



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Dec 2nd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – RIVERVIEW POINTE PRESERVE BIO BLITZ – Be a citizen scientist for the day! During this Bioblitz at Riverview Pointe Preserve, participants of all ages and experience levels will work alongside natural resource staff and local experts to document as many plant and animal species as possible. This hands-on citizen science event deepens ecological understanding, builds community connections, and highlights the incredible biodiversity found in our local preserves. Program suitable for all ages. Please wear closed-toed shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, sun protection and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide all supplies needed for the BioBlitz plus ice water refills. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/riverview-pointe-preserve-bio-blitz>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. Riverview Pointe Preserve

Wednesday, Dec 3rd, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – MANATEE AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDING TOUR: EMERSON POINT – Search the skies for Florida's fabulous fliers! Our Audubon guide will lead participants on a tour through Emerson Point's coastal hammock and mangrove habitats. Check out the "locals" as well as the migratory birds that are wintering here. Program suitable for adults. Program sponsored by Manatee County Audubon Society in partnership with Manatee County. Reservations are required. To register please contact billielknight@yahoo.com or call (941) 592-7622. Emerson Point Preserve – Ranger Station

Wednesday, Dec 3rd, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM – SOAR IN 4 FAMILY NIGHT – Soar in 4 occurs the first Wednesday of each month in downtown Bradenton. Families visit demonstration tables facilitated by Manatee County teachers, non-profit organizations, and volunteers to learn how to use various materials to support the 'spotlight book,' as well as incorporate take-home items to continue to play, create, learn, and explore at home together. These monthly events provide families with the resources and information to become their child's best 'first teacher' at home. All activities are aligned to classroom learning. Program suitable for children and their families. Program sponsored by Soar in 4 in partnership with Manatee County. No reservations required. For more information please visit www.soarin4.org. The Bishop Museum

Thursday, Dec 4th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NATIVE PLANTING IN DUETTE PRESERVE – Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or brand new to wildlife observation, this engaging event is a great way to learn, explore, and contribute to conservation efforts. Program suitable for ages 8+. Please wear closed-toed shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, sun protection and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide all supplies needed for the BioBlitz plus ice water refills. We will meet at Dry Prairie Baptist Church and head to Duette Preserve from there. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/native-planting-at-lake-manatee-in-duette-preserve>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. Dry Prairie Baptist Church



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Thursday, Dec 4th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – GREEN EXPLORERS: CRAFTING NATURE – Holidays are approaching, and it's time to get crafty, precisely, wildcrafting. Wildcrafting is mindfully harvesting natural items and using imagination to make unique pieces. Green Explorer is a low-structure, highly social, and experienced-based activity. Program suitable for all ages recommended for age 6-12 year olds, but all ages welcome. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/green-explorers-nature-crafting-2025>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion**

Friday, Dec 5th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – NEW Program! Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga>. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Friday, Dec 5th & Saturday, Dec 6th, 3:00 PM – 7:30 PM – PALMETTO'S CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK – Shell-ebrate the holiday season at Palmetto's Christmas in the Park at Palmetto Historical Park & the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. Come enjoy reindeer games, holiday crafts, and festive decorations themed around "A Coastal Christmas!" Event suitable for all ages *Visits with Santa require additional registration. Please see the website for details.* Tickets are required to attend this event. All tickets are FREE but quantities are limited. To register please visit <https://www.manateecountyagmuseum.com/christmas-in-the-park>. **Palmetto Historical Park**

Saturday, Dec 6th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Monday, Dec 8th, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – SUNSET TAI CHI AT THE NEST – Join us for this monthly class at the NEST! At sunset on the second Monday of the month, Dr. Brian Nell, a certified Tai Chi instructor, will lead the group through the gentle movements of Tai Chi. This is a great way to shake off the stressful work week. Improve your balance, loosen your joints, and improve flexibility as you relax and breathe. This class is perfect for beginners and will include an exploration of several different styles of Tai Chi and Qigong. This class is held rain or shine. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by Cypress Pillar Healing Arts in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-tai-chi>. For more information please contact aedan.stockdale@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn**



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

*Tuesday, Dec 9th, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – VOLUNTEEN - TRAIL MAINTENANCE – Join our VolunTeen project to help improve Emerson Point's trails by trimming vegetation and adding bank run to fill in trail holes. Make a difference outdoors! Program suitable for ages 13-18 *Please wear closed-toed shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, sun protection and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide all supplies needed for the BioBlitz plus ice water refills.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/volunteen-trail-maintenance-at-emerson-point-preserve>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. **Emerson Point Preserve***

*Wednesday, Dec 10th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TORTOISE TALK – Join us for this informal program on the lawn of the NEST as we take our education tortoise out to graze! In the wild, foraging is an integral part of a gopher tortoise's lifestyle, so we encourage it as much as possible. Stop by and say hello, get a chance to meet him up close, and ask any questions you may have. Learn all about what tortoises need to survive, how we care for our tortoise, and what efforts we can take to protect these important members of our Florida ecosystems. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn***

