

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Clayton, A.P.R.
Communications Director
Lee County Government
239-826-4606
bclayton@leegov.com

or

Contact: Jason Boeckman
Conservation 20/20
239-204-1125
jboeckman@leegov.com

Historical hike at Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek explores farming lives of early settlers in Lee County

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 12, 2016 – Learn about the history and lives of early farming settlers in Lee County by attending a free guided hike from 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, at Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek in Alva. The 2-mile hike is a primitive trail that is not ADA-accessible. Due to limited parking onsite at the preserve, the meeting location for this walk is at nearby Alva Community Park, 21471 North River Road, Alva.

Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek is managed as part of Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program, a willing seller program for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Lee County for the purpose of conservation. This 243-acre preserve is named to honor the Daniels family, who owned and lived on the land for more than 60 years before nominating it in 2005 to be acquired as a Conservation 20/20 preserve.

In 1944, the Daniels family purchased the land as a homestead and for cattle grazing. The family did not harvest the pine trees on the property, which today remain preserved as large old-growth Florida slash pines. Ruby Daniels, a member of the Daniels family, will share her memories and stories about living and working on the property.

Master naturalist guides will also discuss restoration projects that have been completed on the preserve to improve hydrology and enhance habitat for the gopher tortoise, a state-listed threatened species. Birds and wildlife commonly observed at the preserve include the gopher tortoise, Swallow-tailed kite, Barred owl and woodpeckers.

Suggested items to bring include water, hat, sunscreen and camera. Please wear sturdy closed-toed shoes appropriate for hiking.

Visit www.Conservation2020.org or call 239-204-1125 for more information. To learn about guided walks scheduled across all Lee County parks and preserves, visit www.leegov.com/parks/parks.

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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.