

Merritt Island NWR Is Site For Florida's First Horseshoe Crab Acoustic Tracking Survey



by Laurilee Thompson

Since 2019, volunteers with the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Citizen Science Project have tagged horseshoe crabs (HSC) in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) with numbered white sight tags. Beachgoers can call in to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to report sightings of tagged crabs when spotted, but data is limited only to which animals are spotted and on what beach they were seen.



Photo by Laurilee Thompson
Kirk Fusco from Florida DEP attaches an acoustic transmitter tag to a horseshoe crab.

the water and send detailed data to scientists. To collect data, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) personnel placed three submerged acoustic receivers in the Lagoon near the spawning beach. They detect pings within a range of 100-300 meters. Additional acoustic receivers in other IRL locations were able to further track tagged HSC movement.

(continued on page 3)

In 2022, HSCs in the IRL were tracked for the first time with acoustic tags that monitor their movements and behavior when 15 HSCs were fitted with transmitter tags during February. The purpose of the study was to understand habitat connectivity and determine where HSCs travel once they leave spawning beaches.

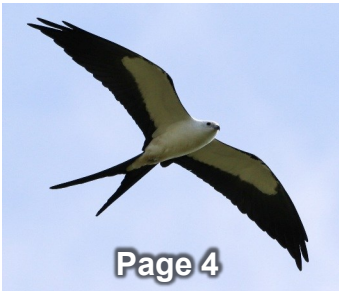
Florida's densest HSC spawning beach is located at the beginning of West Gator Creek Dike Road. The large congregation of spawning crabs found there made it ideal for a tagging project of this kind. Acoustic tags track HSC movements in



MIWA Supports the Merritt Island and Lake Woodruff NWRs

New MIWA sticker includes what each refuge is known for, thanks to funding from a Space Coast Office of Tourism grant.

Graphic by Jessica Larned



MIWA Executive Director's Message



Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Public Lands Alliance (PLA) conference, alongside nonprofit organizations, federal land managers, corporate partners, suppliers, and industry leaders to collaborate in support of America's public lands. Many of the workshops, networking lunches, and presentations included discussions on meaningful ways to celebrate America 250.

The America 250 commemoration marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The anniversary is much more than a historical milestone; it reminds us of the people and landscapes that have shaped the United States over two and a half centuries. Conserving public lands has been an important part of our nation's heritage. Volunteers, visitors, staff members, donors, and our local communities have played a vital role in the stewardship of these lands as living classrooms.

Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) has achieved many milestones in advancing the living legacy of public lands as places for the community to recreate and experience nature. In the last three years alone, we celebrated our 30th anniversary, welcomed new business partnerships, fostered long term rela-

tionships with corporate sponsors, engaged with new Grantmakers, enriched our education programs, added support for Lake Woodruff NWR, grew our hands-on community science activities, publicly advocated for conservation, grew our outreach efforts, and expanded the nature-inspired learning products in our gift shop. YOU made this possible!

Protecting public lands can often feel like an uphill battle. Sitting among the dedicated industry professionals at the PLA conference, I was reminded of the steps each of us take as individuals and the significance of making milestones together. The conference sparked an idea for a new challenge I would like to pose to you. I turned the challenge into a number, as people love to track and celebrate numeric goals when they are checked off. The challenge is '250 Strides for Public Lands.' Strides can take many forms—any action that champions, supports, or raises awareness of public lands.

A few of my ideas for strides:

- Document 250 observations in iNaturalist at Lake Woodruff or Merritt Island NWRs
- Walk 250 (feet/meters, steps) on a trail
- Learn about 250 different species of wildlife that call public lands home
- Sit in nature for 250 minutes in peace (no devices)
- Bike 250 miles/kilometers in green spaces with views of nature
- Enjoy nature journaling for 250 minutes
- Complete a nature-themed 250-piece puzzle (or 500 pieces with a friend)
- Play pickleball incorporating 2 dinks, 5 rallies, and 0 minutes in the kitchen. Then invite a few players to join an upcoming MIWA event.
- Read 250 pages of a field guide or nature book
- Listen to 250 minutes of podcasts focused on birding, science, mammals, or entomology

If you choose to take on my challenge, I'd love to hear from you and feature some of the strides our next newsletter (miwascrubjay@gmail.com). Thank you for making your mark!

