



Eco-Events February 2026

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Monday, Feb 2nd, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – LIBRARY LEARNING: LEAVE NO TRACE – Do you know the best practices for experiencing the preserve passively? Whether you are a through hiker ready to refresh your memory or a Sunday stroller who's realizing how to protect our treasured preserves, a new nugget of knowledge is waiting. Simple and Impactful, Leave No Trace principles are an important tool in every trail adventure. Learning step by step, we will uncover the straightforward way you can make a difference in the wild places. These steps can even help wildlife in your own backyard. Program suitable for adults. Program sponsored by Manatee County Library in partnership with Manatee County. Reservations not required. To register please visit <https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/15640042>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. South Manatee Library

Wednesday, Feb 4th, 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, Feb 4th, 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

Friday, Feb 6th, 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



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Friday, Feb 6th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – GAME NIGHT – What is more family than Board Game Night? 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. Snacks will be provided. Program suitable for all ages.

*Reservations not required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/february-game-night-at-the-nest>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST***

Saturday, Feb 7th, 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, Feb 7th, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – FROGWATCH BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST – Train as a FrogWatch USA citizen scientist to identify frog and toad calls and collect monthly data that supports nationwide amphibian research. Ages 12+ Program suitable for ages 12 + Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/frogwatch-become-a-citizen-scientist-6v98xxlc>. For more information please visit <https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/15717260> or contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Lakewood Ranch Library**

Tuesday, Feb 10th, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – HOW DO I GET STARTED AND FALL IN LOVE WITH KAYAKING – If you have ever thought about kayaking, especially in our wonderful preserves, then this is for you! Listen, learn and ask questions as our kayak guide from WayneAdventures talks about the opportunities to paddle the Manatee County award-winning blueway trails. How can I have a safe and wonderful experience? How do I choose the right kayak, paddle and gear? All attendees will receive a 'next step' checklist and a copy of Paddle Manatee. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by WayneAdventures in partnership with Manatee County. This is a classroom-style program taking place inside the NEST and we will not be on the water.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/how-do-i-get-started-and-fall-in-love-with-kayaking-cvtv6ebz>. For more information please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**



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*Wednesday, Feb 11th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – KAYAKING FOR FIRST TIMERS – If you'd like to try kayaking, come on out! No prior experience necessary! Join our instructors from WayneAdventures and Manatee County Natural Resources for a 3-hour class during which we will explore the marshes and mangroves of Robinson Preserve. This will be a slow-paced paddle intended to give you time to get used to your kayak while exploring the Preserve. There will be plenty of time to try out kayaking and get some coaching, too. For those interested in learning how to load a kayak on your car, a demo will follow. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by WayneAdventures in partnership with Manatee County. Participants should bring a water bottle and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. We recommend sun protection, bug spray, and closed-toed shoes; no flip flops. Participants must wear a life jacket. Kayaks and gear are available to borrow. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/kayaking-for-first-timers-sd5r7swh>. For more information please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org. Robinson Preserve – South Kayak Launch - Expansion**

Thursday, Feb 12th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TREETOTS: ANIMAL MOVEMENT – Hop like a bunny, slide like a snail, and fly like an owl, animal movements are everywhere. TreeTots is an interactive program that uses song, action, and play to encourage the youngest family members to explore nature. Program suitable for 3-year-old and younger. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/treetots-animal-movement-azzaw7v>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST

*Thursday, Feb 12th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: VIRGINIA OPOSSUM, AN EXCELLENT MARSUPIAL! – There is only one marsupial found across North America, the Virginia Opossum. Escaping predatory pressures of the past, opossums have developed special adaptations for their survival. Come learn about marsupials, their special characteristics and discover how opossums are excellent marsupials! 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-marsupials-rye>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. Rye Preserve – Pavilion**

