

In and Around Naples  
**A Series of Presentations  
 for the Collier County Library**  
 by Paul Pacter

**Sanibel, Captiva, Fort Myers,  
 Fort Myers Beach, Estero, Bonita**

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[www.paulvisits.com](http://www.paulvisits.com)

**Sanibel, Captiva, Fort Myers, Fort Myers  
 Beach, Estero, Bonita**

I could have titled this presentation “**Day  
 Trips Just North of Naples**”.

We will look at several dozen places.

And there are many more we just don't  
 have time for.

Map on next slide will give you an idea of  
 where we're going:



**Hurricane Ian**

This presentation was planned, and most  
 photos taken, before Ian.

- Parts of the area we are looking at were devastated by Ian.
- Ian's worst devastation in Florida.
- Some sites we will visit are temporarily closed and may not reopen for months.
- I am not aware that any of these places are permanently closed.
- Check online for info.



**Sanibel**

**Barrier Island:** Buffer between the sea and the mainland.

**Land use:** More than half the island is made up of wildlife refuges.

**Area:** 33 sq mi of which 17 sq mi is land and 16 sq mi is water.

**Elevation:** 3 feet.

**Population:** 7,319. Half over 65.

**History**

**500 BC:** Settled by Calusa Indians.

**1513:** Ponce de Leon landed in St Augustine. First known European expedition to Florida. He named the place La Florida.

**1513:** Sailed around the Keys and up the West Coast of Florida. Landed in Sanibel (then unnamed).

**Some say:** Ponce named it "Santa Isybella" after Spain's Queen Isabella.

**Others:** Sanibel evolved from "Santa Ybel" - old name for the southern tip of the island.

**1832:** First settlement.

**1849:** Settlement abandoned.

**Very small numbers until 1963:** When Sanibel Causeway replaced the ferry.

**Toll: \$6 EZPass. \$9 cash.**

## J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Website:**

[www.fws.gov/refuge/JN\\_Ding\\_Darling/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/JN_Ding_Darling/)

**Where:** On Sanibel Island.

**Get There:** I-75 or US-41 to Sanibel Causeway. Right onto Periwinkle.

At end of Periwinkle, right onto Tarpon Bay Rd, then left onto Sanibel-Captiva Road.

**When:** Daily except Fridays and national holidays.

**Admission:** \$10 per car to drive 4-mile Wildlife Drive. \$1 for hikers or bikers.

**What:** 6,400 acres of mangrove forest, submerged seagrass beds, marshes, and hardwood hammocks.

One of America's largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystems.

4 mile one-way drive with spectacular views of lakes and bayous.

## Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

– Habitat of 245 bird species.

– Many birdwatching opportunities.

Especially December through March.

– Home to raccoons, bobcats, river otters, alligators, and marsh rabbits.

– Hiking trails.

– Small exhibit building.



White Ibis



**4-mile Wildlife Drive.**

**Drive on left (cars and bicycles).**

**You will see many places you want to stop.**

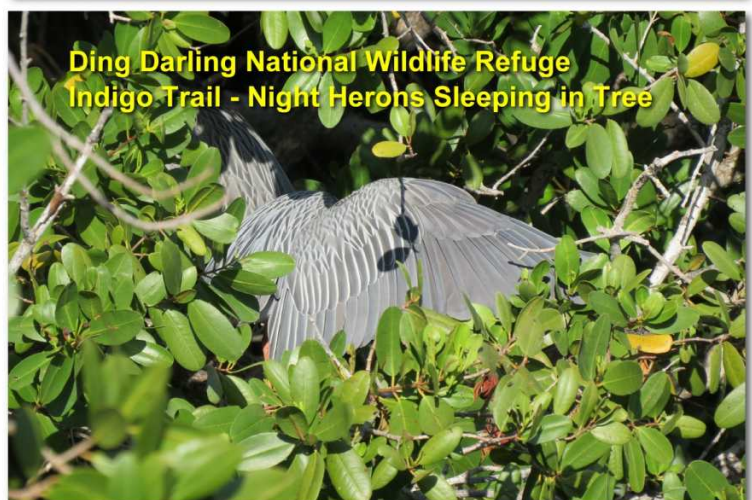
**Park anywhere on right.**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Roseate Spoonbill Flying**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Indigo Trail - Night Herons Sleeping in Tree**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Gallinule (Moorhen) on Indigo Trail**



Kingfisher, Grebe, Merganser, Stilt, Plover, Sandpiper, Willet, Cuckoo, Pelicans, Hawk, Osprey, Cormorant, Anhinga, various Herons, various Egrets, Ibis, Stork, Spoonbill, and many others.



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Sandpipers**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
White Ibis**



**Ding Darling NWR  
Tricolored Heron**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Double-Crested Cormorants**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Observation Tower**



**Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Sandpipers and Cormorants**





Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
American Alligator

### Calusa Indians:

- Native in SW Florida from at least 3,500 BC.
- 60 villages along SW Florida coasts.
- Est. 10,000 to 50,000 people.
- Powerful military.
- Fishing, trapping, sailing. Astute traders.
- Late 1700s wiped out by invading enemy Indian tribes from Georgia and Carolinas.



Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge  
Calusa shell mound.

### Sanibel Historical Museum and Village

Website: [sanibelmuseum.org/](http://sanibelmuseum.org/)

Where: 950 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, FL.

Get There: Cross Sanibel Causeway. Right on Periwinkle 2.5 miles.

When: Mid-October through April (Seasonal): Tues.-Sat. 10 am to 4 pm. May through July (Summer): Tues.-Sat. 10 am to 1 pm.

Admission: \$10.00 adults. Children free.

**What:** The story of Sanibel from the Calusa and Spanish eras to the early pioneer families who settled on the island in the 1800s.



The 11 buildings loaded with historical artefacts and photos tell of warriors, adventures, fishermen, farmers, and proprietors.

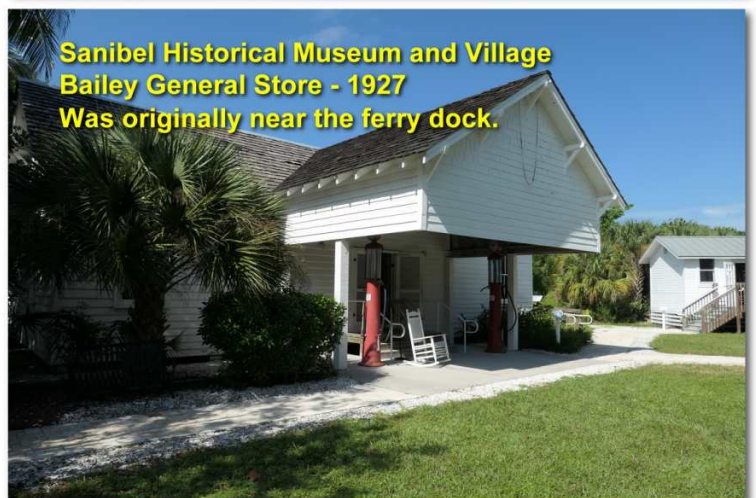
**Nine historic buildings moved from their original sites. Each restored to its original state. And replica packing house and garage:**

- Shore Haven (1924).
- Bailey General Store (1927).
- Caretaker's Cottage (1925).
- Morning Glories Cottage (1925).
- Sanibel Packing House (1900)
- Sanibel School House (1896).
- Post Office (1926).
- Burnap Cottage (1898).
- Miss Charlotta's Tea Room (1926).
- Rutland House (1913).

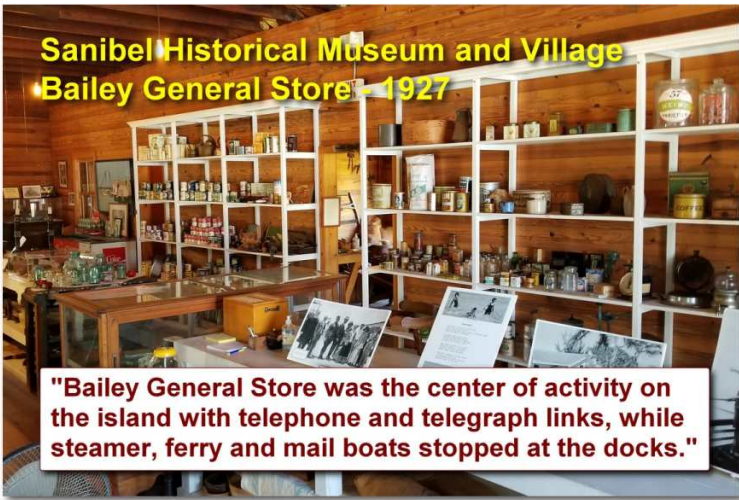
**Hurricane Ian:**  
All buildings are standing. All damaged. Preliminary damage estimate \$1.35 million.



Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Shore Haven - 1924  
Beachfront Home



Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Bailey General Store - 1927  
Was originally near the ferry dock.



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Bailey General Store - 1927**

"Bailey General Store was the center of activity on the island with telephone and telegraph links, while steamer, ferry and mail boats stopped at the docks."



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Caretakers' Cottage - 1925**  
Also was guest house for owners of Shore Haven



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Morning Glories - 1926  
Beachfront Cottage**

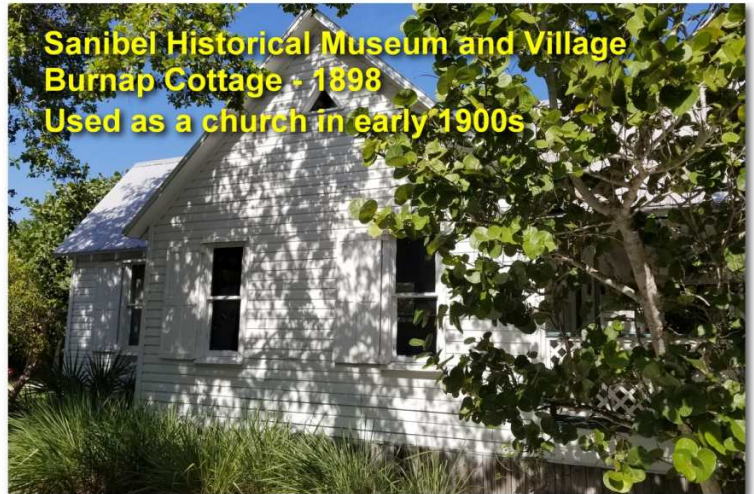
Sears kit home. Came in 30,000 pieces on a truck delivered on a barge in 1925.



