

Parks and Recreation Department

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

North Region Newsletter



A Quarterly Newsletter



Fall 2008

Plant of the Forest

The Enchanted Forest is teaming with wildflowers! Here is just one of the many spectacular plants that are just waiting to be found on the trails and in the gardens.

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Land Management Report

Update on the restoration activities at the South Lake Conservation Area.

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Deadheaders Report and Schedule

Fall gardening.

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New Science Standards call for new science program.

Joe Swingle conducts Volunteer Interpretive Training and guides us in the new programs.

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Artwork At The Forest

Photographs by Kevin Shufelt, are on display in the Management & Education Center.

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Scenes From The Forest

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Fall Events At A Glance

September

- 13 Volunteer Interpretive Training - 9:30-12:30 for those interested in guiding school groups.
- 16 Volunteer Interpretive Training - 9:30-12:30 for those interested in guiding school groups.
- 18 Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting—6:30pm
- 20 Photography Club—9:00-11:00 am
Chairperson—Kevin Schufelt
Please RSVP—321-264-5185.
- 20 Volunteer Interpretive Training - 9:30-12:30 - 3rd & 4th grade
- 21 Forest Funday—2:00pm. “BIRDS” are the topic this month.
- 23 Deadheaders-9:00am-Gardening group
- 24 Volunteer Interpretive Training - 9:30-12:30 - 3rd & 4th grade
- 27 Indian River Lagoon Day at Chain of Lakes Park.
- 30 Oyster mat making—10:00-12:00

October

- 9 Volunteer Open House—6:30pm
- 11 EEL Trail Days at South Lake Conservation Area. Hikes at 9:00, 9:30 & 11:00am.
- 11 Buck Lake field trip with Dr. Paul Schmalzer - 9:00—12:00
- 16 Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting—6:30 pm
- 18 Deadheaders - 9:00am
- 19 Forest Funday, 2pm. Free. BATS
- 21 Deadheaders - 9:00am
- 21 Oyster mat making—10:00am & 1:00pm
- 28 Deadheaders - 9:00am

November

- 1 FOREST FESTIVAL - 10:00—4:00
- 8 Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary field trip - with Dr. Paul Schmalzer - 9:00-12:00
- 11 Deadheaders - 9:00am
- 15 Deadheaders - 9:00am
- 16 Forest Funday - 2:00pm. Free.
- 18 Deadheaders - 9:00am
- 19 Oyster mat making—1:00pm
- 20 Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting—6:30pm

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Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)



*Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) is a great native plant to use to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife. It blooms in the spring with red vibrant flowers. It will grow to about 8 feet tall and needs 8-10 feet space. It prefers sun to shifting shade with average to dry soil. It is a perennial and will add beauty and attract wildlife to your yard.*

Land Management Update

by Xavier de Seguin des Hons

In the wake of Tropical Storm Fay, EEL staff and volunteers have cleaned up debris and fallen trees from over 20 miles of trails and fire lines. No structures in the EEL Program North Region including the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management & Education Center sustained any damages.

For the past year, EEL Program staff and volunteers have worked on restoring the scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitats at the 165 acre South Lake Conservation Area (SLCA) in Mims. SLCA was dominated by severely overgrown scrub and scrubby flatwoods and a yearlong floristic survey of the area revealed the presence of 34 different exotic species on the property.

Since December 2007, two prescribed burns were implemented on the site to help reduce the vegetation height and create openings in these habitats. This will benefit the majority of scrub-dependent plants and animals, including the threatened gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and the scrub lizard (*Sceloporus woodi*). With funding from the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, 8 acres of air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*) and Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) were removed from the site.

In June 2008, the South Lake Conservation Area was chosen to be the recipient of two pairs of Scrub-Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) that will be relocated as their habitat is being destroyed from the new exit being built to connect Pineda Causeway and I-95. This project is in partnership with the Brevard Zoo and the Brevard County Natural Resources Department.

Very little is known on Scrub-Jay relocation and this project will be an excellent opportunity for the scientists involved in the project and, if successful, will benefit the species otherwise condemned. Currently the pine canopy density at SLCA is still too dense for the Scrub-Jays and continued restoration is currently underway to have the site ready by November.



Prescribed fire to restore habitat



Deadheaders Report

by Suzanne Meyer

Fall is a good time to clean out your garden. You can remove the dead heads from the flowers and collect seeds. Plants respond quickly to any pruning or trimming. The cooler temperatures make it more pleasant to work outdoors for us, but remember you can still get overheated; and dehydration can sneak up quickly. So beat the heat by saving gardening for early morning or in the late afternoon, drink extra water, and wear a wide-brimmed hat!

