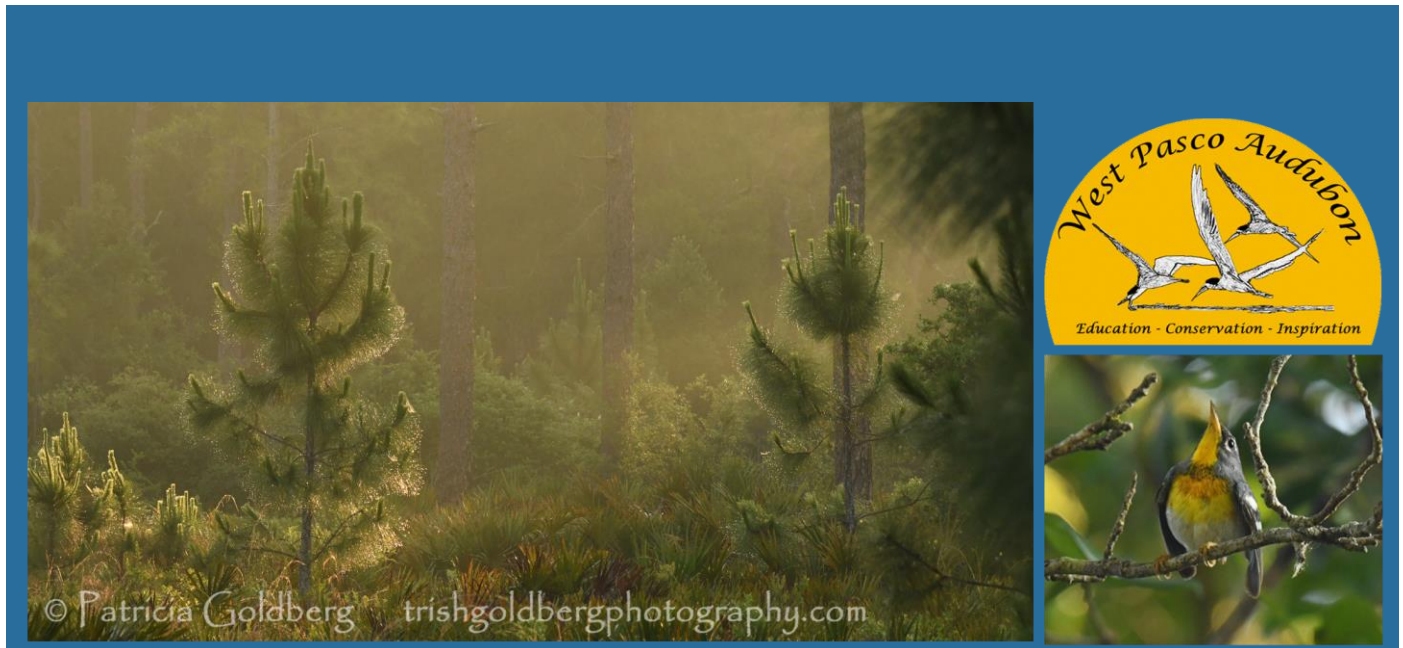


Heartwood Preserve



ABOUT

Adjacent to Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, Heartwood Preserve contains two primary ecosystems, cypress wetlands and longleaf pine flatwoods. The Preserve keeps to a three-year prescribed burn rotation which ensures that vulnerable species such as the Brown-headed Nuthatch and Northern Bobwhite can thrive here. This is quite possibly the easiest location in which to find Brown-headed Nuthatches in the Tampa Bay area. Efforts are made to ensure that only native plants are found here. While a natural cemetery, this privately held property is a peaceful and pleasant place to bird.

BIRDS

Brown-headed Nuthatch, Northern Bobwhite, Great Horned Owl, Bachman's Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat

eBird hotspot link:

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L11155293>

DIRECTIONS

From Highway SR 54 turn north on Starkey Blvd (5-6 miles east of US 19). Heartwood Preserve is on the right in 1.5 miles.

4100 Starkey Blvd. Trinity

FACILITIES

Parking, trails, welcome center. Please note that the preserve is gated, and it is advisable to check opening hours with the website: <https://heartwoodpreserve.com/>



TIPS

The parking lot is centrally located. The pine flatwood preserve lies to the north of the parking lot, and has a grassy path that borders it, allowing for easy birding. The circuit is about a half mile around. The natural cemetery is to the east of the parking lot and is about a quarter of a mile around. Brown-headed Nuthatches can be found here year-round. Bobwhite call and are often seen in the spring, while warblers, vireos and sparrows are found according to season. As this is a natural cemetery as well as a preserve, you are kindly asked to stay on the clearly marked pathways. The cypress wetlands are mostly to the south of the parking area and the only path there skirts it, to ensure the protection of the aquifer. There is a path that borders the fence to the south of the welcome center, and this can be a good place to find warblers and other passerines during migration. Heartwood Preserve offers bird walks through the preserve at regular points through the year.



HEARTWOOD PRESERVE

Heartwood Preserve is located three miles south of the entrance to Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, one of the county's top birding hotspots. Starkey Park hosts West Pasco Audubon monthly walks and educational meetings - please check the schedule at www.westpascoaudubon.com. The preserve is also about a half-mile north of Starkey Market, which contains a significant marsh area behind its parking lot that is well worth a visit while you are in the area.