

Field Trip Opportunities – Sunday, June 3, 2012

SJRWMD Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration (*Tour is Limited to 20 people*)

Itinerary:

9:00am	Vans depart Caribe Royale Hotel
9:45am-12:15pm	Tour 80 km ² Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. Presentations on the Lake Apopka restoration program, recreation of wetlands on former farmlands, nutrient control, and remediation of organochlorine pesticides
12.15pm-1:00pm	Lunch at the Lake Apopka Field Station
1:00pm-3:00pm	Tour Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-Way, a 275-ha treatment wetland for nutrient removal. Presentations on design and application of a constructed wetland to remove nutrients from lake water
3:00pm-4:00pm	Vans return to Hotel

Description

Lake Apopka, northwest of Orlando, has been a focus of restoration efforts by the St. Johns River Water Management District since 1985. Prior to the 1940s, Lake Apopka had clear water and abundant gamefish. Agricultural development of the floodplain resulted in increased phosphorus loading to the lake that caused chronic algal blooms starting in 1947. The once abundant submersed macrophytes were eliminated by shading, and sportfish populations declined. Key to restoration of the lake is the reduction in nutrient loading through purchase of the farms and restoration of wetlands.



The tour will visit portions of 80-km² former farmlands on the north shore of Lake Apopka in various stages of wetland restoration. During the first portion of the tour we will travel through areas where the goals of wetland restoration are reduction in water and nutrient runoff and re-creation of habitat. There will be many opportunities to see abundant birds and wildlife. We will present information on the overall restoration program for 125-km² Lake Apopka and its watershed and on contaminant studies and soil pesticide remediation on the former farms. Restoration of hydrologic conditions was complicated by the fact that decades of agriculture



resulted in up to 2m subsidence of the organic “muck” soils. The soils contain organochlorine pesticide residues and have high phosphorus content.

Lunch will be at the St. Johns River Water Management District’s Lake Apopka Field Station where we will sit in the shade outdoors. In the second portion of the tour we will see a constructed wetland that is used to help improve Lake Apopka water quality. The “Marsh Flow-Way” is a large-scale (275-ha) constructed wetland used by the District to remove nutrients and suspended material from Lake Apopka. It is located on the western side of the North Shore Restoration Area. The system has been operated since 2003 and is composed of four treatment cells, which are mosaics of herbaceous marsh and open water. We will describe the historical context of lake water quality and the applicability of using a wetland approach. In addition to describing the project, we will discuss system performance, maintenance experiences and economic costs of the system.



What to wear and bring: Dress for air temperature about 30-32 C. We encourage you to bring binoculars and cameras and wear close-toed, comfortable walking shoes. We will walk only short distances (~100 m) on the tour. Bring rain jackets and sun protection as needed. The tour will proceed in mild rain weather but will be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 30 mi (48 km) there, 15 mi (24 km) during the tour, and 51 mi (82 km) return. Map to the start of the tour g.co/maps/s9w6t
Map from the end point to the hotel g.co/maps/c39z8

Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact:

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