

Florida State Parks

Monthly Newsletter, November 2007

Special Events November 2007

[St. Andrews State Park](#), Ironman Triathlon, Nov. 1-5, 8 a.m. to sunset

[Florida Caverns State Park](#), Fall Festival, Nov. 2-3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park](#), Rural Folklife Days, Nov. 8-9, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park](#), Florida Folk Festival, Nov. 9-11

[Alafia River State Park](#), Alafia Fat Tire Festival, Nov. 9-11

[The Barnacle Historic State Park](#), Mad Hatter Arts Festival, Nov. 10-11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Silver River State Park](#), Ocala Country Days, Nov. 10-11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Oleta River State Park](#), Florida Championship Mountain Bike Race, Nov. 11

[Ybor City Museum State Park](#), Tampa's Cigar Heritage Festival, Nov. 17

Florida Folk Festival

Join us Veterans Day Weekend, November 9, 10 and 11, for the [55th Annual Florida Folk Festival](#) at [Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park](#). Presented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks, this popular heritage event brings talent and entertainment to the tranquil banks of the Suwannee River in White Springs, FL. Folk artists will gather for one of the oldest and most revered state folk festivals in America ... [Read more](#)

Featured Performers

The Tony Rice Unit	Frank Thomas
Bobby Hicks	The Peyton Brothers
Liz Pennock & Dr. Blues	The Aaron O'Rourke Trio
Willie Green	Gabe Valla
Magda Hiller	Blind Willie James
Sam Pacetti	



Fall into Camping

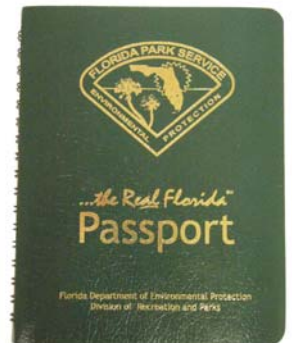
Pitch a tent, pop up a camper or drive in an RV at one of 3,500 campsites and cabins in Florida State Parks. Roast marshmallows on a crackling fire and fall asleep stargazing. To plan your fall break, visit www.ReserveAmerica.com or call (800) 326-3521, (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287.

Great Gifts Ideas

Available for individuals or families, Annual Passes allow you to discover and enjoy Florida's State Parks for just pennies a day.

The Real Florida Passport helps visitors document their state park experiences by collecting stamps in the full color booklet. Most of Florida's 161 award-winning state parks is represented on a page of the passport along with important information about the park.

Inquire at any ranger station or call (352) 628-1002. Annual passes may also be purchased online at www.floridastateparks.org.



Let's Go  Outside



Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

- **IRONMAN TRIATHLON**

St. Andrews State Park

Date: Thursday through Monday, November 1 - 5 from 8:00 a.m. to sunset

Description: The Friends of St. Andrews State Park, Inc. will host this annual event at St. Andrews State Park. The running portion of the Ironman Triathlon will be held within the boundaries of the park and the local community.

Fees: Park entrance fee waived for participants

Contact: (850) 233-5164

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. The park is located approximately 3 miles east of Hwy 392.

- **FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION WORK WEEKEND**

Hillsborough River State Park

Date: November 2 - 4

Description: Get hot, wet and dirty with the best! Our [Florida Trail Association](#) volunteer trail crews tackle trail maintenance tasks that require teamwork, such as the construction of bridges and boardwalks or the blazing of new hiking trails. Working in conjunction with the [USDA Forest Service](#), the managers of the Florida Trail, F-Troop gets the rough stuff done. Our 2007-2008 trail season promises a diverse schedule of events, with crew opportunities for all abilities at locations throughout Florida. Join the crew...join F-Troop.

Fees: Free for volunteers

Contact: Florida Trail Association: 877-HIKE-FLA

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, south bound from Ocala take 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, north bound 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.

- **FALL FESTIVAL**

Florida Caverns State Park

Date: Friday & Saturday, November 2 & 3, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: Florida Caverns State Park will host its ninth Fall Festival event November 2nd and 3rd. Guests can observe cast iron cooking, cornmeal grinding, soap making and cane syrup preparation. Other exciting activities include live Blue Grass music, live animal exhibits and a civil war encampment display. A traditional country dinner and crafts will be available for purchase.

