

Florida State Parks Monthly Newsletter

State Parks Set New Attendance Record

--19.5 million people visit state parks in Fiscal-Year 2006-07--

"With each visitor, the parks are able to be a positive contributor to the local economy, helping large cities and small towns improve their quality of life."

- Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole.



Just Read, Florida! In a State Park near you

To promote literacy during the month of **September** visitors can enter state parks **FREE** by:

- Presenting a library card
- Presenting a library book
- Donating a new or gently used book

Half Price Admission for Florida National Guard

Recognizing the courageous service of the Florida National Guard, Governor Charlie Crist recently signed Executive Order 07-116 to Florida State Parks. The executive order allows active National Guard members, their spouses and minor children half-price admission into the state parks upon presentation of a valid Florida National Guard identification card.



Some of the upcoming Events at Florida State Parks

WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE DAY

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Date: Saturday, August 4, 2007 - 10AM to 2 PM

Description: The Florida Park Service invites the community to celebrate World War II Commemorative Day at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park. This annual event not only recognizes the allied forces, but it also salutes the axis forces. The event will feature the mechanized vehicles, working communications stations, period vendors, food, music and a viewing room featuring the complete series of 'Victory at Sea'. The event will be held in the Picnic Area

Fees: The cost of the event is free with the regular park entrance fee of \$2.00 per carload from two to eight people, and \$1.00 per person for individual walkers or bicyclists.

Contact: Contact the park at (352) 793-4781

Directions: Dade Battlefield Historic State Park is located off I-75 and S.R. 48, west of Highway 301.

FIRST WEEKEND UNION GARRISONS

Fort Clinch State Park

Date: August 4 & 5, 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.

A DAY IN FLORIDA HISTORY OF DELEON SPRINGS

De Leon Springs State Park

Date: August 4, 2007 9:00, a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Description: Highlighting this exciting day is a re-enactment of a skirmish between soldiers' and settlers of the early 1800's and Seminole Indians, complete with actual weapons of the period. Also, explore an authentic Indian village and soldier's encampment, examine Indian artifacts, old rifles and weapons, artisans, and join in the performance of Indian dances. ' The park and The Friends of DeLeon Springs' goal is to provide access to the event for people of all abilities. If you have any special needs, please contact park staff at 386-985-4212 before your arrival. Accessible parking will be provided throughout the park.'

Fees: Admission by Donations

Contact: donna.collins@dep.state.fl.us

Directions: Take US Hwy 17 North from Deland for approximately six miles, following the State Park signs. Turn left onto Ponce DeLeon Blvd and you will travel approximately one mile to the entrance to DeLeon Springs State Park.

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.

A D.I.P. IN THE PARK

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park

Date: Saturday - August 11th Tours Beginning at: 8 am, 9 am, 10 am and 11 am

Description: 'Designated Interpretive Paddle' - Sponsored by the Salt Springs Alliance citizens support group.

Take this opportunity to get a look at one of Pasco's few remaining salt marsh habitats and coastal marshlands in a quiet, back-to-nature environment. Interested parties are invited to bring their canoe or kayak and take a 1 hour guided tour through the bayous, over the salt spring itself and through the marshes of the park. Points of interest will be native vegetation, park geology, fish, birds and animals. Groups will be no larger than 10 to 12 watercraft per tour. Reservations are recommended.

Fees: FREE!

Contact: Call (727) 816-1890

Directions: The park is located in the Port Richey area of Pasco County. At this time only a start-up kit consisting of a small self-composting restroom, small picnic shelter, information kiosk, and one half mile of nature trail is available to the public from the landward side. It can be reached by turning west off of U.S. Hwy. 19 at Cinema Drive. Cinema Drive dead ends at entrance of start-up kit. The main use area of the park is scheduled to begin construction sometime after the first of the new year. That entrance will be just north of Ridge Road in Port Richey.

SECRETS OF THE SALTMARSH

Fort George Island Cultural State Park

Date: Saturday, August 11th, 2007. 2:00 p.m.

Description: Discover the importance of estuarine systems that surround the inshore sides of barrier islands like Fort George Island. Join Park Ranger Michelle

on Saturday, August 11th at 2:00 p.m. at the water access behind Fort George Island's Ribault Club to learn why these areas are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth and how plants and animals survive in this extremely dynamic environment. The program is FREE. Don't forget your bug spray and water bottle!

Fees: This program is FREE!

Contact: For more information, call 904-251-2320.

Directions: Fort George Island Cultural State Park lies approximately 16 miles east of downtown Jacksonville on S.R. A1A, or three miles south of Little Talbot Island State Park.

