



## **“GOING BATTY” AT FORT COOPER**

Due to popular demand, the Friends of Fort Cooper will again feature a special program and observation of Florida’s bats on Friday, October 5th at Fort Cooper State Park, 3100 S. Old Floral City Road in Inverness. Thanks to a Boy Scout Eagle project, Fort Cooper has a huge bat house that now has thousands of inhabitants.

The presentation will be given by Shari Blissett-Clark, president, Florida Bat Conservancy [www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org) and board member of Bat Belfrys Inc., dedicated to conserving Florida's bats!

Visitors will start the evening in Fort Cooper’s Rec Hall with a social at 6:00 p.m. followed by a 6:30 p.m. presentation by Ms. Blissett-Clark.. Following her presentation and any questions and answers, attendees will take a short walk to Fort Cooper’s Bat House to witness the swarm of bats exiting the House at sundown (about 7:15 p.m.) It is advised that walkers wear sneakers or close-toed shoes. It’s truly a remarkable sight!

Florida’s bats are the primary predators of night-flying insects, consuming millions of bugs each night. Even a small colony of just 100 bats can eat up to 200,000 insects in a single night or 65 million insect pests each year! It is estimated that there are over 5,000 bats residing in Fort Cooper’s Bat House. Pesticide-free, cost-free insect control!

Seating in the Social Hall is limited. Please reserve by emailing Eileen Riccio at [naturecoastbirder5@yahoo.com](mailto:naturecoastbirder5@yahoo.com) . There is a \$3 per car state park entrance fee. The presentation is free. Learn what you can do to help Florida's bats by visiting the Florida Bat Conservancy's website: [www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org)