



NATURAL HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES

The Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve and the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department present the Natural History Speaker Series, a program that offers fascinating presentations on the natural and cultural history of Florida by individuals who are authorities in their fields.

Second Tuesday from September through April at 7 PM

Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
1101 Country Club Way South, St. Petersburg, FL

SEPTEMBER 10: “SENSING WILDLIFE”

By Jeanne Murphy + Brain Lane, *Biologists*

Seminole, FL

Despite the urbanization sweeping across the state, Florida maintains an exciting diversity of wildlife species, including those living in our backyards. During this very interactive, hands-on presentation, learn how increasing your outdoor awareness will assist you in noticing wildlife signs, as well as identifying wildlife presence without actually seeing any animals. Vocalizations, scats, and tracks are only a few ways that Sensing Nature biologists will lead you through your sensory awareness adventure.

OCTOBER 8: “LIFE CYCLE OF BUTTERFLIES”

By Paul Trunk, *Clearwater Audubon Society*

Clearwater, FL

Would you like to learn how butterflies survive their metamorphosis from egg to adult? Join us as our speaker discusses the strategies butterflies use to survive from egg to adult with the focus being on the butterflies of Florida.

NOVEMBER 12: “BIG LIZARDS BEHAVING BADLY IN FLORIDA”

By Todd S. Campbell, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Tampa

Tampa, FL

Since being introduced, Nile monitor lizards and tegus have become established where they have had an adverse impact. While biologists have focused much of their research on studying their spread and impact, the question that should be asked is how can we prevent non-native species from becoming established in the first place? Join us for a talk on early detection and rapid response as a way to thwart their establishment.

DECEMBER 10: “THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FLORIDA - PART 2”

By Christopher A. Nichol Sr., Assistant Professor, St. Petersburg College

Seminole, FL

Are you curious to learn about the early history of Florida? Come join us for an informative presentation about its first human inhabitants and to how it grew into the state that it is today. You will come to realize what a special place Florida truly is.

JANUARY 14: “FLORIDA’S MANGROVES”

By Gary Raulerson, PhD, Ecologist, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Tampa, FL

Mangrove forests protect our coasts from erosion and storm surge, improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, and are nurseries for fish, crustaceans, and wading birds. Join us as our speaker, an ecologist and mangrove expert, discusses the value of these trees and their role in coastal ecosystems.

FEBRUARY 11: “ADVENTURES WITH SWALLOW-TAILED KITES”

By Margaret Haas, Birdwatcher

Sarasota, FL

Our speaker will share her experiences and photos of swallow-tailed kites. She has encountered 44 of these beautiful birds roosted in a neighborhood tree morning and evening for six weeks before migrating over the Gulf to South America in the summer of 2016. This is a rare occurrence in a residential area. She has continued to learn about and observe these kites, and is coordinating with expert avian biologists researching this imperiled species.

MARCH 10: “FLORIDA RED TIDE AND OTHER HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS ON OUR WATERWAYS”

By Celia Villac, PhD, Scientist, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

St. Petersburg, FL

Come and learn about the causes and consequences of red tide and other harmful algal blooms in terms of their effects on other marine life as well as potential economic and social impacts. Find out what you need to know, what precautions to take when consuming seafood, and what research is being done to help mitigate its adverse effects.

APRIL 14: “GETTING TO KNOW FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS”

By Bruce Turley, Owner, Wilcox Nursery, Inc.

Largo, FL

Florida native plants evolved here with the birds that reside and migrate in Florida, making them the top choices for planting in your wildlife-friendly landscape. Learn about some of the great native plants you can use for attracting and sustaining birds in your yard with specific plant examples from our speaker.

For additional details on presentations:
www.stpeteparksrec.org/NHSS | 727-893-7326

