

# 2014 Florida Master Naturalist Program Conference

**UF IFAS**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**March 28-30, 2014**  
**Cape Canaveral, Florida**

## Field Trip Opportunities – Saturday, March 29, 2014

### Wildside Tours (*Tour limited to 16 people*)

#### **Itinerary:**

12:15pm	Load bus
12:45pm	Depart Radisson Resort at the Port
12:45-1:00pm	Travel to Wildside Tours
1:30-4:00pm	Dolphin/pontoon boat tour
4:00-4:15pm	Load bus
4:15-4:30pm	Bus returns to Radisson Resort at the Port

#### **Description:**

Wildside Tours is a nature boat business providing a variety of different excursions in the beautiful Thousand Islands Nature Preserve of Cocoa Beach and the Banana River Lagoon. Sightseeing in this incredible, fragile, and dynamic ecosystem is exciting; the manatees, dolphins, and many varieties of birds exemplify nature at its finest. Practicing ethical, sustainable ecotourism, Wildside does not chase, feed, or touch the animals. They engage in passive viewing and respect the environment. Both Captain Ben Evans and Captain Jeanette Vasbinder are certified Florida Master Naturalists, and Wildside Tours is Florida SEE Gold Certified.

The conference tour will include a dolphin/pontoon boat tour in the Thousand Islands Conservation area of Cocoa Beach. This daily 2 ½ hour excursion is Wildside's most popular trip. The tour will leave from Ramp Road City Park in Cocoa Beach. March is manatee season, and these gentle, curious giants will likely be found in the canals, as well as the open channels. The captain or mate will narrate, sharing his or her knowledge and appreciation of the diverse habitats and species. Each 6-15 mile tour is unique, as there is no set route or presentation, but the captain will consider the weather, animals' location, and passengers' wishes to provide the most enjoyable experience for all. The quiet motor catamaran with comfortable wrap around seating will allow passengers to move around for optimal viewing and to interact with the crew and other passengers. The stability of the boat provides an excellent platform for photographing wildlife, and



there will be some binoculars available for use. There is also a sun cover and on-board restroom available to add to the comfort and relaxation of this educational and exciting tour.

**What to Wear & Bring:** T-shirt, shorts, light jacket, sneakers or sandals, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, camera

**Food Provided:** Lunch and bottled water; soft drinks and water available on-board



**Driving Distance:** Wildside Tours is located in Cocoa Beach, approximately 6 miles from the Radisson Resort at the Port

**Cost of Tour: \$60.00 per person**

*(includes lunch, transportation, and any admission fees)*

#### **For Questions about the Tour Site, contact:**

**Jeanette Vasbinder, Captain**

Phone: (321) 799-5495 | Email: [capt.jetv@yahoo.com](mailto:capt.jetv@yahoo.com)

#### **For Questions about Tour Logistics, contact:**

**Jasmine Garcia, Conference Coordinator**

UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes

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Photo credits: Captain Ben Evans, M.S.  
and Captain Jeanette Vasbinder, B.A.