

**Nov. 9, 2007****Red Bug Slough Preserve is going to the dogs Nov. 30**

Proving that Sarasota County preserves aren't just for people, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Coordinator Julia Burch will host a free nature walk for people and their pampered pooches from 9-11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 30.

For the first time ever, furry friends on four legs are invited to join their owners for a relaxing stroll through a beautiful preserve of towering oaks and sparkling canals. Red Bug Slough Preserve is one of many natural areas available through Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program. In addition to a wide variety of native plant species, the preserve also provides habitat for gopher tortoises, bobcats and various species of wading birds.

For the protection of all dogs and the preserve's wildlife, all dogs must be on leashes, have proof of current vaccinations (including rabies) and be well socialized.

Space for this walk is limited to 15 so call to reserve a spot. If this trip is filled, future walks are available. Participants should wear long pants, comfortable walking shoes that can get wet, and bring a hat, sun screen, insect repellent, drinking water, binoculars (optional), camera and hand lens (optional). Bring extra drinking water for pets and items to clean up after pets, if necessary. Pet waste bags are available onsite.

Participants can reach Red Bug Slough Preserve by taking I -75 to Exit 205 (S.R. 72 or Clark Road). Go west on Clark Road to Beneva Road and turn right onto Beneva. Continue north on Beneva Road until you reach the preserve entrance, located west of Beneva Road. Turn left into the parking lot and park in designated spaces.

For more information about this or other nature walks, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Natural Resources.