



Friends of the Anne Kolb Nature Center

751 Sheridan Street
Hollywood, FL 33019
(954) 357-5161

January 2022 Friends of Anne Kolb Nature Center Newsletter

Dear Friends,

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Arthur Ashe

This quote by tennis legend, Arthur Ashe spoke to me as we begin a new year. Each of us has a different starting point as we enter 2022. It doesn't matter where you start, but that you start, for it is your very own starting point for 2022. Where we are is different for each of us. Using what we have has been on all our minds as we look to be creative and repurpose items or fight the urge to buy more things. I am delighted when that item I have saved has found a new purpose both at work and at home. Best of all, is for each of us to do what we can. This is evident in the dedication, creativity, and spirit of the Friends of Anne Kolb. Each one of you brings your special talents to the nature center.

As we start another year anew. Let us look to start each day with hope, share the gifts we have been given and continue to do what we can for nature, each other, and our planet. Good health and happiness to all.

Fondly, Joanne





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Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- **Newsletter Volunteers needed. (Contributors)**

Approved volunteer activities are:

- Volunteers/Friends who pick up trash along the kayak trails, triplex grounds and fence lines.
- Volunteers/Friends to hand pull weeds in the butterfly garden and beds.
- Volunteers/Friends to remove invasive, exotic plants at Anne Kolb and the natural areas of Hollywood North Beach Park.
- Friends of Anne Kolb involved with routine Friends activities such as gift shop inventory, photography, etc.

See end of newsletter for January, February, and March opportunities!

Feel free to contact Joanne Howes for the forms or if have questions. Thank you.

stay
safe
and
healthy!



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Friends of Anne Kolb Volunteer Meeting Minutes- December 2nd Holiday Potluck

There was no formal volunteer meeting or minutes for the Holiday Potluck and Volunteer Appreciation held on December 23, 2021. Twenty-six Friends, guests and staff gathered for the good food and fun.



NEXT
MEETING:
January 6th
in the
Mangrove
Hall at 7pm!



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Good or Bad By Bob Goldberg

Slithery, skidery, scaley old snake,
surely your body must be a mistake.
Your eyes, mouth, tongue stay on your head,
it seems that your body is all tail instead. *Denise Rogers*

We don't see them very often, if at all, but there are snakes in Florida. The ecology of Florida is complex. From wetlands to drylands, salt water habitats to fresh water, residential to natural, snakes play an important role. They are prime players in the control of rodents, and have been reported to using insects in their diet. If you recognize this value, you can be more appreciative when encountering them, and understand their place in the wildlife of Florida. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee reports over forty species of snakes are found statewide, and only six are venomous. But watch out for these guys.

Snakes are Chordates of the class Reptilia. They are all carnivorous, usually preying on animals smaller than themselves, but there are always exceptions. They cannot use teeth for chewing and will swallow prey whole. The lower jaw (mandible) is extremely flexible, allowing the mouth to become wide enough to accept prey larger in diameter than itself. Snakes are cold blooded, egg laying, and air breathers, with scales covering the skin. In general, their eyesight is poor, identifying shapes rather than details. The tongue is a marvel in identifying scent and a major part in the sensory system.

Because of the many waterways and lush vegetation, encountering snakes in South Florida can be more common than you think. Both venomous and non-venomous snakes reside in our neighborhoods. Luckily, most species are non-venomous but, at least, you should know the names to be avoided. According to the Department of Wildlife and Conservation, here are the ones to give space: pit vipers, such as the timber rattler, cottonmouth, copperhead, and water moccasin are "baddies". Add the eastern coral and diamondback and you have snakes in both wet and dry habitats to stay clear of.

Be aware that many non-venomous snakes mimic color patterns of their venomous cousins. This type of mimicry insures them a higher level of survival. A good rule is: do not get too close to snakes or try to catch them. Observing these animals can be quite rewarding, as the color and pattern variation can be memorable. You will find diamond markings, banding, blotches, stripes, and solid coloration throughout the many species. Florida is large and varied, and the Department of Wildlife Ecology has some publications to help with identification.

