

# **A Photography Road Trip to Central Florida**

Digital Photography Club of Annapolis

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# Agenda

- Planning your trip
- While you are there
- When you return



# Introduction

- Why Central Florida?
  - East & Gulf Coast Migrations
  - Flowers & Butterflies
  - Attractions – Disney, Universal, Sea World, etc.
  - It's so nice to ditch the coat in February
- Focus Of This Presentation
  - Preparation for your trip
  - Photography
    - Birds, Flowers and Butterflies

# Planning Your Trip

- Packing
- Power requirements
- Image storage, cards, drives, PC
- For YOU
- Tides
- Sun and moon
- Finding locations

# Packing

- Camera(s)
- Lenses
- Tripod / monopod / Gorilla Pod
- Filters / reflectors / flash
- Batteries and chargers
- Weather protection (for you & your gear)
- Photography cleaning supplies
- Case(s), day?, rolling?, backpack?
- Hat, sun block, bug juice, clothes to layer
  - Conventional wisdom says tans, browns, greens

# Chargers and Cables

## (In a Separate Bag)

- Power
  - Good power strip
  - All chargers counted and packed
  - Car's power take-off, converter?
- Internet
  - Internet at your lodging?
    - wired or wireless
  - Router to share the connection
  - Cables

# Image Storage Cards, Drives, PC's

- Take a laptop – lock it in you room
- Cards
  - Buy fast, quality memory cards
  - Have enough for a long day of shooting
  - Format cards in camera
  - Prep them before you get to the location
- Take a portable drive (1T < \$120)
- Transfer images nightly
  - Cards -> laptop -> portable drive
    - Check all storage locations FIRST, then
    - Format your cards for tomorrow's action
  - Take the drive with you, park in the shade



# For YOU

- Get in shape for your trip!
  - Walk with your camera and heaviest lens
  - Walk with your backpack
  - Strength Training – with a trainer? On your own? JUST DO IT
    - Coupon for Fitness Together in Severna Park, free session and discount
- Business cards
  - Coupon for 15% off at <http://www.Moo.com>
- Network with other photographers
- Don't forget to rest
- Have fun and make sure your traveling companions have fun too!
- Water, water, water... It's HOT in Florida!

# Tides

- Important for finding the action
- Falling tide
  - Carries food off marshes to birds and fish waiting in the shallows
  - Reveals intertidal zone
  - Strands animals in small pools
  - Creates micro environments with good visibility
- Hit the bait store and chat
  - Warning!  
The \_\_\_\_\_ [insert thing you MOST want to see]  
was there or will be there  
the day before or the day after you get there.  
Go with the flow!

# Intertidal Zone



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# Intertidal Zone



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# Intertidal Zone



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<http://saltwatertides.com>

Generates tide charts by location & date range

**Tides for Cape Canaveral starting with April 1, 2011.**

Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon	Time	% Moon Visible
F	1	Low	12:56 AM	0.3	7:12 AM	Rise	5:51 AM	6
	1	High	7:00 AM	3.6	7:40 PM	Set	6:15 PM	
	1	Low	1:13 PM	0.1				
	1	High	7:24 PM	3.8				
Sa	2	Low	1:34 AM	0.3	7:11 AM	Rise	6:21 AM	2
	2	High	7:36 AM	3.6	7:40 PM	Set	7:06 PM	
	2	Low	1:49 PM	0.0				
	2	High	8:01 PM	3.9				
Su	3	Low	2:10 AM	0.3	7:10 AM	Rise	6:52 AM	0
	3	High	8:11 AM	3.8	7:41 PM	Set	7:59 PM	
	3	Low	2:23 PM	0.0				
	3	High	8:38 PM	3.9				
M	4	Low	2:45 AM	0.3	7:09 AM	Rise	7:24 AM	0
	4	High	8:46 AM	3.8	7:42 PM	Set	8:52 PM	
	4	Low	2:56 PM	0.0				
	4	High	9:14 PM	3.9				

# Sun and Moon

- The Photographers' Ephemeris
  - <http://photoephemeris.com/>
- When will the sun/moon rise and set?
- In what direction will this happen relative to your proposed location?
- For laptop \$0.00 for iPad \$



