



# GTM NERR NEWS

## NERR NEWS is Good News!

February 2012 issue

Have you seen DEPs website for real time weather/water data? It is a great way to track tides when planning a boating or kayaking excursion <http://www.fldep-stevens.com/readings-8720757.php>

GTM Research Reserve also has real time weather data from the Pellicer Creek station.

Water quality <http://nerrsdata.org/get/realTime.cfm?stationCode=GTMPCWQ>

Weather <http://nerrsdata.org/get/realTime.cfm?stationCode=GTMPCMET>

Below are the SWMP summary stats for Water Quality and Meteorological data collected between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Interesting water temps and hardly any rain...

If you wish to download any of the Reserve's (or any of the other 27 NERRS) water quality data it can be found on the NERRS data download website [www.nerrsdata.org](http://www.nerrsdata.org)

### Water Quality

#### Pine Island

	<u>Temp</u> (F)	<u>Salinity</u> (ppt)	<u>DO_pct</u> (%)	<u>DO_mgl</u> (mg/L)	<u>Depth</u> (m)	<u>Depth</u> (ft)	<u>pH</u>	<u>Turb</u> (NTU)
<u>Min</u>	<u>60.6</u>	<u>23.9</u>	<u>67.4</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>1.92</u>	<u>6.30</u>	<u>7.3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Max</u>	<u>86.0</u>	<u>37.1</u>	<u>101.1</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>4.35</u>	<u>14.27</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Average</u>	<u>69.4</u>	<u>33.2</u>	<u>88.7</u>	<u>6.7</u>	<u>3.31</u>	<u>10.86</u>	<u>7.7</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Std Dev</u>		<u>3.0</u>	<u>6.0</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.50</u>		<u>0.1</u>	<u>4</u>

#### San Sebastian

	<u>Temp</u> (F)	<u>Salinity</u> (ppt)	<u>DO_pct</u> (%)	<u>DO_mgl</u> (mg/L)	<u>Depth</u> (m)	<u>Depth</u> (ft)	<u>pH</u>	<u>Turb</u> (NTU)
<u>Min</u>	<u>60.8</u>	<u>31.3</u>	<u>29.6</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Max</u>	<u>83.5</u>	<u>37.3</u>	<u>113.2</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>254</u>
<u>Average</u>	<u>69.3</u>	<u>35.5</u>	<u>90.5</u>	<u>6.6</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Std Dev</u>		<u>0.9</u>	<u>9.6</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>9</u>

#### Fort Matanzas

	<u>Temp</u> (F)	<u>Salinity</u> (ppt)	<u>DO_pct</u> (%)	<u>DO_mgl</u> (mg/L)	<u>Depth</u> (m)	<u>Depth</u> (ft)	<u>pH</u>	<u>Turb</u> (NTU)
<u>Min</u>	<u>60.1</u>	<u>31.1</u>	<u>36.6</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>1.40</u>	<u>4.59</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Max</u>	<u>85.1</u>	<u>37.6</u>	<u>120.4</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>3.42</u>	<u>11.22</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Average</u>	<u>69.6</u>	<u>35.8</u>	<u>95.5</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>2.38</u>	<u>7.81</u>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Std Dev</u>		<u>1.3</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.41</u>		<u>0.1</u>	<u>5</u>

#### Pellicer Creek

	<u>Temp</u> (F)	<u>Salinity</u> (ppt)	<u>DO_pct</u> (%)	<u>DO_mgl</u> (mg/L)	<u>Depth</u> (m)	<u>Depth</u> (ft)	<u>pH</u>	<u>Turb</u> (NTU)
<u>Min</u>	<u>60.1</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>24.3</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>0.98</u>	<u>3.22</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<u>3</u>

<b>Max</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>121.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Std Dev</b>		<b>5.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.24</b>		<b>0.2</b>	<b>8</b>

#### **Weather Station at Pellicer Creek**

	<b>Temp (F)</b>	<b>BP (mb)</b>	<b>WindSpd (m/s)</b>	<b>WindSpd (mph)</b>	<b>Winddir (°)</b>	<b>Winddir</b>	<b>Cumulative Precipitation (in)</b>
<b>Min</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Max</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Std Dev</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2.1</b>		<b>112</b>		

### **GTM RESEARCH RESERVE SCIENTISTS EXAMINE VEGETATION AND SURFACE ELEVATION LEVELS FOR SEA LEVEL RISE STUDY**

Within the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR), researchers are monitoring marsh vegetation and sediment levels to obtain data that will help predict and plan for a projected rise in sea levels and changes in sediment accumulation rates. GTM Research Reserve Environmental Administrator Michael Shirley, PhD, says “This monitoring is our ‘Finger on the Pulse’ of these valuable habitats.”