*continued onto the next page



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continued:

We cannot ignore the tens of thousands invasive Burmese Pythons distributed over 1000 square miles, including all of the Everglades National Park. Today they have established a breeding population and compete with native wildlife for food. They have decimated the native population of racoons, opossums, rabbits, and other small mammals. The odds of eradicating this population is determined to be low. This explosion of an invasive species is an ecologic lesson in the danger resulting from pet escapes or releases. Man is the culprit and now the animal world suffers. Remember, any animal can be problematic when released where it is not native. The enemy is us. So, snakes good or bad. Your call.



ABOVE: Water Moccasin (Cottonmouth)



ABOVE: Diamondback Rattlesnake



ABOVE: Pygmy Rattlesnake



ABOVE: Coral Snake

The below venomous snakes are mostly found in North Florida and not in SWFL:



ABOVE: Timber Rattlesnake (Canebrake)



ABOVE: Copperhead



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“Ooo that smell” (apologies to Lynard Skynard)
by Art Van Arsdale

Have you ever been walking through the parking lot to the nature center and thought you smelled a skunk? What you probably smelled was a small tree or shrub that grows in hardwood hammocks throughout South Florida. It is called the Spanish stopper (*Eugenia foetida*). Native to Florida, it can be found along the coast in hardwood hammocks from roughly the Tampa/Titusville line south through the Keys. It is one of five stoppers common in the hammocks in Florida. The other four are the white, red, red berry, and Simpson’s stoppers.

The stoppers get their name from their supposed medicinal use. It has been told that the tea is effectively “stops” diarrhea, though there aren’t any corroborating medical studies.

Stoppers are members of the myrtle family. Familiar members in this family in South Florida are the crêpe myrtle, Surinam cherry with its pumpkin shaped fruits, and the very invasive *Melaleuca* tree. The Spanish stopper belongs to the *Eugenia* genus. There are about 1100 species of this genus worldwide, most are found in the tropical zones.

The species name (*Eugenia foetida*) comes from *foetidus* meaning foul smelling. It is said by most people to smell like a skunk. It’s most easily found by smell, as the plant itself is rather nondescript. Smell comes from both flowers and leaves. (The University of Florida department of agriculture says it can be grown nicely as a privacy hedge. I’m afraid that will keep me out of the backyard!)

Not all stoppers smell bad. The other stopper in our park (the Simpson stopper) is said to give off a citrusy, piney fragrance when the leaves are crushed. This stopper was named in honor of Charles Torrey Simpson, a naturalist and author in Miami in the early 1900s.

Stoppers grow in coastal and hardwood hammocks, and have very different growth requirements from the mangroves that make up most of our park. They are much less salt tolerant. In our area they grow on elevated, dryer areas that don’t flood often like old sand dunes, shell mounds, or tree islands. They are normally found between six and 25 feet in elevation above sea level. Hammocks are usually very diverse in the number of plant species they support. Common plants found in the same areas as a stoppers are live oaks, wild coffee, satin leaf, gumbo limbo, and mahogany.

(Picture of Spanish stopper near entrance to boardwalk)





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The Beautiful Swan **By: Barbara Delano**

As I sipped my coffee, I heard a loud flapping and bushes shaking. I walked out to find my neighbor and a large beautiful swan. We watched for awhile, amazed at how this graceful large swan seemingly fell out of the sky. People started gathering, cars were stopping and we needed a swan plan.

We called Wildlife Care Center and left a message. The center called us back and said we could bring the Swan in at 9:30. Two more hours on the swale seemed risky. We decided to put her in my neighbors yard. I brought out cat carriers, laundry baskets, but had nothing that would hold a swan. If I protect her neck and hold her large wings, we can get her to my back yard, my neighbor said. And she did. Swan settled and we started googling and learning about swans.

