

SWCS Preliminary Program - 2007 Annual Conference - Tampa, Florida

Outdoor Classroom – Educational Tours

All tours will take place on Wednesday, July 25 and leave at 7:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated. The tours will give exposure to interesting and informative conservation work happening in the area. You must be registered as an attendee in order to participate in a tour. Be sure to register early to secure a seat on a tour. The SWCS reserves the right to cancel a tour that does not have the minimum number of participants and to change the maximum number of participants. Late fees for tours apply beginning on June 15.

Barthle Brothers Ranch

This half-day tour will visit the Barthle Brothers Ranch. The tour will highlight their cow-calf operation, pasture management program, quarter horse breeding operation, prescribe burning program and wildlife and hunting management activities. A majority of this tour will be outside (not air conditioned).

Participants: 23 minimum, 55 maximum

Cost: \$35 early, \$40 late – Includes guides and refreshments

NRCS Brooksville Plant Materials Center and ARS SubTropical Agricultural Research Station

This full-day tour will visit the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center and the USDA-ARS SubTropical Agricultural Research Station located in Brooksville, Florida. Learn about Florida plants and the various research projects underway. A majority of this tour will be outside (not air conditioned).

Participants: 30 minimum, 47 maximum

Cost: \$60 early, \$65 late – Includes guides, refreshments and lunch

Unique Agricultural Production Systems Tour

This full-day tour will visit a variety of Florida agriculture production operations including a 480-acre coastal restoration project in progress, an aquaculture project at the Manatee County jail, a native plant nursery, erosion control work at a cultural resource site (Indian mound), integrated water management including reclaimed water, and a community farm in development. A majority of this tour will be outside.

Participants: 30 minimum, 47 maximum

Cost: \$60 early, \$65 late – Includes guides, refreshments and lunch

Green Swamp

This full-day field trip will visit the heart of the Green Swamp and showcase state-of-the-art upland restoration projects, fire management and multiple use management. The Green Swamp is a 560,000 acre expanse of wetlands, flatlands with occasional low ridges located in the center of the Florida peninsula. Medium hiking involved. A majority of this tour will be outside.

Participants: 10 minimum, 13 maximum

Cost: \$60 early, \$65 late – Includes guides, refreshments and lunch

Lake Apopka Wetland Restoration

Visit wetland restoration efforts in and around the Lake Apopka area on this full-day tour. Tour stops will discuss USDA NRCS Wetland Restoration Projects, water quality issues and on-going lake restoration efforts. A majority of this tour will be outside (not air conditioned).

Participants: 10 minimum, 13 maximum

Cost: \$60 early, \$65 late – Includes guides, refreshments and lunch

Aquarium-related tours will depart at 8:45 a.m.

Florida Aquarium

These self-guided full- or half-day tours will visit the Florida Aquarium. The facility is home to over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals from 1,340 species from Florida and all over the world. The Florida Aquarium features 200,000 square-feet of air-conditioned fun. For more information visit www.flaquarium.org

Participants: 10-20 minimum, 28-55 maximum

Cost: \$50 early, \$55 late – Includes admission ticket (Does NOT include lunch)

Florida Aquarium and Tampa Bay Eco Tour

This full-day tour will visit the Florida Aquarium (above) and also enjoy the Bay Spirit Eco Tour for the latter part of the day. The Florida Aquarium is offering Eco tours into Tampa Bay aboard a 64-foot catamaran officially named Bay Spirit. Passengers must be able to transfer to the boat deck. This eco tour takes guests out to the Bay, home to over 400 bottlenose dolphins. It is also one of the best places in Florida to view birds and an abundance of native fish. (Shared bus with the Aquarium Tour).

Participants: 10-20 minimum, 28-55 maximum

Cost: \$65 early, \$70 late – Includes admission tickets for both stops (Does NOT include lunch)

Networking Social Night – Busch Gardens

Tuesday, July 24, 2007 – Buses will begin departing Saddlebrook at 5:00 p.m. and will run continuously until the park closes.

Join your fellow attendees for dinner and an evening at Busch Gardens—the ultimate family adventure park. Busch Gardens offers an array of fascinating



attractions based on exotic encounters with the African continent. A unique blend of thrilling rides, one of the country's premier zoos featuring more than 2,700 animals, live shows, restaurants, shops and games, Busch Gardens provides unrivaled "real" excitement for guests of every age. Includes admission to Busch Gardens for the evening (\$61.95 regular admission price), dinner, and transportation to/from the park. **Tickets:** \$65 (all ages)

Visit: www.buschgardens.com/BGT/park_info.aspx for additional information about Busch Gardens.