

# Florida State Parks Monthly Newsletter

## Giving Thanks

All Floridians and visitors to the sunshine state are grateful this year that our beaches, forests and communities were not impacted by late summer storms and hurricanes. The Florida Park Service is especially thankful for a quiet hurricane season this year and we look forward to welcoming visitors to each and every park.



Let us hear from you on the eve of the 2006 Thanksgiving Season on the state park experiences and memories you cherish. Come back to our site during the month of November and read experiences of other thankful park visitors. [Share your Traditions in State Parks](#), or [read testimonials from our visitors](#).



Take a look at some of the archives

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/PhotoContest/Archives-past.cfm?ArchiveDate=2006-October>

## Photo Contest Winner for October



<http://www.floridastateparks.org/PhotoContest/ShowPhoto.cfm?Pics=October2006-1538-692-46>

## Highlights

Autumn is in the air and there's no better way to take advantage of the 'fall'-ing temperatures than at one of Florida's 159 award-winning state parks. Hike along the bluffs at [Torreya](#). Set up camp at [Three Rivers](#). Paddle through the white water rapids at [Big Shoals](#). [North Florida's state parks](#) are the perfect spot to pour a cup of hot apple cider, take a walk through the woods and listen to the leaves crackle beneath your feet.



<http://www.floridastateparks.org/V-Tours.cfm>

# Some of the upcoming events in Florida State Parks

- **FLORIDA CAVERNS FALL FESTIVAL**

**Florida Caverns State Park**

**Date:** Friday, November 3rd and 4th, 2006 -9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Description:** It's a day of learning about times past and how life used to be in the early days. It is history at its best, as re-enactors demonstrate the art of cooking in cast iron pots, grinding cornmeal and much more! There is too much to mention, but it will be a memorable time for all.

**Fees:** Admission into the park is free both days, with only donations being accepted at the gate.

**Contact:** (850) 482-1228

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP**

**Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 4, 2006. Starts at 10:00 a.m.

**Description:** The overnight trip is a moderately strenuous hike of approximately 6.5 miles over level to slightly rolling terrain (*not recommended for children under 10*). The pack in, pack out hike begins mid-morning Saturday with a 4.5-mile hike to Persimmon Point. Sunday's return hike skirts along a two-mile section of the picturesque north rim of the prairie basin. It concludes around noon Sunday at the starting point. **20 person limit. Call the Visitor Center at (352) 466-4100 for reservations.**

**Fees:** \$10.00 per person.

**Contact:** For more information, call 352-466-4100.

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **AFRICAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA'S CULTURAL TOURISM**

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 4th, 2006. 2:00 p.m.

**Description:** Sherry Sherrod DuPree, archivist and social historian, is adding a new dimension to the understanding of Florida's past that so fascinates those who visit historic sites like the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. With her associates Garlenda Greene Grant and Patti Bartlett, Sherry DuPree recently interviewed many descendents of pioneer African American families in Alachua County and Marion County, gathering their personal recollections, their recipes and remedies, and stories of their work life, home life, holidays and school days, weddings and funerals, church and social affiliations, and much more.

Sherry DuPree and Garlenda Greene Grant will present a program based on their research on regional African American history at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. There is no charge for this program.

African Americans like Idella Parker and Martha and Will Mickens, who worked for Marjorie Rawlings, were part of a great web of social and family kinship that most of us are just learning about. Using oral history, census data, cemetery records, and other documents, DuPree and her team are revealing intriguing insights about the lives of blacks on the Dudley Farm, the Haile Plantation, and in small towns and rural communities such as Cross Creek. DuPree, who is known for her literary presentations, has curated exhibits on Gospel Music Performers and the 1923 Rosewood Massacre in Levy County. She helped with the research on the Tenant House moved to the Rawlings site in 2002 and for that project

interviewed Idella Parker, whose role as Mrs. Rawlings "Perfect Maid" is well known.