EARLY BOAT TOUR

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Saturday, August 11 8am

Description: Enjoy an early morning sights and sounds as you cruise the scenic Wakulla River. Breakfast available in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge.

Fees: \$8.00 Adult, \$6.00 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.

RANGER LED BEACH WALKS

Fort Clinch State Park

Date: Saturday & Sunday, August 11 & 12, 2007. 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Description:

RANGER LED BEACH WALKS

Fort Clinch State Park has Ranger Programs for the entire family!

It's almost school time, so get the family back in the learning mode by visiting the area's most stunning classroom, "the Real Florida SM" at Fort Clinch State Park. On August 11 & 12 there will be Ranger led Beach Walks to explore the uniqueness of Florida's barrier islands. A day at the beach isn't just salt water and sunshine. There are natural processes and interactions happening all around you. The wind, waves, sand, vegetation and animal life are all part of your experience. Learn how they work together by meeting in the parking lot by the beach boardwalk at 12:00 noon.

Fees: Admission to the park is \$5.00 per vehicle with up to 8 people.

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.

TALBOT CRITTERS

Little Talbot Island State Park

Date: Sunday, August 12th, 2007. 11:00 a.m.

Description: Fuzzy, furry, or full of feathers, Florida's natural environments are home to an assortment of wildlife. Join a Park Ranger and learn about the many common, threatened, and endangered species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. This program will take place on Sunday, August 12th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is FREE.

Fees: This program is FREE!

Contact: For more information, call 904-251-2320.

Directions: Take I-95 to Heckscher Drive (Milepost Exit 358A - Old Exit 124A) and then travel east for 17 miles.

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Fees: This program is FREE!

Contact: For more information, call 904-251-2320.

Directions: Fort George Island Cultural State Park lies approximately 16 miles east of downtown Jacksonville on S.R. A1A, or three miles south of Little Talbot Island State Park.

SHARK TEETH

Little Talbot Island State Park

Date: Saturday, August 18th, 2007. 11:00 a.m.

Description: "I found a shark's tooth!" Has this happened to you? It's definitely a possibility if you're visiting one of the pristine beaches of the Talbot Islands State Parks. Join Ranger Brian on Saturday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m. as he

discusses the different types of shark teeth that can be found on the area's beaches. He'll also reveal the best times to look for teeth and the areas that seem to be better than others for finding shark teeth. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free.

Fees: This event is FREE!

Contact: For more information, call 904-251-2320.

Directions: Take I-95 to Heckscher Drive (Milepost Exit 358A - Old Exit 124A) and then travel east for 17 miles.

EVENING DINNER & CRUISE

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Saturday, August 18 6pm- Dinner, Boat tour 7:30pm

Description: Top off a day of family fun with delicious dinner in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge followed by an evening trip down the Wakulla River.

Fees: \$29.00 Adult, \$18.00 Children 12 and under--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.

THIRD SATURDAY UNION GARRISON

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Date: August 18, 8:00 AM - 5:00 P

Description: Living historians re-create life at Fort Taylor during the early part of the War Between the States. Activities may include black powder artillery demonstrations and marching drills, as well as soldiers and Key West civilians taking up duty in the infirmary and kitchen.

Fees: Park entrance fee.

Contact: (305) 292-6713

Directions: Fort Zachary Taylor is located at the end of Southard Street on Truman Annex in Key West.

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Date: Saturday, August 18th, 2007. 11:00 a.m.

Description: "I found a shark's tooth!" Has this happened to you? It's definitely a possibility if you're visiting one of the pristine beaches of the Talbot Islands State Parks. Join Ranger Brian on Saturday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m. as he discusses the different types of shark teeth that can be found on the area's

beaches. He'll also reveal the best times to look for teeth and the areas that seem to be better than others for finding shark teeth. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free.

Fees: This event is FREE!

Contact: For more information, call 904-251-2320.

Directions: Fort George Island Cultural State Park lies approximately 16 miles east of downtown Jacksonville on S.R. A1A, or three miles south of Little Talbot Island State Park.

LAKE LOUISA TEAM IN TRAINING 5K

Lake Louisa State Park

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2007 at 7:00 a.m.

Description: Sponsored by Team In Training's Disney Triathlon team. Proceeds benefit The Luekemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training Program, which helps support local blood cancer patients.

The goal of the park is to provide access to the event for people of all abilities. If you have any special needs please contact the park staff at (352) 394-3969 before your arrival. Accessible parking will be provided throughout the park.

Fees: \$20 plus \$3 processing fee from now until the week before the race, the week of the race is \$25 plus \$3 processing fee.

Contact: James Hunter 407-517-1253

Directions: Lake Louisa State Park is located on US 27, seven (7) miles south of State Road 50.