

**CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT SENT:** 15 December 2021

**CONTACT:** Anna Kellner, 239-463-4588.

Jessica Kemper, 850-245-3029 or 850-251-0834 (cell).

**STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN JANUARY 2022**

*-Lovers Key State Park to host wildlife programs and recreational activities-*

**FORT MYERS BEACH** – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Lovers Key State Park will present weekly programs on park history and wildlife throughout the month of **January**.

Programs are included in park admission fees of:

\$4.00 for vehicles with one individual.

\$8.00 for vehicles with two to eight individuals.

\$2.00 per pedestrian or cyclist.

All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park and registration is required. The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. For assistance or to register, contact the park office at 239-463-4588.

**January** programs include:

**1<sup>st</sup> January**

**First Day Beach Hike**

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a special First Day Beach Hike along the Lovers Key shoreline. First Day Hikes are a part of a nationwide initiative led by America’s State Parks to encourage people to get outdoors on New Year’s Day. On this guided hike, you’ll discover the many seashells that wash ashore at Lovers Key, learn about the creatures who crafted these iconic Florida treasures, and enjoy a morning walk on the beach as we kick off 2022. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at the Gazebo**

**Monday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at the South Beach Gazebo. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**4<sup>th</sup> January**

## **Fishing Clinic**

**Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join park naturalists to learn a variety of tackle and fresh bait rigs, find out the best places to drop a line, and learn about the rules and regulations that pertain to game fishing in Southwest Florida. You might even learn a few of the “secrets” our local fishermen swear by. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**4<sup>th</sup> January**

## **New Year Yoga**

**Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.**

**FEES:** \$20 per participant, does not include park entry fee

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a Mindful Vinyasa Sunset Flow session to celebrate the start of 2022. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is recommended but drop ins will be welcomed. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**6<sup>th</sup> January**

## **Wading Trip**

**Thursday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger to explore the seagrass flats and learn about the many marine species that reside in the Lovers Key estuary. Seahorses, shrimp, young fish, and egg casings of all sorts inhabit the flats, which in turn attract larger fish, crustaceans, rays, and even dolphins to the estuary. This complex food web makes each trip exciting and unique as we never know which species we’ll encounter. This program includes time in the water, and participants should prepare accordingly. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**6<sup>th</sup> January**

## **Sounds of Discovery**

**Thursday at 5:00 p.m.**

**FEES:** \$25 per participant, includes park entry fee

Join us for an evening of live acoustic performances featuring all original music. The January showcase will feature songwriters J. Robert, Ricky Baker Cegelis, and Karen Cohen. This show is an intimate songwriter showcase in which the artists take turns sharing their compositions and telling the stories behind their songs. The musicians will be available at the break and after the show to discuss their music. Presented by the Friends of Lovers Key and the Americana Community Music Association. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org](http://www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org)

**7<sup>th</sup> January**

## **Morning Yoga**

**Friday at 9:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at Mid Beach. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**7<sup>th</sup> January**

**Mural Demo**

**Friday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join Artist-In-Residence Jenny M. Licht from 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. as she paints a mural at the Welcome and Discovery Center. The mural will serve as the logo for the new building, and it will center on the park's most famous annual visitor, the Florida manatee. Feel free to drop in and ask about her process, her *Art in the Park* painting series here at Lovers Key, or any other questions you may have. No reservations are required. Program is free with paid park entry.

**7<sup>th</sup> January**

**Nature Journaling Walk**

**Friday at 1:00 p.m.**

As a part of Artist-In-Residence Jenny M. Licht's *Art in the Park* series, this nature journaling walk allows you to explore the flora and fauna of Lovers Key through the eyes of an artist, while also creating some sketches of your own. Free journals and pencils are provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Walk on the Wild Side**

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way. Closed toe shoes, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**10<sup>th</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at the Gazebo**

**Monday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at the South Beach Gazebo. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**12<sup>th</sup> January**

**How Did They Get That Shot?**

**Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$45 per participant, includes park entry fee

As a part of Fort Myers photographer Carol Matthai's *Going Wild!* series, this beginner-to-intermediate photography class includes techniques to improve photo composition and storytelling, a nature walk through Lovers Key, and a final photo critique. Class open to camera and cell phone photographers alike. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.FriendsOfLoversKey.com](http://www.FriendsOfLoversKey.com).

**13<sup>th</sup> January**

**A History of Water Stewardship in Southwest Florida**

**Thursday at 6:30 p.m.**

**FEES:** \$30 per participant, includes park entry fee

As a part of the Friends of Lovers Key's *What You See on the Land, Lands in the Sea* speaker series, this event welcomes award-winning journalist and publisher Nick Penniman to share his perspectives on the history and politics of water management in our region. Reservations are required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org](http://www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org).

