



## Scrub Jay Festival Guide!

### Talks Schedule at Second Stage

#### 10:00-10:45 Fire: Friend or Foe?

Though widely feared and misunderstood, fire remains one of humankind's greatest strengths. Prescribed fires manage and maintain sensitive ecosystems, like the Florida Scrub, for future generations of wildlife. Free General Admission – First Come First Serve Seating!

**UPGRADE to VIP – Register as a VIP to guarantee your seat during the talk and have early entry – Just \$10.**

#### 1:00-1:45 Scrub Jay Keynote

What's charismatic, family-oriented and thinks Brevard County is one of the best places to live in Florida? The Florida Scrub-Jay is the only species of bird endemic to Florida, and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Kennedy Space Center have the second largest population in the state. Learn what makes this species so lovable with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Jim Lyon, who studies these birds. Free General Admission – First Come First Serve Seating!

**UPGRADE to VIP – Register as a VIP to guarantee your seat during the talk and have early entry – Just \$10.**

#### 2:00-2:45 Symbol of Survival: Eagles

Eagle populations have soared to new heights unimaginable less than half a century ago when they were initially listed as an endangered species. Learn about their return to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in recent years. Free General Admission – First Come First Serve Seating!

**UPGRADE to VIP – Register as a VIP to guarantee your seat during the talk and have early entry – Just \$10.**

### Beer with a Biologist at Playalinda Brewery

#### 10:30-11:30

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge serves as a home to some of the highest numbers of endangered species within the National Wildlife Refuge System. A certified biologist will share his knowledge and passion for the resource on why Merritt Island specifically possesses such great habitat for a wide range of species.

## **Hikes, Talks and Bus Tours on Refuge**

### **Pine Flatwoods Hike**

**9:00-9:45 and 10:00-10:45**

Venture into the Pine Flatwoods with a Refuge Volunteer to spot Florida Scrub-Jays in the wild on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Learn about their peculiar habits and family-oriented nature on this 1-mile hike. Free to participate – Register online!

### **Kennedy Space Center**

**8:30-12:00pm**

View Florida Scrub-Jays on this Scrub-Jay Bus Tour and Field Walk in the secure area of the Kennedy Space Center. Learn about their natural history and modern management. Participants must be U.S. citizens to enter Kennedy Space Center security area.

Reservations are required. \$15/person - Register online!

### **Scrub Ridge Hike**

**1:00-1:45 and 2:00-2:45**

Explore the endangered Florida Scrub habitat on this 1-mile loop along the Mosquito Lagoon to learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this unique landscape alongside NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Free to participate – Register online!

### **Native Plants Talk at Merritt Island NWR Visitor's Center**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

The many habitats of Florida (deciduous forest, oak/palm hammocks, pine flatwoods, scrub, sand hills, coastal dunes, prairies, marshes, swamps, roadsides) support more than 4,000 species of native and naturalized plants as well as many horticultural exotics. Over one-quarter of these are found here on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Retired Land Manager and Wildlife Biologist, Jim Stahl will start the day with slides of the more common plants on the Refuge. The Refuge is home to many beautiful and unique plants and animals and you never know what you might encounter.

### **Black Point Bus Tour**

**1:30-3:30**

Join long-time refuge volunteers to learn about Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge's establishment history and look for wading birds on the scenic 6-mile loop. Free to participate – Register online!

### **Scrub by the Sea(shore)**

**2:00-2:45**

Take a guided hike in scrub habitat to observe and learn about the Florida Scrub-Jay. Reservations are recommended. You will meet at the Playalinda Beach fee station in Canaveral National Seashore. Free to participate – Register online!

