

Discover Fern Forest

An Ecological Exploration of Multiple Plant Communities

Leaders: Courtney Angelo, PhD Botanist, Broward County & Jimmy Lange, Field Botanist, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Day: Sunday

Start Time at Site: 8:45 AM

End Time at Site: 12:00 PM

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Lunch Included? No

Handicap Access: Yes

Cost: \$7

Explore tropical hardwood hammock and cypress-maple swamp communities on a boardwalk, along with native and non-native ferns that are found within these communities. Witness native *Tillandsia* species within the cypress-maple portion of the boardwalk. If time permits, we will explore an oak-palm community on our way out to a dry prairie (off boardwalk). Highlighted ecological topics include fern ecology, invasion ecology, hydrological restoration, along with other exciting discussion points.

What to bring: Water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes appropriate for a hike are recommended. Bring a bag lunch if you would like to enjoy it with others after the walk.

► **Directions to gathering point** at [Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 S Lyons Rd, Coconut Creek, FL 33063](#)* (at the entrance to the boardwalk in the parking lot): Take Florida's Turnpike (FL 91) north toward Fort Lauderdale, take Exit 66 onto Atlantic Blvd (FL 816). Turn left onto Atlantic Blvd and go 1/2 mile choosing second lane from right "SOUTH Lyons Rd - Exit Only". Across the intersection take "SOUTH Lyons Rd - Exit Only" to loop around to cross Atlantic southbound, but stay in righthand lane so that you are ready to turn right in 800 feet into the Fern Forest park entrance (somewhat hidden). Drive ahead to the parking lot. Folks will gather on the south side of the lot at the boardwalk entrance.

**Note: Click link (gathering point address above) for real-time directions from your location using Google Maps. If you would like to view directions from the Miccosukee Resort, enter the starting point as 500 SW 177th Ave, Miami, FL 33194. By allowing more time than you think is required, you can make your ride there more relaxing.*

GPS Location: 26.22960 -80.18670

Jimmy's cell: 954-254-1020