They are not indigenous to the United States but were brought over from Europe to grace lakes and parks. Though lovely, some consider them invasive here in South Florida, though are not on the invasive species list. Next task was to get Sylvie swan into the car and remain still for the drive to Wildlife Care Center. Yes, we named her when she got cozy in the yard. We made it to the Center. Sylvie was a mute swan.

Though swans do migrate, not those that are this far south. Fall out we learned usually happens to a large group of birds during migration, due to incimate weather or lack of food. They mate for life, live about 25 years, and are voracious eaters, eating about 8 pounds a day of aquatic plants. The mute swans sound is different from other swan species, muffled, kind of a hissing sound when disturbed and very territorial.

Two hours later we got a call from Wildlife Care Center saying the swan was young and healthy, bit disoriented and ready for pick up. Yikes, pick up. We had no plan to rehome a swan. Calls to Bonnett House and Flamingo Gardens, but neither could accept the swan.

Wildlife Center offered to keep her overnight while we decided how to proceed. The more we learned about mute swans, the less we could deal with the idea of taking an invasive, territorial, large eater to a lake to rehome her.

It is funny how situations can solve themselves. My neighbor got a call that evening from a friend who lives in Homestead. He has koi ponds, ponies and a lake. As he heard the swan story he wanted her and offered to pick Sylvie up in the morning after we got her from the center.

Wildlife Center offered a large carrier to us to transport her. Her new owners were waiting for us when we arrived home. They were kind, loved animals and seemed a great fit. We settled her in for a drive to Homestead, her new home. She now lives in a beautiful spot with people who care for her.

A few photos* attached to share my swan adventure. Happy healthy New Year to all the people, swans, and all beings who grace this earth.

*more pictures on next page



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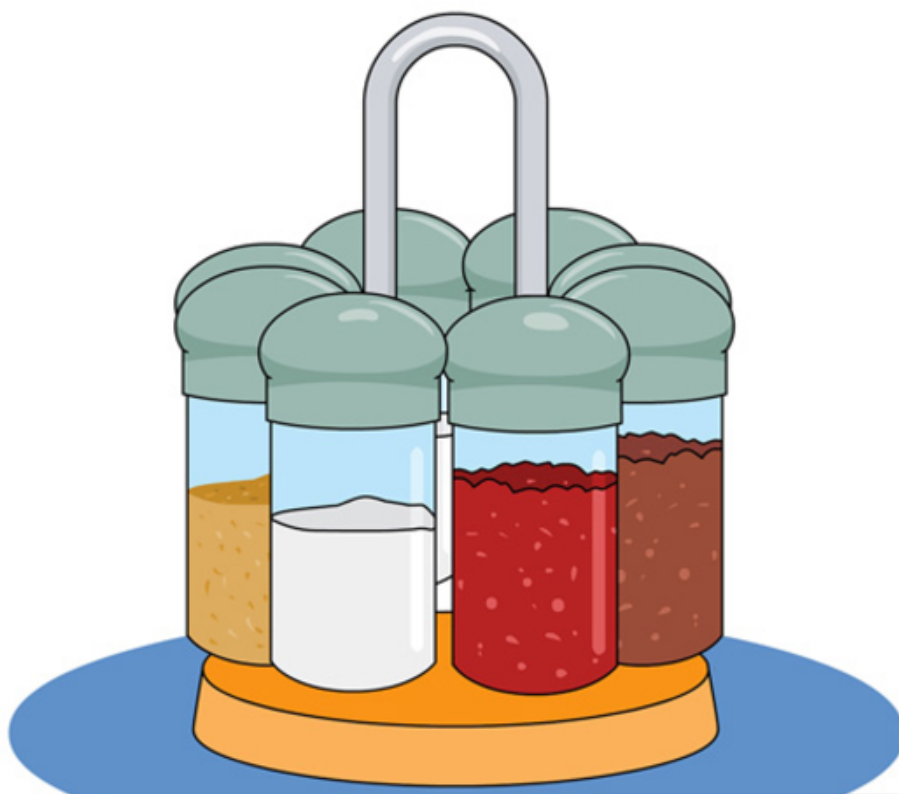




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The South Florida Wildlife Center is looking for any extra old cooking spices (preferably non-spicy) and/or old perfume or cologne to be donated for their Animal Ambassadors, to be used for olfactory enrichment. If any of our volunteers want to give their old spices and old perfume/cologne some repurposing, we can send them to the Wildlife Care Center. We will collect the items at Anne Kolb.





