

Events at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Call the refuge at 850-925-6121 for more information and to registration. Unless otherwise stated, public programs are held at Nature's Classroom adjacent to the Visitor Center.

September 2013

Sun. Sep. 1 - First Sunday — 2:00 p.m. Barred Owl Room at 2 pm. *"Monarchs!"* Join tagging coordinator David Cook as he shares what we're learning about the vivid orange and black monarch butterflies that migrate through St. Marks in October and November. Find out how you can get involved in projects to tag them, feed them, and look for them during the winter.

Sat. Sep. 7 - Digital Photography Class — 9:00 a.m. Limit 15. Registration required.

Mon. Sep. 9 — *Labor Day* — Visitor Center will be closed due to budget cuts

Thu. Sep. 12 - Tots on Trails — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Sep. 14 - Tots on Trails — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Sep. 21 - Coastal Cleanup — Arrive early to check in. Pick up trash on Lighthouse Road from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh trash opposite the Visitor Center between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. and pick up your T-shirt, sponsored by St. Marks Refuge Association. Bring work gloves, hat, bug spray, and water. Call Ranger David Moody at 850-925-6121 to register ahead of time.

Sat. Sep. 21 - St. Marks NWR Photo Club — 9:00 a.m. Contact President Tom Darragh at 850-556-3477 or thomasd@talstar.com for information

Sat. Sep. 28 - National Public Lands Day — **FEE FREE DAY!** Pancake breakfast from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. -sponsored by St. Marks Refuge Association for association members, refuge volunteers, and new volunteers.

Volunteer Service project — 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bring hat, gloves, and shoes/clothes that might get wet and muddy.

Dedication of the accessible trail and observation tower at Headquarters Pond - 1:30 p.m.

Families in Nature — 11 am -2 pm at Nature's Classroom. Theme: *"Freshwater Fun"* Scavenger hunt, crafts. Reservations made by calling 850/925-6121.

October 2013

Sat. Oct. 5 - *Digital Photography Class* — 9:00 a.m. Limit 15. Registration required.

Sun. Oct. 6 - *First Sunday* — 2:00 p.m. Barred Owl Room at 2 pm. "*History of Bird Banding*". Currently a Research Associate at Tall Timbers Research Station, Todd Engstrom is an accomplished birder and bird bander. Banding birds requires skill and attention. Information from recovered bands provides vital information on migration patterns, movements of birds, and life histories of different species.

Thu. Oct. 10 - *Tots on Trails* — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Oct. 12 - *The Big Sit!* — 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - count migrating birds at the lighthouse.

Tots on Trails — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Mon. Oct. 14 - *Columbus Day* — Visitor Center will be closed due to budget cuts

Tues. Oct. 15 — Pools along Lighthouse Road closed to boats until Sat. Mar. 15, 2014, to reduce disturbance to migratory birds.

Oct. 13-19 - *National Wildlife Refuge Week* — Entrance fees waived this week so visit your national wildlife refuges often!

Sat. Oct. 19 - *St. Marks NWR Photo Club* — 9:00 a.m. Contact President Tom Darragh at 850-556-3477 or thomasd@talstar.com for information.

Sun. Oct. 20 - *Magnolia Cemetery walk* — 3:00 p.m., led by Ranger Craig Kittendorf
Registration required.

Sat. Oct. 26 - *25th Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival* —10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn to landscape for wildlife by using a variety of native plants in the right place to provide food and cover for insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and small mammals. Pollinators need all the urban refuges we can provide. Visit our exhibitors at the Visitor Center Complex, the pollinator gardens at Picnic Pond, and the popular Monarch Tagging station at the lighthouse. The Stone Crab Festival will be held in the City of St. Marks on the same day.

Families in Nature — 11 am -2 pm at Nature's Classroom. Theme: "*Butterflies*"
Scavenger hunt, crafts. Reservations made by calling 850/925-6121.

November 2013

Sat. Nov. 2 - *Digital Photography Class* — 9:00 a.m. Limit 15. Registration required.

Sun. Nov. 3 - *First Sunday* — 2:00 p.m. Barred Owl Room at 2 pm. - Jim Dunbar, What inundated underwater archaeological sites are telling us about late Pleistocene climate change and its likely impacts on human and large mammal populations in North Florida.

Daylight Savings Time ends; refuge gates on St. Marks and Otter Lake will close at 7:00 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 9 - *Fall Birding and Wildlife Tour* with Don Morrow, 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Limit 25 per tour. Registration required.

Tots on Trails — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Nov. 9 -11 — ***FEE FREE WEEKEND IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS!***

Thu. Nov. 14 — *Tots on Trails* join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Nov. 16 — *St. Marks NWR Photo Club* - 9:00 a.m. Contact President Tom Darragh at 850-556-3477 or thomasd@talstar.com for information.

Sat. Nov. 23 — *Families in Nature* – 11 am -2 pm at Nature's Classroom. Theme: "Trees" Scavenger hunt, crafts. Reservations made by calling 850/925-6121.

December 2013

Sun. Dec. 1 — *First Sunday* - 2:00 p.m. Barred Owl Room at 2 pm. - Don Morrow, "*Nightbirds: Part 2*", the night shift at St. Marks. This second installment on nocturnal birds of the refuge will cover the six rail species and two night-herons that may be found here. A listening tour will follow.

Sat. Dec. 7 — *Digital Photography Class* - 9:00 a.m. Limit 15. Registration required.

Thu. Dec. 12 — *Tots on Trails* join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Dec. 14 — *Winter Birding and Wildlife Tour* with Don Morrow, 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Limit 25 per tour. Registration required.

Tots on Trails — join Ranger Heather Bevis for a ranger-led walk – 11 am. Walk lasts 45 minutes and is aimed at pre-school children. Expect to get dirty! Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen and hat. A parent or guardian must attend with child. Reservations required –850/925-6121.

Sat. Dec. 14 -16 — *Wakulla Unit Gun Hunt*

Sat. Dec. 14 -16 — *Mobility Impaired Hunt* (Panacea Unit)

Fri. Dec. 20 - 22 — *Panacea Unit Gun Hunt*

Sat. Dec. 21 — *St. Marks NWR Photo Club* - 9:00 a.m. Contact President Tom Darragh at 850-556-3477 or thomasd@talstar.com for information.

Sat. Dec. 28 - *Families in Nature* — 11 am -2 pm at Nature's Classroom. Theme: "Nature's Gifts" Scavenger hunt, crafts. Reservations made by calling 850/925-6121.

WHOOPING CRANES! Operation Migration and the whooping cranes will return to St. Marks again this year. Expected arrival will be in November or December. Please check our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/SMSVNWRS> for the latest news.

2014 marks the ***50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act***. A little more than 17,000 acres are designated Wilderness on your refuge. Come explore your trails.