



THE MANGROVE

SPRING 2023
HOBE SOUND NATURE CENTER



CENTER'S BLOG



Hobe Sound Nature Center is pleased to introduce **Candi Holzsager**. I'm delighted to have been promoted to **Director of Operations** at the Hobe Sound Nature Center, for the last eight years I have worked in every facet of the Nature Center including education, marketing, office administration, volunteer coordination, program scheduling, fundraising, event planning and employee relations. I look forward to managing the daily operation of the HSNC, expanding our education programs, increasing our volunteer program and continuing our wonderful partnership with Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.

We are so **excited for 2023!** Our brand new education building is truly amazing! We are using our new classroom to host school programs, refuge training and community events. In 2022 we hosted close to 10,000 museum visitors and over 9,000 students. In October our annual Creepy Creature Feature was attended by close to 200 visitors!

We're thrilled to present our **2023 Spring Education Programs**, our Tuesday morning hikes to local natural areas and our Thursday Night Lecture Series. These lectures will be given by a group of highly respected and exciting environmental guest speakers. Starting on Thursday, February 21st we will open the

Exhibit Center and Gift Shop to our guests at 6 p.m. followed by the lecture at 7pm. Programs are free but **registration** is required. Sign up easily on our website, **hobesoundnaturecenter.com**.

The Nature Center is renovating the staff office space and gift shop to make them more efficient. We're also looking at refreshing and updating our Exhibit Center by continuing to feature native animals and plants while expanding our local environmental education.

We're always **looking for volunteers** to help us. If you are interested in becoming part of our HSNC Volunteer Family, please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Crissy at **crissyhinc@gmail**.

In a final note, HSNC is **extending our hours of operation!** We will now be open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. These new hours will also make it easier for students to volunteer after school and on the weekend.

Thank you for being a part of our community! Please stop by to see all the exciting changes, join a lecture or hike the trails and enjoy! 🌿



OUR MISSION
To increase awareness of man's relationship with the natural environment through educational programs while encouraging stewardship.

Follow Us

To learn more about the Nature Center, scan our QR code.

MEET THE STAFF:

TRACY BOOTHBY
NATURALIST INSTRUCTOR

Q&A

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE NATURE CENTER?

I started my 33rd year – began in 1990

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

Degree in environmental/aquaculture from FIT 1985. Worked for FPL/Martin Plant as a biologist and as the Barley Barber Swamp Ranger for four years doing two tours a day through Cypress Swamp. Savanna Preserve Biologist doing management plan, giving nature hikes and lectures.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Everything – the staff and volunteers are a wonderful family! I love working with the live animals and seeing the reaction of kids to adults! Doing school programs, nature hikes, summer camp, seining and turtle walks, love the variety that each day is different. Teaching about the environment and how important it is to all of us.

WHAT SHOULD EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE CENTER?

The Nature Center celebrated 40+ years last year and continues to grow. Environmental education is so important to get the message out and by the use of live animals really helps to reinforce our mission. Most of our animals have been with us for a long time in our “retirement village”!



Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions about HSNC or questions on Educational Programs.

TracyHSNC@gmail.com

Longtime Volunteer is Now Our 2023 Intern

“I want to educate the world about the importance of sharks to the survival of our oceans.”



Join us in congratulating longtime volunteer, **Keira Blakey**, on her internship starting in January. Keira graduated from IRSC with honors in 2022 and will graduate from Martin County High School in 2023. “My plans for college are to study marine biology/biological oceanography, then specialize in sharks through my Masters degree. After my masters, I want to achieve my Ph.D. in shark biology/ecology, working in labs and research vessels. I want to educate the

world about the importance of sharks to the survival of our oceans.”

This 6-month internship is funded by Hobe Sound Community Chest.

SOCIAL MEDIA Volunteer Needed!

DO YOU NEED COMMUNITY HOURS?

Are you a **social media wizz**, needing 2 to 4 hours a week and have a passion for counseling kids to nature? HSNC is seeking to recruit a **High School** or **College Student** to help manage our social media.



