

Greenways & Natural Lands Seminole Tracks Newsletter



The Outdoors are Calling...

Fall is such a beautiful time in Florida to get outside and take in the changing season. We may not have autumn leaves, but native flowers are blooming, birds are migrating and the air is growing cooler and crisper by the day.

Seminole County Natural Lands offers many opportunities to enjoy this season, whether you fancy leisurely strolls in nature, learning new facts about local creatures or honing your survival skills. We can't wait to see you out there!

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Last Season...

Summer 2022

During Summertime, Natural Lands suspends most hikes and events to welcome campers back to Eco Camp. This summer was full of fun, friendships and learning about the natural world!



Pouring plaster tracks



Edible bird's nest craft



Meeting the creatures!



Fishing + friends= FUN!



Going for a hike



Hangin' out



Best Day Ever.



"Scat" cookies
(an Eco Camp fave)



Discovering macro-invertebrates



We made FIRE!



Owl pellet dissection

A BIG thank you to all of our amazing guest speakers who donated their time for our campers!

- Dr. Rosie Stanbrook– UCF: Dung Beetle Safari/Trapping & Presentation
- John McClelland– SGTV: Camper-made nature PSA's during "Lights, Camera, Nature" week
- Brandon Terrazas– Survival Expert: Building fires, shelters and cultivating a survival mindset
- Bennett Lloyd– Museum of Seminole County History: Traveling Senator Exhibit
- The Bee Guy– Honey Bee presentation and live bee box display
- Seminole Audubon Society– Birding hikes, activities and purchased new binoculars for camp
- Elizabeth Stevens– SERV: Macro-invertebrates Lab and Biodiversity Lab





New Program!

Dates: 101: September 17
102: October 1
Family: December 3

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

Times: Saturdays, 9am – noon

Cost: \$15 per participant

Register online at recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Survival Skills Classes

Think you can survive in wild Florida? Join a survival expert to learn and practice bushcraft skills!

Participants will receive basic survival tools which they will practice with during the class and get to take home.

Bushcraft 101: Survive the Night

This introduction to the survival process will teach you how to set up camp, build a quick fire, and safe knife handling. Adults only/ 18+

Bushcraft 102: Survive the Week

This class will focus on long-term needs of water collection, shelter construction and creating fire-hardened wood for tool building. Adults only/ 18+

Bushcraft: Family Survival

Learn skills from Bushcraft 101 with the kids! Each family gets a survival pack to take home. Must have a child 10+ to register.

Winter Break Eco Camp!

Winter Break Eco Camp is like Summer Camp, just without the heat and bugs!

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.

Find out more by visiting our Eco Camp webpage!



Dates: December 27-30 (4 days)

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

Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm
(extended day available
from 7:30am - 5:30pm)

Cost: \$132/week (extended day
an additional \$15/week)

Ages: 7-12

Register online at recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Classes and Programs

Come learn something new by experiencing it first-hand! Natural Land's classes and programs offer learning opportunities for everyone. This Fall, we have a variety of events to choose from. Just make sure you register before you arrive. Classes fill up quickly, so sign up today by visiting: recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov



Snakes of Florida Program

Join a local expert from Seminole County Natural Lands as he gives an introduction to and dispels some of the myths about these often-misunderstood cold blooded residents!

Date/Times: Saturday September 24, 9 am-noon

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

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 7 and up (children must be accompanied by an adult)

****Register each person attending****



Fall Open Houses @ EYNC

Stop in to visit the Ed Yarborough Nature Center! Fall in love with our animal residents and explore our exhibits and displays. Join a knowledgeable guide on a short hike to the fishing pier 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, September 3 (Native Plant Day)
Saturday, October 15 (Back in Time)
Saturday, November 5 (Snake Appreciation Day)

Times: 9 - 11 am

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



Wildlife Photography Hike

Join TJ Waller, a local professional photographer at one of his favorite wilderness areas to learn tips and tricks he uses to capture amazing wildlife photos. This class will go over camera settings, approach techniques and other photography skills. Participants should know at least the basic operation of their specific camera. Visit TJ's website to view recent photos and other educational opportunities:

tjwallerphotography.com

Date/time: Saturday, October 8, 8 am—11 am

Location: Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 18+



Family Fun Camp Out

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, an animal program in the nature center, fishing on the pier, a night hike and s'mores around the campfire!

***No tent rentals available at this time**

Time/Date: Saturday 2 pm– Sunday 9 am, November 12-13

Location: Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N CR 426
Geneva, FL 32732

Cost: \$20 per person (register each person attending)

Ages: 5+ (families must have a child 5+, no adult-only registrations allowed)



Guided Hikes



Fall is one of the busiest hiking seasons here in Central Florida– and it’s not hard to see why! 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 \$3 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.

SEPT
10

Reptile Hike
Saturday 9:00—11:00 AM @ Black Bear Wilderness Area
Search for Florida’s scaly residents while hiking along Hydric Hammocks and Cypress Swamps.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

SEPT
10

Harvest Moon Hike
Saturday 7:30—9:30 PM @ Chuluota Wilderness Area
Celebrate the beauty and history of the Harvest Moon during this moonlit night hike.

Hike Rating
MODERATE

SEPT
24

Morning Birding Hike
Saturday 7:30-9:30 AM @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area
This birding hike is hosted by the Seminole Audubon Society. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound, end the hike enjoying breathtaking views on the observation deck overlooking the floodplain.

Hike Rating
EASY

OCT
8

Butterfly Hike
Saturday 10:00 AM—noon @ Chuluota Wilderness Area
Marvel at the beautiful Fall flowers and visiting butterflies during this leisurely hike.

Hike Rating
EASY

OCT
9

Hunter’s Moon Hike
Sunday 7:00-9:00 PM @ Lake Harney Wilderness Area
Take a break this Sunday night to learn about the history of the Hunter’s Moon during this nighttime hike.

Hike Rating
EASY

OCT
22

Morning Birding Hike
Saturday 7:30—9:30 AM @ Lake Jesup Wilderness Area
This birding hike is hosted by Seminole Audubon Society. Learn how to spot birds by sight and sound while meandering through the floodplain of Lake Jesup.

Hike Rating
EASY

NOV
19

Swamp Walk
Saturday 8:00– 10:00 AM @ Spring Hammock Preserve
Follow your guide through the unmarked trails of a real hydric hammock! Long pants and closed-toed shoes required (no duct tape, please). Bring bug repellent, water, and something to sit on when you drive home. You will get very muddy and wet! Ages 10+

Hike Rating
STRENUOUS

Property
Addresses

- Spring Hammock Preserve
2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood 32750

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, which 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. You will have time in the center for exploration and to enjoy 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. \$3 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

At a Glance

September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Open House @ EYNC- Native Plant Day!
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 Reptile Hike @ BBWA Harvest Moon Hike @ LHWA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Bushcraft 101 @ GWA
18	19	20	21	22 Autumn Equinox	23	24 Morning Birding Hike @ LHWA Snakes of Florida Program @ EYNC
25 Rosh Hashanah Begins	26	27 Rosh Hashanah Ends	28	29	30	1

October 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Bushcraft 102 @ GWA
2	3	4	5 Yom Kippur	6	7	8 Butterfly Hike @ CWA Photography Hike @ LHWA
9 Hunter's Moon Hike @ LHWA	10	11	12	13	14	15 Open House- Back in Time @ EYNC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Morning Birding Hike @ LHWA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

At a Glance

November 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Open House- Snake Appreciation Day @ EYNC
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Swamp Walk @ SHP
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Bushcraft: Family Survival @ GWA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Hanukkah Begins	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 County Holiday Hanukkah Ends	27 Winter Break Eco Camp	28 Winter Break Eco Camp	29 Winter Break Eco Camp	30 Winter Break Eco Camp	31