Science has shown that coastal communities and habitats of the southeastern United States are particularly vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise, sediment erosion, and siltation. The edges of habitats, for instance, where the tide ebbs and flows in a coastal marsh, will be the first place these changes are noticed.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reports that sea level rise is predicted to accelerate and increase by 15.9 inches on average during the next 100 years, a three-fold increase over the current rate of 5.9 inches per century. The National Park Service (NPS) reports that the southeastern United States is characterized by vast expanses of coastal marshland and seagrasses that are vulnerable to rises in sea level. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), a large percentage of the nation’s salt marshes have already been altered, degraded and lost over the past century due to such global processes.

If sediment accumulation rates within tidal salt marshes fail to keep pace with sea level rise, many marsh plants, especially those at the intertidal marsh edge (emergent vegetation), may die as a result of unfavorable tidal conditions (i.e., too much water too much of the time). Subsequently, the death of emergent vegetation such as marsh grasses and mangrove trees at the marsh edge could contribute to further sediment loss since vegetation roots help stabilize the soil and reduce erosion.

Because the marsh edge represents the critical interface between aquatic marsh habitats (e.g. creeks, open water) and the marsh surface, emergent vegetation losses would adversely affect the many marine animals that rely on this habitat. Tidal salt marshes provide habitat and foraging opportunities for numerous fish, shellfish, reptiles and bird species.

Before conservation methods in estuarine marshlands can be adapted by planners and policy makers, scientists must gather reliable, consistent data on biological and physical characteristics of the marsh edge. This is where the effects of sea level rise will likely be seen first, in the form

of plant migration landward, plant die-off, erosion, etc. Such changes can only be measured accurately over an extended period of time, taking into consideration regularly occurring weather conditions, storms, wave events, fluctuating tides, and even human and animal activities.

Researchers at GTM NERR, in collaboration with scientists from the NPS Southeast Coast Network, plan to monitor surface elevation changes (see USGS for more details: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/set/>) and monitor emergent vegetation communities at six sites within the Reserve. Two of the sites are located in the GTM NERR northern component in a Tolomato River marsh area and four are in the southern GTM NERR marshes in Pellicer Creek and the Matanzas River.

To avoid disturbing the marsh surface and vegetation while conducting field sampling, the researchers have constructed and established three sampling platform arrays at each of the six sites, all of which can be accessed by boat. In addition to directly monitoring relative sea level rise, the measurements associated with these platforms will provide an early warning of negative changes in the condition of this important habitat. This will allow researchers to detect the impact of watershed-scale changes as well as sea level rise.

The monitoring also places the marsh in the venerable situation of being among NOAA's highest priority sentinel sites, and also links GTMNERR marshes into larger coast-wide and regional scale studies conducted by the NPS and the National Geodetic Survey.

The GTMNERR was established by NOAA in 1999 and is one of 27 other such NERRs adjacent to national coastlines. For more information regarding the sediment level studies or to learn more about the GTM NERR conservation, research, preservation, and public education programs, call the GTM Research Reserve Education Center at 904-823-4500.

### **Eagle Scout Project- Mounting Block, January 2012**

Nicholas Leisle, a Life Scout from Boy Scout Troop 288, recently completed his Eagle Scout Service Project for the GTM Research Reserve. Nicholas is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and a sophomore in the Stellar Academy of Engineering and IB programs at Nease High School. Nicholas was asked to build a horse mounting platform to assist horse riders, including small children, disabled persons and the elderly, in mounting their horses. With a general design from the GTM Research Reserve, Nicholas utilized the AutoCAD computer program and hand drafting skills taught in his drafting class at Nease High School to fine tune the platform design.

From there, he determined the type and amount of materials that would be needed to construct the platform. His responsibilities also included raising funds for the project and developing a plan to execute the project. The platform was built at GTM's main trailhead over the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend with help from fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 288, the GTM Research Reserve staff, family and friends. (Picture Eagle



Project 181: From left to right - Timmy Kyle, Nicholas Brown, Aaron Dahlin, Nicholas Leisle)

## Cousteau Visits Rookery Bay NERR; Larry the Cable Guy Visit GTM NERR



Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) recently hosted Fabien Cousteau, third generation ocean explorer, in partnership with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and Coastal Resources Group for a brief site visit and press conference about the importance of mangroves. Cousteau visited the Isles of Capri Paddlecraft Park, where a 2010 community mangrove planting is taking root and will soon be open for the public to enjoy as a kayak launch. They also visited Fruit Farm

Creek, the site of a large-scale mangrove die-off near Marco Island. Restoration scientists explained that once they are able to get the water right, new mangroves seedlings will naturally occur within a matter of months. Cousteau spoke to the press about investing in the future health of our coastal economy, which is the basis for his [Plant-A-Fish](#) programs, and the importance of being good stewards to the land.

