

Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves *Winter Bay Day*

Presented by Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc.
and the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.
Proceeds to benefit the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves (501 (C) 3 Non-Profit).

LOCATION: The Bay Day event is located at the St. Joseph Bay Preserves Center, 3915 State Road 30-A (C-30), Port St. Joe, Florida. The Preserves Center is approximately 5 miles south of Port St. Joe; approximately one hour east of Panama City; and approximately two to two and a half hours south and west of Tallahassee.

REGISTRATION: Reservations will be taken in advance **ONLY** for the 9:00 am (EST) nature/birding trip (by phone only - 850.229.1787).

Sign up sheets for all other trips will be available at the Preserves Center on Saturday February 6th (the day of the event) at 9:00 a.m. (EST).

PLEASE, if you sign up for a trip, **show up or let us know that you aren't going to show up so that someone else can take your place.** Trips usually fill up quickly and we hate to turn people away and then have empty spots that go unfilled from no-shows.

TOURS: All depart on time from the Preserves Center. **ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME ZONE.** Remember to bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen. Normal birding courtesy rules apply.

AREA ACCCOMODATIONS:

PORT ST. JOE, CAPE SAN BLAS, and INDIAN PASS:

Gulf County Chamber of Commerce 1.800.239.9553 www.gulfchamber.org

Gulf County Tourist Development Council 850.229.7800 www.visitgulf.com

DISABLED ACCESS: Special accommodations will be made for the disabled whenever possible, but must be requested in advance. The Preserves Center is accessible for the disabled, including parking, bathrooms and access ramps. Bird spotting over St. Joseph Bay from the deck allows good bird viewing for those unable to access the more remote areas.

QUESTIONS: For more information please email info@birdfestival.info or call 850.229.1787. Also visit www.stjosephbaypreserves.org for more information and on-site weather.

PRESERVE TOURS

The following tours depart from the Preserves Center and are free of charge. Pre-registration (on signup sheet on the day of the event) is required as space is limited.

BACKWOODS TOURS OF THE BUFFER PRESERVE: (RIDING)

Experience the backcountry of the Buffer Preserve with Jean Huffman, fire ecologist and Buffer Preserve Manager, or Bill Boothe, naturalist and photographer extraordinaire. Riding in benches in a tour wagon, you'll get a good view of recently burned areas to see the dramatic post-fire landscape and the wildlife that is attracted to these areas. Hear about the history of this land and the importance of fire to the resident plants and animals. Learn about research going on in the Preserve that is uncovering information about fire and water over the past hundreds and thousands of years. This is mostly a riding trip with short walks interspersed and covers many areas within the heart of the Preserve.

BIRDING TOURS

The following tours will meet at the Preserves Center and then car pool to the appropriate tour locations. Pre-registration (on signup sheet on the day of the event) is required as space is limited. These tours are free of charge.

MONEY BAYOU BIRDING AND NATURE WALK: (WALKING)

Limited to 12 participants

Visit this interesting area of the Buffer Preserve with expert birder and naturalist Alan Knothe. Learn about the natural history of the area, the plants, the animals (especially birds) and the interactions between them. This walk is from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Tour meets at the Preserves Center and then car pools to the Island Trail gate located on State Road 30-C, approximately 3 miles from the Preserves Center.

CAPE SAN BLAS BIRDING: (WALKING)

Limited to 12 participants

Visit one of our very best local birding hot spots with expert birder Alan Knothe. The Cape San Blas property is owned by Eglin AFB. It is an excellent place to see lots of shorebirds, gulls, terns, gannets, waders and more. This walk is from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tour meets at the Preserves Center and then car pools to the Eglin AFB property, located on State Road 30-E (Cape San Blas Road) next to Cape San Blas Lighthouse.

ASTRONOMY TOUR

ASTONOMY WALK & TALK: (WALKING)

No limit on the number of participants

Be amazed at the massive size of our solar system as you walk it out to scale. Learn fascinating facts and scientific principles and explore the mysteries of the universe. Learn the constellations, hear intriguing stories, and search for distant planets. Bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk about 1 mile. The program is presented by Alan Knothe. Alan has taught astronomy at the Hayden Observatory, Okaloosa Walton College, the Emerald Coast Science Center, and various outdoor science centers around the country. The program will be presented at the Preserves Center and starts at 6:00 p.m. and runs until around 8:00 p.m.