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The Magnificent Frigatebird By Art Van Arsdale

Recently, during one of our kayak cleanup expeditions, we were graced by a winter arrival, the Magnificent Frigatebird. While these birds are somewhat common throughout the year, the population spends much of the year spread across the ocean. In winter they return from their wanderings and the population congregates in the Dry Tortugas to mate.

This large oceanic traveler has a wing span of up to 7 feet across. An adult bird usually weighs about 3 1/2 pounds. It has the largest wingspan to weight ratio of any bird. This enables it to glide effortlessly for hours without flapping its wings. Typical coloration for this bird is all black for the males and black with white markings around the throat for the females and juveniles. It has a long forked tail that is usually held closed when gliding. However, this species is remarkably acrobatic. When it's in a situation where it needs to turn quickly, its tail opens into a fork. This design is seen in many highly maneuverable birds that catch insects in mid-flight. Exquisitely designed to move through the air, it can barely walk on land due to its extremely short legs.

Many offshore fishermen look for this bird while trolling. A diving frigate bird can be an indication of bait near the surface. These bait often attract mahi and sailfish.

Frigatebirds are known for its feeding skills. It feeds by two methods. The first type is when it spends its time gliding over the open ocean looking for food near the surface. Most of what it eats is comprised of either squid or flying fish. When it sees food, it will swoop down and pick the food off the surface. It will not land or plunge into the water like an Osprey, because it is not waterproof.

The second method of feeding, the one it is most known for and which you may have seen in documentaries, is aerial piracy. As noted before, the forked tail on this bird makes it remarkably acrobatic. It will engage in a dogfight with a variety of birds trying to force them to disgorge whatever food they have eaten. When they do the frigatebird will swoop down and pluck the disgorged food out of mid air.

Even though it has been known to live here at least since Europeans arrived, breeding was not confirmed in Florida until the late 1960s. At the well-known rookery at Fort Jefferson National Park in the Dry Tortugas, nesting did not begin until 1988. The species nest in tropical areas both in the Caribbean and on the western coast of central and south America. The only place it nests in the U.S. is in the Dry Tortugas west of Key West. It tends to nest far from human habitation. There are known cases of abandoned rookeries due to human disturbances. It's a bit ironic but the only rookery at Marquesas Key was abandoned because of eco-tours nearing the island.

Nesting usually takes place among mangroves. A perched male will inflate his throat pouch into a huge red balloon. Females flying overhead will select a single male and mate with it. Females build a nest with materials provided to it by a male. The female will raise the young for approximately one year. Males will only help the raising young for three months. After that, males leave the nest and start trying to breed again. Researchers think that this helps raise the chance of at least one offspring reaching adulthood because there is a very high mortality rate among the babies.

Outside of breeding season this bird has been found from Alaska to Peru on one coast and from Canada to South America, west to Africa on the other. Although this bird may travel thousands of miles a year they seem to return to the same rookery to nest year after year. DNA testing has shown very little mixing of genes among different rookeries. This suggests that much like sea turtles, frigatebirds return to the same spot for nesting for generations.

*photos on next page



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Male frigatebird at Fort
Jefferson Nat'l Park.
Note red throat pouch.