Donor Recognition

Special thanks to the following for their generous donations in support of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex for the 2nd Quarter of 2026:

Otter (\$1,000) Dale and Maggie Nichols

Sea Turtle (\$500) Walter Guptill

**Bobcat (\$250) Rebecca Chapman
Kathleen Durkin, Nancy Hirko, Kelley Merritt
Pam Higginbotham**

**Gopher Tortoise (\$100) Abbey Calhoun
Pamela Henning, Jim Kershaw, Tim Kozusko
Michael A. Kubishen, Nancy McCarley
Suze and Fred Peace**

**John "Tank" and Rita Sherman, Randy Singer
Deborah Smith, Jonnie Swann
Suzanne Taylor, Paula Wehr**

Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center Hours

**1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville
8:30 am - 4:00 pm • Tuesday through Saturday**

Meet New Park Ranger Brandi Trantham

Hey everyone, I'm Brandi! I grew up in Titusville and have fond memories of visiting the refuge as a child. While working as a kayak tour guide on the Indian River Lagoon, I developed a passion for eco-tourism and education. This led me to earn a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Central Florida and complete internships at Canyonlands National Park and here at the Merritt Island NWR. This is my first official park ranger position, and I'm honored to begin my career where it all started. I look forward to meeting everyone and working at my favorite refuge!



Horseshoe Crabs

(continued from page 1)

Fifteen crabs were randomly selected for tags. Their monitor batteries had a lifespan of roughly 16 months and provided data throughout that time. Tags remained on HSCs after they were no longer active but posed no risk to the health of the animals. The following information was found during that first acoustic tagging survey:

- More than 24,000 detections (pings) over a period of 17 months were recorded.
- HSCs were detected on DEP's three-receiver array, as well as six other receivers.
- There were noticeable trends in residency differences between spawning and non-spawning seasons.
- The furthest detected travel distance was a female who trekked more than 15 miles south after spawning and returned north to the Titusville Causeway area for the next spawning season.

The long-distance female crab likely traveled even further south. Fifteen miles away, the SR 528 causeway had the southernmost receiver in this area. That crab was heading south when she passed it. The highest number of pings (>4500) was detected in March 2022 and was provided by all 15 tagged HSCs. No pings were detected in August and September of 2022. A year later, 2500 pings by five tagged HSCs were detected in February 2023. The highest number of pings in 2023 occurred in March. That was more than 3,000, but the number of tagged HSCs dropped to three.

In March 2026, 20 new HSCs were tagged. There are enough transmitters to tag an additional 15 crabs



Photo by Laurilee Thompson

A transmitter is attached to the horseshoe crab (at bottom).

if a hard onshore wind occurs at the Gator Creek Beach before spawning season ends. In the northern IRL, strong winds blowing perpendicular to a sandy beach trigger spawning activity. Data being sought in the new survey includes: any changes in spawning and/or seasonal behavior, identifying trends in both daily and seasonal movements, and comparison of movement patterns based on sex and/or age.

This project is managed by the FL DEP and funded by one of the department's Citizen Support Organizations: Friends of the Spoil Islands. FWC, UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant are partners for the project.

Nature's Treasures Gift Shop

Tuesday-Saturday • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



Astor's Extraordinary Migration Journey: What Will We Learn From Conservation Data?

