

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



# August 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	2 Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm All About Alligators 12pm	3 What are Horseshoe Crabs? 12pm	4 Butterfly Survey 9am Black Point Bus Tour 9am
5 VC Closed	6	7 Sea Turtle Program 1pm	8	9 Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm All About Alligators 12pm	10 What are Horseshoe Crabs? 12pm	11 Black Point Bus Tour 9am
12 VC Closed	13	14 Sea Turtle Program 1pm	15 Manatee Mania 12:30pm	16 Black Point Bus Tour 9am	17 What are Horseshoe Crabs? 12pm	18 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Fire: Friend or Foe? 1pm
19 VC Closed	20	21 Sea Turtle Program 1pm	22 Reptiles and Amphibians 12:30pm	23 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm All About Alligators 12pm	24 What are Horseshoe Crabs? 12pm	25 Black Point Bus Tour 9am Fire: Friend or Foe? 1pm
26 VC Closed	27	28 Sea Turtle Program 1pm	29	30 Bus Tour 9am Boardwalk Hike 12pm All About Alligators 12pm	31 What are Horseshoe Crabs? 12pm	



### **Butterfly Survey, Volunteers Needed**

**Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

Join us as we meet for our **100th** butterfly survey! 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.**

### **Sea Turtle Program - Tuesdays at 1:00pm**

Sea Turtles have made an impact on our lives in many ways, some of which we might not realize. Join a ranger to explore the life cycle of a sea turtle and ways that we impact them. You will have the opportunity to learn about the species of sea turtles that nest on these beaches, such as the Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback. Held in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center.

### **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.

**There will not be guided boardwalk hike on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### **All About Alligators - 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.

**There will not be an Alligator Program on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### **What are Horseshoe Crabs? - Fridays at 12:00pm**

Ever wonder what the unique life of a Horseshoe Crab is like at Merritt Island NWR? Join us at the refuge visitor center to delve into horseshoe crab biology, their life cycle, and threats that they face.

### **Manatee Mania - Wednesday, August 15<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.

### **Reptiles and Amphibians - Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30pm**

Are you afraid or fascinated by the reptiles and amphibians that live throughout the refuge? Either way, join us as we focus on and appreciate these misunderstood creatures.

### **Fire: Friend or Foe? – Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

Join a ranger to learn about fire ecology and the prescribed burning program on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and its vital role in maintaining habitat for local wildlife. The program will be held in the auditorium of the refuge visitor center.

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