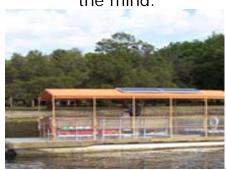
Florida State Parks Monthly Newsletter

June is Great Outdoors Month in Florida State Parks

President George W. Bush proclaimed June as Great Outdoors Month, calling on all Americans to "Get Active, Get Outdoors!" The Department of Environmental Protection is celebrating the month with a variety of outdoor recreational programs and activities at Florida State Parks.

"With the start of summer vacations, June is a great time to cool-off in a state park spring, kayak down a river or ride the ocean waves," said Florida State Parks Director Mike Bullock. "Recreating in Florida's great outdoors is good for the body and the mind.



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invites residents to celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2, at events taking place at parks and trails across the state.

Click here for more info.



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Hontoon Island State Park and the Hontoon Island Foundation Citizen Support Organization, Inc. have completed a three month renovation project which included attaching four solar panels to the park's electric powered ferry



Some of the upcoming Events at Florida State Parks

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Savannas Preserve State Park

Date: June 2

Description: Come and explore a little-known natural resource in St. Lucie County for National Trails Day. Savannas Preserve State Park invites you to get acquainted with a piece of property it manages on the North Fork of the Saint Lucie River.

Directions to the Miller Property from Port St. Lucie: Travel north on U.S. 1 past Midway Rd. Turn left (west) on Edwards Rd. and go past 25th St. After passing 25th St., look for Lewis St. Turn left on Lewis St. and follow it to the end: you will see parking for the Miller Property.

Fees: None

Contact: (772) 398-2779

Directions: The Environmental Education Center is located approximately 2

miles east of US 1 on Walton Road in Port St. Lucie.

BEACH BASH 2007

Anastasia State Park

Date: Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Description: This years event is going to be better than ever. We have fun family activities scheduled throughout the day starting with a scavenger hunt, and ending with a sandcastle/sculpture contest with a coloring contest and turtle programs in the middle. Our CSO will be there with an information table, and do not miss the hat table! Activities begin at 9:00 a.m., and we will finish up around 3:30 p.m. There will be great prizes, good times and a whole bunch of family fun!!

Fees: Regular Park Fees only

Contact: Contact Anastasia State Park for more information.

Directions: From I-95 take exit 311 (old 94). Go east on State Road 207. Turn right on State Road 312. Turn left on A1A. Travel approx. 1.5 miles north to main park entrance. (Turn right after The Surf Station.)

From US-1 turn east onto State Road 312. Turn north (left) on A1A. Travel approx 1.5 miles north to main park entrance. (Turn right after The Surf Station.)

Fort Mose Historic State Park is located just east of US-1 at the end of Saratoga Street in northern St. Augustine.

COPPER COLLAR 5K RUN St. Andrews State Park

Date: Saturday, June 2nd from 6:30 am to 9:30 pm

Description: The Friends of St. Andrews State Park, Inc. will co-host the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center of Panama City, 27th Annual Copper Collar

2007 5K Run at St. Andrews State Park on June 2nd. Upon completion of the race, there will be a post-race social and awards ceremony. Food and beverages for race participants will be provided. Locatin to be announced.

Fees: Park entrance fees waived for athletes.

Contact: Chief Joe Howard, race coordinator (850)235-5837

Directions: From Hwy 98 turn South on to Hwy 3031 (Thomas Drive) and follow it straight to Hwy 392 and turn left to enter into the gates of St. Andrews State Park. St. Andrews State Park is located approximately 3 miles east of Hwy 392.

WALK IN THE PARK

Hillsborough River State Park

Date: June 2, 2007 - 8:30-10 AM

Description: The Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club and Hillsborough River State Park are hosting noncompetitive walks open to everyone. Participants will be given written directions and follow a marked trail. Water will be provided at checkpoints. The event is sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association. Registration will be in the recreation hall. Lunch will be on sale after the walk. Camping, a cafe, and swimming pool are also available within the park.

Fees: Walk fee is \$2; children walk for free. Volkssport credit is \$1. There is a \$4 up to 8 people per car charge to enter park.

Contact: Call the park at 813.987.6771

Directions: Hillsborough River State Park is located 9 miles north of Tampa and 6 miles south of Zephyrhills on US Highway 301. From I-75, Southbound from Ocala take the SR 54. Exit #279 east to Hwy 301, travel South for 6 miles, and the park will be on your right-hand side. From I-75, Northbound from Tampa take the Fowler Ave. Exit #265 east to Hwy 301, travel North for 9 miles, and the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, West bound take Exit 10 go north on CR 579 to US 301, follow the signs and go North 7 miles the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, East bound take Exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go North on US 301 for 14 miles, the park will be on your left-hand side.

