

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



# May 2018

The Visitor Center is open Monday - Saturday from **8 am to 4 pm** and is **closed** on Sundays.  
 Trails and wildlife drives **open sunrise to sunset daily**. For more information call **321-861-0669**.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Alligator Program 1pm	2	3 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm	4 Black Point Bus Tour 9am	5 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Butterfly Survey 9am Spring Migrants Birding Hike 9:15am
6 VC Closed	7	8	9 Eagle Talk 12:30 pm	10 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm	11 Black Point Bus Tour 9am	12 Black Point Bus Tour 9am
13 VC Closed	14	15 Alligator Program 1pm	16	17 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm	18 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Jay Walk 9am	19 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Fire Program 1pm
20 VC Closed	21	22 Alligator Program 1pm	23	24 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm	25 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Jay Walk 9am	26 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Fire Program 1pm
27 VC Closed	28	29 Alligator Program 1pm	30	31 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm		

**Butterfly Survey, Volunteers Needed**

**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

View a photo presentation to learn how to identify butterflies. Then, participate in a butterfly survey to collect data for the North American Butterfly Count and Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear closed shoes and long pants. Meet in the auditorium of the visitor center.

**Black Point Wildlife Drive Bus Tour**

**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 9 am**

Join a knowledgeable refuge volunteer for a guided two hour tour in the Refuge Shuttle bus for an opportunity to identify the varieties of birds found on the refuge such as the Reddish Egret, Florida Scrub jay, Great Blue herons and many more! Meet at the refuge visitor information center front desk. **Space is limited so please call (321) 861-0669 for reservations. Fee of \$5 per person, \$2.50 with senior or access pass.**

**Spring Migrants Birding Hike – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am**

Join us for a guided birding hike focused on the migrating spring birds. You will have the opportunity to view different species of warblers, tanagers, vireos, and many more! Please meet at the refuge visitor center. Bring water, closed toed shoes, bug spray, and anything else you might need for a comfortable, casual walk.

**Alligator Program - Tuesdays at 1:00pm**

Join a Ranger to explore the natural history and biology of this intriguing reptile. You will handle gator bio-facts and learn how you can estimate the size alligators that you see. Held in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center.

**There will not be an Alligator Program on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Guided Boardwalk Hike – Thursdays at 12:00pm**

Join for a guided tour of the 1/4 mile boardwalk hike around the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to learn about the local flora, fauna and history of the area.

**Eagle Talk - Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm**

Enjoy a photo presentation about the American Bald Eagle, and learn the life history of our National Bird. Held in the auditorium of the visitor center.

**Jay Walks - Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

Join a Ranger for a program focused on the endemic Florida Scrub-Jay. The program will focus on identifying the Florida Scrub-Jays found at Scrub Ridge Trail. You will learn about the natural history of their home here at MINWR and their unique family groups. Please meet at Scrub-Ridge trail for the program. Bring water, closed toed shoes, bug spray, and anything else you might need for a comfortable, casual walk.

**Fire Program- Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

Join a Ranger to learn about fire ecology on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and its vital role in maintaining habitat for local flora and fauna.

**The Visitor Center is closed on Sundays.**