

Teacher and Student Testimonials

"I loved the creativity and hands-on approach. Thank you."

Grade 3 Teacher – Bonita Springs Elementary



"Awesome trip and instructors. Can't wait to go again! The students are still talking about it."

Grade 3 Teacher – Heights Elementary
IB World School



Home Sweet Home and Magic Spots are developed by The Institute for Earth Education with modifications for use by Lee County Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve.

** Both pre and post activity suggestions are provided.



Call the Earth Ed Committee Chair, Dorothy Rodwell, at 851-7166 or email drodwell@embarqmail.com to schedule your group and to receive your application

2015 Interactive Earth Ed. Program 3rd Grade



Matanzas Pass Preserve,
Fort Myers Beach



~Learning Where We Live~
Home Sweet Home and
Magic Spots

3rd Grade Experiential Environmental Education

Is your third grader a Swimming Water Strainer or a Radar Eared Grass Nibbler?

Perhaps a Soft Stem Sap Sucker?

In what community does he or she belong and what is needed to successfully live in this community?

And, what happens when things begin to change?

There's a lot going on in our Preserve and getting into the flow of really seeing and hearing what is happening can mean finding your own **Magic Spot!**

You may choose to participate in Home Sweet Home or both programs on the same visit.



Choice 1: Home Sweet Home

Group Size: 12-60

Concept: Sense of Plant and Animal Community

Setting: Forest, Field and Wetland of Matanzas Pass Preserve

Season: October through November & April through May

Program Length: 1.5 hours **Fee:** \$3 per student**

Home Sweet Home is a highly participatory and stimulating ecological concept building learning experience. The focus is upon developing a deeper understanding of one ecological concept utilizing a problem-solving story line, peer-to-peer interactions and ongoing roles for the participants. But they can't just live in any community; they can only live where they can find all the things they need to survive.

After the *Home Tour*, participants "settle into" their appropriate communities, only to find a letter addressed to them in the community mailbox. The personalized letter explains more about the plant or animal role they have been playing. A twist occurs when one of the communities changes and those participants need to use their newly acquired knowledge to try to move into another community. They must "plead their case" in community court in front of their peers from the other communities.

Choice 2: Home Sweet Home and Magic Spots

Program Length: 1.5 hours and 45 minutes – Some groups bring lunch to eat between sessions.

Fee: \$4 per student

Magic Spots is a solitude enhancing experience that encourages students to search independently for plants, animals and other surprises while reflecting about the experience in a journal.



For more information...

Contact Dorothy Rodwell, Friend of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Lee County Parks and Recreation Volunteer and Florida Master Naturalist at 239-851-7166 for more information.