

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free guided walk showcases former air field site at Lee County's Wild Turkey Strand Preserve

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 17, 2016 – Celebrate the Veterans Day holiday early with a free, guided historical walk from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at Wild Turkey Strand Preserve, 11901 Rod & Gun Club Road, Fort Myers.

This Conservation 20/20 preserve includes remnant structures from the Buckingham Army Air Field's Flexible Gunnery School, a training base operated by the U.S. military in Lee County during World War II.

The one-mile walk will be guided along an ADA-accessible elevated and paved path by historian Jim Zbick from the Southwest Florida Military Museum & Library.

Nearly 50,000 acres in Lee County were once used as part of the Buckingham Army Air Field Flexible Gunnery School during World War II. Beginning in 1942, military recruits were trained in this area as turret gunners assigned to bomber planes flying over the European and Pacific Theaters. The air field was deactivated in 1945. Remnants of the air field's ground moving target ranges and munitions buildings can be seen onsite at this preserve.

Participants should bring a water bottle, hat, sunscreen and camera and should wear closed-toed shoes. Meet in the preserve parking area. Parking is free but limited. Reservations are required in advance by contacting Jason Boeckman, Conservation 20/20 coordinator, at 239-204-1125.

For more information about Conservation 20/20, visit www.Conservation2020.org. For information about guided walks scheduled across all Lee County parks and preserves, visit www.leegov.com/parks/parks. For more information about the Southwest Florida Military Museum & Library, visit www.swfmm.org.

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Note to media: Images available upon request. Contact Jason Boeckman at Lee County Parks & Recreation, 239-204-1125 or jboeckman@leegov.com