by Rochelle Hood and Gina Kent

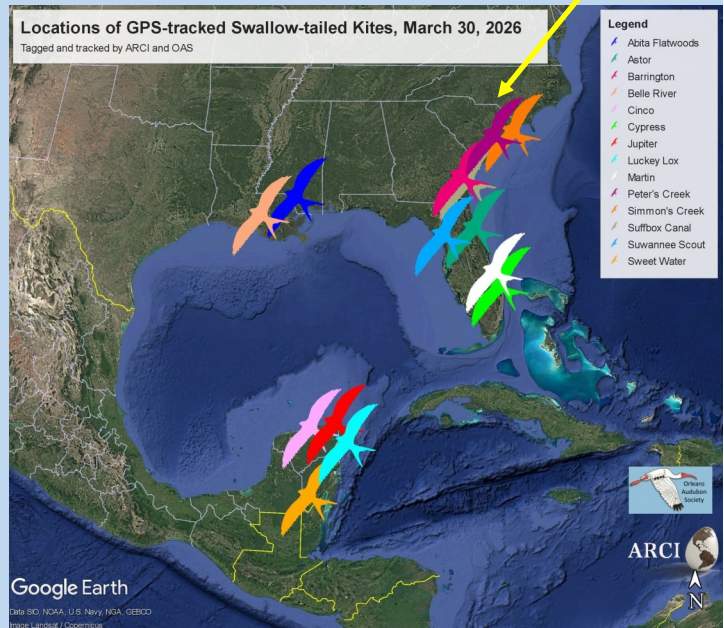
Last year MIWA partnered with West Volusia Audubon and Avian Research Conservation Institute (ARCI) to tag and track a Swallow-tailed Kite we named Astor. When Astor left Florida on July 27th, she crossed the Florida Keys and spent one night in Cuba. She then crossed through Cuba quite quickly and did not touch land again until reaching Honduras after two days over the Caribbean. She kept up a good pace traveling through the rest of Central America, and crossed the Andes Mountains swiftly. Once in the State of Amazonas, Brazil, she lingered for an extra week in late August.

As ARCI has noted with other GPS-tracked kites, many have a few activity areas within the winter season. Astor's first wintering location was in the Utiariti region of Mato Grosso, Brazil where she stayed for six weeks. By October 22nd she arrived in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil where she spent the rest of the winter. She spanned about 250 miles within the southeastern part of the Mato Grosso do Sul.

On January 19th, Astor was on her way north back to her breeding grounds. Progress was steady until she reached the rich forests of the Putumayo River between Peru and Colombia where she spent much of the month of February. She traveled quickly through Colombia and Central America and took an overwater shortcut from northern Honduras to northern Belize. Continuing through the Yucatán, she rested the night of March 7th in Chiquila, Quintana Roo. The next morning, Astor took flight across the Gulf, heading straight north on a good tailwind and made landfall 38 hours later. She arrived in Mobile Bay, Alabama in the middle of the night and rested until daybreak where she oriented along the fastest overland route back to her nesting area. Three days later, March 13th, she was back on the St. Johns River.

Keep your eyes to the sky for Astor and other kites. Please report sightings using eBird or ARCI's database: <https://www.arcinst.org/report-sightings/>

Gina Kent is the Senior Conservation Scientist at the Avian Research and Conservation Institute.



Astor, the female Swallow-tailed Kite that received a GPS tracking device last June, is shown back home in the map above. MIWA and West Volusia Audubon partnered to sponsor the tracking device and data monitoring of Astor.



The migration of Astor, the female Swallow-tailed Kite that left Florida on July 27th, is shown above from GPS tracking data. Her long journey took her over the Gulf and over the Andes Mountains into Brazil where she spent the winter. On January 19th Astor began her way back to her breeding grounds. On March 13th she was back on the St. Johns River.

Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center Hosts Brevard Watercolor Society Art Exhibition

by Darleen Hunt

The Brevard Watercolor Society (BWS) held their annual "Flora & Fauna at the Refuge" award ceremony and reception on Saturday, January 3, in the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center conference room. Live music was provided from the boardwalk pavilion and food was served nearby.

BWS has displayed this art exhibition in the refuge conference room since 2004. Artists are provided a tour of the refuge to obtain photos and inspiration for their paintings. Original paintings were available for purchase as well as prints and note cards in the gift shop.

This show has traditionally been on display during the peak birding and wildlife festival period, this year from January through March 2026. Artists were pleased that several paintings and prints and note cards were sold this year.

Established in 1995, the BWS currently has over 150 members. The purpose of the Society is to en-



Darleen Hunt addresses Brevard Watercolor Society artists and their guests at the award ceremony and reception held January 3rd in the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center.

courage artists who enjoy the medium to exchange ideas and share water media painting techniques. Only an interest in watercolors is required to be a member. Expertise varies from beginners to master painters.

