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Bok Tower Gardens to dedicate new Preserve Trail on March 1

Attractions — posted by jimabbott on February, 21 2013 5:00 PM

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On March 1, Bok Tower Gardens is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the opening of its new 1.5-mile Preserve Trail. The ceremony will take place just inside the Gardens' main gate. Gardens' admission is free until 10 a.m. for anyone wishing to attend.

After the dedication ceremony, Bok Tower Gardens' Director of Horticulture Greg Kramer will host a narrated, 45-minute trail walk for those who want to explore and learn more about the Preserve habitat.

In 2005, the Florida Community Trust awarded a \$2.5 million grant to Bok Tower Gardens' partner, the Green Horizon Land Trust, to preserve 260 acres of open lands surrounding the Gardens as vistas critically important to the historic design of the Gardens.

Through the partnership with Green Horizon Land Trust, Bok Tower Gardens is responsible for managing these open lands, now known as the Bok Tower Gardens Preserve. Approximately 156 of these acres are being restored to Longleaf Pine forest, others will remain in citrus production, and the rest are in their native natural state and are being enhanced. These lands can be seen along the scenic entrance drive to the Gardens.

As part of a Florida Wildflower Foundation/Viva Florida 500 project in August 2012, a team of 71 volunteers spent six days and 370 hours planting more than 13,000 wildflowers and native grasses on a one-acre area surrounding the Preserve's new picnic shelter and parking area.