



Lovers Key State Park
8700 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

4/15/22

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release [FORTMYERS BEACH]
CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 2022
CONTACT: Trish Schranck, OPS Park Service Specialist
PHONE: 239-463-4588

STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN MAY 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 **May**. All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park, and registration is required for all events. The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. For accommodations, contact the park office at 239-463-4588.

May programs include:

Sunday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m.
Painting Class: Mother’s Day

Fees: \$45 per participant, includes park entry fees

Join Artist-in-Residence Jenny M. Licht to paint two special wine glasses for Mother’s Day. Participants have an infinite array of templates to choose from including flamingos, flip flops, palm trees, sea life, flowers, and more. New designs can also be drawn in class to fit your vision for your glassware if desired. Bring soft cloths and a basket or box (not slotted) to transport your glassware home. All other materials and expertise provided. This class is included in Licht's *Art-in-the-Park* series at Lovers Key State Park. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Sunday, May 1st at 3:30 p.m.
Nature Journaling

Program is free with paid park entry

Join Artist-in-Residence Jenny M. Licht on a nature journaling walk to explore the flora and fauna of Lovers Key through the eyes of an artist. Enjoy this guided trip to the butterfly garden and create some wildlife sketches of your own. This walk is included in Licht's *Art-in-the-Park* series at Lovers Key State Park. Free journals and pencils are provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Wednesday, May 4th at 10:30 a.m.
Great Gopher Tortoises

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park naturalist to learn more about our resident gopher tortoises. Discover the differences between a turtle and a tortoise, why gopher tortoises are so important to the health of their ecosystems, and what you can do to help mitigate the current threats they face. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, May 6th at 10:30 a.m.
All About Sea Turtles

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger to learn about the fascinating life cycles and journeys of the marine turtles that visit Lovers Key each summer. Learn about their nesting behavior here at the park, insider information on what Turtle Patrol is all about, and how you can help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 7th at 10:30 a.m.
Beach and Estuary Walk

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger for a leisurely walk over the estuary and along the beach to discover the natural treasures of the Lovers Key shoreline. Learn about seashells, crustaceans, starfish, and other creatures that can be found in our waters. Participants should be prepared to spend time in the water. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, May 13th at 10:30 a.m.
Wading Trip

Program is free with paid park entry.

Join a park ranger for an exciting wading trip into our seagrass flats. With a push net in hand, you'll discover the creatures that call the seagrass their home, discuss their anatomy, diet, and unique adaptations, and learn how you can help protect this vital ecosystem. Participants should be prepared to spend time in the water. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 14th at 10:30 a.m.
Walk on the Wild Side

Program is free with paid park entry

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*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Sunday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.
The Lure of Lovers Key Screenings

Screenings are free with paid park entry

Join us at the Welcome and Discovery Center for a day of free screenings of the informative and visually stunning documentary, *The Lure of Lovers Key*. The film recounts the cultural history of Lovers Key while also exploring the stunning natural features and modern-day uses of our state park. Screenings of the 25-minute film will begin at the top of every hour from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. *The Lure of Lovers Key* was created by Tom James of *PelicanMedia*. Reservations are not required.

Sunday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Yoga

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

Join a yoga instructor from the FMB Yoga Project for a special 90-minute practice for the full moon on the sand at Lovers Key. 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.

Wednesday, May 18th at 10:30 a.m.
All About Alligators

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park naturalist to learn all about our local alligators. Discover why alligators are such integral members of our southwest Florida ecosystems, what you can do to safely co-exist with them, and how you can help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, May 20th at 10:30 a.m.
Sensational Sharks

Program is free with paid park entry

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*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 21st at 10:30 a.m.
How Did They Get That Shot?

Fees: \$45 per participant, includes park entry fees

Join award-winning photographer Carol Matthai for a beginner-to-intermediate wildlife photography class. The class is a lecture-style overview of techniques to improve photo composition and storytelling and is geared specifically toward capturing stunning images of wildlife in southern Florida. This class is included in Matthai's *Going Wild!* series at Lovers Key State Park. Class is open to camera and cell phone photographers alike. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 21st at 10:30 a.m.
Sandcastle Contest for Kids

Program is free with paid park entry

Join us to celebrate Kids to Parks Day at Lovers Key with a sandcastle building contest! Bring your own supplies, style, and creativity as you show off your sandcastle skills. Children 18 and under are welcome to participate, and awards will be given out based on age. At the end of the program, participants will learn about the importance of breaking down their castles before they leave in order to keep the beach safe during sea turtle nesting season. Kids to Parks Day is a national day of outdoor play celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Wednesday, May 25th at 10:30 a.m.
Munchin' Manatees

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park naturalist for an interesting and informative lecture on our local, loveable manatees. Learn what these magnificent mammals are all about, and how you can help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, May 27th at 10:30 a.m.
Seashell Walk

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger for a relaxing hike along the Lovers Key shoreline. Learn the names of the seashells that wash ashore at the park, fun facts about the creatures who craft them, and the shelling regulations that help protect these iconic Florida treasures. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 28th at 10:30 a.m.
Walk on the Wild Side

Program is free with paid park entry

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*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Tuesday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m.
Fishing Clinic

Program is free with paid park entry

Join two park naturalists to learn more about fishing in southwest Florida. You'll discuss a variety of tackle and fresh bait rigs, discover the best places to drop a line at the park, and learn the rules and regulations for fishing in southwest Florida. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Event sign-ups can also be accessed at the following QR code:



www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com

The above link and accompanying QR code are used for interpretive programs, special events, and all programs excluding yoga classes at Lovers Key State Park.



www.SabaMovementCenter.com/class-schedule

The above link and accompanying QR code are used for yoga classes at Lovers Key State Park

About Lovers Key State Park

Once a collection of secluded barrier islands, Lovers Key has become a premiere destination for wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation, and spectacular beachside weddings in southwest Florida. Previously destined to become the site of luxury condominiums, the 1,616-acres of Lovers Key State Park were donated to the people of Florida so the park's natural features could be enjoyed for generations to come. The two-mile stretch of beach is popular for shelling, swimming, picnicking, fishing, and swimming, while Black Island offers five miles of trails for hiking, bicycling, and wildlife viewing. The Welcome and Discovery Center is an educational hub for curious park goers to learn more about the wildlife, history, activities, and ecosystems at Lovers Key. Open 365 days a year, there's no better place to enjoy a slice of the real Florida than Lovers Key State Park.