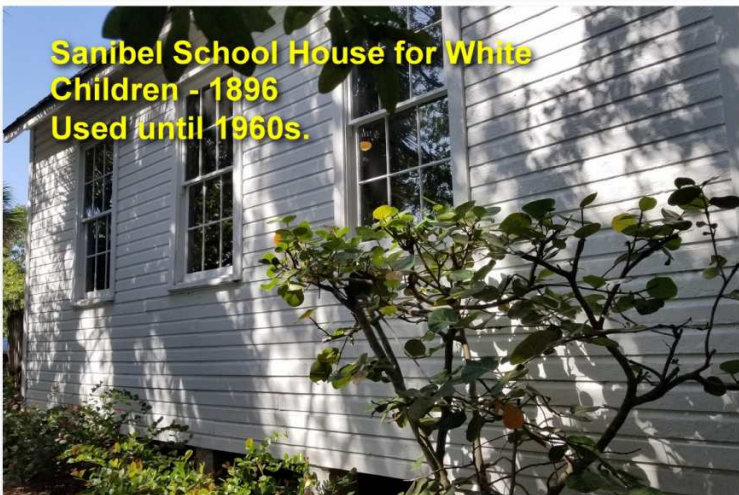
**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Living Room and Porch of Morning Glories  
1926**



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Miss Charlotta's Tea Room - 1926**  
Miss C was the maiden aunt of the Bailey Bros.



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Burnap Cottage - 1898**  
Used as a church in early 1900s



**Sanibel School House for White  
Children - 1896**  
Used until 1960s.



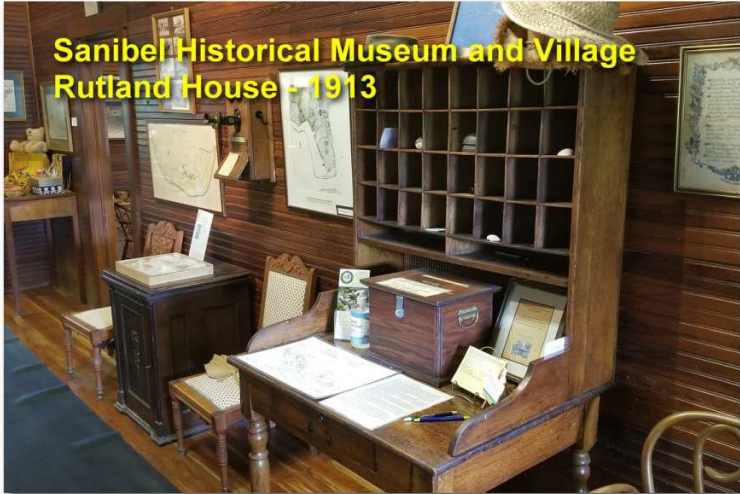
**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Sanibel School House - 1896**



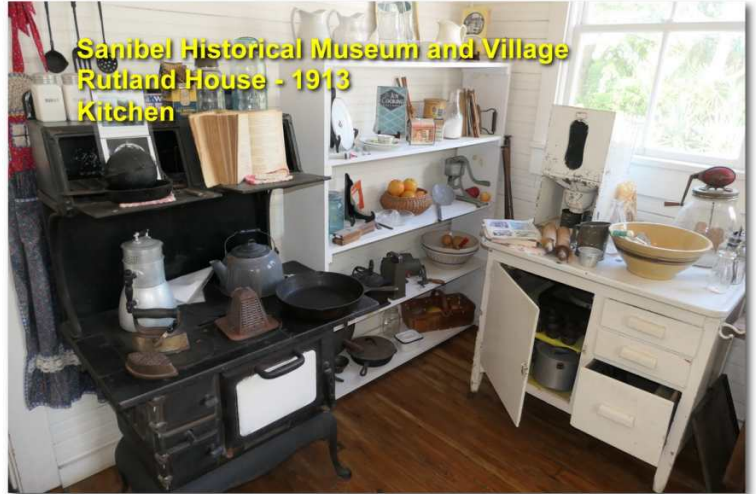
**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Post Office - 1926**



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Rutland House - 1896  
Cracker Style: Built on Stilts, High Ceilings,  
lots of windows for air flow.**

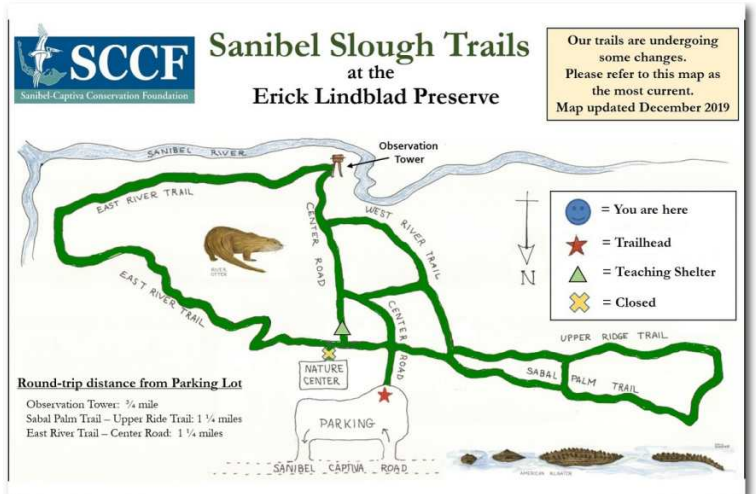


**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Rutland House - 1913**



**Sanibel Historical Museum and Village  
Rutland House - 1913  
Kitchen**

**Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Trails**  
**Website:** <http://www.sccf.org/>  
**Where:** 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road  
 Sanibel, FL 33957.  
**Get There:** Cross Sanibel Causeway.  
 Right on Periwinkle 2.5 miles. Right on  
 Tarpon Bay Rd. Left on Sanibel-Captiva  
 Road 1 mile.  
**When:** Trails open dawn to dusk.  
**What:** Interlocking maze of four miles of  
 trails. May be muddy in rainy season.



**Sanibel-Captiva Conservation  
Foundation Trails**



**Sanibel-Captiva Conservation  
Foundation Trails**



Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Trails

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Trails

**CROW Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife**

**Website:** <http://crowclinic.org/>

**Get There:** 3883 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL, 33957.

**When:** Daily Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm (May to December closed Saturdays).

**Admission:** Adults \$12, children \$7. "Walking Tour" that includes admission and visit to hospital is \$25.

**What:** Hospital for the care of injured, sick or orphaned wild animals. Animal admissions 8am to 5pm 365 days a year. Education center open to public. Live animal exhibits. Exhibits on animal care and rehabilitation. Live daily presentations at 11am.

Hospital not open to public except on walking tour (extra charge).

**In 2021, 6,396 patients were admitted.**

On Sept 26, 2022: 163 patients in hospital. The 163 included:

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Barred Owl 1                   | Magnificent Frigatebird 1    |
| Black-bellied Whistling Duck 9 | Merlin 1                     |
| Brown Pelican 2                | Mourning Dove 9              |
| Burrowing Owl 2                | Northern Cardinal 3          |
| Common Snapping Turtle 1       | Northern Mockingbird 1       |
| Eastern Cottontail 7           | Northern Raccoon 26          |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel 61       | Osprey 1                     |
| Eastern Screech Owl 6          | Peninsula Cooter 1           |
| Eastern Spotted Skunk 2        | Red-shouldered Hawk 3        |
| Fish Crow 2                    | Ruddy Turnstone 1            |
| Florida Box Turtle 2           | Virginia Opossum 14          |
| Gopher Tortoise 3              | White-winged Dove 1          |
| Great Horned Owl 1             | Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1 |
| Laughing Gull 1                |                              |



Crow Clinic Visitor Education Center



Baby Alligator



Ball Python

## Live Presentation Eastern Indigo Snake



## Bailey Tract

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/jn-ding-darling/map?trail=bailey-tract-trail>

**Where:** Tarpon Bay Rd., Sanibel Island.

**Get There:** I-75 or US 41 to Sanibel Causeway. Right onto Periwinkle. At end of Periwinkle, left onto Tarpon Bay Rd. 1/2 mile on right.

**When:** Daily dawn to dusk.

**Admission:** Free.

### What:

- Managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of Ding Darling NWR, but physically separate.
- 100 acres of marsh, dikes, freshwater ponds. 2.3 miles of flat hiking trails.
- Wildlife viewing, photography, biking, fishing.



## Bailey Tract, US FWS, Sanibel



## Bailey Tract, US FWS, Sanibel



## BIRDS OF THE BAILEY TRACT

Over 245 species of birds occur at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

<b>Great Egret</b> • Tall, thin, long neck with a sharp hook at the tip. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Little Blue Heron</b> • Small, blue heron with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Tricolored Heron</b> • Small, blue heron with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>White Ibis</b> • Long, thin neck with a sharp hook at the tip. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Anhinga</b> • Long, thin neck with a sharp hook at the tip. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Osprey</b> • Long, thin neck with a sharp hook at the tip. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Mottled Duck</b> • Long, thin neck with a sharp hook at the tip. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.			
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b> • Small, blue teal with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b> • Small, blue grebe with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>American Coot</b> • Small, blue coot with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Birding Guidelines</b> Do not feed birds or other wildlife. Do not disturb nesting birds as unattended eggs and young are vulnerable. Take out all trash. Litter and fishing line are serious hazards to all wildlife. Give birds enough room to rest and feed during migrations. Do not use recorded calls.		<b>Common Gallinule</b> • Small, blue gallinule with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Black-necked Stilt</b> • Small, blue stilt with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Swallow-tailed Kite</b> • Small, blue kite with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.		
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b> • Small, blue kingfisher with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> • Small, blue woodpecker with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b> • Small, blue grebe with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Carolina Wren</b> • Small, blue wren with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b> • Small, blue gnatcatcher with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Gray Catbird</b> • Small, blue catbird with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Northern Mockingbird</b> • Small, blue mockingbird with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Palm Warbler</b> • Small, blue warbler with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> • Small, blue warbler with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.	<b>Northern Cardinal</b> • Small, blue cardinal with a long neck. • Long, thin legs. • Long, thin neck. • Long, thin tail.