FIRST WEEKEND UNION GARRISONS Fort Clinch State Park

Date: June 2 & 3, 2007. Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm and Sunday 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Description: Living historians recreate life at Fort Clinch during the War Between the States. Activities may include black powder artillery demonstrations and marching drills, as well as soldiers and civilians taking up duty in the laundry, infirmary and kitchen. Candlelight viewings on Saturday evenings every First Weekend.

Fees: Park entrance fee plus \$2.00 per person Fort admission.

Contact: For more information, call 904-277-7274.

Directions: Take I–95 to the Fernandina Beach/Callahan exit (Milepost Exit 373 - Old Exit 129), and stay to the right. You will then be traveling east on A1A. (This road becomes 8th Street within the town limits of Fernandina.) Stay on this road, (A1A), for 16 miles until you come to the intersection of 8th Street and Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Atlantic Avenue and go about two miles, Fort

Clinch State Park will be on the left.

GUIDED HORSE TRAIL RIDES

Rock Springs Run State Reserve

Date: June 2, 2007. Rides start at 9:00am.

Description: Rock Springs Riding Ranch offers 1,2,3 - hour and all-day guided trail rides that are great for beginner and experienced riders. Exploring Florida's outback from horseback is simply one of the best ways to experience nature while being in the outdoors. The tour will take visitors through the wilderness of Rock Springs Run State Reserve. It is recommended that you reserve your ride at least 24 hours in advance. Please visit their website at www. rsrranch.com to begin planning this unique Florida trail adventure.

Fees: Fees start out at \$30.00 per person

Contact: Rock Springs Riding Ranch, www.rsrranch.com

Directions: Rock Springs Run State Reserve is located in Sorrento, approximately 30 miles north of Orlando. From Interstate 4, take Exit 101C and travel west on State Road 46 for approximately ten miles to the park entrance located at the beginning of County Road 433 (County Road 433 is not marked-it begins at the entrance to the park; Please use the MapQuest link on this page as it will provide the correct map-Do not enter a search in MapQuest using the park address as a point of reference as MapQuest has incorrect information in their database and they have been notified). The park entrance will be on the left if traveling from Interstate 4 and is framed by a very tall chain link fence. The park entrance is approximately 3 miles west of the Wekiva River bridge on State Road 46.Please call the park at (407) 884 2008 if further directions are needed.

FAMILIES VOLUNTEERING AT FLORIDA STATE PARKS St. Andrews State Park

Date: Saturday, June 2 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM

Description: St. Andrews State Park will be hosting the Families Volunteering at Florida State Parks Event, June 2nd. Members of the Panama City Playgroup Meetup Group and their families will be joining State Park representatives from District 1 Administration, St. Andrews State Park and the Friends of St. Andrews State Park, Inc. at a picnic and talk about how families can join the efforts to help protect environmental sensitive lands in Northwest Florida while providing recreation opportunities that help visitors connect to the Real Florida. Park entrance fees waived for event participants.

Fees: Fees waived for participants

Contact: Carmen C. McDonald, (850) 233-5110

Directions: From Hwy 98 turn South on to Hwy 3031 (Thomas Drive) and follow it straight to Hwy 392 and turn left to enter into the gates of St. Andrews State Park. St. Andrews State Park is located approximately 3 miles east of Hwy 392.

PAYNES PRAIRIE BY BICYCLE

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2007. Starts at 8:00 a.m.

Description: In honor of NATIONAL TRAILS DAY enjoy A Guided Ride on

the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail Enjoy native plants and wildlife, rare vistas of the grandeur of Paynes Prairie, and backyard Florida culture as you make your way down the trail on this guided ride. Trade your modern life for the days of cattle ranching, citrus groves, small railroad towns, and steam engines and learn about the history, geology, water, flora, fauna, restoration, and archeology of the Preserve. Easy 12 miles stopping frequently to explore points of interest. A bike helmet is required and a serviceable bicycle. Wear comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the weather, sunscreen, insect repellant, snacks, water, binoculars, camera, and field guides...but remember the lighter your load the easier it is to pedal! This program is approximately 3 hours long. *15 person*

limit. Call the Visitor Center at (352) 466-4100 for reservations.

Fees: \$5.00 per person (suggested donation).

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

Directions: Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is located 10 miles south of Gainesville, in Micanopy, on the east side of US 441.

Coming from the north on I-75: Take exit 374, the Micanopy exit, and turn left at the end of the exit ramp. You will then be traveling east on CR 234. Stay on this road 1.4 miles until it intersects with US 441. Turn left onto 441 and go 0.6 miles to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (on the right).

