

2009 Florida Panther Week Events

-Help Save Wild Florida Panthers-

Visit http://www.fws.gov/floridapanther/panther_week.html

March 14, Sat "St. Patty's Day Parade Downtown Naples"  9am - 11am
The Friends of Florida Panther Refuge will be spreading good cheer about Panthers!

March 14, Sat "Community Conservation Celebration" at Frank Mackle Park 9am - 2pm
Spend a fun day on Marco Island with over 30 tables! No reservations needed.

March 15, Sun "Save the Panther Week" Kick-off at the Naples Zoo 9:30 - 4pm
Join us at the zoo with educational exhibits; ask Panther Biologists questions and other activities! Organizations that are uniting to protect the Panthers will be there: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, Picayune State Forest, FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, "CatFight!" and Defenders of Wildlife! <http://napleszoo.com> for more info.

Also At The Naples Zoo "Florida Panther Education: Join the Team!" 2pm - 3pm
Come join a growing movement to increase Florida Panther Awareness into schools and clubs. The Friends of Florida Panther Refuge will help train & coordinate our local activities! **RSVP:** 239-353-8442 x 239 or email: events@floridapanther.org.

March 16, Mon "Swamp Walk at the Fakahatchee, with Mike Owen" 1pm - 4pm
Explore the "Amazon of Southwest Florida" with Mike as he shares his passion for the Fakahatchee & open your senses to a whole new world! **RSVP Between 10am-2pm March 9-15** by calling 239-353-8442 x 239 or email: events@floridapanther.org.

March 17, Tues "Naples Preserve hosts a Panther Presentation" 11am & 3:30pm
The talk starts at 11am, followed by a free lunch! From 3:30 to 5pm, an after-school program for ages K -2nd Grade will enjoy a special "Panther Activity Day" on the Naples Preserve. **RSVP** by calling 239-261-4290 or email: PreserveCaptains@aol.com

March 18, Wed "Panthers in Peril" talk at the Conservancy, with Dave Shindle 6pm - 8pm
Discover why only 80-100 of these elusive creatures remain. Enjoy one-of-a-kind photos from field research. Free for members, \$35 for non-members. Everyone must **RSVP** by calling Jean at 239-403-4207 or register at www.Conservancy.org.

Almost
Full

March 19, Thurs Hiking Deep Lake at Big Cypress National Preserve 9am - 12pm
Rangers from Big Cypress take visitors out to Deep Lake. Learn about plants & more!
Event Full but check back again this time next year and register early!

Full

March 19, Thurs "Fakahatchee, the Amazon of North America by Mike Owen" 1pm - 3pm
Mike's commentary serves both to entertain and to teach! Clyde Butcher's Everglades Gallery donated funds to the Friends of Fakahatchee. clydebutcher.com

Full

Hosted by Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

Full

March 20 Fri "Cycling Bear Island Grade"

9am - 12pm

Bicycle the Big Cypress National Preserve (14 mile trail) & learn about Panthers from the Rangers. Event Full but check back again this time next year and register early!

March 21, Sat "Save the Panther Day" Refuge Open House

8am - 12pm

Celebrate the state's official "Save the Florida Panther Day" in the Panther Refuge! Learn about birds, orchids, & of course, look for a wild panther! Learn more about what YOU can do as an individual to help save the panther & its habitat. We offer swamp buggy tours, swamp walks, educational hikes and information, & a free photo workshop! **RSVP Starting March 9 - 20 Space is limited. Sign up between 10 - 2pm by calling 239-353-8442 x 239 or email: events@floridapanther.org.**

March 21, Sat "CREW Benefit Concert & Art Contest"

7pm - 10pm

Enjoy an evening of Bluegrass and make some new friends at Estero Community Park. A fun family event! Tickets cost \$20, please contact CREW Land & Water Trust by calling 239-657-2253 or email: bthomas_crew@earthlink.net. <http://crewtrust.org>

Post-Panther Week March 27 "CREW Wildflower Power Point"

7pm - 9pm

Friday, Pre-festival slideshow & presentation on wildflowers by local authors Glen Stacell and Gary Schmelz at the Bass Pro Shop in Gulf Coast Town Center. No RSVP needed. Visit: <http://crewtrust.org>

March 28, Sat "CREW Wildflower Fest"

8:30am - 2pm

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.



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

Special Thanks to volunteers in Friends of Florida Panther Refuge & to all of our partners that make this event possible!!!

- Ecological Services Division of US FWS
- City of Marco Island
- Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
- Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
- Big Cypress National Preserve
- Friends of Big Cypress National Preserve
- Picayune Strand State Forest
- The Conservancy of SW Florida
- FGCU, Wings of Hope, Panther Posse
- Save the Manatee Club
- CREW Land and Water Trust
- Defenders of Wildlife