Friday, Feb 13th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – TIDE TREKKERS KAYAK SHORELINE CLEAN-UP - PINE ISLAND (BRADEN RIVER) – Paddle with purpose! Join us for a kayak shoreline cleanup on the Braden River and help protect local waterways. Program suitable for ages 12 + Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/tide-trekkers-kayak-shoreline-clean-up-pine-island-braden-river>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. State Road 64 Boat Ramp



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Friday, Feb 13th, 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, Feb 14th, 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**

Sunday, Feb 15th, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM – BEACH CLEAN-UP – MANATEE BEACH PARK – Join Manatee County Natural Resources for a community beach cleanup at Manatee Public Beach. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help remove litter and debris that can harm wildlife and impact coastal ecosystems. Program suitable for all ages. *We'll meet in the parking lot next to the Manatee County Natural Resources truck. All cleanup supplies will be provided. Just bring water, sun protection, and closed-toe shoes. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the beach, give back to the community, and support local conservation efforts.*

Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/beach-clean-up-manatee-beach-park-yhbl7rtg>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org or call (941) 392-3885. **Manatee Beach Park**

Tuesday, Feb 17th, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – VOLUNTEENS TRAIL CLEAN-UP – RYE WILDERNESS PRESERVE – Calling teens ages 13–18! Help clean trails at Rye Preserve while earning volunteer service hours. Program recommended for ages 13 - 18 *VolunTeens is a volunteer opportunity designed specifically for teens ages 13–18 who want to give back to the environment and earn service hours. During this event, participants will help clean and maintain trails at Rye Wilderness Preserve.*

Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/volunteens-trail-clean-up-rye-wilderness-preserve>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Rye Preserve**

Wednesday, Feb 18th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – RIP SQUAD – TRAIL CLEARING & INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL – Get hands-on with habitat restoration! Help clear trails and remove invasive plants with RIP Squad. Program suitable for ages 12 + *Join Rip Squad for a hands-on volunteer workday focused on trail clearing and invasive plant removal. Volunteers will remove dead branches, debris, and invasive plants to help improve trail access and restore native habitat. We will meet in the parking lot at the south entrance of Robinson*

Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/rip-squad-trail-clearing-and-invasive-plant-removal>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve (south)**



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*Wednesday, Feb 18th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SOAR LAB – 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 nature. Program suitable for children 3rd grade and below. *Program sponsored by Soar in 4 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. Reservations are not required. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. Soar Lab**

*Thursday, Feb 19th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – ARCHAEO PADDLE – Journey through the mangrove forests of Robinson Preserve with an archaeologist from the Florida Public Archaeology Network and discover the historical uses of the land, ecological restoration and how to spot the evidence or remains of indigenous people's past. Program suitable for ages 16 and older who can meet the County's minimum eligibility requirements. *Program sponsored by Florida Public Archaeology Network in partnership with Manatee County. Single kayaks, paddles, and life jackets are available to borrow free of charge on a first come-first served basis. All participants must wear a life jacket and bring a whistle. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/archaeo-paddle-feb2026>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. Robinson Preserve – North Kayak Launch**

Friday, Feb 20th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TALL TAIL TRIBE: ABC WALK – A is for ant and B is for bark. What do you think C will stand for? Come and join other preschoolers on a nature hike searching for all the letters of the alphabet. We will trek through Emerson Point Preserve, exploring different habitats, finding the entire alphabet on the trail, and discovering new nature words. Program suitable for Preschool age children. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/abc-walk>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. Emerson Point Preserve – First Parking lot on right after entering

*Friday, Feb 20th, 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**



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*Friday, Feb 20th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: VIRGINIA OPOSSUM, AN EXCELLENT MARSUPIAL! – There is only one marsupial found across North America, the Virginia Opossum. Escaping predatory pressures of the past, opossums have developed special adaptations for their survival. Come learn about marsupials, their special characteristics and discover how opossums are excellent marsupials! 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-marsupial-emerson>. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Classroom Pavilion***