Coming from the south on I-75: Take exit 374, the Micanopy exit, and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. You will then be traveling east on CR 234. Stay on this road 1.4 miles until it intersects with US 441. Turn left onto 441 and go about 0.6 miles to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (on the right).

PAYNES PRAIRIE BY BICYCLEGainesville-Hawthorne State Trail

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2007. Starts at 8:00 a.m.

Description: In honor of NATIONAL TRAILS DAY enjoy A Guided Ride on the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail Enjoy native plants and wildlife, rare vistas of the grandeur of Paynes Prairie, and backyard Florida culture as you make your way down the trail on this guided ride. Trade your modern life for the days of cattle ranching, citrus groves, small railroad towns, and steam engines and learn about the history, geology, water, flora, fauna, restoration, and archeology of the Preserve. Easy 12 miles stopping frequently to explore points of interest. A bike helmet is required and a serviceable bicycle. Wear comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the weather, sunscreen, insect repellant, snacks, water, binoculars, camera, and field guides...but remember the lighter your load the easier it is to pedal! This program is approximately 3 hours long. 15 person

limit. Call the Visitor Center at (352) 466-4100 for reservations.

Fees: \$5.00 per person (suggested donation).

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

Directions: Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail State Park starts on S.E. 15th Street and extends to Hawthorne near U.S. 301.

To reach the Boulware Springs trailhead from Gainesville, intersection of University Avenue and Main Street: Travel east on University Avenue and take the right fork onto SR 20. Almost immediately, go south onto SE 15th Street. Travel

until you find Boulware Springs City Park on the right. If the road makes a 90 degree left turn, you've passed the park and need to turn around.

To reach the Hawthorne trailhead from Hawthorne: Follow the signs posted on US 301 or CR 2082.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY CELEBRATION Lake Griffin State Park

Date: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 2, 2007

Description: Come walk or canoe at Lake Griffin State Park for National Trails Day! Park staff will be offering guided nature walks and canoe paddles allowing for visitors to enjoy the ...Real Florida. However, space is limited on each tour and pre-registration is required. You are invited to enjoy the park on your own for the day as well. Picnicking and fishing are also available.

Fees: \$4.00 per vehicle entry. \$3.21 canoe rental fee.

Contact: kadie.ogden@dep.state.fl.us

Directions: Lake Griffin State Park is located 2 miles north of Leesburg and 30 miles south of Ocala. The park is also within an hour of central Florida's major attractions.

GUIDED HORSE TRAIL RIDES

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Date: June 2, 2007. Rides start at 9:00am.

Description: Rock Springs Riding Ranch offers 1,2,3 - hour and all-day guided trail rides that are great for beginner and experienced riders. Exploring Florida's outback from horseback is simply one of the best ways to experience nature while being in the outdoors. The tour will take visitors through the wilderness of Rock Springs Run State Reserve. It is recommended that you reserve your ride at least 24 hours in advance. Please visit their website at www. rsrranch.com to begin planning this unique Florida trail adventure.

Fees: Fees start out at \$30.00 per person

Contact: Rock Springs Riding Ranch, www.rsrranch.com

Directions: Wekiwa Springs State Park is approximately 20 minutes North of Orlando and approximately 45 minutes North of the attractions. It is easily located off Interstate 4 at exit 94. Take State Road 434 West to Wekiwa Springs Road. Turn right on Wekiwa Springs Rd. and travel approximately 4 miles to the park entrance which will be on the right. Please call the park if additional directions are needed.

4TH ANNUAL DUNEDIN ROTARY TRIATHLON

Honeymoon Island State Park

Date: June 3rd - 7:30 AM to 11:00 PM

Description: If you are athletically inclined, this annual triathlon attracts an average of 600 athletes who compete in various age groups in a ¼ mile swim, a 12 mile bicycle loop and a 5K run. For more information and to register visit www.DunedinTriathlon.com

Fees: Park entrance fee is waived but registration for the race is \$50-60.00 depending on when athletes register.

Contact: Contact the park office: (727) 469-5943

Directions: Honeymoon Island State Park is located at the extreme west end of

S.R.586, north of Dunedin. From I-75 (north of Tampa): I-75 south to I-275 south towards Tampa. Follow I-275 south to Hillsborough Ave west (SR-580). Take SR 580 west to SR-586 fork then left. Follow SR-586 into park. From I-75 (south of Tampa): I-75 north to I-4. I-4 to I-275 north. I-275 to Hillsborough Ave west (SR-580). SR-580 west to SR-586 fork then left. Follow SR-586 west into park.