Further up the coastline at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) NERR, the History Channel was filming a segment about alligator research being done at the reserve. Titled, “Extreme American Critters,” it is featured on “Only in America with Larry the Cable Guy,” and follows reserve graduate research fellow James Nifong and assistant throughout the reserve to learn more about alligators and their impact on ecosystems.



**GTM Reserve 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5K/10K Trail Run Saturday, March 17th, 2012 at 9:00 am**  
**Benefitting Research and Conservation at the GTM Research Reserve** Meet at the trailhead west of Guana River Dam (505 Guana River Rd just off A1A in South Ponte Vedra to enjoy a beautiful outdoor and trail experience at the GTM Reserve 5K and 10K trail run/walk. All proceeds from this event are used to support ongoing research, conservation and Stewardship at the GTM Reserve. Your participation, support and enjoyment are appreciated. Come out and enjoy this Jewel of a natural resource, one of the best---kept secrets around!

**Trail information:** [http://www.gtmnerr.org/GTM\\_Research\\_Reserve\\_Trail\\_Map.pdf](http://www.gtmnerr.org/GTM_Research_Reserve_Trail_Map.pdf)

**Online Registration:** [http://www.active.com/event\\_detail.cfm?event\\_id=2007156](http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=2007156)

Events will be run on the trails at the GTM Reserve using the Shell Bluff Road (yellow), Timucuan (purple), and South Point Loop (red) trails. This is subject to change with weather conditions

**Fee up to 3/10/12:** \$25-5K, \$30-10K

**Fee after 3/10/12:** \$30- 5K, \$35-10K

**Student 5K or 10K:** \$15 (present valid ID at the race)

**Entries limited to 150 people**

**GTM Reserve parking fee: \$3 per car** (or park at the education center at no charge and walk the 400 yards to the trail head)

For information: Breanna Korsman (904) 400--3661 or email [breannakorsman@gmail.com](mailto:breannakorsman@gmail.com)

Day of event sign--up (payable by cash or check if space still exists) 7:30--8:30 A.M. at the trailhead.



**Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook! "GTM Research Reserve" Compliments of the Friends of GTM Reserve**

There is also a blog <http://gtmresearchreserve.blogspot.com/> being put together by one of our fans.

## Activities at the GTM Research Reserve

### **GTM RESEARCH RESERVE CELEBRATES WORLD WETLANDS DAY**

Celebrate World Wetlands Day with the GTM Research Reserve. On February 2, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the world will unite around wetlands in order to demonstrate how they create a healthy Earth, Human, and Economy. Wetland tourism has benefits both locally and nationally for people and wildlife – benefits such as stronger economies, sustainable livelihoods, healthy people and thriving ecosystems. It is worth noting that tourism is only one of the services that wetlands deliver. Ensuring well-managed tourism practices in and around wetlands and educating tourists on the value of wetlands contributes to the health of the world's wetlands and the long-term benefits that wetlands provide to people, wildlife, economics, and biodiversity. There will be many activities for the family to enjoy, including kayaking (\$30), a photo safari (\$69), trail walk (FREE), and fishing activity(FREE). Registration is required. To register and for more information on specific time of activities visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). For questions, you may contact Kenneth Rainer, GTM Education Coordinator at 904-823-4500 or email [kenneth.rainer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:kenneth.rainer@dep.state.fl.us)

### **WEEKEND NATURE MOVIE AT THE GTM RESEARCH RESERVE**

-- *Lagoons for Laypeople: Birds, Fish & Plants of our Lagoons*--

The GTM Research Reserve will present the nature movie "Lagoons for Laypeople", Wetland Wildlife, every Saturday and Sunday during the month of February at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Lagoons for Laypeople is an intimate look at a typical coastal wetland reserve set in the middle of an urban area. Like so many across the country they are often overlooked, misunderstood, and underappreciated. Through breathtaking cinematography, simple understandable narration, and on-screen notes, you'll have a chance to see what makes the lagoon work and why it is essential to protect and preserve them. Running time for the film is 56 minutes. There is no cost to see the movie. If you would like to tour the EEC before or after the movie, the cost is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children age 10 to 17 and children under 10 are free. Call 904-823-4500 for further information.

