

SUMMER 2015 ECO TOURS

1.) **XRL 6209 Western Lake Paddle Tour** **XRL 6213 Western Lake Paddle Tour (Bring Your Own)**

Contact: Dave Posey

Dates	Ref. #	Bring Your Own Boat Ref. #
6/3	95625	95645
6/10	95626	95644
6/17	95627	95643
6/24	95628	95642
7/1	95629	95641
7/8	95630	95640
7/15	95631	95639
7/22	95632	95638
7/29	95633	95637
8/5	95634	95636

Time: 9:00-11:30am

Explore a coastal dune lake of South Walton County! This kayak tour will take you around Western Lake; one of the larger lakes of the coastal dune lake systems. Experience the diversity of wildlife and habitats that define these unique lake systems. This tour is led by the local and avid eco-tour guide Dave Posey. Moderate to high exertion level, depending on wind conditions. Participants are asked to bring plenty of water, forecast compatible clothing and personal comfort items (i.e. sunscreen, bug spray, etc.). Kayak rental included in the cost of the tour.

There is a Bring Your Own Boat option for this tour. See discounted rate under "Fee"

Space is limited to 8 participants. Minimum of 3.

Location: Meet at the South Walton campus of Northwest Florida State College 109 South Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459. Guide will lead a caravan to Grayton Beach State Park to launch boats.

Fee: \$60 per person/\$45 per person BYOB

2.) **XRL6216 The Bayside Fishing Clinic**

Contact: Ernie Martin

Dates	Ref. #
6/5	95620
6/19	95621
7/2	95622
7/16	95623
7/30	95624
8/6	95635

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

This educational Eco-Adventure takes you to Kellogg Park, a newly established park, off Chat Holley Road to learn fishing techniques about fishing on the Choctawhatchee Bay. You will fish from the park and in the water to get a real feel for the techniques necessary to catch a fish in the Bay! The guide is well versed in fishing in the area and will share his diverse knowledge about the area and the fish that live there! Beginner or proficient fisherman/fisherwoman you will enjoy this class and definitely learn something new. You are encouraged to bring your own rod to further your own knowledge of your equipment, however there will be rods provided, as well as fishing lures. Please bring sunscreen, water, snacks, weather appropriate clothing, bug spray, and other amenities needed for your fishing style!

Space is limited to 12 participants. Minimum of 6.

Location: Meet at Kellogg Park. From South Walton Campus of Northwest Florida State College go north on 331, make a left on Chat Holley Road, drive about 2.25 miles and make a right on Nellie Drive, follow Nellie Drive to the Bay and you will see the park straight ahead!

Fee: \$35

3.) XRL 6202 The Jewels of 30A – Coastal Dune Lakes Tour

Contact: Brittany Tate & Brandy Foley

Dates: Ref. #

6/26 95618

7/24 95619

Time: 9:30am to 3:30pm; Meet at SWC

This educational tour will introduce participants to the Jewels of 30A – the coastal dune lakes of Walton County, Florida. Coastal dune lakes are extremely rare ecosystems, which exist in just a few places around the world. They are primarily freshwater systems that sit along the coastline. But here in South Walton, the lakes periodically break through the beach and connect to the Gulf of Mexico. A saltwater exchange occurs, which supports an incredible biological community.

Our tour of the coastal dune lakes will follow Scenic Highway 30A. We will make several stops along the way, visiting three to five coastal dune lakes. We will explore the unique character of the different lakes as we discuss ecology, water quality, and human impacts. We will enjoy photographic vistas, take a short hike within the dune system, and stop for a picnic lunch in one of the local state parks.

Participants should plan for easy to moderate short hiking, getting in and out of vans and/or bus, and being outside in the sunny and possibly windy conditions associated with coastal areas. Bring a camera and /or binoculars if you like. We suggest a hat, water bottle, sunglasses, sunscreen, and layered weather-appropriate clothing, including rain gear if needed. Tours will go on, rain or shine; stops may be adjusted according to weather conditions to suit the comfort of the participants. Lunch will be provided.

Space is limited to 30 participants. Minimum of 5 required.

Location: Meet at South Walton Center of Northwest Florida State College, 109 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach. Participants will ride as a group in a van to all of the stops.

Fee: \$45

4.) XRL 6201 Historical Tour: Coffeen Nature Preserve

Contact: Susan Paladini

Dates: Ref. #

6/10 95616

6/24 95617

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Explore the Coffeen Nature Preserve and its history of World War II missile testing. The 220-acre Nature Preserve is owned by the Coffeen Land Trust, a local environmental non-profit organization dedicated to preserving it “as a place of peace and quiet and a haven for all God’s creatures.” Its history however is far from quiet. It was used as a secret missile test site by the Army Air Force during World War II. Hundreds of JB-2 “Buzz Bombs,” (the first pilotless, jet propelled missiles), were launched from the dunes into the Gulf of Mexico.

Join Susan Paladini, the Resident Manager, and explore the site where America’s strategic missile program began. You will view the original military photographs inside the “mess hall” and learn about the generous gift of the founder, the late Dorothy Coffeen.

This will be followed by a hike of approximately 1½ miles around the property, which will include walking along two original missile launch ramps, stepping down into concrete launch bunkers and viewing other military buildings. Enjoy the natural beauty of the Preserve and Fuller Lake. This is the most western of Walton County's globally rare and imperiled coastal dune lakes. Participants are encouraged to wear a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent and to bring bottled water. Closed-toed or other suitable walking shoes are a must.

Space is limited to 16 participants. Minimum of 2 required.

Location: Coffeen Nature Preserve 146 Coffeen Hill Rd., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459; once in property take first right to small office/house

Fee: \$20

NEW

5.) Nonie's Ark Animal Eventures

Contact: Nonie Maines

Dates:	Ref. #
June 10 @ Coffeen Nature Preserve	95610
June 24 @ Topsail Hill Preserve State Park	95611
July 8 @ TBA	95612
July 22 @ TBA	95613

Time: 7:30-9:00 pm

Discover the sights and sounds of nature at night! Nonie's Ark Animal Encounters will guide evening Eco-Adventure's for the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance this summer on Wednesday's. A minimum of five Eventurer's are needed and a maximum of 25. We will meet at some of Walton County's exceptional biodiverse habitats and explore for elusive creatures such as fox, owls, frogs and especially bats! All are invited but focus is on ages 4-10. Bring a flashlight or headlamp to light your way & please come properly dressed for heat and ready to repel bugs.

The tours will lead out of various locations throughout Walton County; tours will meet at sites listed on flyers.

Space is limited to 25. Minimum of 5 required.

Fee: \$15

Location:

June 10, 2015 tour will be held at Coffeen Nature Preserve:

146 Coffeen Hill Rd., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

June 24, 2015 tour will be held at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park:

7525 W County Highway 30a, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

... other date locations to be announced!
