Saturday, Oct. 17

- **Kayak on Phillippi Creek** 10 a.m. – noon at Phillippi Estate Park, 5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Bring your own kayak or canoe, paddles and life vests. Contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.
- **Celebrating 10 Years of Preserving Environmental Land**, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Three guided nature walks, brown bag lunch, displays, live music, and ecotourism vendors. Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, 7001 Forbes Trail, Venice. Registration is not necessary.
 - Things Under Foot, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. at Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, Forbes Trail. This nature walk focuses on inverts and fungi.
 - Fall Blooming Wildflowers Walk, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. at Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, leaving from Forbes Trail entrance.
 - *The Nature of Nature* Nature Walk, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, Forbes Trail.

Watershed Interactive Stations

- Watershed visitor interactive stations are set up at several locations, including the North Sarasota Public Library and the new LEED dorm at Ringling College of Art and Design. Each station is designed to inform and inspire. Thought-provoking visuals and statements will motivate you to write your own comments, reactions, questions and action pledges.

Mobile Phone Audio Tour

- The Watershed Mobile Phone Audio Tour offers 15 educational messages about watersheds. Listeners, for example, can learn why native plants are important to our ecosystem while strolling along Phillippi Creek at Phillippi Estate Park. The messages offer information about diverse aspects of watersheds, interesting facts, and easy ways to help protect watersheds. Information about the audio tour and an audio tour card are available at www.secsc.org. For the audio tour, call: 941-926-6813.

During and after Watershed Awareness Week, visitors to SEC member organization sites can continue to learn about watersheds through educational kiosks and outdoor interpretive signs at the following locations:

- Bay Preserve, 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey
- Historic Spanish Point, 337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey
- Indian Mound Park at Lemon Bay, 210 Winson Ave., Englewood
- Ken Thompson Park, 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota
- Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota
- Mote Marine Aquarium, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota
- New College of Florida campus, 5800 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
- Oscar Scherer State Park, 1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey
- Phillippi Estate Park, 5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
- Sapphire Shores/Sun Circle Park, Sun Circle Drive, Sarasota

The Science and Environment Council of Sarasota County is a collaboration of non-profit and government organizations that operate or support conservation and science-based facilities. Their mission is to promote and advocate for science, conservation and environmental issues in Sarasota County to maintain and improve the quality of life

through education, public outreach, demonstration, information gathering and analysis, and special projects.

Go to the SEC website at www.secsc.org to learn more about the organization and for a complete listing of Watershed Awareness Week event dates, times, and locations.

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