The Society holds annual shows, plein aire events, workshops and annual workshops for the Brevard County art teachers in addition to artwork hanging opportunities. For more information, go to:

www.brevardwatercolorssociety.org

Wildlife Viewing Ethics

- **Give them space**
If the animal looks directly at you, or changes behavior, you are too close.
- **Move slowly**
- **Keep your voice down**
Playing recorded bird calls is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges.
- **Use your car as a blind**
Stay inside and position it between you and the animal.
- **Limit your time**
The cumulative effect of many visitors takes a toll.



Photo by Al Brayton

Above provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service



Brevard Watercolor Society and the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge presents

Images From The Refuge

JAN 3 - MAR 29 2026

Kathie Benson	Cypress Passage	\$150	
Barbara Bishop	Peek-A-Boo	NFS	Merit Award #2
Marjorie Carey	Sunday Feathers	\$200	
Lynn Devlin	Reflections of Blue	NFS	
Therese Ferguson	Early Morning Ballet	\$1600	Best of Fauna
Therese Ferguson	Swimming Over The Coral	\$495	
Laurie Griffin	Otterly Yours	\$350	
Diane Harmon	Midnight Swim	\$395	
Sheila Harnois	Manatee Party	\$150	
Barb Harris	Just Looking	NFS	
Darleen Hunt	Palmetto Party	\$900	
Darleen Hunt	Winter Whites	\$700	
Lori Jenkins	Apples of Pine	\$600	Best of Flora
Dorothy Koliba	Dinner	\$950	
Dorothy Koliba	Lilies	\$250	
Beth Kring	Precarious Perch	\$250	Merit Award #3
Beth Kring	Peach	\$250	
Cynthia McKee	Looking For Lunch	\$300	Best of Show
Cynthia McKee	Through The Dunes	\$300	Merit Award #5
Kimber Musacchia	Lunch On The River	\$250	
Adele Park	Snake, Rattle and Roll	NFS	
Susan Smith	Glossimer Wings	\$400	Merit Award #4
Lynn Tweed	Fishing Buddy	\$225	
Lynn Tweed	Marsh Bay	\$400	Merit Award #1
Lolly Walton	Nesting 101	\$600	

Some artwork is available in 11 x 14 prints and blank greeting cards in the bookstore. Artist donate a percentage of the proceeds from sales to the Merritt Island Wildlife Association.

Thank you for attending "IMAGES FROM THE REFUGE"



Local Junior Duck Stamp Artists Honored

by Kim King-Wrenn

You've probably heard about the Duck Stamp. This stamp was first sold in 1934 featuring artwork by J.N. "Ding" Darling. Federal Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps; 98 percent of the purchase prices goes directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

What you may not know is that there is also a Junior Duck Stamp. The [Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program](#) is a dynamic art-and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program encourages students to explore their natural world, invites them to investigate biology and wildlife management principles and challenges them to express and share what they have learned with others by creating a unique artwork.

Staff and volunteers at Merritt Island NWR visit elementary school classrooms each spring and present the Make Way for Ducklings program. This program is centered around the classic book by Robert McCloskey. Students learn about ducks and duck habitat and then draw their own picture of a duck to enter into the Florida State contest.

Before we send the drawings off to the competition, we love looking at them all and picking our favorites. Those pictures selected for Merritt Island NWR's own Refuge Choice Award will be displayed in the Visitor Center auditorium. Thanks to MIWA, all of the chosen



Young artists were honored with Refuge Choice Awards for their Junior Duck Stamp art. On left is Merritt Island NWR Ranger Anna Harding.

artists were invited to an awards ceremony where they received ribbons, certificates, a refuge day pass, and a big box of 64 crayons! They also enjoyed a reception with punch and cookies.