Female frigatebird at same
location

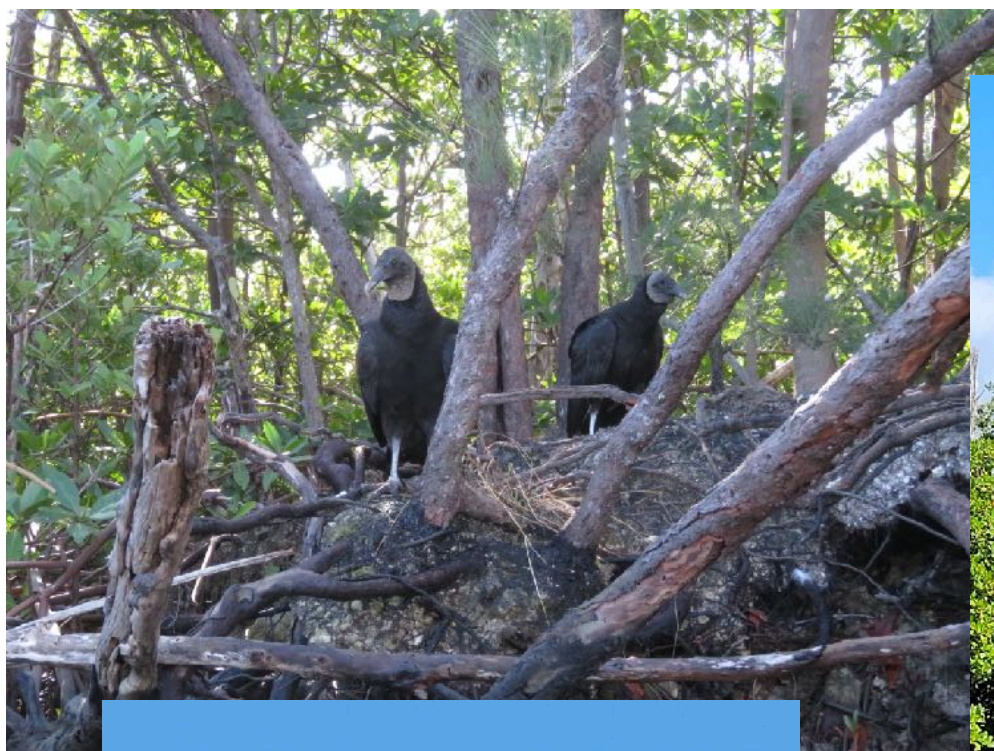




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A Black Vulture group spotted in West Lake and the Tricolor Heron is still around the Lake.





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Trashy Kayaking continues through the end of the year. Beautiful days on the water with persistent trash collectors. Come join us in the New Year, beginners welcome.





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Nature's Gifts Event on December 12th





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Reflections on the last day of 2021 at West Lake and Anne Kolb Nature Center
By: Margaret C.





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**WEST LAKE PARK
ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER
HOLLYWOOD NORTH BEACH PARK**

Please call the Anne Kolb Nature Center to register
And for more information at 954-357-5161, Ext. 0
January– February– March
2022 Programs

FREE TRAIL STROLL

Sunday, January 2 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Free – All Ages
Treat yourself to a free, guided introductory boardwalk stroll through the mangrove swamp!

**FRIENDS OF ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER-
VOLUNTEER MEETING**

Thursday, January 6, February 3
Thursday, March 3
-Free- Ages 13+ 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Monthly Volunteer Meeting. Interested patrons are welcome to attend and learn about our volunteer program.

FREE TRAIL STROLL - MANGROVE MONDAYS

Monday, January 10, February 14, March 14
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
-Free- All Ages
Come start your week off by taking a free guided trail stroll through our mangrove estuary on the Lake Observation Trail.

ECO-ACTION DAY

Saturday, January 15, February 19, March 19
9:00 a.m. – Noon
-Free- Ages 13+ w/parental signature
Volunteer in the parks picking up trash, removing exotics, planting as needed.

NATURE TOT: AT WEST LAKE PARK

Tuesday, January 18, February 15, March 15
-\$5 per child – Ages 2 – 4
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Register Online: Broward.org/Parks
Program Location: West Lake Park
Enjoy fun nature themed activities for young children.