*Thursday, Dec 11th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – EMERSON POINT TRAIL KEEPERS – Help care for Emerson Point's trails by removing invasive plants and trimming vegetation to keep paths clear and healthy. Program suitable for ages 8 + *Please wear closed-toed shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, sun protection and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide all supplies needed for the BioBlitz plus ice water refills.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/emerson-point-trail-keepers>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. **Emerson Point Preserve***

*Friday, Dec 12th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – TIDE TREKKER PADDLE CLEAN-UP – Paddle the waters of Emerson Point while helping clean the shoreline! Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets provided. Program suitable 12 + *Please wear closed-toed shoes, comfortable outdoor clothing, sun protection and bring a reusable water bottle. We will provide all supplies needed for the BioBlitz plus ice water refills.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/tide-trekker-paddle-clean-up-at-emerson-point>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. **Emerson Point Preserve***

*Friday, Dec 12th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – NEW Program! Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga>. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Friday, Dec 12th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – NATURE TALES: SONG OF THE WILD – Does your kiddo enjoy stories and nature? Join us at Conservatory Park for Nature Tales. Each month we will meet at Conservatory Park for an interactive story time and activities in the great outdoors. This month we will explore the songs of wild creatures found in your backyard. Program suitable for 8-year-old and younger. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/nature-tales-song-of-the-wild>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org.

Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion

Friday, Dec 12th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – GAME NIGHT AT THE NEST – Are you ready to learn a new game, or are you interested in sharing a much-beloved board game with others? Drop into the building for an evening of tabletop gaming fun! Borrow a nature-themed game from our game library or bring your favorite game from home. Meet new people and try something new. Role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons are welcome too. We only ask that all content and conversations remain family-friendly. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations not required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/december-game-night-at-the-nest>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org.

Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

Saturday, Dec 13th, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, & 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – YOUTH ARCHERY (3 SESSIONS) – Set your sights on the exciting outdoor activity of archery! This program will provide participants with basic archery instruction, familiarization with archery equipment, and instruction in shooting techniques that create successful archers. All equipment will be provided for use. Program is suitable for children ages 6 to 16. Three identical sessions are offered. Please register for only one session each month. Program is suitable for children ages 6 to 16. Program sponsored by the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in partnership with Manatee County. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/december-youth-archery-2025>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org.

Moody Branch

Saturday, Dec 13th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required.

Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

Saturday, Dec 13th, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – CHRISTMAS IN CORTEZ – FREE family-friendly event with crafts, games, bounce house, maze, Santa meet-and-greet & other holiday festivities for the whole family! There will be food available on-site for purchase but admission, parking, & ALL activities are free of charge. Event suitable for all ages. Parking available at F.I.S.H. Preserve located on Cortez Road - no parking at the museum. No reservations are required. For more information please visit <https://www.floridamaritimemuseum.org/christmas-in-cortez>.

Florida Maritime Museum



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

*Tuesday, Dec 16th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – FORAGING FLORIDA: UPLAND HABITATS – Get ready for an incredibly edible introduction to Florida's native plants. Join Naturalist Aedan to explore nature's bounty across Florida's many landscapes. Learn all about different delicacies that grow in Manatee County's preserves and throughout Florida too. Join us for a hike to explore various native plants and their uses. Program suitable for adults. *Moody Branch Preserve has no restrooms, please use the restroom before arriving. Please bring water and wear long pants and close-toed shoes as we will be walking over rough terrain and off-trail.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/foraging-florida-upland-habitats>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Moody Branch Preserve***

*Wednesday, Dec 17th, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – SOAR LAB: GOPHER TORTOISES – Our partners at Soar in 4 just opened an incredible interactive museum for the youngsters in your life, called the Soar Lab. Inside is a room devoted to building complete with a giant Light Brite and Legos. A tinker room filled with kid-friendly tools and a gigantic art room packed with easels, puppets, and a stage. Open five days a week, check out soarin4.org for more detailed information. One Wednesday a month, our education staff will join the museum for some fun hands-on nature play. The theme this quarter is building. Program suitable for preschool age children and below. *Program sponsored by Soar in partnership with Manatee County. While the Soar Lab is free for most families, please consult the soarin4.org/soar-lab/ website for more information.* No reservations are required. For more information please visit <https://soarin4.org/soar-lab/>. **Soar Lab***

*Thursday, Dec 18th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: POLYMER CHAINS – All living things are made of polymers! Polymers are large molecules made of small units called monomers linked together, just like DNA. Come explore the molecule chains found in nature, build your own DNA strand and become a polymer chain in action. Program recommended for students ages 7-13 *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Guardians are responsible for identifying the learning maturity of their child. Please note the location of this session. Don't forget to register for the waitlist if at capacity!* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/homeschool-science-club-polymer-chains-rye>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Rye Preserve – Pavilion***

*Friday, Dec 19th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – NEW Program! Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga>. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