## Bailey Homestead Preserve, Sanibel Managed by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

**Website:** <https://www.sccf.org/preserves/bailey-homestead-preserve>

**Get There:** 1300 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957.

**When:** Trail open dawn to dusk.

**What:** Historic home, garden center, 0.9 mile walking trail, preserved land.

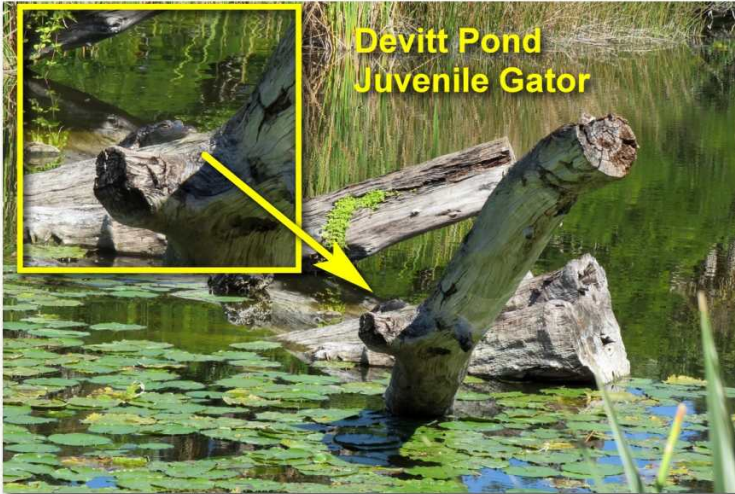


**28 acres of which:**

- Front 9 acres include the Homestead, retail garden center, the Shipley Trail.
- 19 acre wildlife corridor that includes freshwater wetlands and interior ridges.
- Historic 1896 Bailey family home and 1908 windmill.
- The Baileys were Sanibel farming pioneers, business people (packing house, grocery, hardware store), and conservationists.
- Home is open only for events.



**Bailey Homestead Preserve  
Devitt Pond**



**Devitt Pond  
Juvenile Gator**



**Bailey Homestead - 1896**



**Cooter Turtle in a Pond  
Along Shipley Trail**

**In addition to Ding Darling NWR, Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, Conservation Foundation Trails, and Bailey Tract:**

- Sanibel Lighthouse, 1884.
- Sanibel Fishing Pier.
- Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.
- Captiva Chapel-by-the-Sea, 1901.
- Historic Captiva Cemetery, 1888.
- Sanibel Farmers Market.
- And, of course, sunsets.



**Sanibel Lighthouse - 1884  
Operated by US Coast Guard.  
Grounds open to public.  
Lighthouse itself not open.  
102 feet tall.**

**Hurricane Ian:  
House Destroyed.  
Lighthouse did not fall.  
Bottom of one leg lost.  
Has a temporary support.**



**Sanibel Fishing Pier  
East end of island.  
Redfish, Snook, Sheepshead, Drum, Snapper.**

**Hurricane Ian: Fishing  
Pier largely destroyed**

**Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum**  
Shells and tanks of living mollusks

**Hurricane Ian:**  
5 feet of water in ground floor.  
Most animals in aquarium died.  
Roof lost. Water entered 2nd and 3rd floors.  
Exhibits damaged or lost.

3075 Sanibel Captiva Rd. Sanibel  
Daily 10am to 5pm  
Adults \$24. Less for children, seniors.

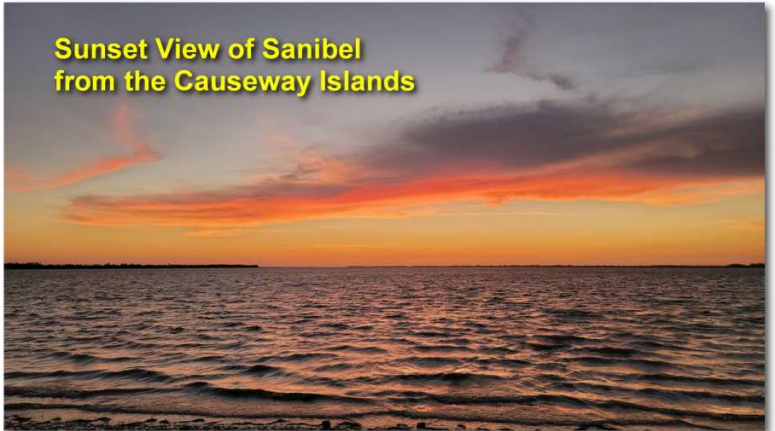
**Sanibel Island Farmers Market**  
Sundays October-May 8am to 1pm



**Big Arts Sanibel Island**  
Performing Arts. Fine Arts. Education Programs.



**Sunset View of Sanibel**  
from the Causeway Islands



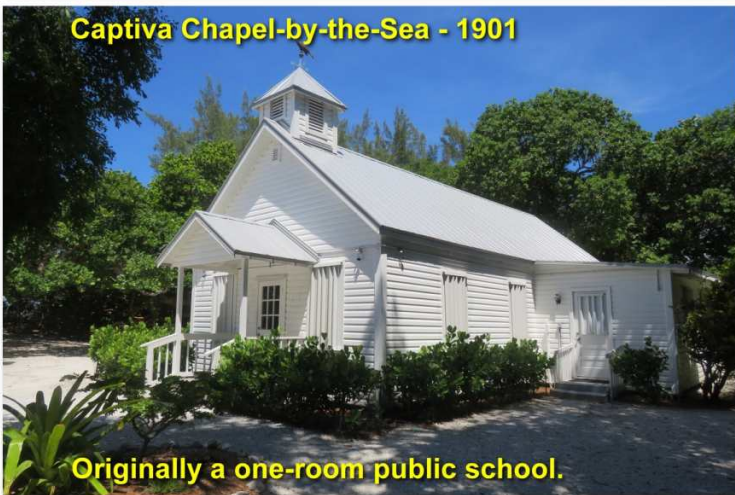
**Captiva**

**Separate island:**  
**West of Sanibel.**  
**Separated from Sanibel by Blind Pass.**

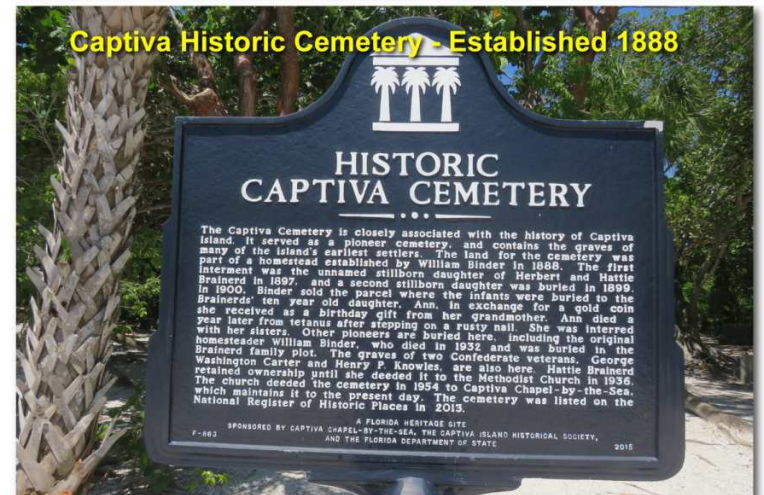


**Small bridge over Blind Pass.**  
**Population 2020 Census: 318.**

**Captiva Chapel-by-the-Sea - 1901**



**Captiva Historic Cemetery - Established 1888**



## Captiva Historic Cemetery - Established 1888



## Edison and Ford Winter Estates Fort Myers

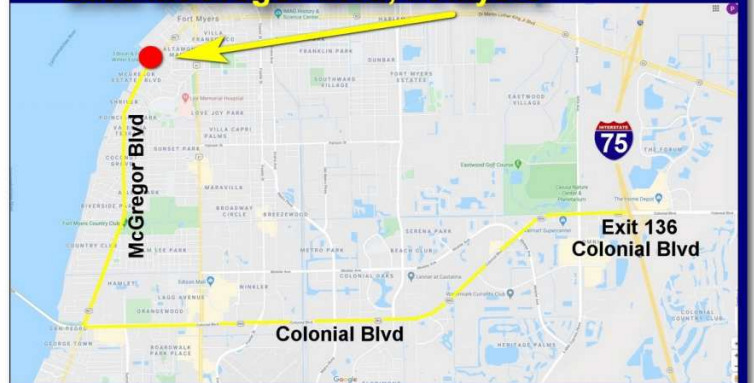
**Website:** [www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/](http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/)

**Where:** 2350 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers 33901.

**Get There:** I-75 to Colonial Blvd Exit #136. West on Colonial Blvd about 6 miles to McGregor (just before The Gulf). Right on McGregor. About 3 miles, on left.

**When:** Daily 9am to 5:30pm.

## Edison and Ford Winter Estates 2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft Myers



**Admission:** Two ways to tour the Edison and Ford Historic Homes and Gardens:

**Self-guided tour:** 60-minute audio on your phone via an app. \$25.

**Docent-guided tour:** 60 minutes. \$30.

Both tours allow you also to visit the Museum and Laboratory.

**But on these tours you do not go into the homes or lab. You look in.**

See next slide for tours where you actually go inside.

