

## Barefoot Beach Preserve - Gopher Tortoise Walk

Date: **Sunday**, January 17, 2010

Focus: **Wildlife** – This field trip will focus on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Field Trip Description: Join a Collier County Park Ranger/Naturalist for a guided walk through the varied coastal habitats found at Barefoot Beach Preserve, a 342-acre barrier island in North Naples. Take a closer look at one of the Preserve's unique and important land animals, the Gopher Tortoise, *Gopherus polyphemus*. This land tortoise is a keystone species that supports the natural community where it lives and contributes to the success of many other species. The coastal strand habitat, found in the Preserve, provides the conditions needed for a healthy gopher tortoise population.

Maximum Group Size: 12 adults

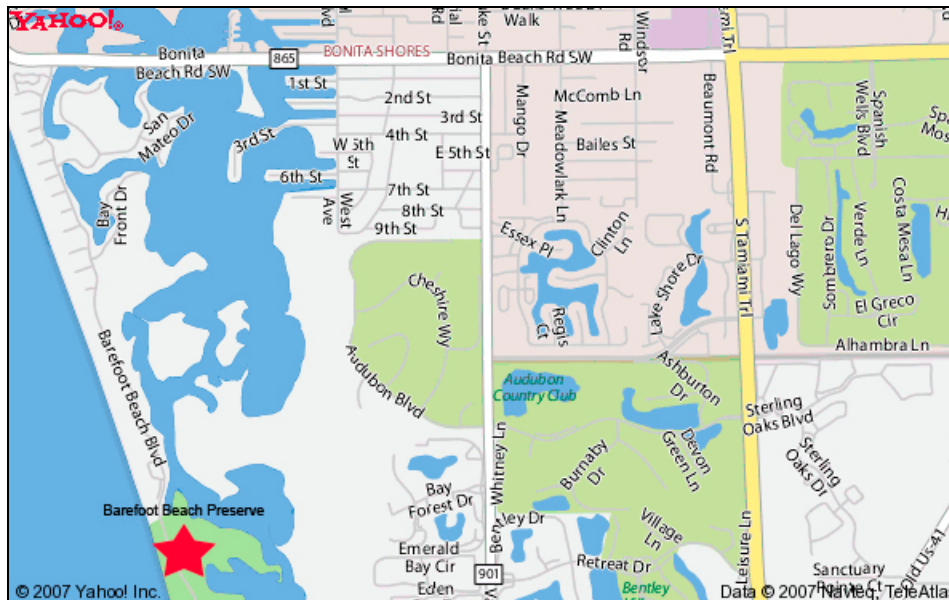
Time Begin: 9:00 am

Time End: 11:00 am

Where to Meet: Meet at **8:45 am** at the Barefoot Beach Preserve **Friends Learning Center** (parking lot number 1).

Directions to Meeting Place: From I-75 take exit 18 (Bonita Beach Road) west approximately 4 miles. You will see a blue sign "Barefoot Beach Preserve Park" on your right. Get in the left hand lane and make a left turn (south) at the traffic light. Go through the gated entrance and follow the road until you reach the Preserve entrance. For additional information, please call 239-254-4060 or 254-4024.

Map:



Trip Leader: Collier County Park Ranger/Naturalist

Field Trip Cost: \$10 with Festival registration

Parking: \$8 or free with current Collier County Beach Parking Permit.

What to Bring: A camera, hat, binoculars, water, and a snack. We will be walking approximately 1 mile and will stop for a snack at our chickee hut along the Saylor Nature Trail.

What to Wear: Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes.

Web: <http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=455>

Revised: 9/3/2009