### **BROWN BAG LUNCH LECTURE --Prescribed Fire Burns and Wildfire Mitigation--**

The GTM Research Reserve will host a brown bag lunch lecture from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Join Timber Weller, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist with the Florida Forest Service, who will present on Prescribed Fire Burns and Wildfire Mitigation (Fire-wise landscaping). Bring your lunch and join us for an interesting presentation. There is no cost to attend the lecture. Reservations are required by calling (904) 823-4500. If you would like to tour the exhibit hall before or after the lecture, the cost is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children age 10 to 17 and children under 10 are free. The GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center is located at 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082.

**TRAIL WALK--1.5 mile guided walk through Guana Trails—**

The GTM Research Reserve will host a trail walk on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 am. Join GTM Volunteer Tom Barry for a 1.5 mile cultural resources walk that the entire family will enjoy. Meet at the trailhead pavilion. Wear comfortable closed toe shoes. There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. Reservations are required. Please call 904-823-4500. The GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center is located at 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082.

**GUIDED NATURE TRAIL TREK VALENTINE'S DAY AT MARINELAND**

On Tuesday, February 14, 9:00 AM – 10:30 A.M., take a Valentine's Day Stroll with GTM Research Reserve volunteer Ron Ceryak, who will guide hikers through Flagler County's "River to Sea Preserve." The Preserve is a wooded coastal hammock between the Ocean and the Matanzas River with a mile-and-half trail. At times you might see turtles, alligators, wading birds, and signs of other critters. Also learn about seasonal flowering shrubs, moss-laden oaks, cedars, mangroves, cabbage palms and other native vegetation as well as Native American lore, including how the Indians made use of various plants for food and medicinal purposes.

Meet the guide in the parking lot of the River to Sea Preserve, located on the west side of A1A at the southern end of the town of Marineland. Directional NERR road signs will be placed at the entrance. Please make reservations by calling 904-823-4500, and wear comfortable, closed toe shoes.

**GTM RESERVE FRIENDS MEETING--Open to the Public—**

The Friends of the GTM Reserve will hold its monthly meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on February 14th. The public is invited to attend. For further information call 904-823-4527.

**BEACHES 101 WALK AT THE GTM RESEARCH RESERVE**

Join GTM Research Reserve volunteers Rick and Roz Edwards from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for a beach walk at the Guana South beach location. Learn about the animals that call the beach their home as well as seashells and other interesting facts. This is a "Beaches 101" experience that the entire family will enjoy. There is a \$3/per vehicle parking fee. After the walk, visit the GTM Research Reserve Environmental Education Center (EEC) or enjoy our many miles of trails. The EEC is located at 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082. Admission fee into the EEC is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children age 10-17 and children under ten are free. For reservations to the walk please call 904-823-4500.

**GTM MARINELAND LECTURE ON BENEFITS OF SNAKES AND OTHER SPECIES**

On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, Joseph Burgess will give a presentation on snakes at the GTM National Estuarine Research Reserve Marineland office from 10am -11am. He will address why snakes are generally misunderstood, which species choose to inhabit our neighborhood, and how they and other wild species benefit the ecosystem. He will bring along three species for viewing and interaction.

Burgess is Resource Management Coordinator at the GTM Research Reserve Education Center in Ponte Vedra. He is a biologist specializing in the study of reptiles and amphibians (Herpetology.) His research and conservation efforts concentrate on Florida's reptile species and conservation of crocodiles and iguanas in the West Indies.

This program is one of an ongoing series held on the third Tuesday of the month at the GTMNERR southern office. The series is designed to help inform the public about their coastal natural world and environmental conservation. The GTM Research Reserve southern office is at the south end of the Town of Marineland at 9741 Ocean Shore Blvd at Hwy A1A. Call for reservations at 904-823-4500.



[www.nisaw.org](http://www.nisaw.org)

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

A week of activities and events to highlight what is being done across the nation to stop and slow the spread of invasive species.

The Nature Conservancy considers invasive species to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. They have directly contributed to the decline of 42% of threatened and endangered species in the US and the annual cost of invasive species to the US economy is around \$120 billion a year.

