

## Barefoot Beach Preserve - Gopher Tortoise Walk

Date: **Sunday**, January 15, 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: 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

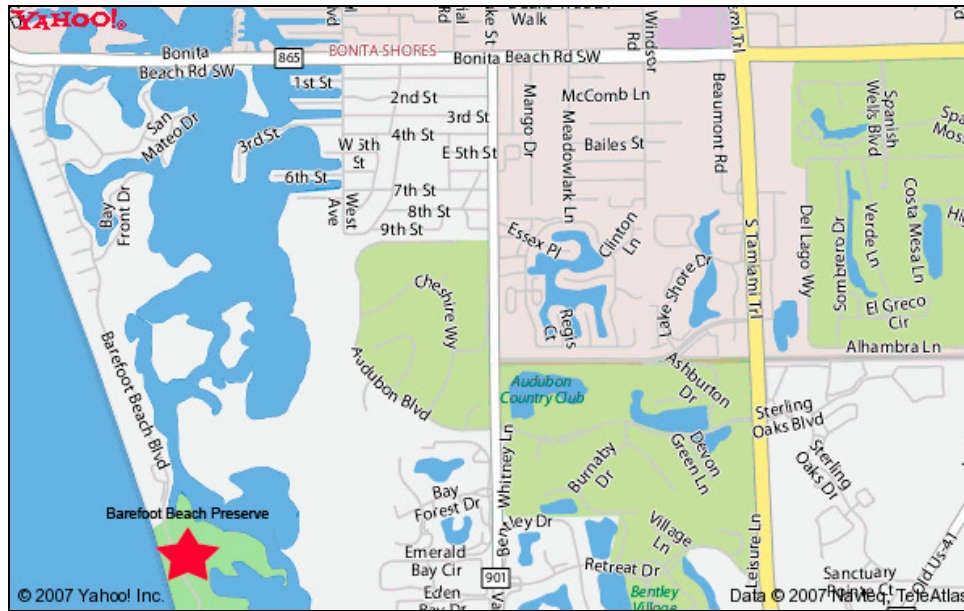
Time End: 11:00 am

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 118 (Bonita Beach Road SE) **west** towards the Gulf. Cross US 41 and continue west 2.3 miles to Barefoot Beach Boulevard. 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) onto Barefoot Beach Boulevard at the traffic light. **Go through the gated entrance (guard house)** and follow the road 2.2 miles until you reach the Preserve entrance station, then continue to the Barefoot Beach Preserve **Friends Learning Center** (parking lot number 1).



Map:



Trip Leader: Collier County Park Ranger/Naturalist

Field Trip Cost: \$10

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: 10/12/2011