## Specialized Tours:

**Automotive Tour:**  
Mondays, 10:30am.  
90 minutes. \$50.



**Inside the Homes Tour:**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am.  
90 minutes. \$50.

## Edison's Winter Home:

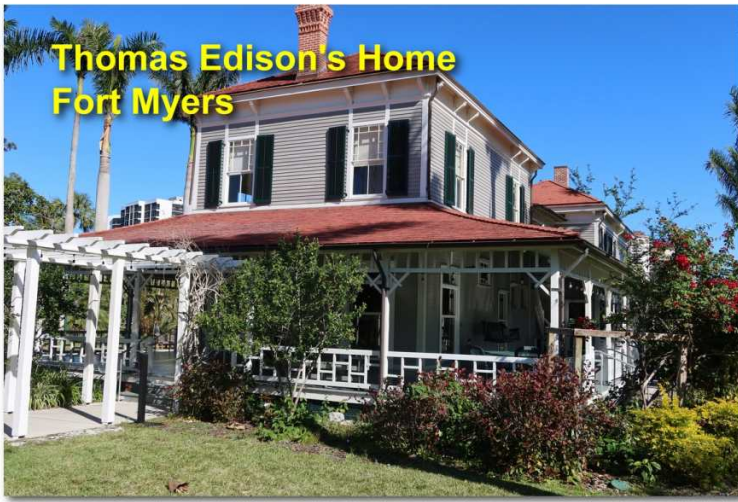
- 14-acre Site on Caloosahatchee Riv.
- Queen Anne New England Style.
- Built 1885 in parts in Fairfield, Maine.
- Sent to Fort Myers on 4 sailing ships.
- Assembled in Fort Myers in 1886.
- One of the first pre-fabricated buildings in America.

## Thomas Alva Edison was America's greatest inventor. Examples:

Electric power generators and distribution systems. Phonograph. Motion picture camera. Electric light bulb. Microphone. Fluoroscope. Rechargeable battery.

**Edison called his home "Seminole Lodge".**

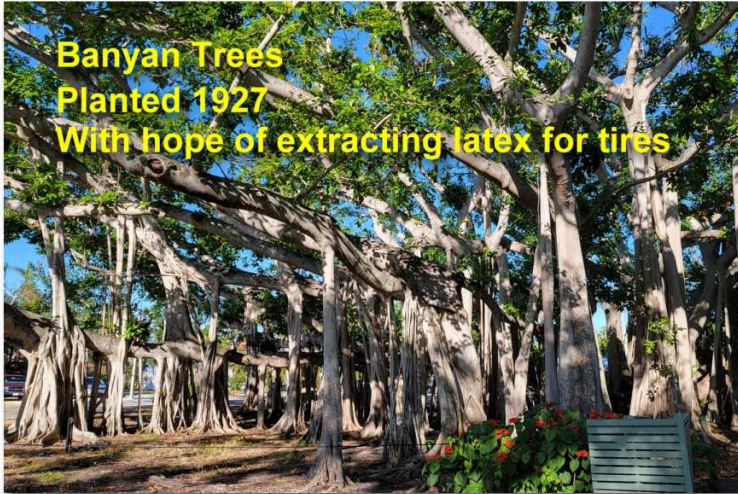
**Was his winter workplace and place of relaxation until he died in 1931.**



**Thomas Edison's Home  
Fort Myers**



**Thomas Edison's Home  
Dining Room**



**Banyan Trees  
Planted 1927  
With hope of extracting latex for tires**

**Museum:** Explore the lives, creativity, and achievements of Edison and Ford. 15,000 square feet. Thousands of artifacts including several historic cars.

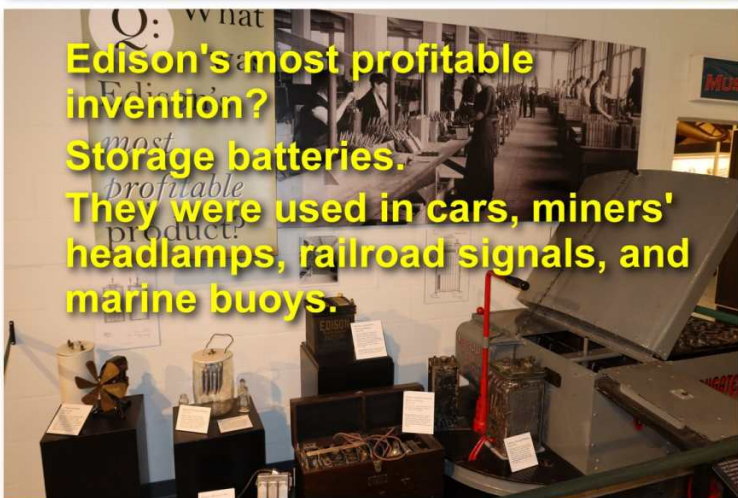
**Edison's Laboratory:** Opened 1927. Focused on finding a domestic US source of rubber in case of a foreign supply shortage. 17,000 plant samples tested. Edison eventually selected **Goldenrod** as the most suitable. Lab operated until 1936.



**Edison and Ford Museum**



**Edison and Ford Museum  
1914 Model T**



**Edison's most profitable invention?**  
**Storage batteries.**  
They were used in cars, miners' headlamps, railroad signals, and marine buoys.



**Edison and Ford Museum**



**Edison and Ford Museum  
Edison's Own 1916 Model T**



**Edison's Botanic Research Laboratory  
Goal: Find a US plant that could produce rubber in case of foreign shortage.**

**Ford Home:**  
Edison's good friend Henry Ford bought the house next to Edison's in 1916. It was built 1911. Named "The Mangoes".

Henry Ford manufactured the first automobile that many middle-class Americans could afford, starting 1910. The car became a practical conveyance that profoundly affected 20th century society worldwide.

**Ford died In 1947.**



**Henry Ford's Home  
Fort Myers  
1911**



**Henry Ford's Home  
Living Room**



**Henry Ford's Home  
Dining Room**



**Ford's and Edison's  
Comments on Inventing**

**"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."  
Henry Ford.  
161 US Patents**

**"I have not failed. I've found 10,000 ways that won't work."  
Thomas Edison.  
1,093 US Patents.**

**Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve**  
**Website:** [www.leegov.com/parks/preserves/sixmilecypress](http://www.leegov.com/parks/preserves/sixmilecypress)  
**Friends of Six Mile Cypress Slough**  
[www.sloughpreserve.org/](http://www.sloughpreserve.org/)  
**Where:** 7751 Penzance Blvd at 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL. 33966.  
**Get There:** I-75 Exit 131 Daniels Pkwy. West 2.7 mi to 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Right onto 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Then 1.8 mi to entrance, on right.

**Admission:** Free. Parking is \$1 per hour max \$5.

**Trail hours:** Daily dawn to dusk.

**Interpretive Center:** Tues-Sun 10-4.  
Closed Mondays. *But trails are open Mon.*

**Guided nature walks:**

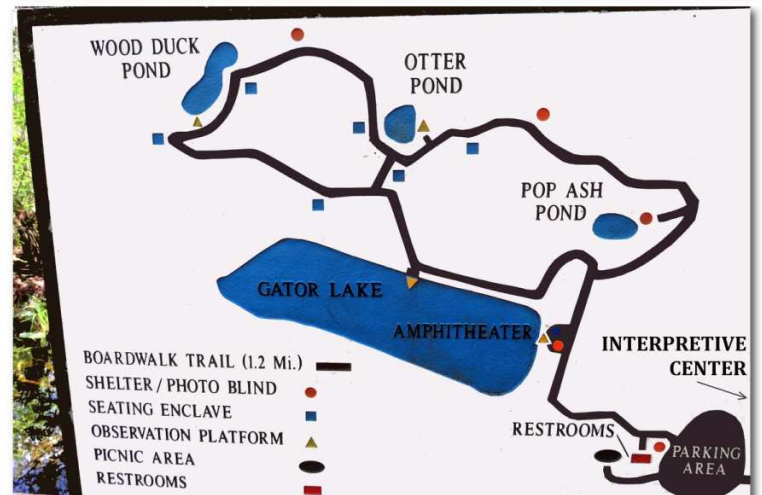
- Twice daily Jan-Mar.
- Daily Apr, Nov, Dec.
- Approx. once a week in other months.

**Check website of Friends.**



**What's there:**

- 3,500 acres of protected wetlands.
- Approx. 11 miles long, 1/3rd mile wide.
  - 2-3 feet of water in wet season.
  - Still mostly wet in dry season.
- 1.2-mile boardwalk over the water.
- Gator Lake plus three ponds.
- Four viewing platforms onto lakes.
- Many benches and shelters along the boardwalk.

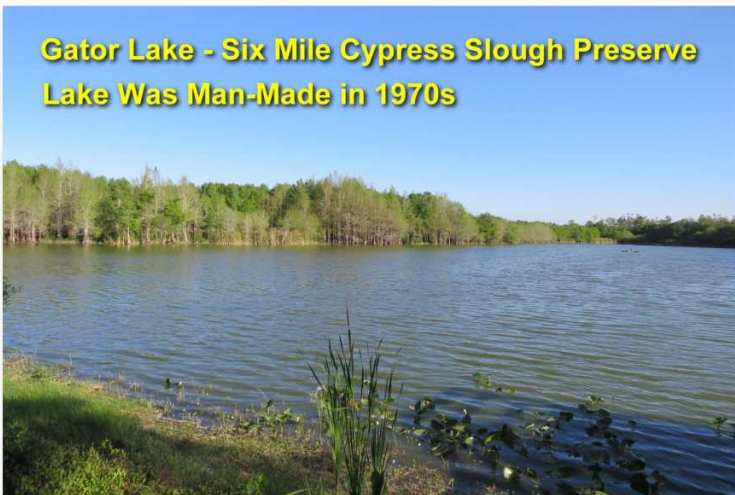


**Beginning of 1.2 mile boardwalk over the marsh**



Many interpretive signs

**Gator Lake - Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve  
Lake Was Man-Made in 1970s**



**Bald Cypress Mitigation Area**



**Six Mile Cypress Slough is a birder's and  
photographer's paradise**



Each pond has a viewing platform



**Great Blue Heron**

**Head to tail 36-54 inches.  
Wingspan 66-79 inches.  
Weight 4-8 lbs.**



**Alligator sunning on a platform on  
Gator Lake, Six Mile Cypress Slough**



**Most of the slough is covered in  
water year round.**



**Six-Mile Cypress  
Young Ibis**

**Feathers become white around age 2**



**Six-Mile Cypress Slough Preserve  
Wood Duck Pond - Alligator**



**Six-Mile Cypress Slough  
Raccoon**



**Florida Cooter Turtle at Wood Duck Pond**



**Gar**

**Heavily armored. Sharp teeth.**



**Yellow-crested Night Heron**  
Sleeps in trees during the day.



**We've now looped back to Gator Lake.**  
The lake got its name for a reason...



**American Alligator**

**1.25 million in Florida. 5 million in USA.**  
**Adults 10-13 feet long. 440-770 pounds.**  
**Eat fish, turtles, birds, small mammals.**

**Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium**

Not-for-profit organization dedicated to environmental education and preservation.

