



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

**CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT SENT:** 13 January 2024  
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**STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN FEBRUARY 2024**  
*-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 **February 2024**. All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park.

Space is limited for all events; reservations are required. To register, visit the Friends of Lovers Key’s Eventbrite page: <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

The park offers many recreational opportunities for visitors with disabilities. For accommodations assistance, please contact the park office at 239-707-6328.

**February 2024** programs include:

**Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Beach and Estuary Walk**

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger for a leisurely hike along the beach and estuary shorelines of Lovers Key. Discover the natural beauty of both ecosystems as you encounter the seashells, crustaceans, birds, and other creatures that reside amongst these waterways. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Beach Cleanup**

Park entrance fee is waived for participants

Join a park ranger for a beach cleanup at South Beach. Enjoy a lovely hour on the beach as you do your part to keep our state park (and planet!) clean. Participants will record the types of trash they collect, and the findings will help inform park messaging. Gloves, buckets, pickers, pencils, and data sheets will be provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 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 ecosystem, and what you can do to help mitigate the current threats they face. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Manatee Painting Class**

\$54 per participant, includes park entry fee

Join our Artist-in-Residence, Jenny M. Licht, to paint your own manatee on canvas. With Jenny's help, you'll transform your blank canvas into a beautiful scene featuring this iconic Florida resident. All materials and expertise provided. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Nature Journaling Walk**

Program is free with paid park entry

Join our 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 along the Black Island Trail and create some wildlife sketches of your own. Free journals and pencils are provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**How Did They Get That Shot?**

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

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 Southwest Florida. Class is open to camera and cell phone photographers alike. Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is required. *To purchase tickets*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Magnificent Mangroves**

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger to discover the magnificence of mangroves, Florida's most vital intercoastal plants. Learn how to identify each of the three true mangroves native to Florida, what special adaptations allow them to thrive in saltwater environments, and how Florida law protects these critical coastal dwellers. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 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 and enjoy a little local history along the way. Closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Junior Ranger Day**

Program is free with paid park entry

Join park staff for a Junior Ranger educational program and accompanying activity. Each day will explore one of the four components of the Florida Park Service's Junior Ranger program: natural resources, cultural resources, recreation, and service. Participants will be eligible for Junior Ranger passport stamps with the successful completion of the program. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Delightful Dolphins**

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park naturalist to learn more about our local dolphins. Discover the unique anatomy of these marine mammals, how they help maintain balance in the food web, and what you can do to keep them safe. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

**Event registration** can be accessed at the following QR code:



The Friends of Lovers Key's Eventbrite Page:  
<https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

**About Lovers Key State Park**

Once a collection of secluded barrier islands, Lovers Key has become a premiere destination for wildlife viewing and outdoor recreation in Southwest Florida. Previously destined to become the site of luxury condominiums, Lovers Key State Park was purchased for 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, picnicking, fishing, and swimming, while Black Island offers five miles of trails for hiking, bicycling, and wildlife viewing. Additionally, the Welcome and Discovery Center is an educational hub for curious park goers to learn more about the ecosystems, history, and recreational opportunities available at the park. There's no better place to enjoy a slice of the real Florida than Lovers Key State Park.