#### **NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS EVENTS**

**Saturday**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Nature-Wise Community Workshop at Turtle Shores**

Turtle Shores Clubhouse

Event by the GTM Invasive Plant Task Force

**Saturday**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> annual First Coast Air Potato Round-up**

Volunteers are needed to help rid our natural areas of Air Potato vine and other invasive plants. Sites throughout NE FL( see info below). Gather all your friends and family & participate in this fun event! No registration necessary unless you're bringing a large group. Just head over to one of the many work sites! Prizes awarded for the two largest potatoes found!

For more information about the events contact Emily Montgomery at 904-823-2291 or [Emily.Montgomery@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Emily.Montgomery@dep.state.fl.us) To learn more about invasive species, visit: [www.floridainvasives.org](http://www.floridainvasives.org); [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org) or [www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu)

## **5th annual First Coast Air Potato Round-up**

**Saturday March 3<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**9am-12pm Rain or Shine !!**

**Event Work Sites:**

**Egan's Creek Greenway**

adjacent to Egan's Creek  
Greenway corner of Jasmine St.  
& Citrona Dr.,  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

**Site Captain:** Kathy Russell  
Phone: 904-277-7350 ext. 2016  
[krussell@fbfl.org](mailto:krussell@fbfl.org)

**Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park**

500 Wonderwood Drive,  
Jacksonville FL 32233  
Stop at park office and identify as  
a Roundup participant.

**Site Captain:** Brian Burket  
Phone: 904-255-7935  
[BBurket@coj.net](mailto:BBurket@coj.net)

**Howell Park**

Corner of Palm Ave. & Magnolia  
St.,  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

**Site Captain:** Maria Mark  
[mariadmark@gmail.com](mailto:mariadmark@gmail.com)

### **Jacksonville University**

Merrill Rd. Entrance (stop at welcome center and identify as an Roundup participant) Right on University Oaks Drive, continue as road curves left. Park in front of Wilma's Little People School. Meet behind Apt Bldg #6. (there will be signs and students to help point the way)

<http://www.ju.edu/images/park-walk-map.jpg>

**Site Captain:** Nisse Goldberg  
Phone: 904-256-7322  
[ngoldbe@ju.edu](mailto:ngoldbe@ju.edu)

### **Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens**

370 Zoo Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32218

Volunteers meet @ the zoo Picnic Grove. Picnic grove is at the back of the main parking lot.

**Site Captain:** Chris Dailey  
[daileyc@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:daileyc@jacksonvillezoo.org)

### **Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens**

1445 Millcoke Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32225

**Site Captain:** Merrill Varn  
[orts7@hotmail.com](mailto:orts7@hotmail.com)

### **Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park**

7000 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32244

**Site Captain:** Adam Rizk  
Phone: 904-573-2498  
[Arizk@coj.net](mailto:Arizk@coj.net)

### **Crosby Sanctuary, Duval Audubon Society**

427 Aquarius Concourse,  
Orange Park, FL 32073

**Site Captain:** Pete Johnson  
Phone: 904-536-4806  
[petejohnson71@comcast.net](mailto:petejohnson71@comcast.net)

### **Fort Mose Historic State Park**

15 Fort Mose Trail, St.  
Augustine, FL 32095

Meet at the visitor center.

**Site Captain:** Terri Newmans  
Phone: 904-823-2232  
[Terri.Newmans@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Terri.Newmans@dep.state.fl.us)

### **Joe Pomar Jr. Park**

1600 Masters Dr, St Augustine, FL 32084

**Site Captain:** Emily Montgomery  
Phone: 904-823-2291  
[Emily.Montgomery@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Emily.Montgomery@dep.state.fl.us)

### **GUIDED NATURE TRAIL TREK AT MARINELAND**

On Tuesday, March 6, 9:00 AM – 10:30 A.M., take a 1.5 mile hike through a wooded coastal hammock between the Ocean and the Matanzas River with GTM Research Reserve volunteer Ron Ceryak to learn about native plants on Flagler County's "River to Sea Preserve" trail. Catch a glimpse of turtles, the resident alligator and possibly a wading bird or two. Expect to learn about seasonal flowering shrubs and other native vegetation. Learn early Native American lore and how the Indians made use of various plants for food and medicinal purposes.

Ceryak is a retired hydrogeologist who is now volunteering with the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve at the Reserve's 'Marineland site. He is an expert trail guide and also gives beach presentations on occasion.

Meet the guide in the parking lot of the River to Sea Preserve, located on the west side of A1A at the southern end of the town of Marineland. Directional NERR road signs will be placed at the entrance. Please make reservations by calling 904-823-4500, and wear comfortable, closed toe shoes.

