

News Release

A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL 34273

561/734-8303 Fax: 561/369-7190 www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Veronica Kelly 561/735-6020

Veronica_Kelly@fws.gov

New “Families Understanding Nature” Programs at A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is excited to kick-off a new series of educational programs called Families Understanding Nature, or F.U.N. Programs for short. F.U.N. Programs are a way for families to have fun in nature and enhance their outdoor skills together. Programs are geared towards families who have very little to zero experience in the scheduled topic, just a spark of interest and we will take it from there. Topics for this year include birding for beginners, ethics, fly-fishing, orienteering, and archery. Programs are geared towards families with youth ages eight and older, and all children must be accompanied by a participating parent or guardian. Space is limited and reservations are required for all programs.

The first F.U.N. program in the series is “Birding for Beginners” on Saturday, January 11, 2020. Learn the basics of bird identification, how to use binoculars, and then help collect data to aid with conservation efforts. Email veronica_kelly@fws.gov by January 8, 2020 to register.

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, participants attending “Leave No Trace – In a Nutshell” will learn about “The 7 Principles” and how you can help nature stay wild from your own backyard to remote wilderness areas. Email ana_castillo-ruiz@fws.gov by January 15, 2020 to register.

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, participants can try their hand at “Freshwater Fly Fishing”. A limited number of fly rods are available, please bring your own or borrow one from a friend if possible. Email lewis_j_hecker@fws.gov by February 26 to register.

On Saturday, March 28, 2020 during “From Here to There: Basic Orienteering Skills” families can become familiar with the basics of using a map, compass, and GPS. Participants will learn how to take bearings, pinpoint their location, and navigate in the outdoors. Email steven_s_henry@fws.gov to register.

The final program in the series is “Archery 101” on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Participants will learn the history of archery, parts of a bow and arrow, and safe and proper shooting techniques. Participants must be able to lift 15 pounds. Email david_vela@fws.gov to register

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Serena Rinker, 561-735-6029, Serena_Rinker@fws.gov, TTY 800-877-8339 by close of business 10 days prior to event.

The refuge is located off U.S. 441/SR 7, two miles south of SR 804 (Boynton Beach Blvd.) and three miles north of SR 806 (Delray Beach’s Atlantic Avenue). The Headquarters Area is currently open from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. The Visitor Center hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., seven days a week. A daily

entrance fee of \$10.00 per vehicle is charged. A variety of annual passes, including a \$25.00 refuge specific annual pass, are available.

The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was established under a License Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District in 1951 as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. The vision of the refuge is to serve as an outstanding showcase for ecosystem management that restores, protects, and enhances a portion of the unique north Everglades biological community. This public asset provides for the enjoyment and enhanced quality of life for present and future generations. To learn more about the refuge visit:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee/

Connect with our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ARMLoxahatcheeNWR/>

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

