

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Volunteers needed for Weed Wrangle at south Lee County Conservation 20/20 preserve**

Fort Myers, FL, Feb. 19, 2019 – Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2, to help remove invasive plants at Lee County's Mullock Creek Preserve, as part of the statewide Weed Wrangle volunteer effort.

Weed Wrangle is a one-day, statewide volunteer effort organized by the Garden Club of America, the Florida Invasive Species Partnership and Florida's 16 regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs). It is intended to protect local conservation areas through the removal of especially harmful trees, vines and invasive plants.

The effort is planned as part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Feb. 25 through March 3. Lee County's Conservation 20/20 is partnering locally with Southwest Florida CISMA to host a volunteer project to remove invasive vegetation at Mullock Creek Preserve, located near the intersection of U.S. 41 South and Shadow Creek Boulevard in south Fort Myers, about 2 miles north of Koreshan State Park. Detailed location and parking instructions will be provided to volunteers who register.

Volunteers are asked to register in advance, as space is limited. To register, contact Roxanne Taylor, Conservation 20/20 coordinator, at 239-220-9914. Anyone 13 and up may volunteer.

Volunteers will be hand-pulling and removing non-native and invasive plants. Conservation 20/20 staff will supervise and provide all tools and protective gloves.

**Additional details:**

- Volunteers must wear long pants (comfortable lightweight jeans or khakis recommended), lightweight long-sleeved shirt, and closed-toed shoes that can get dirty. No sandals or flip-flops.
- Volunteers should bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray and a refillable water bottle.
- Each volunteer will receive a free one-day pass to a Lee County Parks & Recreation year-round pool.

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**About National Invasive Species Awareness Week and Florida CISMAs:** National Invasive Species Awareness Week is organized annually to bring attention to the harmful impacts of invasive plant and wildlife species on natural ecosystems. Since 2009, educational events have been hosted across the United States during this week. Florida's 16 regional CISMAs are an alliance of federal, state, and local government agencies and private stakeholders focused on invasive species management, including prevention, early detection and rapid response and integrated pest control.

**About Conservation 20/20:** Conservation 20/20 is Lee County's environmentally-sensitive land acquisition and management program. Nearly 30,000 acres of conservation land is protected in Lee County through the program. The program was established in 1996 through voter referendum and reaffirmed at the ballot box in 2016, receiving 84 percent majority support from Lee County voters. Conservation 20/20 manages 47 preserves spread throughout Lee County. For more information, visit [www.conservation2020.org](http://www.conservation2020.org).

*Note to media: Images available upon request.*