

# Conservation 20/20 Celebration

Celebrating 30,000 acres protected for wildlife, water quality and recreation

Conservation 20/20 is a land acquisition and stewardship program to protect natural areas in Lee County. Established more than 20 years ago, the Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to purchase more land through this program, reaching a milestone of more than 30,000 acres protected. Lee County residents and visitors are invited to celebrate this milestone with events planned in March to highlight Conservation 20/20.

## Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

**Tuesday, March 10, 10 AM**  
Prairie Pines Preserve  
18400 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers

Members of the public are invited to join the Lee Board of County Commissioners to celebrate the Conservation 20/20 program at one of Lee County's largest Conservation 20/20 preserves. Free guided walks will also be offered following the ceremony. Reservations for the guided walks are requested in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.

## Guided Nature Hikes

**Saturday, March 21, 9-10:30 AM**  
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve  
11901 Rod & Gun Club Rd., Fort Myers

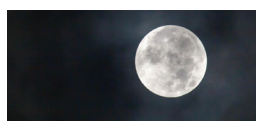


**Wednesday, March 25, 9-10:30 AM**  
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve  
6351 Stringfellow Rd., St. James City

Join a Conservation 20/20 guide to explore these Lee County preserves. Guides will identify and discuss Florida native plants and wildlife. Bring water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, binoculars and a camera. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Program is free. Reservations are requested in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.

## Full Moon Walk

**Monday, March 9, 7:30-9 PM**  
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve  
17751 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers



Join a guide for a free boardwalk tour after sunset to experience the Slough in the light of the full moon. Listen for owls and other nocturnal creatures while taking in the smell of night fragrances on this sensory walk. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Flashlights and flash cameras are not permitted. For ages 6 and older. Reservations are required in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.

## Library Presentations

**"Conservation 20/20 in 2020: A Present and Future Vision for Land Conservation in Lee County"**

**Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
Lakes Regional Library

**Tuesday, March 10, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
South County Regional Library

**Tuesday, March 17, 1-2 PM**  
North Fort Myers Public Library

**Thursday, March 26, 1-2 PM**  
Fort Myers Regional Library

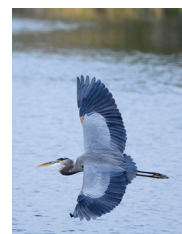


A Conservation 20/20 representative will discuss how the program has grown over the years with the acquisition of new land and what visitors can expect when they visit Lee County's Conservation 20/20 preserves.

**"The Water Connection: Exploring the Partnership Between Lee County Natural Resources and Conservation 20/20"**

**Thursday, March 5, 2-3 PM**  
North Fort Myers Public Library

**Tuesday, March 10, 2-3 PM**  
Bonita Springs Public Library



Learn how Lee County's Department of Natural Resources partners with Conservation 20/20 to enhance the health and productivity of natural lands and water bodies in Lee County. A representative will discuss the success of restoration projects on Conservation 20/20 preserves that have improved water quality and biodiversity.

For library addresses, visit [www.leegov.com/library](http://www.leegov.com/library)



## Prescribed Fire Hiking Tour

Monday, March 16, 9-11 AM  
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park  
17980 Palm Beach Blvd., Alva

Join a Conservation 20/20 guide for a free tour of a natural area following a prescribed burn. Learn about the benefits of prescribed fire for improving wildlife habitat and increasing plant diversity. Suggested items to bring include water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, binoculars and a camera. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Reservations are required in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.



## Calusa Blueway Kayaking Tours

Friday, March 20, 9 AM-Noon  
San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve  
18201 John Morris Rd., Fort Myers

Join a Conservation 20/20 guide for a tour through the mangroves at this natural beach preserve. Learn about wetland systems such as tidal swamp and sea grass beds that provide habitat for fish and a variety of resident and migratory shorebirds.

Cost is \$40 for the kayak rental; free for participants who bring their own kayak. Reservations are required in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.

Tuesday, March 24, 10 AM-3 PM  
Caloosahatchee Regional Park  
119130 North River Rd., Alva

Join Calusa Blueway coordinator Mike Hammond for a guided paddling adventure along the Caloosahatchee River and Hickey Creek in Alva. Participants will launch from Caloosahatchee Regional Park to paddle along the river to Hickey Creek Mitigation Park for a picnic lunch and presentation by Conservation 20/20. Total distance is 7 miles. Degree of difficulty is moderate.

Cost is \$40 for the kayak rental; free for participants who bring their own kayak. All participants must pack their own lunch. Reservations are required in advance by calling (239) 204-1125.

## 2020 Southwest Florida Birding Seminar

Saturday, March 14, 9 AM-4 PM  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers

Join bird experts for this daylong event exploring the science and value of birds in Southwest Florida and beyond. Speakers will present about beach-nesting birds, the behavior of woodpeckers, rare birds in Southwest Florida, and more.



Guided field trips to local bird hotspots are offered the day before the seminar on Friday, March 13. The optional field trips will be led by guides with the Lee County Bird Patrol. The seminar is sponsored by UF/IFAS Lee County Extension and Conservation 20/20.

Cost is \$35, which includes lunch on Saturday. Register online at [www.2020birdingseminar.eventbrite.com](http://www.2020birdingseminar.eventbrite.com).



Share photos of the fun on social media using **#conservation2020**

For complete details, call (239) 533-7400 or visit [www.leegov.com/2020celebration](http://www.leegov.com/2020celebration)