SUMMER CAMP ON THE RIVER Hillsborough River State Park

Date: Summer Camp Dates - June 4-8 2007

Description: Hillsborough River State Park and Hillsborough Community College invite you to participate in 'Summer Camp on the River'. This five day adventure will be an exploration into the heart of the Hillsborough River State Park. This day camp is being offered to children ten to twelve years of age who want to learn about the Hillsborough River Ecosystem and Pine Flatwoods of Florida, and have a whole lot of fun doing it... Activities include: Florida Naturalist, On the River, Canopy Capers, Day of the Robot, Orienteering Back in Time to Fort Foster. Registration Deadline is May 25, 2007.

Fees: Cost - \$125.00 per person.

Contact: For more program information contact 813.253.7522

Directions: Hillsborough River State Park is located 9 miles north of Tampa and 6 miles south of Zephyrhills on US Highway 301. From I-75, Southbound from Ocala take the SR 54. Exit #279 east to Hwy 301, travel South for 6 miles, and the park will be on your right-hand side. From I-75, Northbound from Tampa take the Fowler Ave. Exit #265 east to Hwy 301, travel North for 9 miles, and the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, West bound take Exit 10 go north on CR 579 to US 301, follow the signs and go North 7 miles the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, East bound take Exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go North on US 301 for 14 miles, the park will be on your left-hand side.

EARLY BOAT TOUR

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Saturday, June 9 at 8am

Description: Enjoy an early morning sights and sounds as you cruise the scenic Wakulla River. Stop by afterwards for breakfast at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge.

Fees: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children. Reservations suggested.

Contact: (850) 224-5950

Directions: Traveling East on I-10 to new Exit 196 (old Exit 28). Take SR-263 (Capitol Circle) South 12 miles. Turn right (South) onto US-319/SR-61 (Crawfordville Hwy) for 2 miles. Bear left onto SR-61 (Wakulla Springs Rd) for 6 miles. Turn left onto SR-267 at flashing stop light. Turn Right into Park entrance. From West I-10 use new Exit 203(old Exit 30). Take SR-61 (Thomasville Rd) South. Continue on SR-61 thru Tallahassee for 10 miles. Take US-319/SR-61 (Crawfordville Hwy) South for 2 miles. Bear left onto SR-61 (Wakulla Springs Rd) for 6 miles. Turn left onto SR-267 at flashing stop light. Turn Right into Park entrance.

LAKE LOUISA TRIATHLON SERIES

Lake Louisa State Park

Date: June 9, 2007

Description: Swim in Lake Louisa, bike and run along Park Drive and trails. Saturday morning races are held before 8:00 a.m. Advanced registration

required.

Fees: \$25.00 per race
Contact: www.usantc.com

Directions: Lake Louisa State Park is located on US 27, seven (7) miles south of

State Road 50.

OLD TIME DANCE OLeno State Park

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2007. 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Description: Dance contra, circles and squares to live music by the **Flying Turtles String Band** from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in the 1930's Recreation Hall on the banks of the Santa Fe River. Lessons for beginners begin a half hour before the dance.

Dance tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children. (Plus the cost of park admission).

O'Leno State Park is located 6 miles north of High Springs on Hwy. 441.

Fees: Dance tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children. (Plus the cost of park admission).

Contact: For more information, call 386-454-1853.

Directions: O'Leno State Park is located on U.S. 441, six miles north of High

Springs.

SUMMER CAMP ON THE RIVER Hillsborough River State Park

Date: Summer Camp Dates - June 11 - 15 2007

Description: Hillsborough River State Park and Hillsborough Community College invite you to participate in 'Summer Camp on the River'. This five day adventure will be an exploration into the heart of the Hillsborough River State Park. This day camp is being offered to children ten to twelve years of age who want to learn about the Hillsborough River Ecosystem and Pine Flatwoods of Florida, and have a whole lot of fun doing it... Activities include: Florida Naturalist, On the River, Canopy Capers, Day of the Robot, Orienteering Back in Time to Fort Foster. Registration Deadline is May 25, 2007.

Fees: Cost - \$125.00 per person.

Contact: For more program information contact 813.253.7522

Directions: Hillsborough River State Park is located 9 miles north of Tampa and 6 miles south of Zephyrhills on US Highway 301. From I-75, Southbound from Ocala take the SR 54. Exit #279 east to Hwy 301, travel South for 6 miles, and the park will be on your right-hand side. From I-75, Northbound from Tampa take the Fowler Ave. Exit #265 east to Hwy 301, travel North for 9 miles, and the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, West bound take Exit 10 go north on CR 579 to US 301, follow the signs and go North 7 miles the park will be on your left-hand side. From I-4, East bound take Exit 7 (be careful of the merges)

and go North on US 301 for 14 miles, the park will be on your left-hand side.

