



*Friends of the*  
**Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves**  
*From Lemon Bay to Tarpon Bay*



**Explore the East Branch of Coral Creek, a tidal creek in greater Charlotte Harbor, one of our most intriguing estuaries, with the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves.** *Estuaries... beautiful, dynamic, and biologically productive bays, harbors, and lagoons where freshwater rivers and creeks empty to the sea and mingle with salty ocean tides. The shallow waters support salt marsh, mangroves, seagrass beds, mud flats, and oyster bars, which provide habitat and foraging areas for fish, crabs, shrimp, mollusks, dolphins, wading birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife. More than 95% of Florida's recreationally and commercially important fish, shellfish, and crustaceans spend a part of their life cycles in estuaries, the "nurseries of the sea". Paddle the East Branch of Coral Creek within the Gasparilla Sound / Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and become acquainted with estuaries, your "extended backyard". Explore the ecology of a southwest Florida estuary. Learn about "the land and sea connection", estuary food webs, and the importance of the estuary to fisheries and birds.*

***Sign up now for the....***

## **Charlotte County Boys & Girls Clubs Summer 2006 Coral Creek Paddle**

Sponsored by  
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park  
the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves,  
the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, and Grande Tours

**Date: July 23, 2006** (*Alternate date in the event of bad weather is Sunday July 30.*)

**Time:** The paddle begins on Sunday morning between 8:30 am and 9:00 am returning by noon.

Plan to arrive by 8:15 am in preparation for a 9:00 am launch.

**Location:** Grande Tours is located at 12575 Placida Road, (CR 775), Placida near the Boca Grande Causeway. Directions are on the back of this flyer. Plan to carpool or make arrangements for group travel through the Charlotte County Boys & Girls Club Representative.

**Registration Procedure: Advance registration is required.** Yellow paddle registration forms must be completed and returned to Kathy Warren, Charlotte County Boys & Girls Club Representative, 6210 Grandeur Street, Englewood FL 34224. She may be reached at 941-623-6108. This event is being sponsored FREE of charge. If you will not be able to attend or have to cancel, please inform her as soon as possible, as there may be other members who would like to participate.

**THE BIG SUMMER PADDLE:** Join the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves, Inc. (FCHAP) on a summer kayak paddle for members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County. Paddlers will explore the East Branch of Coral Creek leading into the northern interior of Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park and examine a variety of submerged habitats including mangrove shoreline, seagrass beds, and oyster bars. Osprey, ibis, herons, and egrets may be sighted.

***For more information, please call 941-575-5861 Ext. 105.***

## Directions

**To Placida:** Those coming from the Englewood and El Jobean areas may take the most direct route to County Road 771 or County Road 775. From a distance, those traveling from Port Charlotte or Punta Gorda will take the most direct route to State Road 776, cross the Myakka River, and continue towards Englewood. Turn south (left) onto County Road 771 (Gasparilla Road) at the 776 / 771 intersection at the Gulf Cove Publix Plaza and drive towards Placida and Boca Grande. Placida and Grande Tours are approximately 8 miles from the 776 / 771 intersection.

**To Grande Tours:** Drive south on County Road 771 (Gasparilla Road) approximately 8 miles to Placida and Grande Tours. Drivers will pass a Placida sign and Gasparilla Marina, cross over a bridge, and pass the Fishery Restaurant sign. Charlotte County Roads 771 and 775 merge at this point. Turn east (right) into the entrance of Grande Tours just before the stoplight near the Boca Grande Causeway. Englewood residents may elect to take County Road 775 (Placida Road) to Grande Tours. Turn east (left) into the Grande Tours entrance just after the Boca Grande Causeway stoplight. It is approximately 8 miles from SR 776 via 775 to Grande Tours. **Plan to arrive at approximately 8:15 am in preparation for a 9:00 am launch. Please carpool or make arrangements for group travel through the Charlotte County Boys & Girls Club Representative.**

**FLORIDA**  
**State Parks**  
*...the Real Florida*



Division of Recreation and Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection

The Mission of the Florida Park Service is *"To provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources."* The Friends Summer Coral Creek / Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve Paddle for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County is a Florida State Parks Get REAL! (Recreational and Environmental Adventures in Learning) program. Get REAL builds on the parks' broad multi-cultural, educational, and recreational programs to enrich learning and integrate the use of state parks with local community programs. Get REAL seeks to increase participation in outdoor recreation and provide opportunities for everyone from school-aged children to seniors. The Boys & Girls Clubs are cordially invited to schedule special group hikes and other park programs with park staff. For more information, please call the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park office at 941-575-5861 Ext. 105.

