

March 14, Sat 9am - 2pm



Community Conservation Celebration

in Frank Mackle Park, Marco Island Interact with over 30 conservation groups on Marco Island as we share ways you can make a difference!

Saint Patrick's Day Naples Parade 11am

Ranger the Panther in the Parade Downtown with the Friends of Florida Panther Refuge saying cheers!

March 15, Sun 9:30am - 4pm

Save the Panther Week Kick-off at the Naples Zoo

Spend a fun day at the zoo with special educational exhibits, ask questions of a Panther Biologist and enjoy kids activities like face painting! Partners that are uniting to protect the Panthers will be there: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, Picayune State Forest, FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Com., Defenders of Wildlife, and more!

Panther Education: Join the Team! 2pm - 3pm

Join us at the zoo to be part of a growing movement to increase Florida Panther Awareness locally. We will brainstorm and coordinate our local activities! RSVP Between 10am -2pm March 9-20 by calling 239-353-8442 x 239 or email [events@floridapanther.org](mailto:events@floridapanther.org).

March 16, Mon 1pm - 4pm

Swamp Walk at the Fakahatchee by Mike Owen"

Explore the "Amazon of Southwest Florida" with Mike as he shares his passion for the Fakahatchee & will open your senses to a whole new world! RSVP between 10-2pm March 9-15 by calling 239-353-8442 x 239 or email: [events@floridapanther.org](mailto:events@floridapanther.org).

March 17, Tues 11am -12pm



Naples Preserve hosts a Panther Talk

Presentation starts from 11am followed by a free lunch! Adult focus RSVP by calling 239-261-4290 or email: [PreserveCaptains@aol.com](mailto:PreserveCaptains@aol.com)

March 17, Tues 3:30pm - 5pm



Panther Activity Day

Enjoy an after-school program for K-2 grade children at the Naples Preserve. RSVP by calling Mary 239-261-4290 or email [PreserveCaptains@aol.com](mailto:PreserveCaptains@aol.com)

March 18, Wed 6pm - 8pm

Panthers in Peril talk at the Conservancy,

with Dave Shindle Discover why only 80-100 of these elusive creatures remain. Enjoy one-of-a-kind photos from field research in the Florida panther's territory. Free for members, \$35 for non-members. RSVP by calling Jean at 239-403-4207 or register at [www.Conservancy.org](http://www.Conservancy.org)

March 19, Thurs 9am - 12pm

Hiking Deep Lake at Big Cypress National Preserve

Rangers from Big Cypress take visitors out on a nature trail that leads to Deep Lake. EVENT FULL - Please look for this next year!



March 19, Thurs 1pm

Fakahatchee, the Amazon of North America

at Clyde Butcher's Everglades Gallery Mike Owen's non-stop commentary serves both to entertain and to teach, as he shares photos. Clyde donated funds to Friends of Fakahatchee. EVENT FULL but look for more activities: [clydebutcher.com](http://clydebutcher.com)

March 20, Fri 9am - 12pm

Cycling Bear Island Grade

Bicycle the Big Cypress National Preserve & learn about Panthers from the Rangers. EVENT FULL - Please look for this next year and register early!



March 21, Sat 8am - 12pm



"Save the Panther Day" Refuge Open House

Share a fun day with your family, while exploring the Panther Refuge by swamp buggy or by walking trails. Learning about birds, plants & orchids, & of course, look for the wild panther! Learn more about what YOU can do as an individual to help save the panther & its habitat. We offer tours, educational information, & fun kids activities! RSVP Starting March 9 - 20 Space is limited. Sign up by calling 239-353-8442 x 239 or email: [events@floridapanther.org](mailto:events@floridapanther.org).

March 21, Sat 7pm - 10pm

CREW Benefit Concert & Art Contest

Enjoy an evening of Bluegrass and make some new friends at Estero Community Park. A fun family event! Tickets cost \$20.00 Please contact CREW Land & Water Trust by calling 239-657-2253 or email: [bthomas\\_crew@earthlink.net](mailto:bthomas_crew@earthlink.net).

Post-Panther Week Activities

March 27, Fri 7pm - 9pm

CREW Wildflower PowerPoint

On Friday, March 27th, we will kick off the festival with a slide show & presentation on wildflowers by local authors Glen Stacell and Gary Schmeiz at Bass Pro Shops in Gulf Coast Town Center. No reservations needed.

March 28, Sat 8:30am - 2pm

CREW Wildflower Festival

Grand opening of a new trail system, & celebrating CREW's 20th Anniversary with guided wildflower and butterfly hikes! A suggested donation \$3 for members/\$5 for non-members. RSVP call 239-657 2253 or email [bthomas\\_crew@earthlink.net](mailto:bthomas_crew@earthlink.net).

*Panther Week Logo designed by Greg Owens*





Save the Florida Panther Week

**Calendar of Events At-A-Glance**

Sat. 3-14	9am - 2pm <u>Community Conservation Celebration</u>	
	11am - 1pm <u>Ranger in the St. Patrick's Day Parade</u>	
Sun. 3-15	9:30am - 4pm <u>Save the Panther Kick-off at Naples Zoo</u>	
	2pm - 3pm <u>Florida Panther Education: Join the Team!</u>	
Mon. 3-16	1pm - 4pm <u>Swamp Walk with Mike Owen</u>	
Tue. 3-17	11am <u>Panthers: Nature Talk Series</u> Followed by Lunch	3:30pm <u>Panther Activity Day for children</u> K - 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Both FREE at the Naples preserve	
Wed. 3-18	6pm - 8pm <u>Panthers in Peril</u>	
Thu. 3-19	9am - 12pm <u>Hiking Deep Lake at Big Cypress NP</u>	1pm-2pm <u>The Fakahatchee Strand</u>
	Fri. 3-20 9am - 12pm <u>Cycling Bear Island Grade</u>	
Sat. 3-21	8am - 12pm <u>Florida's Official "Save the Florida Panther Day"</u> Panther Refuge's Annual Open House	
	7pm - 10pm <u>CREW Concert &amp; Art Contest</u>	

**The Florida Panther :  
An Umbrella Species**

An umbrella species is a species that through its protection protects other species that live within its habitat.



*The Panther is an Umbrella Species; when we protect the Panther, we protect all our neighbors! Credit: Steve Carbol*

The refuge provides habitat for a total of 126 bird species, 46 species of reptiles and amphibians, 22 species of mammals and a large variety of fish.

Closed areas in the refuge protects habitat for 24 species of endangered, threatened or plant & animal species of special concern status.

**YOU CAN HELP**

**Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge  
Save the Florida Panther from Extinction**

- *Don't be an "Island of Knowledge."* Teach others what you have learned and correct myths about the Florida Panther that are repeated all too often.
- *Join the Friends Group.* The strength & diversity of our activities is determined by our members.
- *Slow down when you're driving.* Watch out for all wildlife and know what to do if you encounter a panther.



Save the Florida Panther Week

*March 14-21, 2009*



Celebrate the Florida Panther and it's habitat through events held in Southwest Florida's conserved public lands!