The winning artwork from a national art contest serves as the design for the Junior Duck Stamp, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces annually. This \$5 stamp has become a much sought after collector's item. One hundred percent of the revenue from the sale of Junior Duck stamps goes to support recognition and environmental education activities for students who participate in the program. You can support the program by purchasing a Jr. Duck stamp here:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/buy-junior-duck-stamp>

A Bald Eagle "Hat Trick"?

by Kim King-Wrenn

Most longtime visitors to the Merritt Island NWR are familiar with the much photographed bald eagle nest that's right next to SR 3, across from Weather Tower Road. One of more than 30 bald eagle nests scattered across the refuge, this nest has successfully fledged one to two fledglings most every year since it was first established during the 2005-2006 nesting season. But what makes it truly unique is that it managed to successfully fledge three eaglets during the 2022-2023 nesting season and three more again this season.

While it's not unheard of, successfully fledging three eaglets is quite unusual for several reasons. Bald eagles generally lay one to three eggs during any given nesting attempt. However, eggs are laid two to three days apart, and do not hatch at the same time



Photo by Joel Cohen

(asynchronous). As a result, the last chick to hatch in a three-egg clutch may be as much or more than six days younger than its oldest sibling, which leaves the youngest chick at a competitive disadvantage. The older siblings will already be much larger and are more likely to get a greater share of food provisioned by the adults. While direct siblicide is uncommon in bald eagles, the older and larger nestlings' aggressiveness and dominance may not allow the smallest family member to thrive.

The nesting success of bald eagles is dependent on a large number of variables, including food availability, weather, and even competition from great horned owls for nesting sites. However, it seems that this breeding pair has managed to take advantage of the abundant resources of the refuge, and year after year have successfully fledged young. The question is, can they fledge three eaglets in one season for a third time?

Manatee Education Day

by Interns Julia Martin and Natalie Al-Shihabi

On March 21st, MIWA and the Merritt Island National NWR teams held Manatee Education Day at the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center. The event allowed members of the community to learn and test their knowledge on our fascinating Florida manatees. The event was an incredible success and provided a hands-on experience for 120 participants who were able to learn a variety of information about the manatee through educational storyboards, interactive stations, a story telling session by a local author, a life-size canvas of a manatee, and more. The success of this event was due to the valuable collaboration between refuge staff and volunteers as well as MIWA members and interns.

Manatee Education Day would not have been possible without the community event sponsorship provided by Canaveral Port Authority. Their support directly contributed to the design and production of engaging interpretation that allowed participants to be fully immersed in all things manatee. With the Canaveral Port Authority's sponsorship, MIWA interns and a graphic design team were able to create peer-reviewed storyboards and interactive stations that highlighted manatee facts, anatomy, habitat, diet, and conservation, as well as a life-sized manatee canvas for guests to take a photo with.

A new manatee, Bone Clone, funded through the generous support of Canaveral Port Authority, allowed guests to touch, feel, and take a closer look at a Florida manatee skull. The Bone Clone highlighted the manatee's distinct marching molars, teaching the participants one of the most unique features of manatee anatomy from a hands-on perspective. At the event we also had the pleasure of hearing from local author Sara Russo, who held a storytelling session of her book *Melby and the Warm-Water Wrong Turn*, which is a delightful true story about Melby, a manatee who took a wrong turn into a stormwater drain and was saved by the Melbourne Beach community rescue efforts.

From the storytelling to the interactive stations, Manatee Education Day was able to highlight the importance and uniqueness of the Florida manatees that frequent the Merritt Island NWR. MIWA intern Julia Martin noted that "It was reassuring to see so many people come out to learn about manatees and how to protect them in our Florida ecosystems" and that "there are so many unique things about manatees that MIWA and refuge staff were able to teach the Manatee Education Day visitors".



Playalinda Brewing Co. Custom Brew Supports MIWA

Guests enjoyed social time with a side of science during the launch of custom craft brew O'Blossum (gluten-free sour ale) at our Opossums and Pours event at Playalinda Brewing Co. 3/26. Blossom the Opossum, ambassador from the Florida Wildlife Hospital, greeted attendees and offered an up-close look at opossum cuteness. Board members Becky Bolt and Tim Kozusko engaged guests in opossum trivia while sharing biology fun facts about North America's only marsupial, from their prehensile tails to the science behind their famously theatrical "playing possum" performance. Playalinda will donate \$1 per 4-pack and \$1 per pour for the rest of the brew cycle. Invite friends out for a pint or pick up a 4-pack to go to contribute to habitat protection for opossums and other wildlife that call the refuges home.