**Fees:** This event is free with regular park admission.

**Contact:** For more information, call 352-466-3672.

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 4th, 2006. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Description:** -- Celebrate Autumn with Music and Crafts --

Music and crafts will be featured at the 6th Fall Harvest Festival on November 4 at the State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center.

The festival will feature musical performances beginning at 9 a.m. and craft vendors throughout the day. Musicians will include the Bullard Brothers & Friends, Tammy Murray, May Frances Marshall, Jerry Carris, Mike & Jamie, Cross Creek Cloggers, the Cowboy Crackers, Sonny Lyons, Gerry Cox and others.

Crafts available for sale from the artists who created them include pottery, stained glass, toys, wood crafts, and jewelry. Native plants also will be for sale.

Visitors will be able to take a free ride on a horse-drawn wagon.

The event is sponsored by the *Heritage & Tourism Center* and the *White Springs Special Events Committee*.

**Fees:** This event is free!

**Contact:** For more information, call 386-397-4331.

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **2006 POKER RIDE**

**Alafia River State Park**

**Date:** November 4, 2006. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Description:** An equestrian event sponsored by the Myakka River Riders, open to horseback riders and carriage drivers. This event consists of participants pulling playing cards from sealed envelopes along the trail. The players with the best hands at the end of the ride will be awarded prizes. Participants must supply their own horse and current negative coggins. All proceeds from the game will go directly to enhancing the equestrian facilities.

**Fees:** Park fees still apply.

**Contact:** Contact Joan Peterson at (941) 745-2029

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **IRONMAN TRIATHLON**

**St. Andrews State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 4th

**Description:** The Friends of St. Andrews, Inc. along with the Ironman North America Triathlon, Inc. hosts the run portion only of this event within the boundaries of the park. Entry is free the day of the event only to Participates.

**Fees:**

**Contact:** (850)233-5140

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **QUIKSILVER 'KING OF THE PEAK' SURF CONTEST**

**Sebastian Inlet State Park**

**Date:** November 4 & 5, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Description:** Some of the best surfers around 'shoot the tube' and 'Hang Ten' while competing for \$10,000.00 in prize money.

**Fees:** Free, normal entrance fees apply

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **14TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK TRAILRIDE**  
**Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park**

**Date:** Saturday, November 4, 2006

**Description:** Benefiting Shand's Children's Hospital at the University of Florida and Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children Register online at [www.gocmn.org](http://www.gocmn.org)

**Fees:**

**Contact:** [www.gocmm.org](http://www.gocmm.org)

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **BARNACLE UNDER MOONLIGHT - MATTHEW SABATELLA**  
**The Barnacle Historic State Park**

**Date:** November 5, 6 - 9:00 PM

**Description:** Take a step back in time and join us for a lovely evening concert under the moonlight at The Barnacle. Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling Gamblers will perform culturally significant renditions of traditional American folk music, entertaining listeners of all ages with great talent and knowledge. Picnics welcome. Bring a blanket or chairs. NO PETS. Alcohol is prohibited at this event.

**Fees:** \$5.00 - 10 years and older

**Contact:** (305) 442-6866

 [E-mail This Event](#)

- **ALAFIA FAT TIRE FESTIVAL**  
**Alafia River State Park**

**Date:** November 10-12, 2006

**Description:** Join the SWAMP Mountain Bike Club for 2-days of off-road adventure at Alafia River State Park and Balm Boyette Scrub Nature Preserve. Festival activities and amenities will include: guided rides for all skill levels, beverage and snacks available on all rides, breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, camping (two nights) adjacent to the event headquarters, local bike shop displays and bike mechanic services, factory reps with demo bikes, event SWAG, live musical entertainment on Friday & Saturday night, night ride (Friday). An entry pass will be provided to pre-registered guests prior to the event. Registration will be limited to the first 275 applicants. Camp sites are available to the first 175 requests.

**Fees:** Please contact SWAMP for fee information. [SWAMP](#)

**Contact:** Log on to SWAMP or call 813-689-5109

 [E-mail This Event](#)