PLANKTON-A-PLENTY HIKE

Saturday, January 22
-\$3 per person- All Ages 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Come and learn about the mangrove estuary. Discover some amazing microscopic organisms found here, the valuable role they play and observe them under the microscope. Meet at the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall.

MANATEE MANIA! SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, January 29 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
-\$2 per person- All Ages
Come join us to learn about the gentle sea cow, including information about its habits and habitat. There will also be manatee themed arts and crafts. Our guest speaker on manatees will be Pat Quinn, Ph.D., Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Broward County Natural Resources Division. Event speaker starts at 1:00 p.m.

NIGHT HIKE BY THE SEASHORE

Friday, February 4 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
-\$5 per person- Pre-registration and required call 954-357-5161 for registration details.
Learn techniques for observing creatures of the night and hike the beach and coastal areas.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, February 12 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
-Free- All Ages
Learn how to use Florida Native Plants in your yard and purchase plants at our Native Plant Sale benefiting the Friends of Anne Kolb Nature Center.

ENDANGERED! SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, February 26 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
-\$2 per person- All Ages
Learn about endangered and threatened animals, with information about the issues that impact them, along with suggestions on ways to help. There will also be themed arts and crafts. Meet at the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall.



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FREE TRAIL STROLL

Sunday, February 27 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Free – All Ages

Treat yourself to a free, guided introductory boardwalk stroll through the mangrove swamp!

WATERWAY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, March 5 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
-Free – All Ages

Help clean up the environment at the annual Waterway Cleanup. Sign in at the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall. Pre-registration required.

***BASIC KAYAK CLASS**

Sunday, March 6 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
-\$35 per person plus tax – Pre-registration required 48 hours in advance.

Learn the strokes, braces, and turning techniques necessary to paddle a single kayak. Then practice your new skills during a brief paddle on one of the park's marked trails.

FREE TRAIL STROLL

Saturday, March 6 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
-Free- All Ages

Treat yourself to a free, guided introductory boardwalk stroll through the mangrove swamp!

BASIC STANDUP PADDLEBOARD CLASS

Sunday, March 13 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
\$35 per person plus tax – Pre-registration required 48 hours in advance.

After a short land-based introduction, learn the techniques, strokes, and positions of paddle-boarding in our calm cove. Then venture out to the lake to explore the mangrove forest using your new SUP skills.

***MOONLIGHT PADDLE**

Wednesday, March 16 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
-\$35 per person plus tax – Pre-registration required 48 hours in advance.

Explore the trails of West Lake under the full moon. Suitable for experienced paddlers only, or those who have completed one of the parks paddling classes. Single/double kayaks and canoes available.

***WEST LAKE PADDLING ECO TOUR**

Sunday, March 20 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
\$35 per person plus tax – Pre-registration required 48 hours in advance.

Tour the trails of West Lake Park and learn about its history and inhabitants with one of the Marina's nature guides.

ALL ABOUT WATER SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, March 26 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
-\$2 per person – All

Celebrate the wonder of water as we explore its value in nature, our planet and to us. Learn about World Water Day held on March 22nd and the importance of freshwater management. Meet at the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall.

SHELLS AND CLAWS HIKE

Sunday, March 27 11:00 a.m. – Noon
-\$3 per person – All Ages

A variety of Arthropods and Mollusks call the nature center home. Head down one of our trails in search of some of these fascinating creatures. Meet at the Anne Kolb Nature Center Exhibit Hall.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Inquire about our site's volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Consider becoming a park's volunteer in our VIP (Volunteers Improving Parks) program and join the Friends of Anne Kolb Nature Center volunteer group. Contact the Park Naturalist @ 954-357-5174



*Ages 13 – 17 require parent/guardian signature to go alone and must be accompanied by a parent/guardian in another boat.
(Pre-Registration & Prepayment is Required)