Please send a statement explaining why you’re interested and what experience you have using social media to: **hobesoundnaturecenter@gmail.com** or call Candi, Director of Operations at (772) 546-2067.

IN MEMORY OF Lucille Howie & Charles Walker



Lucille Howie 1938-2022, beloved mother of Tracy Boothby and advocate of the Nature Center. It’s with a sad heart we say goodbye to this wonderful caregiver who loved being outdoors, kayaking and going on walks. The Nature Center appreciates all the donations in her memory.



Charles Walker 1945-2022, an original artist in the Florida Highwaymen. He was inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame in 2004, the most prestigious Honor the state can bestow upon an artist and was humble enough to share his amazing local artwork with the Nature Center.

HOBE SOUND NATURE CENTER 2023 SPRING SERIES PROGRAMS

Reservations are required to attend our Tuesday and Thursday programs. Hikes and Lectures numbers are limited, contact us at **(772) 546-2067** or email hobesoundnaturecenter@gmail.com to register your morning or evening programs. Spots are limited. Look forward to seeing you!

TUESDAY MORNING HIKES

Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge with Zackary More
FEBRUARY 21 | 9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Dickinson State Park Scouting for Scrub Jays with Park Services Specialist, Sara Leuring
Park Entry Fee - \$6 per vehicle with 2-8 people or \$4 per single person vehicle
FEBRUARY 28 | 9:00 a.m.

Wakodahatchee Wetlands - A bird watching stroll on a three-quarter mile boardwalk.
MARCH 7 | 8:00 a.m.

Hutchinson Island - Exploring barrier island beaches with Martin County Public Works, Mike Yustin
MARCH 14 | 9:00 a.m. Meet at Beachwalk Pasley 2801 NE Ocean Blvd, Stuart

DuBois Pioneer Home Tour with Candice Holzsager. This unique homestead is rich in both historic and archeological value.
MARCH 21 | 10:00 a.m.

Blowing Rocks Preserve - Walk through the mangrove wetlands, maritime hammock and down the beach dune trail, and Anastasia Limestone rocks.
MARCH 28 | 9:00 a.m.

THURSDAY EVENING LECTURES Museum and gift shop open at 6:00 p.m. for registrants with lecture starting at 7:00 p.m. in our new classroom.

Manatees! with Rachel Shanker, Manatee Lagoon
From manatee basics to current conservation efforts, learn all about these magnificent marine mammals, the ecosystems they call home, and what you can do to help!
FEBRUARY 23

Python Patrol with Jessica Clawson, FWC
The program will cover species identification, how to search for pythons, safe capture techniques, how to humanely kill a python, and how to report pythons to the FWC.
MARCH 2

Star Party with Kim Mohlenhoff
A nighttime outdoor exploration to view the sky through telescopes after a brief indoor presentation. Please bring an outdoor chair, comfortable clothing and bug protection.
MARCH 9

Florida Native Plant Society with Carly Batts
"Mission Backyard" - make confident gardening decisions using scientific data, support local wildlife, all while creating a beautiful backyard.
MARCH 16

Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge Updates with Refuge Manager, Bill Miller
MARCH 23

Sea Turtles on the Treasure Coast with Megan Koperski FWC
MARCH 30

SAVE THE DATES Let the Adventures Begin

REFUGE TRAIL HIKES

Our Naturalist will lead Refuge Trail Hikes on **Thursdays** at **9:00 am**. Join us in front of the visitor center to explore the Indian River Lagoon of the **Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge**.

BEACH DYNAMICS

NEW for 2023, program starts at 3:00 p.m. Meet at the Nature Center with a tour before heading to the Refuge Beach on the north end of Jupiter Island. Join Naturalist **Kim Mohlenhoff** to learn about ocean currents, watch for wildlife and pick up litter along the way! Available dates: **February 23 & 22, March 9 & 22, April 5 & 19, and May 3, 17 & 31.**

EARTH DAY - April 22

ANIMAL TALES STORYTIME
9:00 a.m.