Clockwise from top: Playalinda Brewing Co. co-owner Ronnie Chabot presents a check for \$1227 from the sale of Insects and IPA, our first custom brew, last fall to MIWA (L to R: MIWA President Nancy Bray, MIWA Executive Director Rochelle Hood and MIWA Board Member Lori Weller); Blossum the opossum from Florida Wildlife Hospital next to an embroidered field bag sold by MIWA; guests filled the patio for the evening event, MIWA board members and biologists Tim Kozusko and Becky Bolt educate attendees about opossums, and cans of O'Blossum sport MIWA's logo along with a QR code to the website.



Fishing Instructors Complete Certification

Thirteen people earned their certification in February at Lake Woodruff NWR through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN) which offers volunteer instructor training programs to help staff and volunteers lead angling education clinics. These hands-on sessions cover ethical angling, safety, and aquatic conservation, often providing free instructor manuals and activity workbooks. Congratulations anglers!

Walter Guptill
Merritt Island NWR

Refuge Volunteer of the Year

Earl Firkel
Lake Woodruff NWR

For Merritt Island NWR, Walter Guptill is Volunteer of the Year! Walter has been an incredible asset to the volunteer team. Joining in 2024, Walter has been quick to jump into any opportunity given and has often gone above and beyond to assist with the mission and support of the refuge. His constant positive energy has been enjoyed by visitors and staff alike; often bringing plenty of smiles and laughter to any adventure he joins. Congratulations Walter!



Walter Guptill



For Lake Woodruff NWR, Earl Firkel is Volunteer of the Year! Earl keeps this refuge running in ways most people never see. He provides mowing services to both the Lake Woodruff NWR and the Welaka National Fish Hatchery during the most brutal stretch of the Florida summer, and he is always willing to lend a hand whether for an outreach event or a project. Congratulations Earl! You've more than earned it.



Earl Firkel with Lake Woodruff NWR Manager Sterling Valentine

Diurnal to Nocturnal – Insects & Arachnids After Dark

by Rochelle Hood

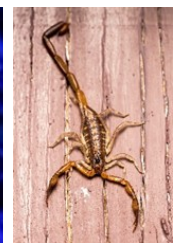
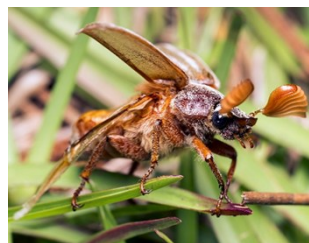
As the sun began to set over the Lake Woodruff wilderness, program participants experienced diurnal to nocturnal insect and arachnid transition. Stetson Professor Dr. Diaz led a hands-on science field experience on April 14th that started with a guided walk along a nature trail in search of the small but remarkable creatures that come alive after dark.

Using red light flashlights and ultraviolet (UV) lights, the group explored natural vegetation for movement, glowing clues, eye shine, spider silk behaviors, prey patterns, and other nighttime behaviors while exploring how insects and arachnids are specially adapted for life in the dark. While discussing our observations, we were treated to live flute music and enjoyed Chuck-will's-widows calling, fireflies flashing, and a beautiful night sky filled with stars.

This field activity was conducted under a Special Use Permit to access the refuge after closing time.



Dr. Diaz shows field experience participants an insect on a trail at Lake Woodruff NWR.



Photos by George Carson. Scorpion under UV light photo by Rochelle Hood.

Left to Right: Crab Spider, Funnel Weaver Spider, Polyphylla occidentalis (Ten-lined June Beetle), Scorpion under UV light, and Striped Scorpion.

Aim, Cast, Explore: Spring Break Camp(ish) Outdoors

by Rochelle Hood

Thanks to the generous support of the Embraer Foundation, Lake Woodruff NWR hosted its first Spring Break Camp(ish) Outdoors. Campers participated in interactive day camp

experiences with hands-on instruction in fishing, archery, and wilderness exploration. Participants learned how to build outdoor skills including bird-watching, scats and track discovery, fishing basics, restoring native habitat, and helping worms enrich the soil while creating buzz-worthy homes for native bees.

