



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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www.sfwmd.gov/news

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'Mysteries of the Everglades' on Display at Everglades Day Festival *Public can tour SFWMD's living Everglades lab*

WHAT: As part of the 13th Annual Everglades Day Festival, there will be walking tours of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Everglades living laboratory known as the Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment (LILA).

LILA is a working 80-acre model of the Everglades ecosystem on the grounds of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, which is hosting the event. LILA provides scientists and water managers an opportunity to research and apply restoration techniques on a small, controlled scale before implementation in the South Florida environment.

The theme of the event is "Mysteries of the Everglades." Visitors can participate in nature walks, entertainment, wildlife presentations, canoeing and other environmental activities.

As a prelude to the event, the Refuge will host a trail improvement day on February 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will pick up trash, remove non-native plants and clear trails to prepare for Everglades Day.

WHEN: Saturday, February 11, 2012

TIME: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33473

From Interstate 95 or Florida's Turnpike, exit at Boynton Beach Boulevard and travel west to U.S. Highway 441/State Road 7. Turn left onto U.S. Highway 441/State Road 7 and travel two miles south to Lee Road. Turn right onto Lee Road and continue to the entrance gate.

WHO: The general public is welcome to attend this free, family-friendly event.

CONTACT: RSVP via email at PlantCypress@aol.com.
For more information, please call 561-734-8303 or visit
www.fws.gov/loxahatchee.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

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.