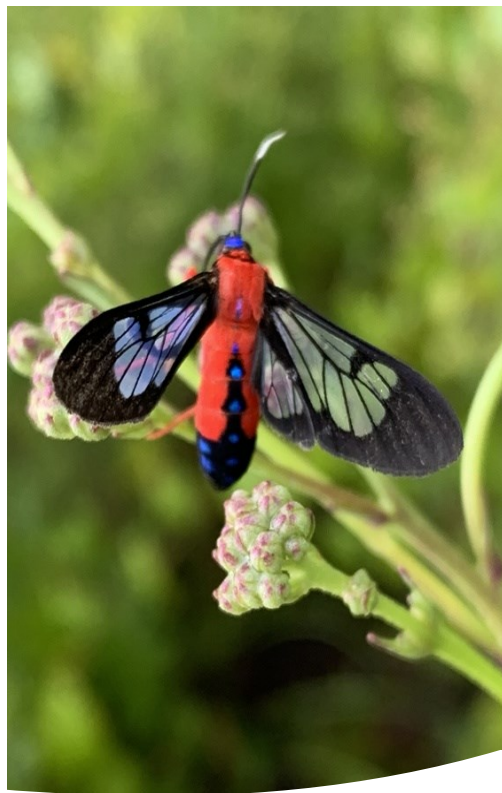


Greenways & Natural Lands

Seminole Tracks

Newsletter



New Year,
New Experiences...

After a stormy Fall that forced cancelations of many of our programs, Natural Lands is happy to offer classes, hikes and experiences for Seminole County residents and visitors once again. Florida’s Winter and Spring offer many cool days to roam our beautiful natural areas.

Seminole County Natural Lands offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy the season; search for migrating birds, celebrate Arbor Day or spend time camping with your family! Whatever you’re in to, Natural Lands has an outdoor event for you. We can’t wait to see you out there!

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Location: Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Date: March 25-26

Times: Saturday, 2:00pm to
Sunday, 9:00am

Cost: \$20 per person

Family Fun Camp Out

This is one of our most popular Natural Lands events! Spend the night at the Geneva Wilderness Area and learn to camp with the experts.

This event is tailored for families with children ages 5-13 who want a crash course in camping. Meals included! We will have tent pitching assistance, cast iron cooking, a live animal program in the nature center, fishing, hiking, and cooking s'mores over a campfire.

Register online: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

Spring Open Houses @ EYNC

Stop in to visit the Ed Yarborough Nature Center! Meet and greet with our animal residents and explore the exhibits and displays. Join a knowledgeable guide on a short hike around the wilderness area where you might spy some wild creatures! Hikes begin at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 am. All ages are welcome.
No registration required!

Dates: Saturday, **March 4**
Saturday, **April 8**
Saturday, **May 6**

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva 32732

Time: 9:00am-Noon



Spring Break Eco Camp!

Spring into nature at Spring Break Eco Camp!

Your kids will have a blast while learning about the natural world! Campers will explore the Geneva Wilderness Area through fishing, hiking, setting live traps, and learning about native wildlife and plants. Inside the nature center, they will create works of art, play games and meet our live animal residents.

Scholarships available. Find out more by visiting the Eco Camp webpage!



Dates: **March 13-17**

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426,
Geneva

Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm
(Extended Day Care available from 7:30am - 5:30pm)

Cost: \$132/week (Extended Day Care an additional \$15/week)

Ages: 7-12



Classes and Programs

Come learn something new by experiencing it first-hand! Natural Lands' classes and programs offer learning opportunities for everyone. This Spring, we are offering some classic programs, and also a few new ones! Just make sure you register before you arrive. Classes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting:

recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Essence of Wildlife Photography

Come join adventure photographer [TJ Waller](#) as he shares some of his secrets of wildlife photography. This class covers camera settings, techniques for stationary and moving subjects, approach techniques and more!

Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate

Date/Time: Saturday, **January 7**, 8:00-10:00 am
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Cost: \$8 per person
Ages: 18+ (adults only)

Learn & Burn

Join our Natural Resources Program Coordinator to learn what it takes to be a Burn Boss! Gain insight into the process of planning and running a prescribed burn, and the benefits to our community. Meet some of the creatures who live in fire-dependent ecosystems and how they survive. See the tools land managers use while burning. If conditions permit, watch a live burn demonstration!

