



# Boyd Hill Nature Preserve Turtle Science (for adults)

This engaging, hands-on class (seven monthly sessions, November 2023-May 2024) will introduce the study of tortoises and freshwater turtles. Join turtle biologist and environmental educator George L. Heinrich (Heinrich Ecological Services) for this rare educational opportunity for adults.



(handled during research under FWC permit)



Students will learn about the ecology and conservation of tortoises and freshwater turtles through a blend of classroom and field sessions (emphasis on ecology, research, and conservation). Classroom sessions include PowerPoint presentations and hands-on activities. Field sessions will include lessons on identification techniques and data collection. Students will receive a copy of the *Turtles of Florida*, a laminated, foldable guide co-authored by Mr. Heinrich.



Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is located at 1101 Country Club Way S. in St. Petersburg, FL.

For registration questions or directions, please call the preserve at (727) 893-7326.



**Target audience:** adults with a strong interest in nature (maximum of 20 students)

**Registration fee:** \$300 for the full series (seven sessions); participants cover costs associated with field trip; registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis

**Session descriptions:**

11 November 2023 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

- *Why Turtles Are Cool* (classroom session)
- Search for turtles along the preserve's trails (field session)

9 December 2023 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

- *Gopher Tortoises + Prescribed Fire = Increased Biodiversity* (classroom session)
- Search for tortoises and their burrows in the preserve's uplands, and learn how to conduct a burrow survey and estimate population size (field session)

13 January 2024 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

- *Turtle Anatomy: The Clues Are in the Bones* (classroom session)
- Examine skeletal material in the field (field session)

10 February 2024 (9:00 am-2:00 pm)

- *In One End and Out the Other: Determining Turtle Diets by Studying Scat* (classroom session)
- Collect and dissect gopher tortoise scat (field session)

9 March 2024 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

- *Turtle Nesting Ecology* (classroom session)
- Search for turtles in the preserve's diverse habitats (field session)

13 April 2024 (9:00 am-3:00 pm)

- *Global Turtle Conservation Issues* (classroom session)
- Search for gopher tortoises in the preserve's uplands (field session)

11 May 2024 (8:00 am-3:00 pm)

- Field trip to Rainbow Run in Dunnellon, Florida (canoe and snorkel)

**Instructor's bio:**

George is a field biologist and environmental educator specializing in Florida reptiles. His company, Heinrich Ecological Services, is based in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA and conducts wildlife surveys and research, natural history programming, and nature-based tours. A graduate of Memphis State University, his interests include southeastern upland, riverine, and brackish wetland ecosystems; conservation challenges facing Florida's non-marine turtles; and the role of education in conserving herpetofauna. Current collaborative research projects focus on three imperiled species: the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*), and Suwannee cooter (*Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis*). George is an invited member of the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, served twice as co-chair of the Gopher Tortoise Council, and is the executive director of the Florida Turtle Conservation Trust. He has received several awards from state and regional NGOs for his conservation and environmental education work, including the Golden LEEF Award for Outstanding Contribution to Florida Environmental Education from the League of Environmental Educators in Florida.

**How to register:**

Print out and complete registration form provided on the next page. Return via U.S. Postal Service along with a check or money order made payable to "City of St. Petersburg" for \$300. Registration can also be completed at the preserve, with cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. Once the completed paperwork and payment have been received, we will provide a confirmation and other information via e-mail. Please note that no reservations will be accepted and that registrations cannot be processed unless the completed paperwork and full payment have been received.

**Cancellation policy:**

All cancellation requests must be received at least seven days prior to the start of the class. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after 4 November 2023.

**For questions related to course content and activities, please contact:**

George L. Heinrich (Heinrich Ecological Services): (727) 599-1843

[george@heinrichecologicalservices.com](mailto:george@heinrichecologicalservices.com) / [www.heinrichecologicalservices.com](http://www.heinrichecologicalservices.com)

**Boyd Hill Nature Preserve**

**Turtle Science - Registration Form**

Please complete one form per registrant and print clearly. Space is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations cannot be processed unless completed forms are accompanied by full payment. The registration fee is \$300 for the full series (seven sessions). Students cover costs associated with the field trip. All cancellation requests must be received at least seven days prior to the start of the program. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after 4 November 2023.

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Full name

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Mailing address

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City

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State

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Zip code

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Home phone

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Cell phone

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Work phone

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E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact (please list phone numbers below)

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Home phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone

I agree to sign the City of St. Petersburg's Release, Waiver of Claims, Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement, and that upon its execution, such document shall be incorporated with and shall become a part of this registration application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed registration form and check for \$300 made payable to "City of St. Petersburg" to: Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.**

**Staff Use Only:**

Date Processed \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Charge \_\_\_\_\_