### **ADULT EXPLORING OUR ENVIRONMENT CLASS**

Are you curious about the coastal environment of NE Florida? Have you ever wished that there was a "summer camp" for adults? If so, "Exploring our Environment—from the ocean to the river" may be the perfect opportunity for you! Join biologists from the University of Florida, GTMNERR and many other locations as they team up to provide hands-on learning experiences in this one-week program.

The program combines field studies (outdoors), lectures and educational crafts (indoors). Topics covered include beaches, sea turtles, estuaries, water quality monitoring, invasive species, coastal uplands and marine mammals. The ways in which humans interact with the coastal environment will be a recurring subject throughout the program.

Located within the town of Marineland, Flagler County's River to Sea Preserve will be the setting for most of the activities in this program. Within the preserve are beaches with rocky tidepools, a coastal hammock that includes a freshwater pond and gopher tortoise burrows, and saltmarsh/mangrove shoreline along the intracoastal waterway (Matanzas River).

People learn best by doing, so this program is designed to incorporate as many hands-on activities as possible. These may involve extended periods of time outdoors, wading in shallow water and hiking along flat trails. Participants should be prepared to take part in these activities. Registration fee includes all supplies, coffee and drinking water. Lunch is not included in the registration fee—participants should bring a bag lunch each day. All participants must be 18 or older, please! Class size is limited.

For more information, see <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/education.html>. To register, go to <http://exploreapril2012.eventbrite.com/>



## **Other Nature related Activities in the area**

**The events/activities listed below take place at a variety of locations around St Johns and Flagler County. Please be sure to make note of their location.**

### **Durbin Creek Paddle Trail Talk: Ponte Vedra Beach Library Mon, Feb 6, at 6.00 p.m.**

In Durbin Creek – the Bartram Canoe Trail - had suffered for years from neglect and willful destruction. All that changed in May 2011, thanks to two dedicated super heroes and the numerous volunteers who helped. In May, Eric Bersinger and Josh Woods began a massive effort to restore Durbin Creek for paddlers. As they tried to paddle downstream from a trash-strewn launch site off Race Track Road, the two Mandarin residents saw the potential for a beautiful trip through nature. They founded the Durbin Creek Wilderness Society and began looking for help with the cleanup. The result is a beautiful paddle through a natural setting of forest and wetlands. The route is about six miles along Durbin Creek and another three miles along Julington Creek.

Eric and Josh will discuss their project, show slide photos, present the history of the area, and talk about their mission and goals for the future of the Durbin Creek Paddle Trail. The program will be held in the main meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library on Library Road at A1A (blinking light south of the intersection of A1A and Solana Road, on A1A about two miles south of Butler Boulevard). Everyone is welcome (including children)! Snacks will be provided, but bring your own drink. For further information, contact Larry Lickenbrock at (904) 537-6047.

### **St. Johns County Extension Is Your Yard Ready for the Birds?? 2-16-12**

Learn how to create or enhance a wildlife habitat in your landscape. Invite back the plants native to this region and support our winged friends all year long. Instructors include Gail Compton, nature columnist; Beverly Fleming, Master Gardener and Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant. Come join us February 16 at the St. Johns County Agricultural Building Auditorium, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, from 2-4 PM. It's free, open to the public, and hosted by the St. Johns County Extension Service. In addition, St. Johns County Audubon Society will be present and Florida native plants will be available. For more information contact 904-209-0430 or [www.nativeplantconsulting.com](http://www.nativeplantconsulting.com).

### **Special Events at Fort Matanzas National Monument [www.nps.gov/foma](http://www.nps.gov/foma)**

Fourth Saturday of the Month Nature Program

Living History Day and cannon firing

For more information, call the park at 904-471-0116

### **Special Events at Fort Mose Historical State Park**

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortmose/default.cfm>

FLIGHT TO FREEDOM February 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Re-enactors in period clothing will tell the story of Fort Mose during "Flight to Freedom," a living history demonstration. Colonial Spanish military drills, musket and cannon demonstrations will be provided throughout the day. The event will also include African drumming, various exhibits and food vendors. Limited parking is available at Fort Mose Historic State Park. Additional parking and a free shuttle service is available at the Old City Jail by Old Town Trolley. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT. Contact Terri Newmans at [terri.newmans@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:terri.newmans@dep.state.fl.us) or (904) 823-2232 if you are interested in assisting with this event. Regular park entry fees apply

Bird Walk at Fort Mose Historic State Park – Sunday, February 12, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Come meet the birds at Fort Mose Historic State Park. Led by a park volunteer, this fun, informative walk is open to the public and to birders of all levels. We'll view the rookery and search for marsh birds and migrating warblers. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars and a field guide if you have one. Walk and park entrance are free. Fort Mose is on Highway 1, one mile north of Route 16.

