



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY

March 24, 2009

**CONTACT:**

**Susan Sanders**

[Lower West Coast Service Center](#)

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (239) 338-2929 ext. 7715 or Cellular: (239) 229-7295

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

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**Walk on the Wild Side at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CREW Wildflower Festival**  
*Wildflower slideshow and hikes showcase recreation on public lands at the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed*



**From Left to right:** marsh-pink, buttonbush, pickerelweed, horned bladderwort, marsh-pink, dayflower, airplant, catesbys lily (*Click on the each picture for larger version of each flower.*)

**WHAT:** The public is invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CREW Wildflower Festival to enjoy a kaleidoscope of colorful wildflowers and learn about the valuable role the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) fills in protecting Southwest Florida's water supply.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and its partners – representing business, environmental groups, landowners, and governmental agencies – manage the watershed for its numerous benefits for water storage, wildlife preservation and public recreation opportunities. The 60,000-acre watershed spanning Lee and Collier counties includes a majestic 5,000 acre marsh that is the headwater for the entire watershed and includes the famous Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

As the CREW Trust celebrates 20 years of preservation and education, festivalgoers will be treated to an array of activities. A slide show will be presented by local authors and wildflower experts Gary Schmelz, Ph.D., and Glen Stacell, M.S. Guided wildflower hikes will be led by local authors Roger Hammer, Gary Schmelz, Ph.D., Glen Stacell, M.S., Dr. George Wilder of the Naples Botanical Garden and Dr. David Cooper. A butterfly hike will be led by Dr. Brian Bovard.

Suggested donations are \$3 for CREW members and \$5 for nonmembers.  
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 27, 2009: Wildflower Slide Show at Bass Pro Shops  
Saturday, March 28, 2009: Hikes at New CREW Cypress Trails

**TIMES:** 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.: Slide Show  
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Hikes

**WHERE:**

Slide Show	Hikes
Bass Pro Shops	New CREW Cypress Trails
10040 Gulf Coast Drive	Corkscrew Road
Fort Myers, FL 33913	Immokalee, FL 33928

Directions to Cypress Trails: From I-75, take exit 123 (Corkscrew Road). Go east 15 miles on Corkscrew Road. As you round a long curve to the left, look for a green gate on the right. That is the entrance to the Cypress Dome Trails.

**CONTACT:** For more information, call (239) 657-2253 or visit [www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*