Kids young, and young-at-heart are welcome to our story time in our new Classroom! Come join us to hear an animal story, and maybe meet a live one, too! All ages.

EXPLORING THE GRASSFLATS

11:00 a.m. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED ONLINE
Participants will catch & release small marine animals that call the estuary home. This popular "get wet" activity is for ages 4 + with a parent. **Closed-toe shoes for the water required.**

OWL PROGRAM & PELLETT DISSECTION
1:00 p.m.

Meet and learn about our very own education birds during our Raptor program, and then identify different animals by their skeletal remains in our owl pellet dissection!

Crafts & Games 9:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.
Glitter Tattoos Noon - 2:00 p.m.

NIGHT TURTLE WALKS

The Nature Center will begin taking **reservations on April 1** for our popular night turtle walks to watch nesting loggerheads. Walks begin on **Thursday** and **Friday nights** from May 25 through July 21. A \$5 per person donation is requested. Reservations are required though our website.

MANAGER'S NOTE:

From Bill Miller, *Refuge Manager*



It's the season! We mean winter season when visitors from all over come to visit the Refuge, enjoying the weather and natural wonders of the Treasure Coast. Our Refuge is a destination for tens of thousands of visitors every year and as 2023 begins, this year seems no exception! Our beaches will experience much use and enjoyment, and there is so much you can do while visiting your **Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge**. Fishing, wildlife observing and photographing wildlife are all examples of outdoor recreational activities we encourage on the Refuge. There are a few uses that we don't allow in order to best protect wildlife and the habitats they occupy. One use we receive many questions about - **are pets allowed on the Refuge?** The answer? Yes, and no. Pets on six-foot leashes are allowed in areas open to visitors on our mainland tract - the tract where our nature center, scrub trails and Indian River Lagoon access areas are located. We regularly witness visitors including the four-legged variety enjoying the Indian River Lagoon beach of the Mainland Tract. But we don't allow pets on our Jupiter Island Tract which you can access at the very north end of North Beach Road on Jupiter Island. Even the most mindful, well-behaved pet can disturb species and habitats of our beach and dune systems needing protection. Protecting ground nesting shorebirds who nest and rear chicks directly on the beach sand through the winter months, and protecting sea turtle adults, hatchlings, and the thousands of incubating sea turtle nests laid by green, loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles through the summer months are the main reason why

pets are not permitted on the Island Tract. We hope you enjoy your refuge and take advantage of the great weather to check us out this 'season' and thank you for helping us protect wildlife and habitats.

A **North Atlantic right whale** was recently spotted near the refuge in the waters of Jupiter Island. The North Atlantic right whale is one of the world's most endangered large whale species, with current estimates placing population numbers at only 350 globally. They are migratory animals, traveling north during spring, summer and early fall to feed, and back south during winter for calving. Their typical range



extends from New England to Northwest Florida coastal waters, but can be found extending from north of Iceland, the northwest coast of Africa, and down to South Florida. Right whales are baleen whales meaning they feed by swimming through the water, filtering microorganisms and copepods through the large hair-like filters in their mouths. It is not uncommon for groups of right whales to gather near the water's surface, for purposes of mating and socializing. They communicate with each other through low-frequency signals of moans, groans, and pulses, and can convey a large variety of emotions this way. While observing right whales you might be lucky enough to see them breaching and slamming back down into the water for a mighty splash.

For more information about the **Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge**, please visit our website at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/hobe_sound/. If you ever have any questions regarding our ongoing projects, please contact us at (772) 546-6141 or come to our visitor center any time from Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM.



