

PARADISE PRESERVED

**NATURAL HISTORY EXPLORATIONS –
 CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE &
 MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE
 REFUGE** by Deborah Green, Sabal Press

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM certainly holds true for this third book in a series of natural history guides designed to enhance field experiences in nearby Central Florida Sites. While written with specific hikes in mind, the information is applicable for the Volusia and Brevard County coasts, and other nearby areas.

The handy size (7" x 8.5") of this spiral-bound guide invites the user to include the volume in a backpack or cargo pocket. Be sure to include a waterproof pen or pencil, as the pages invite "checking" the box as species are seen or making additional notes of observations.

Having several times visited Turtle Mound (the third section covered in the book), the walk was recreated by the descriptions of the highlights of those past visits. Marine vine, wild lime, myrsine, snowberry, passion flower, and wild papaya were all remembered. The historical information regarding the Surruque, the native inhabitants of the area 3,000 years ago, is an interesting note.

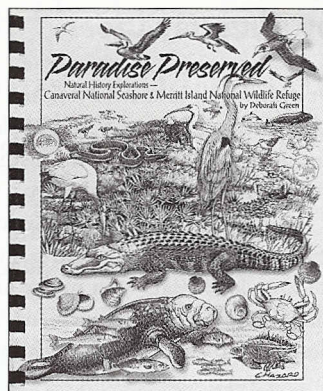
The maps and directions included indicate access to these available sites. Black Pointe Wildlife Drive sounded particularly enticing. Many birds were described, along with other animals and reptiles.

Oak Hammock Trails, including the Palm Hammock Loop, are nearby and are teeming with more plants and animals.

Mosquito Lagoon is a rich habitat and described species include the mangroves, mollusks, fish, and other sea life in this thriving estuary.

Apollo Beach at the northern portion of the Canaveral National Seashore, explains the barrier island system, sands and beaches, and the effect of the moon on tides. Many shore birds are highlighted, but this section is also rich with marine life, from ghost crabs to right whales.


Eddy Creek and Playalinda Beach are in the southern portion of Canaveral National Seashore. A helpful feature throughout the book gives cross references to descriptions in other walks of the book. Often, things will be mentioned in several sections, but with varying facts given or questions posed. In some cases, questions are answered, but in

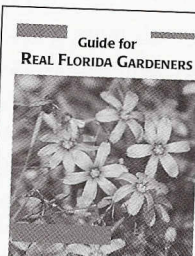


other instances, they are thought provokers.

This is a companion book, whether for armchair reading or trail toting and noting. The inquiring mind is provided with references for further in-depth reading, descriptions of eight common terrestrial habitats seen at Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (based on Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)), profiles of endangered species in the area of this guide, and volunteer opportunities. Local contacts are listed for a variety of groups (but would have been enhanced by listing FNPS and the several nearby chapters).

The field guides recommended are on the "popular" rather than the extensive level, which would be introduction to further exploration. Last, and quite important to this detail-oriented reviewer, are the glossary and list of scientific names for the species mentioned.

Though the author's training is in entomology, she has been an environmental educator for over 15 years and is an enchanting writer. You risk being "charmed" if you delve into this volume (available at Barnes & Noble and from Sabal Press, www.sabalpress.com). 



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