### **Special Events for Washington Oaks Gardens State Park**

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/washingtonoaks/default.cfm>

CITRUS HARVEST FESTIVAL February 11, 10am-3pm

The annual Citrus Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 10am to 3 pm hosted by The Friends of Washington Oaks. The historical Gardens within the Park contain a citrus grove with several varieties of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, lemons and limes, providing the perfect environment for you to enhance your knowledge about citrus.

Ruth Micieli, from Simple Gourmet Catering, will speak on growing and caring for citrus and there will be a cooking with citrus demonstration. Additionally, there will be a Park Ranger guided tour of the historic groves and citrus fruit sales, Friends "home-made" baked goods featuring citrus themed items, and hot and cold beverages. The popular Second Saturday Sweetheart Plant Sale will also feature citrus plants for your patio/lanai.

Flying Dragon Citrus Nursery of Jacksonville will be selling cold-hardy citrus trees in 3 and 5 gallon containers. All event proceeds benefit the Park for enhancement of current and new facilities. Regular park entrance fees apply during the plant sale. For more information contact: The Friends of Washington Oaks at 386-446-6783

### GARDEN WALK Feb 25, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

We love gardening here at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park and want to share our passion with you! Come join a Park Ranger on a stroll through the formal Gardens to learn about the various flowers, plants, and butterfly species that this park has to offer. You will also learn historical information about the park. Please be sure to bring your cameras, sunscreen, bug repellent and comfortable walking shoes appropriate for a leisurely stroll through the gardens. The walk departs from the Main Garden Parking Lot. Regular Park Fees

### **Special Events for Anastasia State Park** <http://www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia/default.cfm> Bird Walk at Anastasia State Park – Sunday, February 5, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Come meet the birds at Anastasia State Park. Led by a park volunteer, this fun, informative walk is open to the public and to birders of all levels. We'll walk the beach, boardwalk and other park areas looking for shorebirds, herons, spoonbills and more. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars and a field guide if you have one. Walk is free; park entrance fee applies. Meet at Island Beach Shop & Grill at the end of the park road.

### **Special Events for Faver-Dykes State Park** <http://www.floridastateparks.org/faverdykes/default.cfm>

#### A DAY IN OLD FLORIDA February 18, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The event activities will offer living history demonstrations, including Pine Needle Basketry, 1700's Trapper Trader Camp, Blacksmith display, and a live birds of prey demonstration. Special programs for children will be provided, which include a nature's painting wall exhibit where children can participate by painting a natural habitat. An environmental activity center will offer a chance to explore and make different arts and crafts with history and environmental themes. There are a variety of interpretive programs scheduled including a bird walk, live entertainment, and wagon tours of the park. Food will be on sale, including a Minorcan Clam Chowder. Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of fun, music and a taste of the "Real Florida." Regular park entry fees apply

#### STAR GAZING PROGRAM February 24, 2012, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Experience the magic of the night's sky with Park Services Specialist Joe Woodbury. Faver-Dykes State Park is the perfect place to see stars and constellations clearly due to its remote location. We will view planets, galaxies, star clusters, and other beautiful objects on a clear night. Park Specialist Joe will illuminate the night's sky and answer your questions. Please come prepared for the weather. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. The program meets at the Ranger Station. Regular Park Admission

### **Special Events for Gamble Rogers State Park** <http://www.floridastateparks.org/gamblerogers/default.cfm>

Full Moon Hike Feb 6

Beach Cleanup Feb 9

Second Saturday Gamble Jam Feb 11

Crabbing for Beginners Feb 17

Sea Bean Beach Hike Feb 25

Leap Day Sunset River Cruise Feb 29

### **Weekday Hike in Guana Wildlife Management Area: Tuesday, March 13, 10.00 a.m.**

Sierra Club will lead a leisurely hike of about 5 miles in the Guana Wildlife Management area where you can enjoy vistas of marsh and river and forest. Please meet at 10.00 a.m. at the trail head for the Guana trails which is about 200 yards west of Guana dam. The entrance to Guana

(Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Reserve) and the dam is on the west side of AIA approximately 17 miles south of Butler Boulevard. The entrance is just north of the Gate service station on AIA. Limit of 25 participants. Please bring lunch, water, sun tan lotion and insect repellent. Children welcome. No pets please. There is a \$3 entrance fee to Guana if you don't have a pass. Leader Brian Paradise. Please reserve your place on Meetup or RSVP to Brian at [bgparadise@comcast.net](mailto:bgparadise@comcast.net) or 904-710-0479.

