

tiger creek preserve

like nowhere else on earth

est 1971

Natural Events Calendar

Nature has its own timetable — all dates are generalizations.

january

- Sky-blue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*) is common in the preserve and may begin flowering (usual time is mid-winter to spring).
- Average rainfall for January is 4 inches.

february

- Eagles begin to hatch; broods from the early nesters practice flapping their wings.
- Swallow-tailed kites return from South America to nest in the floodplain swamp along the creeks.
- Lewton's milkwort (*Polygala lewtonii*) begins flowering, continues through summer.
- Average rainfall for February is 4 inches.

march

- Pygmy fringe trees begin to bloom. Flowering depends on conditions and may be delayed until April or May.
- Flag pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*) is flowering.
- Sand skinks are most active March-April.
- Chuck-will's-widows begin calling on moonlit nights.
- Short-tailed hawks build nests deep in the swamps.
- Average rainfall for March is 5 inches.

april

- Some of the eagles begin migrating north.
- Sand skink mating is in full swing.
- Average rainfall for April is 4 inches.

may

- Gopher tortoises begin nesting; young will hatch in 2 ½ to 3 ½ months.
- Florida bonamia (*Bonamia grandiflora*) is blooming.
- Greatest likelihood of lightning-caused wildfire as first thunderstorms appear at the end of the dry season.
- Average rainfall for May is 5 inches.

june

- Swallow-tailed kites fledge.
- Wiregrass responds favorably where it has been burned with prescribed fire.
- Average rainfall for June is 14 inches.

july

- Gopher tortoise young emerge.
- Average rainfall for July is 12 inches.

august

- Peak season for frog activity is during the rainy season, August through October.
- Average rainfall for August is 14 inches.

september

- Late in September or early October, bald eagles return to nesting trees to check their nests and begin repairs. Some may lay eggs as early as the first week in November, and others may wait until mid-January.
- Butterflies are numerous during September and October.
- Wiregrass begins blooming.
- Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) flowers late summer to early winter.
- Tiger Creek reaches its highest level of the year.
- Average rainfall for September is 10 inches.

october

- Numerous wildflowers bloom, including October flower, blue curls, and Carter's mustard.
- Average rainfall for October is 5 inches.

november

- Fall wildflowers and grasses are in bloom.
- Average rainfall for November is 4 inches.

december

- Some eagles will begin to hatch this month.
- Gopher frogs call in seasonal ponds.
- Average rainfall for December is 4 inches.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.