

CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY

P R E S S K I T



Audubon

Corkscrew Swamp
Sanctuary

OVERVIEW

ABOUT AUDUBON'S CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY:

Located in the heart of the Western Everglades, Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is the ideal destination for visitors looking for a place of quiet serenity and unmatched natural beauty. The Sanctuary protects more than 13,000 acres. Our 2.25-mile boardwalk winds through pine flatwoods, wet prairie, and the largest old-growth bald cypress forest in North America. Birders from around the globe flock to the Sanctuary as one of the premier destinations on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and support the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems throughout the Western Everglades. We use science-driven land management and education to protect birds, other wildlife, and people.

LOCATION:

Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is located off Immokalee Road, 15 miles east of I-75 (exit 111).

375 Sanctuary Road, Naples, Florida 34120 | corkscrew.audubon.org | 239.398.9151

MEDIA CONTACTS:

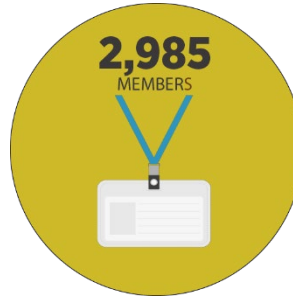
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BY THE NUMBERS AS OF 2023



IMPORTANT DATES



1886
Plume-hunters decimated South Florida birds



1910
First Audubon warden protects Corkscrew rookeries



1952
Logging of cypress forests in Corkscrew began



1954
Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary established



1956
First boardwalk built at Corkscrew Sanctuary



1994
The Living Machine installed, one of the first of its kind



2000
Blair Audubon Visitor Center opens

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was built on a foundation of conservation. We put a halt to plume hunting, we saved the old-growth bald cypress forest, and most of our upstream and much of our remaining downstream watershed is designated as conservation land. However, threats to Corkscrew remain. Using science as a guide, we work to maintain and restore the natural history legacy entrusted to us.



Western Everglades Science

Providing the sound science needed to drive conservation and restoration.

Habitat Stewardship

Main components include prescribed fire, invasive species management, and public access.

Conservation Policy & Advocacy

Everglades Science conducted at Corkscrew guides Audubon Florida's policy work.

Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum

Partnering with our Federal, State, County and other neighbors to share the latest science on the ecology of our watershed.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

One of the best ways to learn about and experience the Western Everglades is through an educational program led by Sanctuary staff, docents, and partner educators. In addition to serving as an official field trip site for students in Collier County, a variety of programs are available for students and the public throughout the year. An estimated 2,300 students participate annually in an education program.



- 2nd Grade Insect Adventure
- 5th Grade Wild Florida Adventure
- Boardwalk Adventure
- FGCU Colloquium
- Florida Master Naturalist Program



BLAIR VISITOR CENTER



With exhibits, artwork, and bird-friendly gardens, the Blair Visitor Center serves as the gateway to an enchanting wilderness with giant cypress trees that have lived here for nearly 600 years.

Features:

- 2.25-mile boardwalk
- Native plant and pollinator garden
- Nature Store
- Guided tours

RECURRING EVENTS

Night Walks



Early Birding Tours



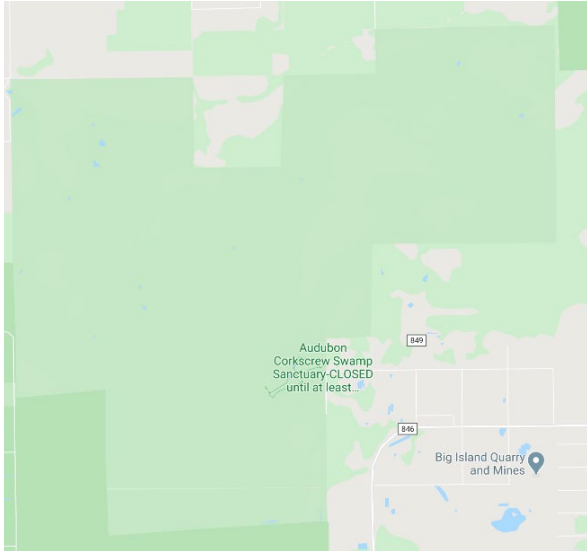
Summer Camp



Ceremonies



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is considered a “crown jewel” in the network of National Audubon Society nature centers.

The Sanctuary has earned the following prestigious designations:

- National Natural Landmark
- Ramsar-designated “Wetland of International Importance”
- Member of the Old-Growth Forest Network
- Recognized as a Wetland of Distinction by the Society of Wetland Scientists

OUR SUPPORT SYSTEM

Sustainability Board

Our Sustainability Board serves as an important advisory group to the Sanctuary’s staff. They assist the organization with increasing support for Corkscrew’s programs and engaging the people and businesses of Southwest Florida.

Donors

Donors, foundations, and corporations help sustain our beloved Corkscrew Swamp, provide environmental education to our community, and preserve and manage the natural resources within the precious interconnected habitats and watersheds of the Western Everglades.