*Friday, Feb 20th, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM – PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE GALLERY PRESENTATION – Manatee County Natural Resources invites you to join us for the presentation of the featured photos from the 2024 Photography Challenge! Take a walk through the Valentine House and view photos that tell an extraordinary story about each of our beautiful preserves. If it's true that a picture is worth a thousand words...we will have quite a few stories to tell! Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are recommended. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-photography-challenge-gallery-presentation>. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Valentine House***

*Saturday, Feb 21st, 6:30 PM – 8:30 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***

*Wednesday, Feb 25th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – NATIVE PLANTING – ROBINSON PRESERVE (SOUTH SIDE) – Help restore habitat at Robinson Preserve by planting beach sunflower and other native plants. *Volunteers will continue restoration work from January by planting beach sunflower and other native species that support pollinators, wildlife, and coastal resilience. We will meet in the parking lot on the South side of Robinson.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/native-planting-robinson-preserve-south-side>. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve (south)***



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*Wednesday, Feb 25th, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM – PAINTING WITH THE ELEMENTS: FIELD TRIP SNEAK PEEK – Take a sneak peek of a brand new preserve in the making, Triple Oaks Preserve. Stroll through the grounds as you gather inspiration for a guided painting experience. Pour your creativity into an impressionistic canvas of the natural beauty of the preserve. Program suitable for adults. No refunds. Transportation will be provided from Robinson Preserve to Triple Oaks at 10 am. Alternatively participants may meet us on property at program start time of 11 am. Participants will be able to stroll the property from 11 am - 12 pm. Painting experience will take place from 12 pm - 2 pm. All materials will be provided for the painting experience. Please bring lunch and wear clothes appropriate for the outdoors and painting. Reservations are required. To register please visit [https://parks.mymanatee.org/wbWSC/webtrac.wsc/search.html?interfaceparameter=WebTrac Natural Resources&primarycode=110008](https://parks.mymanatee.org/wbWSC/webtrac.wsc/search.html?interfaceparameter=WebTrac%20NaturalResources&primarycode=110008). For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **\$15 materials fee. Triple Oaks Preserve***

*Thursday, Feb 26th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – GREEN EXPLORERS: EPHEMERAL ART – Building sandcastles on the beach, leaving them for the tide and wind to erode back to the sea, is a classic, beloved childhood activity. Instead of a beach, let your kids come to Conservatory Park to experience ephemeral or temporary art. Using found objects on our walk, your child will be free to create with nature and given time to explore. Program suitable for all ages recommended for age 5-12 year olds, but all ages welcome. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/green-explorers-ephemeral-art>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion***

*Friday, Feb 27th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – NATURE TALES: ANIMAL LIFESPAN – Does your kiddo enjoy stories and nature? Join us at Conservatory Park in Nature Tales. Meet monthly at Conservatory Park for an interactive story and activities. This month, we will dive into the world of animals age. Program suitable for ages 8 year old and younger. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/nature-tales-animal-lifespan>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion***

*Saturday, Feb 28th, 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***



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*Saturday, Feb 28th, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – HIKE WITH A LIBRARIAN – Take a hike! Join our Manatee County Librarian, Kira, as we hike through the book "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben. Then hike through Emerson Point Preserve. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/15658599>. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Classroom Pavilion***

*Saturday, Feb 28th, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM – FROGWATCH BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST – Train as a FrogWatch USA citizen scientist to identify frog and toad calls and collect monthly data that supports nationwide amphibian research. Ages 12+. Program suitable for ages 12 + *As a volunteer, you'll choose a monitoring site from a list of approved local locations and be directly involved in collecting valuable data that helps scientists understand and protect frog and toad populations. After completing this training, it only takes about 30 minutes once a month to contribute meaningful data to this nationwide conservation effort.* Reservations are required. To register please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/frogwatch-become-a-citizen-scientist-qbgvg8w5>. For more information please visit <https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/15675382> or contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Rocky Bluff Library***