

## **Lake County Parks & Trails offers free outdoor activities in March, 2017**

**TAVARES**— The Lake County Parks & Trails Division is offering the following free, family-friendly guided hikes, bike rides and educational events during the month of March.

### **Pasture Reserve Bike Ride**

*Saturday, March 4, from 9-11 a.m.*

Pasture Reserve, 5144 Lake Erie Road, Groveland

Explore this 800-acre reserve by bicycle during a guided tour. Be sure to BYOB (bring your own bike).

### **Who Lays Eggs**

*Sunday, March 5 from 9-11 a.m.*

PEAR Park Wildlife Conservation Area, 4800 University Ave., Leesburg

Join staff on a learning adventure to discover the many creatures, in addition to birds, that lay eggs.

### **Blue Creek Run Paddling Adventure**

*Saturday, March 11 from 9 a.m. - noon*

Lake George Boat Ramp, 58300 Lake George Road, Astor

Join Lake County Parks & Trails and Lake County Water Authority staff in exploring Blue Creek Run Paddling Trail. Learn about plants, wildlife and the St. Johns River ecosystem.

### **PEAR Park Nature Center Open House**

*Saturday, March 11 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

PEAR Park Wildlife Conservation Area, 4800 University Ave., Leesburg

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand and shells.

### **Mini Course on Fossils**

*Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m. - noon.*

PEAR Park Wildlife Conservation Area, 4800 University Ave., Leesburg

A hands-on mini course on fossils is offered for students ages 10 and up, accompanied by an adult.

### **Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey**

*Saturday, March 11 from 7:30-11 a.m.*

Pasture Reserve, 5144 Lake Erie Road, Groveland

Volunteers are invited to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Participants should bring binoculars and field guides. Experience is a plus, but not required.

### **Ecology Hike at Lake May Reserve**

*Sunday, March 12 from 9 a.m. - noon*

Lake May Reserve, 36300 County Road 44A, Eustis

Staff will give participants guided tours of the property, identify plants and animals, and discuss site management.

### **Kids Map & Compass**

*Saturday, March 18 from 9-10:30 a.m.*

PEAR Park Gateway, 26701 U.S. Highway 27, Leesburg

Kids will learn to use a compass and work their way around an orienteering course.

### **Snake Safety for Kids**

*Saturday, March 25 from 9-11 a.m.*

Pine Meadows Conservation Area, GPS coordinates: N28 88 40.33 W -81 66 30.54, end of Pine Meadows Golf Course Road, Eustis

Snakes are a beneficial part in the balance of any ecosystem. Join park staff in identifying which snakes are venomous and what to do if you encounter them.

### **History Hike: Walk in the Footsteps of Florida's Pioneers**

*Saturday, March 25 from 9-11 a.m.*

PEAR Park Gateway, 26701 U.S. Highway 27, Leesburg

Walk in the footsteps of Native Americans during a slow-paced, approximately two-mile hike on uneven, hilly terrain.

### **Land Management Workday**

*Sunday, March 26 from 9-11 a.m.*

Ferndale Preserve, 19220 County Road 455

This event offers an opportunity for the community to support county parks by assisting staff in site maintenance.

## Ongoing

### **Science Saturday**

*Saturday, March 4 from 9-11 a.m.*

*Saturday, March 11 from 9-11 a.m.*

*Saturday, March. 25 from 9-11 a.m.*

Ellis Acres Reserve, 25302 County Road 42, Paisley

This adventure of exploration and discovery helps kids brush up on science.

Topics discussed include arthropod adaptations, animal habitats, outdoor life, aquatic organisms and more.

To make a reservation for any Parks & Trails events, visit <http://bit.ly/1rFvqOP>. For more information about the Lake County Parks & Trails Division, call 352-253-4950, email [parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov) or visit [www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFLParks](http://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFLParks).

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