**Website:** [www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org)

**Where:** 3450 Ortiz Ave. Fort Myers, FL.

**Get There:** I-75 Colonial Blvd Exit #136. Then west on Colonial ½ mile. Right on Ortiz Ave. ½ mile.

**When:** 10 am - 4 pm Tuesday – Sunday. Closed Mondays.

**Admission:** Adult \$10. Children \$5.

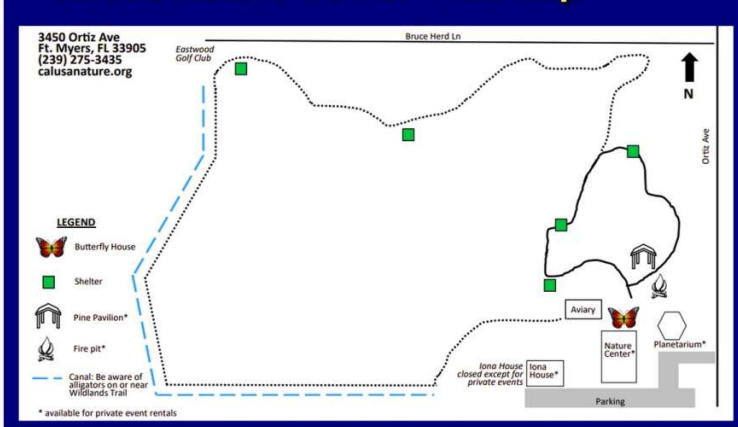


**Calusa Nature Center**  
**3450 Ortiz Ave**  
**Fort Myers**

**What:**

- 105-acres.
- Natural history museum.
- Home to many rescue animals, including birds, snakes, turtles, alligators.
- Two nature trails:
  - **Wildlands Trail 1.3 miles.**
  - **Pine Loop Trail: One-third mile.**
- Planetarium theater.
- Bird aviary.
- Butterfly garden.

**Calusa Nature Center Trail Map**



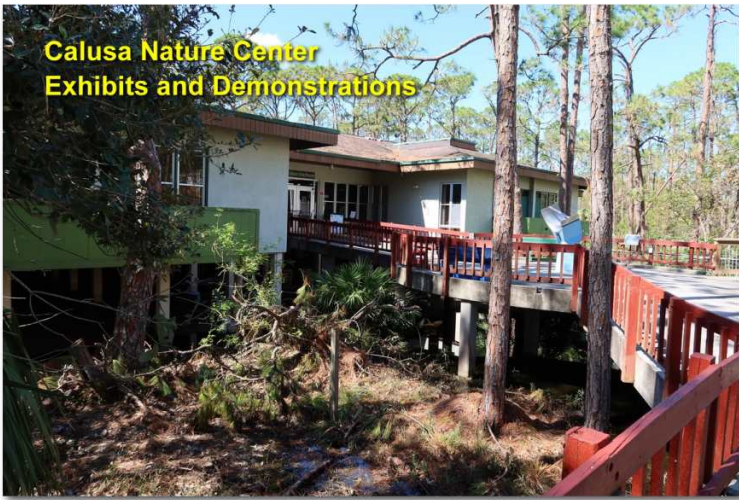
**Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium**

**Typical Event Schedule:**

- Butterfly talks 11:15 am.
- Planetarium shows usually 12:15 pm and 2:15 pm.
- Live animal talks usually daily 1:15pm.
- Many nights: Movies in the planetarium.



**Calusa Nature Center  
Exhibits and Demonstrations**



**Calusa Nature Center  
Fort Myers**



**African spurred tortoise  
Sulcata tortoise**



**Cane Toad**



**Native to South and Central America.  
Invasive in Florida.  
Highly poisonous glands (bufotoxin) and toxic  
skin. Deadly to dogs and cats.**

**Argentine Black and White Tegu**



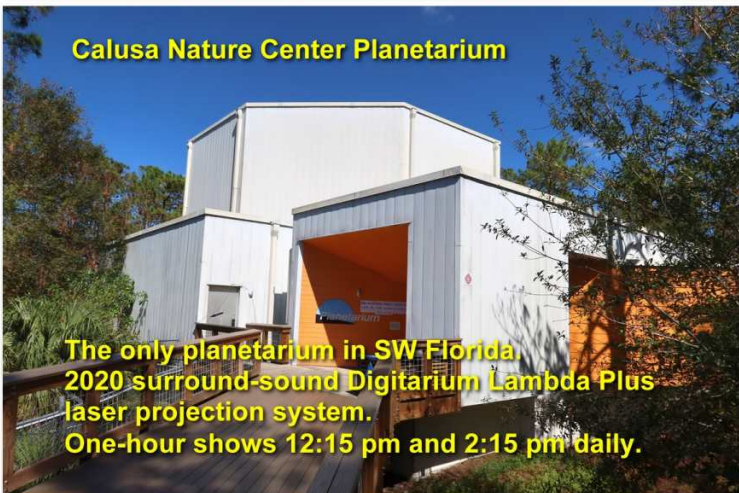
**Omniverous  
Pets Released into the Wild  
Invasive in FL, GA, SC  
Threat to Native Birds and Reptiles**

**Wild Boar (Wild Hog)**



**Native to Europe.  
Brought to Florida 1539 as food  
for Spanish explorer DeSoto and his troops.  
Now wild in all counties of Florida.  
5-6 feet long. 150 pounds.  
May be hunted, generally without permit or limit.**

**Calusa Nature Center Planetarium**



**The only planetarium in SW Florida,  
2020 surround-sound Digitarium Lambda Plus  
laser projection system.  
One-hour shows 12:15 pm and 2:15 pm daily.**

**Ft Myers Mighty Mussels  
Minor League Baseball**

**Website: [www.milb.com/  
fort-myers/](http://www.milb.com/fort-myers/)**



**Where: Hammond Stadium, 14100 6 Mile  
Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33912**

**Get There: I-75 to Daniels Parkway Exit  
131. West on Daniels 2.75 miles to 6  
Mile Cypress Pkwy. Left on 6 Mile  
Cypress to Stadium.**

## Low-A Southeast League Affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

- Low-A is four grades below major leagues.
- Were named Ft Myers Miracle 1992-2019.
- Rebranded Mighty Mussels in 2020.

**Tickets:** \$10 to \$12.

**Parking:** Fee \$10.

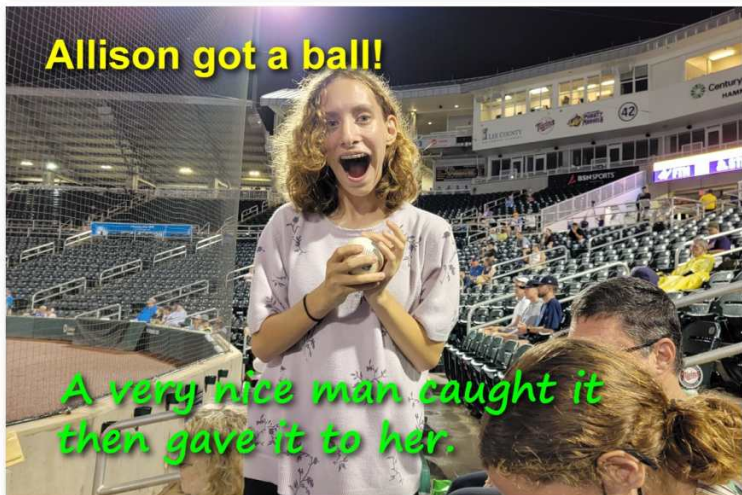
**Games:** Generally 6:30pm or 7pm.  
Sundays at noon.

Twins Spring Training is also at Hammond Stadium



## Hammond Stadium Lee County Sports Complex Fort Myers

## Allison got a ball!



A very nice man caught it then gave it to her.

## Mighty Mussels 2023 season opens April 1.

[www.milb.com/  
fort-myers/  
schedule/  
2023-04](http://www.milb.com/fort-myers/schedule/2023-04)

2023 MUSSELS SCHEDULE

PROVIDED BY BRANDT

239.788.4210  
MIGHTYMUSSELS.COM

HOME AWAY OFF

APRIL	MAY
APR 1	MAY 1
APR 2	MAY 2
APR 3	MAY 3
APR 4	MAY 4
APR 5	MAY 5
APR 6	MAY 6
APR 7	MAY 7
APR 8	MAY 8
APR 9	MAY 9
APR 10	MAY 10
APR 11	MAY 11
APR 12	MAY 12
APR 13	MAY 13
APR 14	MAY 14
APR 15	MAY 15
APR 16	MAY 16
APR 17	MAY 17
APR 18	MAY 18
APR 19	MAY 19
APR 20	MAY 20
APR 21	MAY 21
APR 22	MAY 22
APR 23	MAY 23
APR 24	MAY 24
APR 25	MAY 25
APR 26	MAY 26
APR 27	MAY 27
APR 28	MAY 28
APR 29	MAY 29
APR 30	MAY 30
APR 31	MAY 31

JUNE	JULY
JUN 1	JUL 1
JUN 2	JUL 2
JUN 3	JUL 3
JUN 4	JUL 4
JUN 5	JUL 5
JUN 6	JUL 6
JUN 7	JUL 7
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JUN 30	JUL 30
JUN 31	JUL 31

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
AUG 1	SEP 1
AUG 2	SEP 2
AUG 3	SEP 3
AUG 4	SEP 4
AUG 5	SEP 5
AUG 6	SEP 6
AUG 7	SEP 7
AUG 8	SEP 8
AUG 9	SEP 9
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AUG 27	SEP 27
AUG 28	SEP 28
AUG 29	SEP 29
AUG 30	SEP 30
AUG 31	SEP 31

## Also in Ft Myers - jetBlue Park Spring training home of the Boston Red Sox



## Fort Myers Beach



Q: what  
Edison's most profitable  
invention?  
A: Storage batteries.  
They were used in cars, miners'  
headlamps, railroad signals, and  
marine buoys.