The Photographer's Ephemeris

Request time | 38.9784°N, 76.4921°W

1.0.5

4 Ephemeris Locations Configure Glossary About

Map Satellite Hybrid Terrain

2

1

3

Ephemeris

	Observation	Rise	Set
Sat 12 Mar	Sun Moon Moon's disc 40.0% illuminated	21:22 @93.6° 00:39 @59.8°	09:08 @266.1° 15:54 @301.0°
Sun 13 Mar	Sun Moon First quarter at 09:44	21:20 @93.1° 01:29 @58.8°	09:09 @266.6° 16:47 @300.9°
Mon 14 Mar	Sun Moon Moon's disc 60.7% illuminated	21:19 @92.6° 02:26 @59.6°	09:10 @267.1° 17:36 @298.9°
Tue 15 Mar	Sun Moon Moon's disc 71.1% illuminated	21:17 @92.1° 03:30 @62.4°	09:11 @267.6° 18:20 @295.0°
Wed 16 Mar	Sun Moon Moon's disc 80.8% illuminated	21:16 @91.6° 04:38 @67.0°	09:12 @268.1° 18:59 @289.6°

14 Mar 2011

Twilight Details

Elevation at the horizon:  x

Lock

Legend

Search: 5 Old Glenroy, , Queensland (12.92 miles)