### **Tickets Now on Sale for the 2012 Florida's Birding & Photo Fest**

Whether you're a veteran attendee or a first-timer, the 2012 Florida's Birding & Photo Fest is certain to be a truly memorable experience. Based waterfront at the Center for Marine Studies at Whitney Lab just south of St. Augustine, this year's Festival features more world-renowned photographers, more rare birding opportunities, more in-field programs and more technical training than ever before. Plus, our very special 10th Anniversary guest is the dean of wildlife photographers, the renowned George Lepp. As always, the Festival setting is unsurpassed - salt marshes and mangroves, surging surf and unique rock outcrops, tidal creeks and maritime hammocks - they're all here and waiting to create the perfect backdrops for outstanding birding images. For complete details and registration information, visit [FloridasBirdingAndPhotoFest.com](http://FloridasBirdingAndPhotoFest.com)



#### **\*\*\*\*\* OUT ON THE WEB \*\*\*\*\***

For additional information, you might want to check out the following websites. These links are simply resources we think may help you enrich your perspective. By listing these websites, the GTM NERR is not automatically endorsing or verifying the accuracy of their content unless explicitly stated.

Florida's GTMNERR site: [www.FloridaCoasts.org/gtm](http://www.FloridaCoasts.org/gtm)

National Estuarine Research Reserve System: <http://nerrs.noaa.gov>

Friends of the GTM Reserve: [www.gtmnerr.org](http://www.gtmnerr.org)

Job site for the GTM Reserve and State of Florida: [peoplefirst.myflorida.com](http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com)

Florida's State Parks: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/>

Fort Matanzas National Monument: <http://www.nps.gov/foma>

Guana River Wildlife Management Area:

<http://www.myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/lead/guana-river/>

River to Sea Preserve at Marineland: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/riversea/preserve.htm>

St Johns River Water Management District: <http://www.floridaswater.com/trailguides/index.html>

Sea Grant: <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm>



#### **\*\*\*\*\*GTM Research Reserve CALENDAR of EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***

\*\*All programs listed below are held at the GTMNERR Environmental Education Center, 505 Guana River Rd, in South Ponte Vedra Beach unless noted otherwise. Due to limited space, reservations are requested for programs. Please call 904-823-4500 or visit to [www.gtmnerr.org](http://www.gtmnerr.org) for more details. Environmental Education Center admission: Adults \$2, Age 10—17 \$1, under age 10 Free. Costs for most programs are included with your entrance fee, unless otherwise noted.

**Thurs\* February 2\* 8am- 4pm**  
**Fri \* February 3 \* Noon to 1pm**  
**Sat \* February 11 \* 8:30am-10:30am**  
**Tues\* February 14\* 9-10:30am**  
**Tues \* February 14 \* 5pm-6pm**  
**Tues\* February 21\* 10am-11am**  
**Sat & Sun \* 10am and 1pm**

**World Wetland Day Celebration**  
**Brown Bag Lunch Lecture**  
**Guana Trail Walk \*\$3 parking**  
**River to Sea Preserve Trail walk @ Marineland**  
**GTM Reserve Friends Meeting**  
**Snake talk at GTMNERR Marineland office**  
**Nature Movie**

**Fri\* March 2\* Noon -1pm**  
**Sat\* March 3\***  
**Tues\* March 6 \* 9am-1030am**

**Brown Bag Lunch Lecture**  
**Air Potato Round up**  
**River To Sea Preserve Hike at Marineland**

(Other events are occasionally added. Visit [www.gtmnerr.org](http://www.gtmnerr.org) for information)

**Please call 904-823-4500 for more details or reservations.**

**\*\*\*\*\* SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\***

To subscribe or unsubscribe to GTM NERR News, send e-mail to [Janet.Zimmerman@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Janet.Zimmerman@dep.state.fl.us)

Questions, comments or corrections? Contact Janet Zimmerman, GTM Reserve Assistant Manager at 505 Guana River Rd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 [Janet.Zimmerman@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Janet.Zimmerman@dep.state.fl.us) or 904-823-4500.