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT Silver River State Park

Date: June 16 & 17, 2007. Main practice routines on the 17th.

Description: Company A of South Carolina Governor's Guard will be at Silver River for an encampment. This is a living history with re-enactors in period dress camping as though they stepped back in time. These encampments are used as practices for re-enactors. They will be practicing drills, firing and marching. This is not a full civil war re-enactment but offers a view of what the soldiers' camp might have looked like. Please note: the last encampment scheduled in May had to be cancelled due to wildfires. Many of the participants are firefighters. This will be a possibility again in June if we don't have sufficient rainfall so please check here prior to making set plans.

Fees: \$4.00 per car park entry fee **Contact:** deborah.wilson@dep.state.fl.us

Directions:

Silver River State Park is located east of Ocala, 1 mile south of S.R. 40 on S.R. 35. From Interstate 75, take exit 352 onto SR 40 east, about 9 miles to SR 35. From Interstate 95 take exit 268 to Route 40 west, about 60 miles to SR 35.

ANNUAL FREE KIDS' FISHING CLINIC Fort Clinch State Park

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007. 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Description: Kids learn how to be responsible anglers, tie knots, cast and more.

Kids receive a free rod and reel, bait is provided. Guardians must attend.

Fees: Free for kids and accompanying adults. **Contact:** Call 904-277-7274 for information.

Directions: Take I–95 to the Fernandina Beach/Callahan exit (Milepost Exit 373 - Old Exit 129), and stay to the right. You will then be traveling east on A1A. (This road becomes 8th Street within the town limits of Fernandina.) Stay on this road, (A1A), for 16 miles until you come to the intersection of 8th Street and Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Atlantic Avenue and go about two miles, Fort Clinch State Park will be on the left.

A DAY WITH NATURE Anastasia State Park

Date: June 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Description: Bringing people and nature together in Anastasia State Park to enjoy the natural & cultural treasures our state park has to offer. This event will be carried out with a combination of programs: bird & eco walks, information booths, seminars, hands on nature crafts, nature games for kids, wholesome music, native plants, and natural foods.

Fees: \$5.00 entrance fee/ per car

Contact: Contact the park for more information.

Directions: From I-95 take exit 311 (old 94). Go east on State Road 207. Turn right on State Road 312. Turn left on A1A. Travel approx. 1.5 miles north to main park entrance. (Turn right after The Surf Station.)

From US-1 turn east onto State Road 312. Turn north (left) on A1A. Travel

approx 1.5 miles north to main park entrance. (Turn right after The Surf Station.)

Fort Mose Historic State Park is located just east of US-1 at the end of Saratoga Street in northern St. Augustine.

EVENING CRUISE & DINNER

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Saturday, June 16 at 6pm

Description: Description: End a lazy Saturday with a relaxing cruise on the scenic Wakulla River followed by a delicious dinner in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge.

Fees: \$29.00 per person. Reservations Required

Contact: (850) 224-5950

Directions: Traveling East on I-10 to new Exit 196 (old Exit 28). Take SR-263 (Capitol Circle) South 12 miles. Turn right (South) onto US-319/SR-61 (Crawfordville Hwy) for 2 miles. Bear left onto SR-61(Wakulla Springs Rd) for 6 miles. Turn left onto SR-267 at flashing stop light. Turn Right into Park entrance. From West I-10 use new Exit 203(old Exit 30). Take SR-61 (Thomasville Rd) South. Continue on SR-61 thru Tallahassee for 10 miles. Take US-319/SR-61 (Crawfordville Hwy) South for 2 miles. Bear left onto SR-61(Wakulla Springs Rd) for 6 miles. Turn left onto SR-267 at flashing stop light. Turn Right into Park entrance.

LAKE LOUISA SUMMER CYCLING SERIES

Lake Louisa State Park

Date: 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings

Description: Bicycle training race series, sanctioned & insured by United States Cycling Federation. Cyclists complete a fixed number of laps. Racing along park drive from LL Beach parking lot to Ranger Station.

Fees: \$10.00 for series, regular entrance fees apply.

Contact: Contact park for more information.

Directions: Lake Louisa State Park is located on US 27, seven (7) miles south of

State Road 50.

LAKE LOUISA SUMMER CYCLING SERIES

Lake Louisa State Park

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Description: Bicycle training race series, sanctioned & insured by United States Cycling Federation. Cyclists complete a fixed number of laps. Racing along park drive from LL Beach parking lot to Ranger Station.

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