

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



# July 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 <i>VC Closed</i>	2	3 Boardwalk Hike 12pm	4	5 Alligator Program 12pm	6	7 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Butterfly Survey 9am Junior Ranger Days 9am
8 <i>VC Closed</i>	9	10 Boardwalk Hike 12pm	11	12 Alligator Program 12pm	13	14 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Junior Ranger Days 9am
15 <i>VC Closed</i>	16	17 Boardwalk Hike 12pm	18 Manatee Program 12:30pm	19 Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm Alligator Program 12pm	20	21 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Junior Ranger Days 10am
22 <i>VC Closed</i>	23	24 Boardwalk Hike 12pm	25	26 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm Alligator Program 12pm	27	28 Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga Black Point Bus Tour 9am
29 <i>VC Closed</i>	30	31 Boardwalk Hike 12pm				

### Butterfly Survey, Volunteers Needed

**Saturday, July 7<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 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.**

**Dates for Thursday: 7/19 and 7/26**

### Guided Boardwalk Hike – Tuesdays & 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.

**Dates for Tuesday: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31**

**Dates for Thursday: 7/19 and 7/26**

### Alligator Program - Thursdays at 12:00pm

Join us 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.

### Manatee Program - Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm

Enjoy a photo presentation about manatees. Learn about its legends, folklore, and conservation efforts here on the refuge. Held in the auditorium of the visitor center.

### Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga– Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

Welcome in the summer season with our free Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga classes. No experience with yoga or stand up paddleboards is required. All ages are welcome. Space is limited so call 321-861-0669 to register. Classes take place at the Sendler Education Pavilion on the Indian River Lagoon.

**Class Times– 7:00am, 8:15am, 9:30am**

### Junior Ranger Days

Join us for our **Summer Junior Ranger Days**, where children ages 7-12 can learn more about the refuge and the world around them. Each program will feature nature-based activities, crafts, and games! At the end of the summer, children will be awarded their badges and prizes for three out of six programs. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and registration is required. To register, please call (321) 861-0668.

### Land, Sea, You and Me - Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am

Conservation means helping continue future use so that your grandchildren can have the same experience your grandparents did on this land. Come learn about the history of our agency, hunting and fishing safety, challenges that face certain species, and more!

### A Burning Question- Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am

Generally people think of fire as a bad thing - we will explore the question: why is fire necessary? Come explore the animals and habitats who rely on fire, and the safety equipment used to protect people performing prescribed burns.

### A Bug's Life- Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am

Learn about the important role butterflies and other pollinators play in the health of our refuge and beyond around the world. Take a closer look in on the big picture to notice the smaller species around us and learn what we can do to help them succeed!

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