## Lovers Key State Park – Trails and Beaches

**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/  
parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park)

**Where:** 8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers  
Beach, FL 33931.

**Get There:** West on Bonita Beach Rd to  
Gulf. Curve right onto Hickory Blvd.  
About 5 miles to Lovers Key.

**Admission:** \$8 per vehicle. 1 person \$4.

**When:** 8am to sunset, daily.



**What:** Two miles of Gulf Beaches.  
 Miles of hiking trails.  
 Kayaking, canoeing, shells.  
 Dolphins, manatees, birds, gopher tortoises, maybe an alligator.

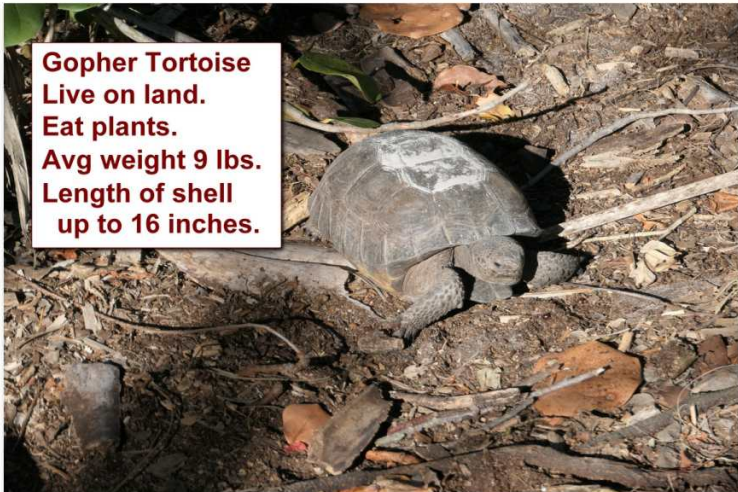
**Two trails at Lovers Key:**  
**Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail.**  
 Each about 2.5 miles long (with shortcuts).  
 They follow estuaries originally dredged to make way for residential development.  
 That was stopped by the State.

**RED is Eagle Trail**  
**BLUE is Black Is. Trail**

**P** Drive PAST first (beach) parking lot.  
**P2** For trails use SECOND parking lot.



**Trails at Lovers Key Are Mostly Like This**  
**Some More Shaded**  
**Some Alongside Estuaries**



**Gopher Tortoise**  
 Live on land.  
 Eat plants.  
 Avg weight 9 lbs.  
 Length of shell up to 16 inches.

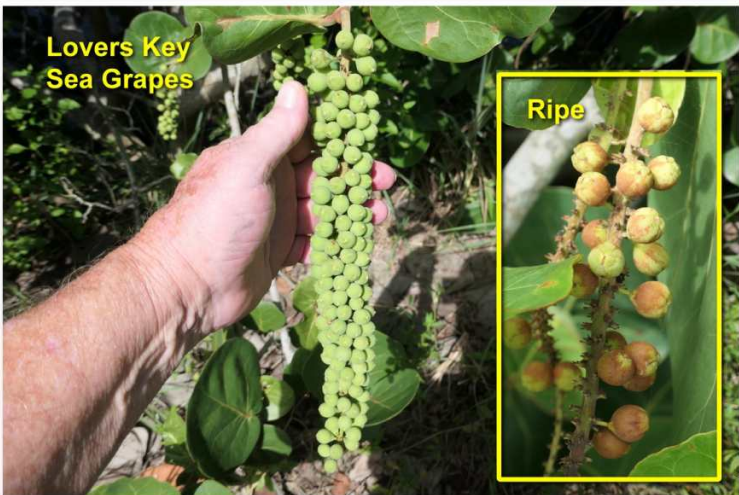
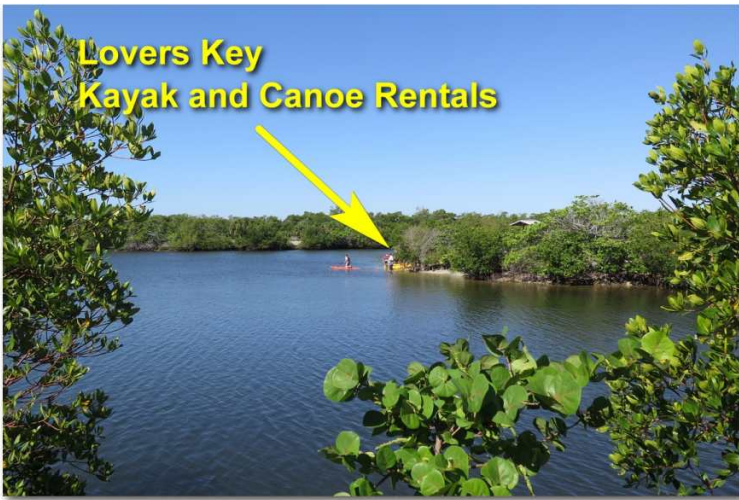
**Gopher tortoises dig burrows up to 48 feet long and 10 feet deep**

**Burrows protect the tortoise from heat, cold, fire, predators. Burrows are shared with over 300 other species.**



**Gumbo Limbo "Tourist Tree"**  
 Skin is red and peeling

**Wild Coffee**  
 Scientific name: *Psychotria nervosa*  
 Seeds look like coffee. But no caffeine.  
 If roasted, "bad taste and terrible headaches."





Lovers Key  
Passion Flower  
aka Apricot Vine  
aka Maypops  
Tennessee  
State Flower



Agave – Black Island Trails



Lovers Key - Spanish Bayonet



Lovers Key  
Green Heron



Castor Seeds on Black Island. Hull and seeds are poisonous to humans, animals, insects. The main toxin is "ricin".



In addition to trails, Lovers Key Has a Two-Mile Long Beach!  
Free tram to get you to the more remote end.



Osprey at  
Lovers Key

This nest is near beach parking lot

### Matanzas Pass Preserve

Website: [www.leegov.com/parks](http://www.leegov.com/parks)

Where: On Estero Island. 199 Bay Road, Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931.

#### Get there:

1. Bonita Beach Road becomes Hickory Blvd in Bonita, then Estero Blvd. 13 mi. from US 41 Bonita Beach Rd.
2. From US 41 in Ft Myers, same road as to Sanibel, but left on San Carlos Rd and over Matanzas Pass Bridge.



**Can arrive by boat on Estero Bay.**  
**Small dock. No overnight.**  
**Admission:** Open 7 days dawn to dusk.  
**Free.**  
**What's there:**

- 60 acres.
- 1.25 miles of trails. Part boardwalk. Part woods.
- Bayside pavilion with a panoramic view of Estero Bay.



**Mound House (and Calusa History)**  
 Historic property of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.  
**Website:** <https://moundhouse.org/>  
**Where:** 451 Connecticut St, off Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.  
**Get There:** Bonita Beach Road becomes Hickory Blvd in Bonita, then Estero Blvd. 13 mi. from US 41 Bonita Beach Rd.

**When:** Tuesday- Saturday 9am to 4pm.  
**Admission:**

- Adult: \$10
- Students: \$8
- Children: \$5

**What:** Historic house built on 2.77-acre Calusa Indian Shell Mound.  
**Cream color bricks made from ground shells.**



## Calusa Indians: "The Shell Indians".

Shore dwellers.

**Area:** Today's Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties.

**Rough population estimate:** 10,000.

Dominated southwest Florida 500 BC to 1500 AD.

**Fierce fighters.**

**Tightly controlled society:** Consisting of commoners and nobles.

## Calusa Indians

**Red:** Where Calusa lived.

**Blue:** Controlled by Calusa.



**Diet:** Seafood. Did not farm.

**Ate shellfish:** Discarded shells onto mounds. Many mounds remain today.

**Forged tools and weapons from scavenged shells.**

**Mound House:** Built on a huge 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian shell mound.

## History of Mound House:

**1906:** One room kitchen-dining house. Settlers lived on their boat.

**1909:** Expanded house to include living room, sleeping area upstairs, porch.

**1921:** Expanded to 2,945 sq foot "mansion" with 3 bedrooms, bath, wrap-around porch, garage.

**Today house is restored to 1921 condition.**

**1970s:** In-ground swimming pool 18'x34'.

**2000:** Acquired by Town of Ft Myers Beach.

**Subsequently:** Swimming pool removed to reveal size and depth of Calusa mound.

**Visit House:** Upstairs two exhibit rooms:

1. History of Calusa Indians.
2. History of settlers on Estero Island.

**Underground:** Old swimming pool site excavated – revealing layers of shells.

1. Video narration and LED lights.
2. Huge mural: What this Calusa village may have looked like 2,000 years ago.

Mound House Today - Restored to 1921 Condition



Underground Inside Calusa Shell Mound



Underground Inside Calusa Shell Mound



American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Fort Myers Beach

Website:

[www.fmbandsculpting.com/](http://www.fmbandsculpting.com/)

**Where:** 6890 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.

**But:** Parking right at the beach is virtually non-existent. Park at Lover's Key State Park. Free Parking & Shuttle.

**Get There:** West on Bonita Beach Rd to Gulf. Road becomes Hickory Blvd, then Estero Blvd. About 4 miles north of Bonita Beach Rd is Lover's Key State Park. The Park has free parking and a free shuttle bus to the Sand Sculptures.

