

Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge – Sundown Swamp Buggy Tour (Friday)

Date: **Friday**, January 13, 2012

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: This late afternoon swamp buggy tour of the Refuge will take you through hardwood hammock, pine forest and parts of the northern extension of the Fakahatchee Strand cypress slough during sundown – a perfect time for wildlife viewing and photography. You will learn about Florida panthers and current efforts to restore the Florida Everglades' critical ecosystem to its former pristine glory while traveling on the paths of Florida panther, black bear, deer, turkey and other wildlife that make their home on the Refuge. It is not unusual to see some of the 125+ species of birds and more than 25 species of mammals that share these lands. Be sure to bring your camera and/or binoculars.

Maximum Group Size: 12

Time Begin: 3:30 pm

Time End: 5:30 pm

Where to Meet: Meet by **3:15 pm** at the **ROGER ROTH WORK CENTER**, on the Florida Panther NWR, just north of the Panther Trailhead. This meeting time will allow for coordination of participants and quick use of on-site restrooms before departing promptly at 3:30pm.

Directions to Meeting Place: Coming from Naples, head east on I-75 (Alligator Alley) toward Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Drive 21 miles to Exit 80 which is the exit for State Road 29. On SR 29 take a left heading north towards Immokalee (cross over the interstate) and continue for less than one mile. **Pass the trail parking lot entrance and look for a black mailbox and address number 13233 on the gate on the left side of the road.**

There is a small hill that limits visibility. Please be sure to look both ways when making the left turn into our driveway because sometime speeders try to pass from behind!

You will see a sign that says “**Roger Roth Work Center**” just inside the gate. Take the driveway all the way down past the work center to the pond and park in front of the pond. Restrooms are located inside the Work Center Building.

Please allow approximately 30 minutes driving time from the Collier Blvd (CR951) & I-75 interchange (Exit 101).

Map:



Trip Leader: Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge

Field trip cost: \$35

Additional Information: Participants need to be able to **climb** up into the 4 to 5 foot high buggies (like climbing a ladder with the rungs far apart). **There is no other way to get into these vehicles.**

What to Bring: Binoculars, camera, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

What to Wear: Closed-in shoes and warm clothing appropriate for the weather. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Bring a jacket if necessary.

Web: <http://www.floridapanther.org/>





Revised: 10/12/2011