

**Nov. 29, 2007**

## **Bike and hike through Manasota Scrub and Lemon Bay Preserve Dec. 2**

Take a free bike ride through two of Sarasota County's most scenic natural areas from 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Dec. 2. The trip begins at the Manasota Beach overflow parking lot in Englewood and travels fro Manasota Scrub Preserve and Lemon Bay Preserve.

Sarasota County volunteer and longtime Venice resident Sherm Stratton will lead bikers through southern county streets to the two preserves, where they may hear the great-horned owl or northern quail, or see evidence of bobcat and gopher tortoises. At each preserve, participants will stretch their legs and enjoy a short nature walk and a 6.8-mile bike ride. This is a moderately difficult trip, and participants must be prepared to ride on suburban streets as well as on unpaved trails within the preserve.

Space for this walk is limited to 15 so call to reserve a spot. If this trip is filled, future walks are available. Participants must provide their own bikes, and fat-tired mountain-type bikes are recommended. Participants should also bring their own safety gear and should wear comfortable shoes and bring a light jacket, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, drinking water, binoculars (optional), camera and hand lens (optional).

Participants can reach Manasota Beach by taking I-75 to Exit 193 (Jacaranda Boulevard), then traveling south 5.3 miles to Englewood Road. Take Englewood Road south to Manasota Beach Road. Go west on Manasota Beach Road to the Manasota Beach parking lot at 570 Manasota Key Road. Parking is in the overflow parking lot north of the bridge.

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