

Friday, Oct 18, 2024

Fri-DP Duette Preserve Wagon Ride

Meet at ranger station, 2649 Rawls Road, Duette

Time: 8:30 am to 11:00 am.

Limited to 20 participants. No parking fees. Trip fee \$30 per person.

Leaders: Mike Elswick, Aedan Stockdale (941) 737-2254, Rangers; Gina Kent (352) 514-5607 and Adam Kent (314) 609-5513

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent. Restrooms at the start. No other amenities.

You will be riding on an open wagon, so you must be able to climb up onto the wagon.

Come and take a ride back in time across an austere landscape where grasses, wildflowers, and palmetto still dominate; where longleaf pine stands are being restored, Bachman's sparrows and Florida Scrub Jays are thriving. The wagon comfortably seats 20. Joining you will be the manager of the Manatee County land conservation Education and Volunteer Division, Aedan Stockdale and manager of the Resource Management team Mike Elswick. They'll discuss the history of the site, the plants and wildlife found there, and the restoration and management efforts past and ongoing. The elevation of the wagon will increase your possibilities of seeing the resident Florida Scrub Jays, possibly some Burrowing Owls, and plenty of other birds. The area is a mix of pine flatwoods, oak hammock, wetlands, and scrub palmetto, so the birding possibilities are vast!

Directions from Brandon area:

Take Brandon Blvd/Rt 60 east to Lithia Pinecrest Rd.

Take the right turn onto Lithia Pinecrest and continue South for about 11.5 miles.

Turn Right/South onto Hwy 39 at light.

Continue South on 39 for just over 17 miles to light and T intersection with Rt. 62. Turn Left/East onto Rt 62.

Continue East on Rt 63 just about 3 miles to Duette Rd on your right.

Turn Right/South onto Duette Rd., go for 3.8 miles.

Duette Rd will make a sharp left turn. Just after this turn, take Rawls Rd on your Right.

The gate should be open. Continue on dirt road south past the first building until the road bends to the right. Park in the tree area and walk through the next gate to the small building to meet your leaders.