**14<sup>th</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at Mid Beach**

**Friday at 9:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at Mid Beach. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**14<sup>th</sup> January**

**Florida Manatee**

**Friday at 12:00 p.m.**

As a part of Florida Master Naturalist Tony Mauriello's *Nature at Noon* series, this interpretive program will be an introduction to Florida's state marine mammal, the Florida manatee. With their paddle-like tails, manatees earn their nickname, "sea cows", by slowly moving just beneath the surface and consuming vast amounts of aquatic vegetation. We will explore their migration strategy, interesting physical characteristics, mating habits, and more. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Painting Class: Flip Flop**

**Saturday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$39 per participant, includes park entry fees

As a part of Artist-In-Residence Jenny M. Licht's *Art in the Park* series, participants will paint their own beachy sign constructed from rustic wooden pallets. The design of the sign will include popular Floridian imagery, such as flip flops, seashells, and the phrase

“Life is better in flip flops”. All materials and expertise provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org](http://www.FriendsOfLoversKey.org).

**15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Nature Journaling Walk**

**Saturday at 1:00 p.m.**

As a part of Artist-In-Residence Jenny M. Licht’s *Art in the Park* series, this nature journaling walk allows you to explore the flora and fauna of Lovers Key through the eyes of an artist, while also creating some sketches of your own. Free journals and pencils are provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**17<sup>th</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at the Gazebo**

**Monday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at the South Beach Gazebo. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**17<sup>th</sup> January**

**Full Moon Yoga**

**Monday at 4:00 p.m.**

**FEES:** \$20 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session for the full moon. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Beach and Estuary Walk**

**Thursday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a leisurely one-mile walk over the estuary and along the beach to discover what kind of natural treasures wash up on the shores of Lovers Key. Learn about seashells, crustaceans, starfish, and other creatures that can be found in our waters. This program includes time in the water, and participants should prepare accordingly. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**21<sup>st</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at Mid Beach**

**Friday at 9:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at Mid Beach. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**21<sup>st</sup> January**

**Shelling & Beachcombing**

**Friday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a relaxing one-mile hike along the Lovers Key shoreline and discover the multitude of shells that wash ashore each day at the park. You'll learn about the fascinating creatures who crafted these iconic Florida treasures, as well as the shelling rules and regulations that help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Walk on the Wild Side**

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way. Closed toe shoes, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**How Did They Get That Shot?**

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$45 per participant, includes park entry fee

As a part of Fort Myers photographer Carol Matthai's *Going Wild!* series, this beginner-to-intermediate photography class includes techniques to improve photo composition and storytelling, a nature walk through Lovers Key, and a final photo critique. Class open to camera and cell phone photographers alike. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.FriendsOfLoversKey.com](http://www.FriendsOfLoversKey.com).

**23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Sensational Sharks**

**Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for an interesting and informative lecture on sharks, the ocean's most sensational residents. Discover why these awe-inspiring elasmobranchs are often misunderstood and feared by the public, what crucial role they play in our ecosystems, and what you can do to help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**24<sup>th</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at the Gazebo**

**Monday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at the South Beach Gazebo. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**27<sup>th</sup> January**

**Majestic Sea Turtles**

**Thursday at 12:00 p.m.**

As a part of Florida Master Naturalist Tony Mauriello's *Nature at Noon* series, this interpretive program will be an introduction to the sea turtle. Often considered the most majestic of the turtle family, sea turtles are large, ocean-going reptiles known for their gentle nature and long lifespan. We will look at all seven species around the world and their unique adaptations for sea life. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**28<sup>th</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at Mid Beach**

**Friday at 9:00 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a relaxing Open Vinyasa Flow session at Mid Beach. This multilevel course is open to both beginners and experienced yogis alike. Bring a yoga mat, water, and any props you may need, as no equipment will be provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit [www.SabaMovementCenter.com](http://www.SabaMovementCenter.com).

**29<sup>th</sup> January**

**Walk on the Wild Side**

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way. Closed toe shoes, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**30<sup>th</sup> January**

**Sensational Sharks**

**Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for an interesting and informative lecture on sharks, the ocean's most sensational residents. Discover why these awe-inspiring elasmobranchs are often misunderstood and feared by the public, what crucial role they play in our ecosystems, and what you can do to help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, call 239-463-4588. Program is free with paid park entry.

**31<sup>st</sup> January**

**Morning Yoga at the Gazebo**

**Monday at 9:30 a.m.**

**FEES:** \$15 per participant, does not include park entry fees

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The programs will take place:

**January 2022  
Lovers Key State Park  
8700 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, Florida**