Camp attendees learned about wildlife saving conservation actions from Silver Award Scout, Brynn, by recycling monofilament as she described the launch of her project to install containers around Lake Woodruff.

Campers dug into pollinator habitat care by planting native plants, releasing worms into the garden soil, and making Bugs-n-Bits takeaway treats for wildlife in the spaces they share with nature. The week wrapped up with the campers being joined by River Rats and Ranch Pals 4-H club for an official dedication and placement of garden rocks decorated by their club.

One of the goals of the camp was to inspire young explorers to get off their 'screens' and out into green spaces to encourage physical activity, mental well-being, and foster a lifelong appreciation for nature and conservation.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to Embraer Foundation for funding our Aim, Cast, Explore: Spring Break Camp(ish) Outdoors and investing in youth outdoor education.



Out & About With MIWA

MIWA stays busy with community outreach and education events, fundraisers and members-only field trips. We need you to help us help the Merritt Island NWR Complex.

Consider joining our family! 1) Eastern Indigo, 2) & 9) Welaka National Fish Hatchery ribbon-cutting; 3) & 14) Eight-legged Encounters Up Close*; 4) & 10) Culver's Cuisine for Conservation; 5) Opossums and Pours at Playalinda Brewing Co.; 6) Earth Day at Blue Origin; 7) & 12) Welaka Service Project; 8) Archery Days*; 11) Lunch & Learn with Biologist Stan; 13) Public Lands Alliance Conference; 15) & 16) Village Inn Dine To Donate; 17) Snowbird Bingo at Port Orange Adult Activity Center; 18) 2nd Grade Insects Class; 19) Eco Buggy Tour at Conservation Florida's D Ranch Preserve; 20) Manatee Education Day at Merritt Island NWR

* Lake Woodruff NWR





www.miwarefuge.org • (321) 861-2377



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Nature's Treasures Gift Shop Staff	Katie Benway
	Arthur McCormick,
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Habi-Chat Editor	Diane Stees
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Calendar of Events



05/01 (Fri) May Day Pollinator Celebration & Butterfly Walk
Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center • 10:00 am - 11:30 am

05/09 (Sat) Refuge Trash Bash
Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center • 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

05/12 (Tues) Culver's Cuisine for Conservation
Titusville • 5:00 - 8:00 pm

06/13 (Sat) Refuge Trash Bash
Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center • 8:00 am - 12:00

06/13 (Sat) Community Fishing Day (Lake Woodruff NWR)
Lake Woodruff NWR • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
All ages welcome! No fishing experience needed. Gear will be provided.



Village Inn Dine To Donate:
5/19 & 6/23- Titusville (Tuesdays 4-8 pm)

Lake Woodruff NWR Trail Maps Available



Lake Woodruff NWR has new trail maps!
The Lake Woodruff NWR Visitor Center is open Saturdays and Sundays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Nature Center: 2045 Mud Lake Rd., DeLeon Springs
Classroom: 4490 Grand Ave. DeLeon Springs

MIWA MEMBERSHIP

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association (MIWA) depends on membership support to assist us in providing the much needed additional funding for Merritt Island NWR Complex programs. Joining is simple, just fill out this form and mail to: MIWA P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781. You may also join online at www.miwarefuge.org or fill out an application at Nature's Treasures Gift Shop in the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center. Thank you for supporting our NWRs and MIWA!

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I want to pay my membership via:

Check Money Order Visa MC Discover AMX

Please make checks and money orders payable to "MIWA"

CC #: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVV: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Signature: _____

____ New ____ Renewal

____ Student	\$10
____ Senior	\$20
____ Individual	\$25
____ Family	\$50
____ Tortoise	\$100
____ Bobcat	\$250
~ Patron Levels Below ~	
____ Sea Turtle	\$500
____ Otter	\$1,000
____ Alligator	\$2,500
____ Manatee	\$5,000

\$ _____ Donation

\$ _____ Total