Come join the Deadheaders for a fun and educational experience in gardening.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped over the years to make our gardens as beautiful as they are. The gardens and the pond look great!

Here is the current workday schedule: We begin at 9:00am.

Tuesday, September 16
 Tuesday, September 23
 Saturday, October 18
 Tuesday, October 21
 Tuesday, October 28
 Tuesday, November 11
 Saturday, November 15
 Tuesday, November 18

Anyone can volunteer! Please remember to bring your gloves, a hat, and water bottle, and wear close-toed shoes! Call us at 264-5185 if you have any questions about volunteering.

The Deadheaders is a volunteer gardening club for the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and is always looking for new members and one-time volunteer project groups



New Science Standards Call For Change In Science Programs

by Joe Swingle

In February of this year the State of Florida officially adopted an updated version of the Sunshine State Standards in Science, the first revision of the Science Standards since its creation twelve years ago.

The Science Standards is basically a list of information and skills that students should 'walk away with' after completing a particular grade or grades. The Standards also forms the basis for the science portion of the FCAT which students take in fifth, eighth, and eleventh grades.

With the help of over 10,000 reviewers including National and international curriculum experts, the State has essentially done a top to bottom overhaul of the entire content of the Standards. The new content is broken down into a grade-by-grade 'recipe' that gives teachers a more streamlined, clear-cut road map of the topics, information, and skills to teach their students.

In response to these revisions, the EEL Program has re-designed the school programs offered at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and the Barrier Island Center. One of the goals of the Enchanted Forest is to essentially turn the Center into a type of outdoor 'field station' where students participate in hands-on environmental science activities that build on ideas and skills learned in class – all while learning the importance of some natural resources here in Brevard County.



Volunteers get a student's-eye view of the new activities they will soon be conducting at the Enchanted Forest.

School programs at the Enchanted Forest rely largely on volunteer participation. Volunteers are needed to lead nature walks and to conduct simple science activities. Trainings for the new school programs are currently being held in September and October.

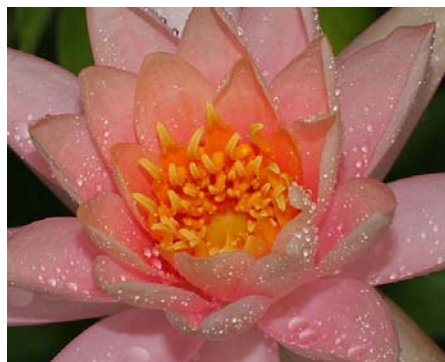
For more information about volunteering, or to schedule a study trip at the Enchanted Forest, call: (321) 264-5185.

Artwork at the Forest

by Joanie Faulls

On display this season are the photographs of Kevin Shufelt. His pictures speak for themselves.

Most of Kevin's photographs are up close and personal because he focuses on macro-photography. His work brings out the fine details of his subjects.



Kevin started frequenting the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in 2003 and now spends a good deal of his free time here. He has hiked every trail in the Forest and one of his favorite spots for capturing its beauty is the outdoor Butterfly Garden and the Serenity Pond.

Please come enjoy his artwork and the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

A new Photography Club has formed and will meet on Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 to 11:00am. All skill levels are welcome. There will be classroom and field segments as well as field trips to other sites.



Connie "eyes" the owl photo



What's New at the Forest



The Friends' Gift Shoppe is now carrying many new nature-related items for sale. You now can purchase gifts using your credit and debit cards.

Opportunities for volunteering are also available. For more info, please call Joanie at 264-5185.

Stop in and see us!
Don't forget to visit efs.eelbrevard.com



North Region Staff:

Xavier de Seguin des Hons, *Land Manager*

Joanie Faulls, *Sanctuary Steward*

Joe Swingle, *Naturalist*

Debbie Robinson, *Land Management Technician*

Contact Us!



Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
North Region
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
Management & Education Center
444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780
(321) 264-5185
www.eelbrevard.com

North-Region EEL Properties currently open to the public:

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

444 Columbia Blvd.
Titusville, FL 32870
Open Tuesday—Sunday, 9am-5pm
(Trails close at 4:45pm)

Facilities: ADA accessible trails, indoor exhibits, screened porch, picnic area, butterfly garden, restrooms, and water fountains.

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

(Trailhead) - 4900 Melissa Rd, Titusville
Open daily from dawn to dusk
No facilities

**There are no entrance fees associated with any EEL property.*