



St Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve - Thursday, May 23, 2010

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at Civic Center. Carpool caravan will depart for the Buffer Preserve promptly at **7:30 a.m.**

Or arrive on your own--

Start time at field trip location: 9:30 a.m. Meet at St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve Center (**see map below**)

End Time: leave Buffer Preserve at 2:30 p.m.

Degree of Difficulty: Moderate **Handicap access:** no

Guide: Dr. Jean Huffman, Preserve Manager. Contact info: (850)229-1787

Co-leader: Carolyn Kindell, Ecologist, Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description:

The St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve is an exceptional coastal natural area that is very rich with rare plants, and has good examples of a range of beautiful coastal habitats. In the morning we will ride to three different sites within the mainland portion of the Preserve and then walk for 15 to 20 minutes at each site, allowing us to see all of the different habitats within the Preserve and many of the rare plants that flower in the spring. This part of the Preserve is composed of ancient dune/swale topography that is now covered with sandhill, pine flatwoods, wet savannas and cypress strand wetlands. We will see the results of the Preserve's fire management program and discuss many aspects of fire ecology, fire history and also why this area is of such interest to geologists. We will return to have lunch at the Preserve Center on the shore of beautiful St. Joseph Bay. In the afternoon we will drive (carpool) 6 miles to the Deal Tract of the Buffer Preserve which is on the St. Joseph Peninsula. Here we will explore the vegetation of the ancient Native American shell midden on the shore of St. Joseph Bay, as well as the coastal scrubby flatwoods, salt marsh and seagrass habitats and plants of the peninsula.

Entrance is free.

DON'T FORGET: Water, sun screen, hat, insect repellent. Light, long-sleeved shirt and pants are recommended to protect against possible biting insects. We plan on walking in some wet savannas so you may get wet or muddy feet, depending on recent rainfall. Please wear closed toe shoes that can get wet.

Nearest Restrooms: Restrooms are available at the Buffer Preserve Center.

Nearest gas station if remote: Town of Port St Joe

Cell phone reception: Not very dependable much of the time.

Contact number for the day of the event: (850)229-1787

Directions to St Joseph Bay State Buffer and Aquatic Preserves Center from the North/East (Tallahassee, Apalachicola) on US 98

- Go west past Apalachicola about 6 miles on US 98.
- Turn left off US 98 at the curve onto CR-30. (You'll see a brown sign for Rish Park just before you take the left turn.) Continue on CR-30.
- After going about 12.5 miles, the road will curve to the North. Stay on the same road which is now called C-30A. Keep right after the sharp curve and do not turn left on C-30E which goes to Cape San Blas and the State Park.
- Continue for another 2.25 miles and the Preserve Center will be on your left (Bay side of the road). The Center has as a huge deck connecting three light yellow buildings with turquoise roofs. There is a large parking area in front.

Directions to St Joseph Bay State Buffer and Aquatic Preserves Center from the West (Panama City) on US 98

- Go East out of Panama City on US 98
- Proceed through Port St Joe (Gulf County), watch for right hand road marked "30A" a couple of miles past the traffic lights in PSJ. Also signs for Cape San Blas.
- Bear right on that road and proceed through Simmons Bayou, approximately 4.5 miles
- Look for small brown sign indicating Preserve Center in 1 mile.
- Preserves Center will be on your right, with turquoise metal roofs, Lodge is central building.

Please call us if you have any problem getting here or have other questions.

GPS: 85.303913 29.717627

See Map Below:

