



Hickory Mound Unit-Big Bend Wildlife Management Area - Sunday, May 23, 2010

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at Civic Center. Carpool caravan will depart for the Wildlife Management Area promptly at **8:00 a.m.**

Or arrive on your own--

Start time at field trip location: 9:15 a.m. Meet at corner of US 98 and SR 14. **(see map below)**

End Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Guide:, Ann Johnson, Community ecologist, Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Contact info: ajohnson@fnai.org

Co-leader: Fritz Wettstein, Environmental Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Description: Hickory Mound is a large wet hammock of palms and oaks with occasional higher pinelands, bordering vast tidal flats and salt marshes along the Gulf of Mexico. We will drive through these wetlands on old logging roads with stops to explore the surroundings: a woods pond in the hammock to view the mysterious Florida corkwood (*Leitneria floridana*)-aka "leaves-on-a-stick"- -a plant so unlike other plants that it was once put in its own order; the wide open tidal flats surrounding islands of pines and oaks and the ghostly headless stems of cabbage palms marking the place of former islands swallowed by rising sea level. Finally we'll drive out to the Gulf on a loop road across the vast black rush marshes with a picnic stop in a quiet pine island to contemplate the marsh life: oyster beds in the tidal channels, wading birds on the flats and eagles perched on tall pine snags.

Entrance is free

DON'T FORGET: Water, sun screen, hat, insect repellent. Light, long-sleeved shirt and pants are recommended to protect against biting insects. You will likely get wet or at the minimum, muddy, depending on tides and recent rainfall – wear closed toe shoes.

Nearest Restrooms: There are port-o-lets at the picnic area at lunchtime, but the nearest facilities before that are at the JB's gas station in Buckhorn on US 98 ca. 2 miles west junction with SR 14.

Nearest gas station if remote: Buckhorn, approximately 7 miles away.

Cell phone reception: no

Contact number for the day of the event: 850-528-6643

Wildlife Management Area Entrance: From Tallahassee take US98 east to junction with State Road 14. We will meet at this junction and then proceed 5.2 miles south on State Road

14, taking a left across the Econfina River to the beginning of the WMA at junction with Mossy Hammock Grade. **GPS** (SR 14 and US 98 junction): -83.896381 30.060805

See attached map **Map:**

http://myfwc.com/docs/RecreationSites/HuntMap_BigBend_HickoryMound.pdf