Date/Time: Saturday, **February 18**, 9am-noon
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Cost: \$8 per person
Ages: 10+ (children must be accompanied by an adult)

**NEW
PROGRAM!**



Nature Lovers

Looking for a unique and humorous Valentine's experience? Learn about the intriguing and downright bizarre courtship rituals of some of our wild neighbors. After the class and animal meet-&-greet, take a guided evening stroll down our scenic trails and rekindle your connection by the campfire. Complimentary treats included.

Date/Time: Saturday, **February 18**, 6-8:30pm
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Cost: \$8 per person
Ages: 18+ (adults only)

**NEW
PROGRAM!**



Bug Bash

Come party with bugs! This fun and informational class will show off the wide array of small crawly critters that share our wilderness, yards and even homes with. Meet and greet with insects and mollusks in the Nature Center, and end the program with a hike searching for wild bugs!

Date/Time: Saturday, **April 15**, 9am-noon
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Cost: \$8 per person
Ages: 7+ (children must be accompanied by an adult)

**NEW
PROGRAM!**



Snakes of Florida Program

Join a local expert from Seminole County Natural Lands as he introduces and dispels some of the myths about these often misunderstood cold-blooded residents. Visit live snakes in the Nature Center, then end with a hike on the trails in search of wild snakes!

Date/Time: Saturday, **May 13**, 9am - noon
Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732
Cost: \$8 per person
Ages: 7+ (children must be accompanied by an adult)



Guided Hikes



Did you know the Natural Lands Program manages over 6,600 acres of preserved land? Let our knowledgeable guides walk you through some of Seminole County’s most beautiful wilderness areas. Hikes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

All hikes are \$5 per guest. Children must be 7 years or older (unless otherwise noted) and accompanied by an adult to attend. All Natural Lands hikes require pre-registration. Call 407.665.2211 for more information.

JAN
21

Florida Tree Trek

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am @ Econ River Wilderness Area

Celebrate FL Arbor Day by joining a NL guide for a hike through mixed forests of oak, pine, cypress and other mixed hardwood trees in this beautiful wilderness area. Learn to identify native trees and find out how these giants impact our ecosystems and our lives.

Hike Rating
EASY

MAR
7

Full Moon Hike

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm @ Chuluota Wilderness Area

Take a break on a week night to enjoy the splendor of this month’s full moon and search for hidden night creatures!

Hike Rating
MODERATE

MAR
18

Morning Birding Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30am @ Lake Jesup Wilderness Area

Join a local expert birder during this early morning hike. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound as you meander along the floodplain of Lake Jesup.

Hike Rating
EASY

APR
1

Edible Wild Plant Hike

Saturday 8:00-10:00am @ Geneva Wilderness Area

Before supermarkets, humans relied on plants for food, clothing, cordage, medicine and more. Your guide will help you identify edible and other useful plants that can be found growing wild in Seminole County.

Hike Rating
EASY

APR
8

Morning Birding Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30am @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Join a local expert birder during this early morning hike. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound. End the hike at the observation tower overlooking stunning views of Lake Harney.

Hike Rating
EASY

APR
15

Frog Hop Night Hike

Saturday 7:30-9:30pm @ Geneva Wilderness Area

Learn to identify frogs by their appearance and calls during this frog-tastic night hike! Explore the fascinating science behind amplexus and why these croaking creatures are essential to a balanced ecosystem.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

APR
29

Reptile Ramble

Saturday 9:00-11:00am @ Black Bear Wilderness Area

Search for Florida’s scaly residents while hiking along Hydric Hammocks and Cypress Swamps. Commonly seen creatures include snakes, alligators, lizards and frogs.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

Property
Addresses

Econ River Wilderness Area

3795 Old Lockwood Rd. Oviedo 32765

Black Bear Wilderness Area

5298 Michigan Ave. Sanford 32771

Lake Jesup Wilderness Area

5951 Sanford Ave. Sanford 32773

Chuluota Wilderness Area

3895 Curryville Rd. Chuluota 32766

Lake Harney Wilderness Area

2395 Osceola Fish Camp Rd, Geneva 32732

Geneva Wilderness Area/Ed Yarborough Nature Center

3485 N. County Road 426, Geneva 32732

Private Hikes, Rentals and Programs

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$170, includes 3-hour
facility rental and the Natural
Lands host.

Registration: To coordinate times and
availability, please email:
nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov



Nature Adventure Birthday Parties!



Create a birthday party experience your child will never forget! A trained staff member will welcome your party guests, present an exciting live animal program and take the group for a hike on our 180-acre property. Spend time in the nature center exploring and enjoying your refreshments.

Private Hikes

Do you want to take a hike with your favorite people? Schedule a private hike with Natural Lands! Great for scout groups, field trips, team building and family reunions.

One of our knowledgeable staff members will guide you through the trails of the wilderness area of your choice. Along the way, hikers can ask questions and the instructor will stop to point out notable sights. Hike takes approximately 2 hours. \$5 per person. 15-25 guests.

Facility Rentals

Rent one of our amazing facilities for your party, family reunion, business meeting or other events!

- North Campsite/Pavilion @ GWA
- Ed Yarborough Nature Center
- Full & half days or overnight



Field Trips & In-School Programs

Field trips to the Ed Yarborough Nature Center can serve as a wonderful opportunity for your students to explore natural science first-hand. Program includes a nature program in the center with live animals, a hike around the property and time for lunch. Open to public, private and home school groups. Only \$5 per student!

Let Natural Lands come to you! During the 45-50 minute in-school program, students will learn about standards-based science topics and have opportunities to view and handle skulls, displays and live animals. This program is FREE!

For more information, please call 407.665.2211 or email nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov

Next Season and Program Partners

Summer

During the Summer, Natural Lands hosts Summer Eco Camp for children 7-12 and Biology Boot Camp for 13-15 year olds.

Keep checking back on the Leisure Services registration page to sign up!

recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov

We look forward to welcoming everyone else back for hikes and programs in the Fall.
Happy Adventuring!



Program Partners



The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society joins Natural Lands for Open Houses, plant-related hikes, plant rescue events and maintains the demonstration garden at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center. Cuplet Fern also provides several [scholarships](#) each season for children to attend Eco Camp. Thank you for all your support!



Seminole Audubon Society works closely with Natural Lands to lead birding hikes and programs, give informative presentations and hikes to our Eco Campers, provide [scholarships](#) for children to attend Eco Camp and help Natural Lands purchase materials for programming including Audubon Adventures educational materials and binoculars for Eco Camp. Thank you for your continued support of our programs!



More to Explore

Natural Lands— Wilderness Areas and Preserves

Did you know that Natural Lands manages 9 public wild lands for you to explore? No matter where you live in the county, there is likely a wilderness area close by.

Trails are open from sun rise to sun set every day of the year (unless otherwise noted).
Parking and entry are always free!

Enjoy [recreational activities](#) like hiking, birding, biking, photography, horseback riding, fishing and more! Each location has a unique combination of plant communities, animals and ecosystems. We can't wait to see you out there!

Happy Adventuring!

Experience
Seminole County
Naturally



in our
Wilderness
Areas

The **Black Bear Wilderness Area**'s approximately 1,600 acres in northwest Seminole County features a 7 mile loop trail with boardwalks that showcase a variety of wetland habitats within the floodplain of the St. John's River. Wet prairie, Hydric Hammock and Cypress swamps form a mosaic of habitat diversity which host wildlife such as the White-tailed Deer, Swallow-tailed Kite and Florida Black Bear. Its large size and proximity to other public lands, make this site an important piece in a puzzle connecting natural areas between the Wekiva/St. John's basins and the Ocala National Forest.



The **Black Hammock Wilderness Area** is a 700+ acre property located in east Seminole County, on the southeast side of Lake Jesup. A joint purchase with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this land was acquired as part of a comprehensive effort to preserve significant habitat along the shores of Lake Jesup. A walk on the 4.5 mile loop trail and boardwalks will take you through habitats such as hydric hammock, mixed hardwood swamp, pine flatwoods and sand pine scrub. Wildlife observed on this site includes the barred owl, white-tailed deer, bobcat and eastern coral snake.