Map data ©2011 Google - Terms of Use

Override DST Australia/Brisbane (EST) UTC+10

1 2 3 4 5





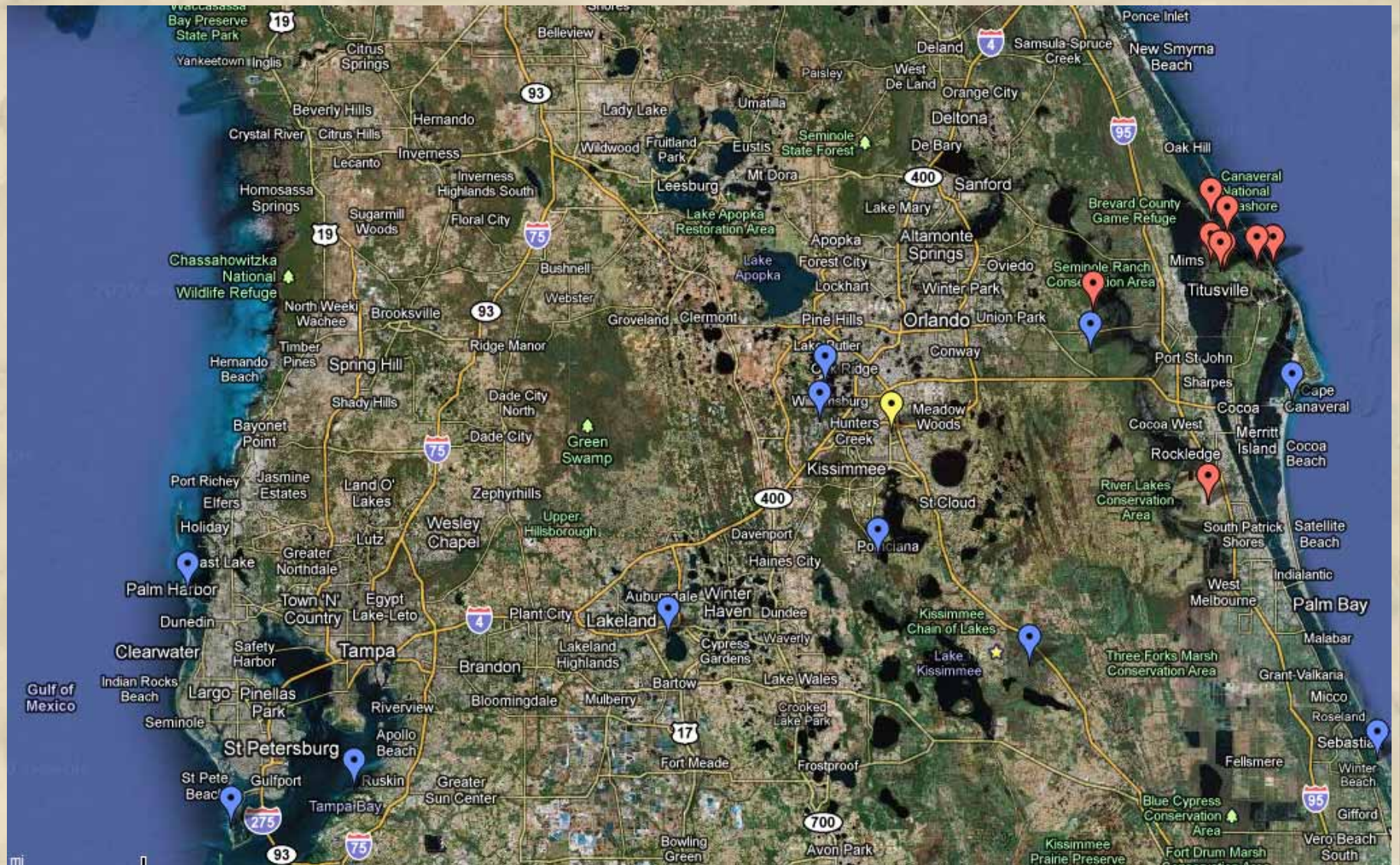
***FREE!***

# Locations

- **Seek Inspiration -- Photographs On-line**
  - FLICKR, SmugMug, Nature Conservancy, Nat. Geo., etc.
  - Yahoo and Google image searches
- **Learn The Geography**
  - Google Maps, Bing Maps, MapQuest
  - National, State and County websites
- **Research Your Subject**
  - National and International Photography Magazines for techniques
  - <http://www.ebird.org>
  - <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>
  - <http://www.bugguide.org>
- **Make And Take Your Own Google Map**
  - DPCA Central Florida Google Map
    - Request via [lauren.brice@verizon.net](mailto:lauren.brice@verizon.net)



# DPCA Central Florida Map





# Merritt Island NWR & Canaveral National Sea Shore





# Merritt Island NWR



# Merritt Island NWR & Canaveral National Sea Shore

- <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>
- Visitors Center
- Black Point Wildlife Loop
- Bio Lab Road
- Peacock's Pocket
- Canaveral National Sea Shore
  - <http://www.nps.gov/cana/index.htm>

# Orlando Wetlands Park Christmas, FL





# Orlando Wetlands Park

## Christmas, FL

- [http://www.cityoforlando.net/public\\_works/wetlands/index.htm](http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/index.htm)
- Over 20 miles of walking roads/trails
- Ample parking
- Learning Center
- Restrooms, Cabana, Picnic Tables
- Bicycles allowed



## Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Melbourne, FL



## Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Melbourne, FL

- Go
- Ample parking
- Port-a-potties
- 100% drivable, some portions may close if roads soggy
- Absolutely amazing

# Gatorland – Orlando, FL



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# Gatorland – Orlando, FL



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# Gatorland – Orlando, FL

- In Orlando
- Fun for the whole family
- Unbelievably lame feed the gator show
- Unbelievable access to nesting wild birds, in season
- Easy access and walking
- Restrooms, concessions, shade, benches
- Discounts for – AAA, mentioning 'Florida Birding Trail', 55 and over = \$10



## Bok Tower Gardens – Lake Wales, FL





## Bok Tower Gardens – Lake Wales, FL

- <http://boktowergardens.org/about>
- Like flowers? This is your place
- \$10 regular adult admission
- 8 am – 6 pm, last admission at 5 pm
- Carillon bell tower
- Restful
- Gorgeous!
- See photography policy in FAQ's

# Disney – Epcot



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# Disney – Epcot





# Disney – Epcot

- Don't dis the mouse
- Search event calendars on-line
- 1 Golden hour = sunset
  - But then you get fireworks!
- Consumer, fun seeker, heaven
- Cave to the fam. and shoot too!

# While on Your Trip

- Go with a plan and contingencies
- Watch the Weather
  - winds, temperature, storms
- Don't telegraph your gear
- Driving – tolls and Florida's Sun Pass
- Batteries
- Water & sunscreen
- Clothing – hat, hat, hat
- Insect repellent
- Don't forget to rest





# When You Return

- Clean your equipment
  - **External** – soft cloth but only after brushing off fine sand first
  - **Lenses** – watch that fine sand
  - **Sensor** – after everything else is clean and free of dust, dirt and sand and put away; after you've cleaned your work area; when you are rested and unrushed
- Transfer files
  - Cards -> laptop -> portable drive
  - Laptop -> primary PC

# Other Resources

- *Southern Camera – Melbourne*
- *Sun Pass – Walgreens*
- *Florida Birding Trail*
- *Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival*
  - <http://www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org/>
- *Florida's Birding & FotoFest*
  - <http://floridasbirdingandphotofest.com/>
- *Festival List*
  - <http://www.nbbd.com/ecotourism/festivals.html>