Comings and Goings:

From Bill Miller, *Refuge Manager*



Lori Allen began over a year ago as Park Ranger Technician/ Fee Collector at the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge. She graduated with Business Administration degree from University of Kentucky and remains a faithful fan of Big Blue Nation Wildcats. Lori's family has resided in Florida for more than 50 years. She raised her children on the Florida's west coast while working for the USDA. Active in her community she served on City Advisory Board, chaired SAC (school advisory council), was an active member of Altar Guild and Kiwanis, coached and sponsored golf and soccer teams, was acting scoutmaster for the region, red mule runners club, passionate tennis player and various other civic associations. Lori misses having time on her ranch in north Florida but loves the abundant beauty of the area and all the wonderful people who truly value our natural treasures and share a keen sense of stewardship and preservation.



Ken Johnson is our newest Refuge Ranger. Ken recently retired after 28 years from the Florida Department of Corrections where he was employed as a state Probation & Parole Officer. He is a graduate of the Florida State University and holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, making hot sauce and traveling with his wife Carol.



Zackary More is our new American Conservation Experience (ACE) intern. ACE is a non-profit organization partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supporting America's Refuges. He's originally from Florida, growing up near Orlando, and spent much of his childhood enjoying Florida's gorgeous warm water springs, forests, beaches and trails. After graduating from Florida State University with a bachelor's in science degree in Environment and Society, Zackary served as an ACE crew member in North Carolina and California, and most recently as an ACE intern at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. He's looking forward to assisting the Refuge with invasive species management, trail maintenance, visitor services and habitat management.



Brenda Moore is the Program Support Specialist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Business Team 10 in Florida. She is the point of contact for Human Resources, Purchases, Contracts, Grants and Fleet/Personal Property. She served 4 years in the Air Force and was stationed in Berlin, Germany, when the Berlin Wall came down. She has a bachelor's in Business Administration from National University, a master's in Communication from California State University at Sacramento and a Lifetime Teaching Certificate. She spent 30 years working in education and currently teaches part-time online Communication classes for Northwest University in Washington state. Her and her husband, Louis, have been married for 35 years and they enjoy spending time with their son and 5 grandsons.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We invite you to join **Friends of the Nature Center.** Your membership will help support and promote the mission of the **Hobe Sound Nature Center** by taking an active role with our educational efforts.



To learn more about **Friends of the Nature Center**, scan our QR code.

Hobe Sound Nature Center, Inc. is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education.

HSNC STAFF

Candice Holzsager
Director of Operations

Tracy Boothby
Naturalist Instructor

Crissy Page
Naturalist Instructor

Kimberly Mohlenhoff
Instructor & Gift Shop Coordinator

USFWS

William Miller
Refuge Manager
Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound
National Wildlife Refuge

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GET INVOLVED

The **Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge** is supported by numerous volunteers of all ages. Become a volunteer today and help conserve and protect our nation's wildlife and teach thousands of visitors that their actions today determine the conservation legacy for tomorrow.





HOBE SOUND NATURE CENTER, INC

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Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound
National Wildlife Refuge

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AWARENESS . EDUCATION . LEADERSHIP...
all working together.

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GOT TALENT?



April 8th Draw a Picture of a Bird Day!

Really! No need to be an artist to enjoy this holiday originating in the 1940s! Send us your drawings at hobesoundnaturecenter@gmail.com to receive a prize!

We'll even post your artistic talent on our social media.

Follow Us



Celebrate Nature!



February 19th - World Whale Day

All dolphins are whales but whales are not dolphins! Besides size difference, whales have 2 blowholes while dolphins have one.



March 14th - Save a Spider Day

Spiders are natural pest control, in your home and your garden keeping pesky insect populations in check.



April 10th - Gopher Tortoise Day

Created to bring awareness to Gopher Tortoises as a keystone species because they dig burrows that provide shelter for 360 other species of wildlife!



April 17th - Bat Appreciation Day

Bats are just as important as bees when it comes to pollination. Some bats are the only pollinators for certain plants, such as agave.



May 6th - Salamander Saturday

3.8 million trees felled each year to make disposable chopsticks, an unnecessary commodity, much like plastic bags, endangering critical animal habitat. Join the movement to purchase reusable chopsticks!

Visit Us Today for Our Calendar of Events!

HOBESOUNDNATURECENTER.com