**When:** Two weekends and the week in-between, ending Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend.

**Admission:** \$8. Daily 8am to 5pm. Discount coupons on-line.

**What:** 2019 was the 44th annual American Sand Sculpting Championship at Ft Myers Beach.

**Largest sand sculpting competition and show in the USA.**

- Includes 30 Master Sculptors from 8 countries, and many amateurs.
- 40 arts and crafts vendors.
- Food. Music.

American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Ft Myers Beach



American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Ft Myers Beach



American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Ft Myers Beach



American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Ft Myers Beach



American Sand Sculpting Championship  
Ft Myers Beach



Amazin' Walter McDonald - Padre Is, Texas







**2020 and 2021: Cancelled** due to Covid.  
**2022: Cancelled** due to Hurricane Ian.  
[www.fmbandsculpting.com/](http://www.fmbandsculpting.com/) says:

 A logo for the American Sand Sculpting Championship featuring a sandcastle on a beach. Below the logo, the text "We Will Be Back In 2023!" is written in white.


**Koroeshan State Park**  
**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/koroeshan-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/koroeshan-state-park)  
**Where:** 3800 Corkscrew Rd., Estero FL 33928.  
**Get There:** Just west of US-41 at Corkscrew Road.  
**When:** Open daily. Park 8am to sunset. Historic village 8am to 5pm.  
**Admission:** \$5 per car. Or annual pass.

**What:** Village was the home of a unique and eccentric pioneer group of 200 people that chose to live on the banks of the Estero River.  
**In 1893, the Koroeshans, a religious sect founded by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, moved here. They built a settlement based on a commitment to communal, celibate living.**  
 The enterprising Koroeshans established a farm, nursery and botanical gardens.

**Koroeshans' Main Beliefs**

- **Cellular Cosmogony (Hollow Earth Theory):** Earth is contained within a concave sphere.
- **Immortality:** People will not die. They are reborn.
- **Celibacy:** To attain immortality, abstain from any sexual conduct.
- **Collectivism:** Community ownership of all property. Work without pay.
- **Cyrus Teed as Messiah:** Teed claimed to be the 'seventh' messianic leader (Jesus was the sixth).

**Local people were unfriendly and hostile because of the Koroeshans' religious, scientific and cultural beliefs. The sect did not propagate.**  
 Membership began to decline after Dr Teed died in 1908. In 1961, the four remaining members deeded 305 acres of their land to the State of Florida as a park and memorial.  
**On National Register of Historic Places.**

Koreshan State Park has 11 immaculately restored historic buildings erected by the Koreshans between the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

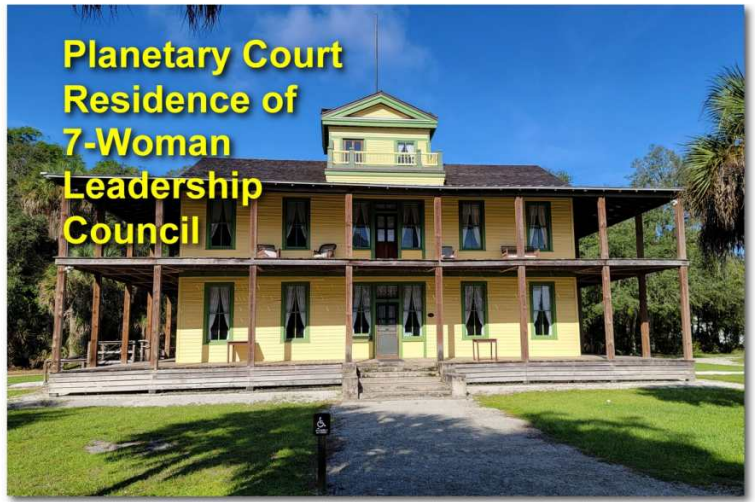
There is an interpretive center with education materials, including a video.



*In the name of humanity,  
Koresh,  
(Cyrus R. Teed)*

Cyrus R Teed  
Alias "Koresh"

**Planetary Court  
Residence of  
7-Woman  
Leadership  
Council**



**Planetary Court Interior**



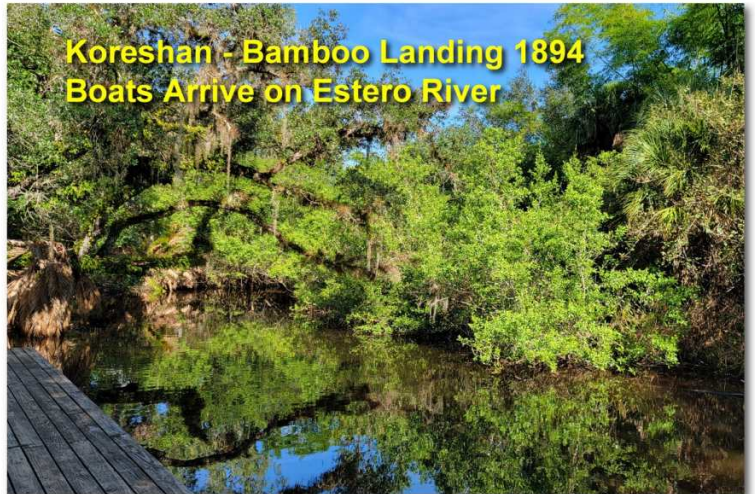
**Koreshan Unity Settlement  
Art Hall - 1905**



**Art Hall - Cosmogony**

**Koreshans' Hollow Earth Theory**  
"The sun is an invisible electromagnetic battery revolving in the universe's center on a 24-year cycle. Our visible sun is only a reflection, as is the moon."

**Koreshan - Bamboo Landing 1894  
Boats Arrive on Estero River**



**Koreshan Unity Settlement  
New Store - 1920**



Store front is on US-41

**Koreshan Unity Settlement  
Dining Hall and Dormitory  
1897-1949**



Dining Hall (1897/1898-1949)

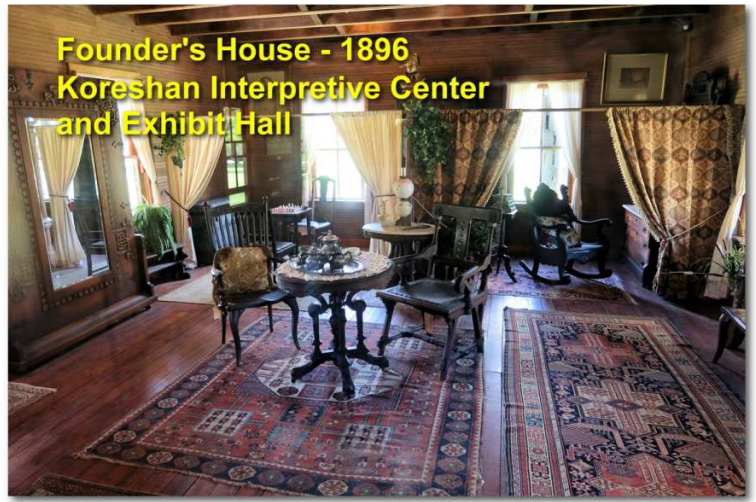
This three-story building served as the settlement dining hall and dormitory. The two upper floors were used as a Sisters' dormitory. At the time of its construction it was said to be the largest structure in Lee County. In 1949, after the structure had deteriorated substantially, the building was torn down.

Estero, Fla.

Dining Hall (1897-1949)



**Koreshan Unity Settlement  
Founder's House - 1896**



**Founder's House - 1896  
Koreshan Interpretive Center  
and Exhibit Hall**



**Gopher Tortoise Leaving Its  
Burrow at Koreshan State Park**



**Koreshan Unity Settlement  
Bakery - 1903**



**Koreshan Generator Building  
1908**



**Koreshan State Park - Grave of Hedwig Michel  
1892-1982 - Last Surviving Koreshan Member**

**Fascinated by Koreshan? Visit the  
Florida State Library website:  
[www.floridamemory.com/learn/  
exhibits/koreshan/](http://www.floridamemory.com/learn/exhibits/koreshan/)**



**MENU (Partial):**  
Overview  
Origins  
Millennial Fervor and  
Utopian Communalism  
Burned-Over District  
Teed's Illumination  
Koresh

Inside the Hollow Earth  
The New Jerusalem  
Followers  
Becoming Koreshan  
Working Together  
Building a Utopia  
Koreshan Estero  
Koreshans at Work

Cashing In  
Brawl in Fort Myers  
A New Era  
Spreading the Word  
Support  
On Their Soapbox  
Publications  
Satellite Branches

**Estero Bay Preserve State Park - Scrub  
Trails**

**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-  
and-trails/estero-bay-preserve-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/estero-bay-preserve-state-park)

**Where:** Broadway West, Estero, FL 33928.

**Get There:** US-41 north to Estero. Left on  
Broadway West. Parking and entry on right  
at end of Broadway.

**When:** 8am to Sunset every day.

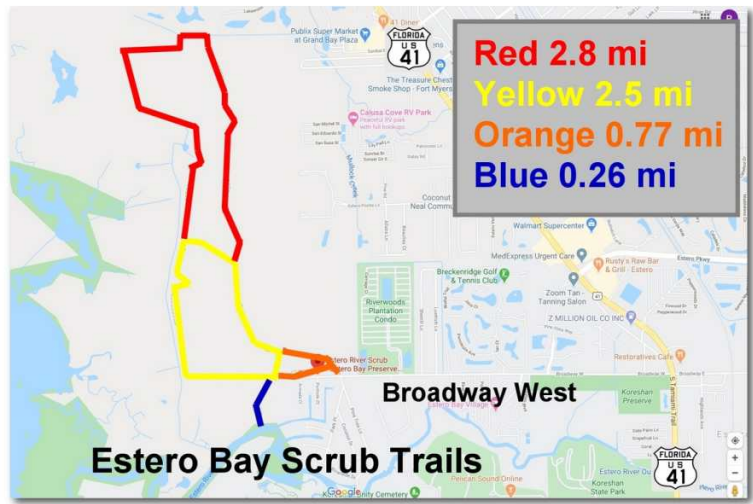
**Admission:** \$2 per car.

