

Calendar of Events – upcoming ( revised Sept 5, 2015)

**Non CWC/Turtle events:**

Sunday, September 6, 2015 World Shorebirds Day

Thursday, September 10, 2015 – CHEC, Burnt Store Rd, P.G. “Butterflies, Beer and Botany” Dr. Marc Minno 6:30pm Contact: CHEC 941- 575-5435 or [doris@checflorida.org](mailto:doris@checflorida.org) \$10/person

Saturday, September 19, 2015 International **Coastal Cleanup**, In Englewood, contact: Bobbi Rodgers at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Cedar Point, 475- 0769

Saturday, September 26, 2015 **National Public Lands Day**

9:00am-2:00pm

**Where locally:** Oscar Scherer State Park, 1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229

**Description:** Free event to learn various volunteer opportunities available in the community with over 30 non-profit organizations.

**For full details:** <http://friendsofoscarscherer.com/>

Thursday, October 8, 2015 **International Cephalopod Appreciation Day** - enjoy your squid ink pasta or your fried calamari this day.

Thursday, October 15 – Sunday October 18, 2015 –**Gopher Tortoise Council annual meeting,**

Information at [www.gophertortoisecouncil.org](http://www.gophertortoisecouncil.org)

Covington, LA. Clarion Inn and Suites Conference Center, Covington, LA. Topics are not limited to gopher tortoises and can include any of the following topics related to upland habitat and associated species: Conservation Commensal Species; Habitat Management/Restoration Policy/Regulation; Monitoring/Field Techniques Economics; Interdisciplinary projects General Ecology For RSVP contact Keri Landry [klandry@wfla.gov](mailto:klandry@wfla.gov)

Early-bird registration rates expire after **September 28th, 2015**. Registration costs include on-site beverages and breakfast, lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday.

Social activities include a shrimp boil, Zydeco and Cajun music, an award ceremony, and a silent auction! The meeting provides an excellent opportunity for students and professionals to present their work, share ideas and collaborate on projects. Online payment via Paypal

Saturday, October 24, 2015 – ECOFEST- Lemon Bay Park

Monday, November 9, 2015-Monday November 16, **2015 Chalk Festival**, Venice. Festival is planned for Nov. 9-16 at Venice Airport and Downtown Venice November 13-16. Features festival exhibition and classes hosted at the Venice Art Center. 3-D artwork at the runway at the Venice Municipal Airport in 2011 set a Guinness World Record. [www.chalkfestival.org](http://www.chalkfestival.org). Fun to visit. You can also volunteer by contacting [volunteer@chalkfestival.com](mailto:volunteer@chalkfestival.com).

Saturday, November 21, 2015 – **CHNEP Nature Festival**, Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Road (SR 776) Port Charlotte Free, no need to register to attend the festival. [www.chnep.org](http://www.chnep.org)

Saturday, January 16, 2015 – Sunday, February 14, 2016 **Python Challenge, FWC**

Info at [PythonChallenge.org](http://PythonChallenge.org). This new site contains information about Burmese pythons, the unique Everglades ecosystem, and resources for people planning a trip to south Florida to participate in next year's events. Additional information, including details about upcoming training events, competition rules, registration and prizes will be posted as it becomes finalized.

The 2016 Python Challenge™ is a conservation effort that includes public outreach on invasive species and a month-long competition to remove Burmese pythons from public lands in south Florida.

The aim of the 2016 Python Challenge™ is to promote Everglades conservation through invasive species removal, and the FWC and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida are also increasing opportunities for the public to receive training so they can help. Training events will teach participants how to identify, report and then safely and humanely capture Burmese pythons.

To report nonnative fish and wildlife, call the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline at 888-IVE-GOT1 (888-483-4681), report your sighting online at [IveGot1.org](http://IveGot1.org) or download the IveGot1 smartphone app.

For more information on Burmese pythons and other nonnative species in Florida, go to [MyFWC.com/Nonnatives](http://MyFWC.com/Nonnatives).

Saturday, February 13, 2016 –**Open House, Wildflower Preserve**, off Placida Road, Englewood Lemon Bay Conservancy