

Friday, Oct 18, 2024

Fri-RB Roberts Bay Bird Colony Island

Meet at Marina Jack Yacht Basin, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota

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

Limited to 20 participants. No parking fees. Trip fee \$60 per person.

Leaders: Megan Ehlers, Mark Rachal 847-571-1230

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

You will be on a boat with a canopy.

We'll cruise south across Sarasota Bay to see the islands, habitat for the largest nesting colony for wading birds and Brown Pelicans in Sarasota Bay. The Roberts Bay Bird Colony has been designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a "Critical Wildlife Area" and is managed by Audubon Florida. Listed species including Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, Reddish Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, and American Oystercatchers. We will coast near the three islands and observe the behavior of these beautiful wading birds.

Commentary will be provided by the professional staff of Audubon Florida's Coastal Islands Sanctuaries.

Directions from Brandon area:

Take I-75 South to Exit 210, for Fruitville Road.

Stay to the right, going West on Fruitville Rd for 6 miles.

At Rt 41, go around the circle to head South on Tamiami Trail.

Go half a mile south to the entrance to Marina Jack Yacht Basin on your right. Find parking, then look for the Carefree Learner boat on the south side of the marina.

NOTE— Marina parking tends to fill up, so it's best to arrive early.

From Pinellas County take I-275 south, merge with south-bound I-75, and follow above directions.