**What:** 4 trails through flatwoods, scrub, and salt flats. Home to gopher tortoises, snakes, lizards, and bird species.

- **Blue Trail:** 0.26 miles.
- **Red Trail:** 2.8 miles.
- **Yellow Trail:** 2.5 miles.
- **Orange Train:** 0.77 miles.

*Map on next slide*

**Paul personal comment:** Long trails good for exercise. But, honestly, the terrain is scrubby and not very attractive. Trail markers suddenly disappear in the face of multiple trail choices. Not much wildlife.



**Estero Bay Preserve – Scrub Trails**



**Estero Bay Preserve – Scrub Trails  
Trail Markers for Yellow Trail**



**Estero Bay Preserve – Scrub Trails  
Yellow trail markers suddenly disappear.**



**Very narrow trails in several directions**



**Bonita**

**Bonita Springs Historic Area**



**Bonita Springs Railroad Tracks**



**Bonita Springs Artists' Cottages**



**Bonita Springs Water Tank - 1940s**



**Bonita Springs - Liles Hotel - 1927  
Historical Society Museum**



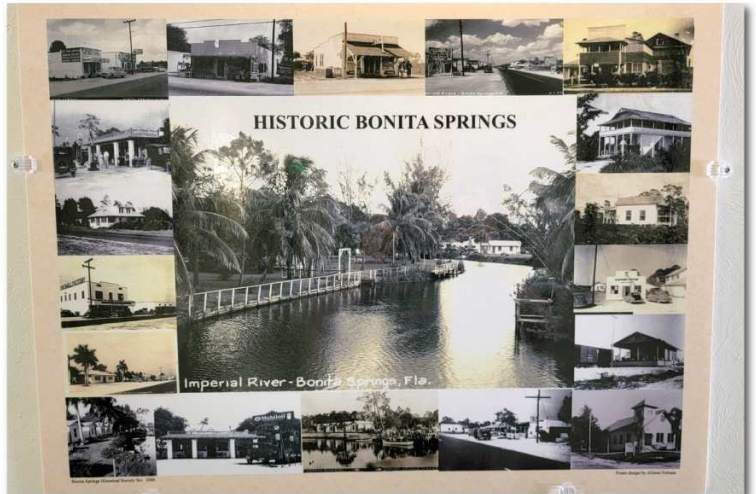
**Bonita Springs - Liles Hotel  
Historical Society Museum**



**Bonita Springs - Liles Hotel  
1930s Period Guest Room**



**HISTORIC BONITA SPRINGS**



**Benson's Grocery - 1920  
Bonita Springs**



**First United Methodist Church - 1923  
Bonita Springs**





## Everglades Wonder Gardens

### Website:

[evergladeswondergardens.com](http://evergladeswondergardens.com)

**Where:** 27180 Old 41 Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

**Get There:** I-75 Exit 116 Bonita Beach Rd. West 1.75 miles to Old 41. North on Old 41 one mile.

**When:** Daily 10am to 4pm.

**Admission:** Adults \$12. Seniors \$10.

**What:** "Old Florida"

- Started in 1936 by the Piper family as "The Reptile Gardens".
- On newly built Tamiami Trail.
- Name changed to Everglades Wonder Gardens as attractions grew.
- Early 21st century fell on hard times.
- Purchased by City of Bonita Springs 2014.

### Attractions:

#### - 300 resident animals:

- Birds, including peafowl, ibis, flamingos, ducks, parrots.
- Reptiles, including alligators, tortoises, iguanas, snakes, tegu.
- Banyan trees and other plantings.
- Small museum.

## Everglades Wonder Gardens Bonita Springs



## Everglades Wonder Gardens Entrance on Old 41



## Everglades Wonder Gardens Argentine Black and White Tegu



## Everglades Wonder Gardens Green Iguana



**Estimated 20,000  
in Florida**

**Everglades Wonder Gardens  
Alligators**



**Everglades Wonder Gardens  
Alligator**



**Everglades Wonder Gardens  
White Macaw**



**Everglades Wonder Gardens  
Python**



**Everglades  
Wonder  
Gardens  
Flamingoes**



**Everglades Wonder Gardens  
White Peacock**



**Everglades  
Wonder Gardens  
Sulcata Tortoises**



**Small Museum  
Bobcat**



## Small Museum Gator Jaw



## Barefoot Beach Preserve

Website: [www.collierparks.com](http://www.collierparks.com)

Then click Parks and Beaches.

**Where:** 505 Barefoot Beach Boulevard,  
Naples, FL 34134.

**Get There:** Bonita Beach Rd West of US-  
41 then Left on Barefoot Beach Blvd past  
private housing to the park.

**When:** Daily 8am to 6pm.

**Admission:** Collier County Beach Permit  
(free) or \$ 10.

## Barefoot Beach Preserve, continued

### What:

- One of the last undeveloped barrier islands on Florida's southwest coast.
- 342 acres.
- 1-mile walking loop trail.
- 1.6 miles of beach on Gulf of Mexico.
- Lots of gopher tortoises, other wildlife.
- Exhibition center.

**Barrier islands protect the mainland from coastal storms.**

## Barefoot Beach Preserve



**When you first turn onto  
Barefoot Beach Blvd.  
Keep going 1.5 miles to park.**



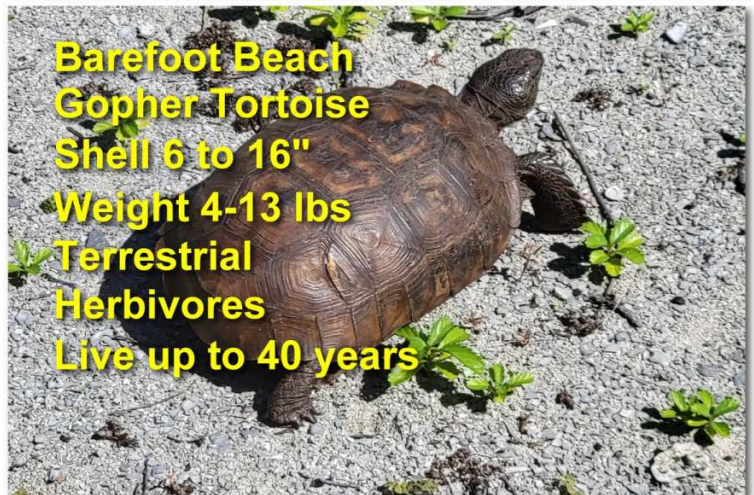
**Barefoot Beach County Preserve  
8,200 feet of pristine Gulf beach**



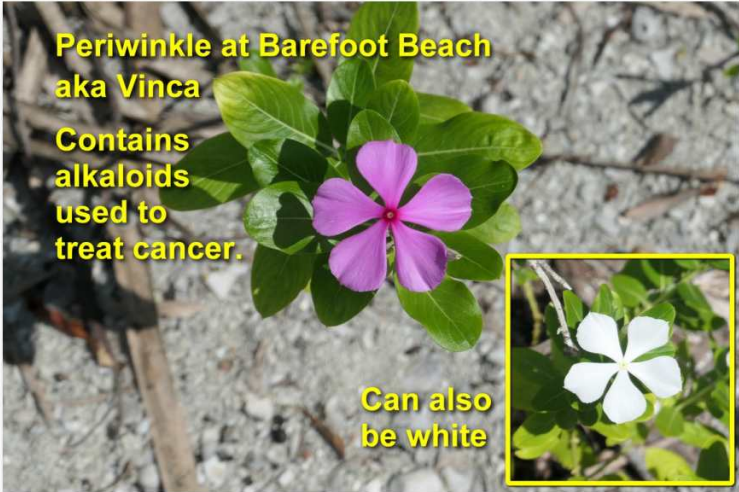
**Barefoot Beach - Saylor Nature Trail  
One-mile Loop**



**Barefoot Beach  
Gopher Tortoise  
Shell 6 to 16"  
Weight 4-13 lbs  
Terrestrial  
Herbivores  
Live up to 40 years**



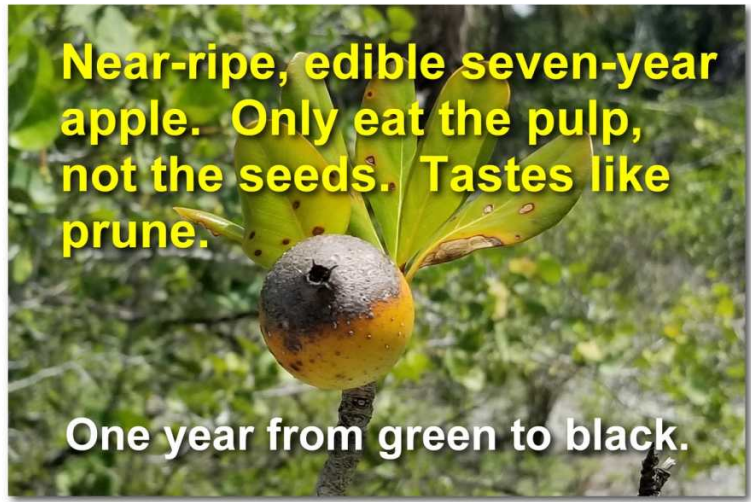




Sometimes you may have to share Barefoot Beach with others – such as terns and sandpipers



Near-ripe, edible seven-year apple. Only eat the pulp, not the seeds. Tastes like prune.



One year from green to black.

Barefoot  
March 31,  
2021



**THE END**  
"Day Trips Just  
North of Naples"



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[www.paulvisits.com](http://www.paulvisits.com)