*Friday, Dec 19th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: POLYMER CHAINS – All living things are made of polymers! Polymers are large molecules made of small units called monomers linked together, just like DNA. Come explore the molecule chains found in nature, build your own DNA strand and become a polymer chain in action. Program recommended for students ages 7-13 *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Guardians are responsible for identifying the learning maturity of their child. Please note the location of this session. Don't forget to register for the waitlist if at capacity!* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/homeschool-science-club-polymer-chains-emerson>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Large Pavilion #1***

*Saturday, Dec 20th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

Saturday, Dec 20th – Sunday, Jan 26th – OPEN APPLICATIONS: MANATEE YOUTHS RESPECTING OUR OUTDOORS THROUGH SERVICE (MY ROOTS) – MY ROOTS is an adventure-based volunteer experience designed for teens ages 13–18 (students who have completed 8th grade and not yet graduated high school). Participants will earn volunteer service hours while exploring Manatee County's unique habitats and natural resources. The group will meet on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of each month from February through April to complete a service project at different locations throughout the county. Each project day lasts approximately 6 hours (including traveling) and may include visits to multiple preserves and participation in a variety of environmental service projects. Programs typically begin in the morning, with start times subject to change based on weather conditions. Participants should be prepared for the physical demands of outdoor activities in Florida's environment. Transportation between project sites will be provided. PARENTS: This is a drop-off program, and all volunteers will be supervised by two trained staff members certified in Wilderness Survival, First Aid, CPR, and AED. Participation is free, but an application is required to join the service program. At the end of the program, participants will have earned 20 volunteer hours and will receive a signed certificate of completion, which may be used for scholarship or college applications. Program suitable for ages 13-18. Applications are required. To register please visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZGCJfxP1tF9-E9ttrE9yBcEoowxReSJK1EPHTF2YvIm7HsQ/viewform?usp=dialog>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org.



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

*Monday, Dec 22nd, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – WONDER WALK: NEAL PRESERVE – “It’s the most wonderful time of the year” to explore Neal Preserve. Peer over the bridges and search the skies for fliers as we walk the trail. Exploring the preserves, we never know what memorable natural experience you will spy. Program suitable for people of all ages. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/wonder-walk-neal>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Neal Preserve – Pavilion***

*Friday, Dec 26th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – NEW Program! Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga>.*

Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

*Saturday, Dec 27th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow’s nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

*Saturday, Dec 27th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – STARRY NIGHT ASTRONOMY – Join us for an astronomical extravaganza! Dozens of local astronomers will be set up in the Robinson Preserve Expansion with telescopes at the ready. Be sure to bring a sense of wonder and exploration as we view the skies through high-powered telescopes. Learn how to identify heavenly bodies, and how you can stargaze at home too. Program suitable for all ages. *Program sponsored by Suncoast Stargazers in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-astronomy>. **Robinson Preserve – Expansion Parking Lot***

*Monday, Dec 29th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us for special seasonal hours, crafts, and activities at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow’s nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

*Tuesday, Dec 30th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us for special seasonal hours, crafts, and activities at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow’s nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***



Eco-Events December 2025

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Dec 30th, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – WONDER WALK: MOODY BRANCH PRESERVE – It's the most wonderful time of the year" to head East. Ramble through scrub habitat and oak hammocks in search of wild Florida. We may even see a wild scrub jay! There is much to see and hear while exploring Manatee County preserves. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/wonder-walk-moody-branch>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. Moody Branch Preserve – Pavilion

*Tuesday, Dec 30th, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – FISHING CLUB – Looking to try fishing? Have a burning question about a lure or rig? Bring your fishing gear or borrow ours and come get your answers at Fishing Club! Instructors can answer your questions, teach you the basics or just recommend the best places to fish in the preserve. ¿Le gustaría experimentar con la pesca? ¿Tiene una pregunta sobre un señuelo de pesca? ¡Traiga su equipo de pesca o hasta tome el de nosotros prestado y disfrute de un día de pesca! Los maestros les pueden responder a sus preguntas, enseñarle lo básico sobre la pesca o hasta recomendar áreas para pescar en la reserva natural. Program suitable for all ages. *Program sponsored by the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in partnership with Manatee County. Fishing poles are available to borrow on a first come, first served basis, for the duration of the program. Bait will be provided for the duration of the program. La carnada será proveída durante el evento y habrán cañas de pescar, mientras disponibles, para tomar prestadas por la duración del evento. Club para todas las edades. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/fishing-club-december2025>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org.**

Perico Bayou Kayak Launch – Fishing Bridge South of Robinson

Wednesday, Dec 31st, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us for special seasonal hours, crafts, and activities at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

Wednesday, Dec 31st, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TORTOISE TALK – Join us for this informal program on the lawn of the NEST as we take our education tortoise out to graze! In the wild, foraging is an integral part of a gopher tortoise's lifestyle, so we encourage it as much as possible. Stop by and say hello, get a chance to meet him up close, and ask any questions you may have. Learn all about what tortoises need to survive, how we care for our tortoise, and what efforts we can take to protect these important members of our Florida ecosystems. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn