

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (November 28, 2015)
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Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge December Public Programs

Brevard Watercolor Society Exhibit

Visitor Center Auditorium—December through January

Enjoy the nature-based watercolor artwork of local artists. View this exhibit in visitor center auditorium during regular operating hours.

Beginning Birding Bus Tour at 9 am

Join a refuge volunteer for a guided three hour tour in the refuge shuttle bus to learn how to identify a variety of bird species. Space is limited so please call 321-861-5601 for reservations. **There is a fee of \$5.00 per person & children under age 16 are free. Cash or check only please.** Free loaner binoculars and field guides are available.

Sundays: 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, & 12/27

Mondays: 12/7, 12/21, & 12/28

Thursdays: 12/3, 12/17 & 12/31

Saturdays: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 & 12/26

American Bald Eagle Program

Wednesday, December 2 at 1 pm.

Enjoy a photo presentation about the American Bald Eagle and learn about the life history of this magnificent bird. Call 321-861-5601 reservations.

Butterfly Survey—Volunteers Needed

Saturday, December 5 at 9 am.

Participate in a butterfly survey with volunteers and refuge staff to identify butterflies and collect important data for the University of Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network. No experience necessary. Survey will involve walking along designated trails and fields to view butterflies. Recommended: Bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear closed shoes and long pants. Call 321-861-5601 to make reservations.

Visitor Center Boardwalk Tour

Mondays, December 7, 21 and 28 at 1 pm.

Take a guided walk along a 1/4 mile boardwalk that travels through three habitats to learn about the animals and plants of the area. Boardwalk is wheelchair accessible. Call 321-861-5601 to make reservations and for information.

Pine Flatwoods Hike

Friday, December 11 at 9 am.

Take a guided walk along a one mile loop trail that travels through pine flatwood habitat and learn about the wildlife, plants, and management of the area. Recommended: Wear closed sturdy shoes, long pants, and bring insect repellent and drinking water. Please meet at the visitor center and call 321-861-5601 for reservations.

All about Alligators

Thursdays, December 17 and 31 at 1 pm.

Learn about the natural history of this intriguing reptile by watching a photo presentation and handling gator bio-facts. Call 321-861-5601 for reservations.

Duck I.D. Presentation & Caravan Tour

Saturday, December 19 at 10 am.

Learn to identify a variety ducks by viewing a photo presentation and then follow a guide in your own vehicle to observe them in the wild. A hand held radio will be provided for each vehicle for the tour. Call 321-861-5601 for reservations. Loaner binoculars and field guides available.

Florida Panther Program

Mondays, December 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 2 pm.

Learn about the endangered Florida Panther through a photo presentation. Call 321-861-5601 for reservations.

About The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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