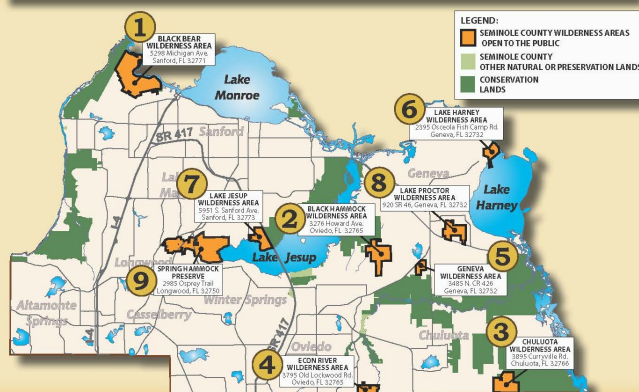


The **Chuluota Wilderness Area** is a 625 acre site located to the east of the town of Chuluota in the southeast corner of Seminole County. This site has extensive and diverse natural communities such as pond pine flatwoods, sand pine scrub, and bayhead swamp. Its remote location and variety of habitats make it an excellent destination for bird watching, wildlife study and nature photography.



The trail system consists of two main loop trails totalling approximately 6 miles that offers visitors the chance to view an abundance of wildlife. See white-tailed deer, gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel and the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

Seminole County Wilderness Areas



The **Econ River Wilderness Area** is a 240 acre property located on the Seminole/Orange County line, south of the city of Oviedo, on the west side of the Econlockhatchee River.

A scenic walking trail of approximately 3 miles leads visitors through habitats such as pine flatwoods, sandhill and river swamp. Wildlife observed on this site includes the great horned owl, white-tailed deer and golden mouse. Benches are provided at a bend in the river so you can rest and enjoy the quiet, serenity of this little piece of natural Florida.

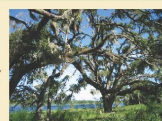


The **Geneva Wilderness Area** is a 180 acre property south of the Geneva community in east Seminole County. This site features a beautiful mosaic of flatwoods, ponds, sand pine scrub and bayhead swamp, all supporting an equally diverse collection of wildlife. A hike through approximately 2 miles of trails can reward visitors with sightings of gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and gray fox.

This property has a fishing pier, large pavilion with a barbeque and the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center which features exhibits and displays that highlight the ecology of Central Florida. The facility hosts both school programs and public classes. The Nature Center is open by appointment only.



Lake **Harney Wilderness Area** is approximately 300 acres located on the St. Johns River and the northwest shore of Lake Harney. This site is home to a historic crossing of the Okeechobee Branch of the East Coast Railway, several bald eagle's nests, oak hammocks and mixed hardwood swamps. A viewing tower overlooks the floodplain of Lake Harney which serves as important feeding grounds for wading birds and as a natural filter improving water quality.



The **Lake Jesup Wilderness Area** is a 490 acre site located on the north shore of Lake Jesup, west of Highway 417. Purchased in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District for the purpose of preserving significant habitat to aid in the restoration of Lake Jesup. Visitors can walk, ride their horse or mountain bike on approximately 3 miles of trails to view the extensive flood plain of this lake. Trails are seasonally flooded. Countless species of wildlife call this site home including the anhinga, bald eagle, and American alligator.



The **Lake Proctor Wilderness Area** is a 475 acre property located near the town of Geneva in east Seminole County.

A hike on approximately 6 miles of trail through habitats such as sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, sandhill and bayhead swamp can reward visitors with sightings of wood duck, white-tailed deer, red fox and Florida worm lizard. The yellow trail provides the best opportunity for viewing a variety of wild flower species.



The **Spring Hammock Preserve** is a 1,500 acre property on the west shore of Lake Jesup in Longwood. It is a well-known landmark to both residents and visitors because of its oasis-like appearance in the midst of a rapidly growing urban area and includes Big Tree Park and Soldier's Creek Park. The property offers protection to listed species such as the gopher tortoise, bipinnate cuplet fern and Okeechobee gourd which occur in the following plant communities: pine flatwoods, hydric hammock and floodplain forest, respectively. The Seminole County School Board operates an Environmental Studies Center on the property for all grade 5 classes throughout Seminole County.