Fees: Entrance fees waived

Contact: (850) 482-1228.

Directions: Florida Caverns State Park is located 3 miles north of Marianna, off U.S. 90 on S.R. 166. From Tallahassee: take I-10 west to Exit # 142, turn right on Hwy 71 N to Hwy 90, turn left. Follow brown park signs. From Pensacola: take I-10 east to Exit # 136, turn left on Hwy 276 N to Hwy 90, turn right. Follow brown park signs.

- **MEMORIAL KIOSK OPENING CEREMONY**

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

Date: Saturday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Description: As a memorial to Charlie Parkel, the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society, the Friends of Emerald Coast State Parks, the Florida Park Service and the Parkel family have collaborated in establishing an interpretive kiosk at Rocky Bayou State Park in Niceville. The kiosk will be presented, rain or shine, in its location just beyond Puddin Head Lake in the park campground area.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Fees: Park entrance fees are waived for participants

Contact: (850) 833-9144

Directions: From the west: take I-10 east to Hwy 85 south until you reach Hwy 20. Go east on Hwy 20. Park will be approximately 5 miles on the left. From the east: take I-10 west to Hwy 331 south until you reach Hwy 20. Go west on Hwy 20 approximately 25 miles until you see signs for park on right.

- **CHILDRENS MIRACLE NETWORK EQUESTRIAN RIDE**

- **Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park**

Date: November 3, starts at 7:00 a.m.

Description: The Miracle Trail Ride is a marathon fund raiser on horseback. Participants must bring their own horse and are asked to collect pledges in advance for each mile of the ride they will complete. Prizes and raffle tickets are awarded based on the amount of pledges turned in. Cost of the ride is \$50 and includes breakfast by IHOP, event t-shirt and lunch provided by Sonny's Bar-B-Q. For information and registration, visit www.gocmn.org/events.details

Fees: \$50.00 per rider

Contact: cathy@gocmn.org or call the park at (407) 884-2008

Directions: The northern entrance into the Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park is located off of S.R. 44 in Pine Lakes. From S.R. 44, turn south onto Oak Avenue and west onto Swift Road. Follow Swift Road to the end of the paved road and turn south into the Preserve (address: 38015 Fechtel Rd, Eustis, FL, 32726). The southern entrance into the Preserve is located nine miles west of Sanford on S.R. 46. From I-4, take Exit 101C and travel west on State Road 46 for approximately nine miles to the park entrance on the right (address: 8300 W SR 46, Sanford, FL, 32711).

- **3RD ANNUAL HIGH SPRINGS CRUISERS CAR SHOW**

- **O'Leno State Park**

Date: Saturday, November 3. Starts at 10:00 a.m.

Description: The High Springs Cruisers will hold their 3rd annual antique car show at O'Leno State Park on November 3 starting at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a day at the park viewing these beautiful antique cars and join in on the games sponsored by the High Springs Cruisers. Bring canned goods and participate in a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will be given to a local food pantry in preparation of the holidays.

Fees: This event is free with regular 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.

- **YMCA ADVENTURE RACE**

- **Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park**

Date: Sunday, November 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Description: The Niceville Family YMCA is hosting its first annual Adventure Race. The race consists of a 1.5 mile hike with orienteering challenge, 5 mile mountain bike, 2 mile trail run and a fun special event. Participants may enter as an individual or a two person team. Teams will complete orienteering challenge together, and then continue with one racer completing the bike, one completing the run. In addition to the adult course, a 1.5 mile kids' Adventure Fun Run will take place, at approximately 10:30 a.m. (upon completion of the main race). Awards will be presented to the top finishers in each category (male, female, co-ed team, male-male team, and female-female team) and finishers' medals will be presented to all participants, including the kids' Adventure Fun Run. Food, drinks and door prizes will be available at the post-race party. Participants may register at the Niceville YMCA or at www.active.com

Fees: Park entrance fees waived. Event fees: \$30/individual, \$60/team if postmarked by October 29, or \$40/individual, \$70/team if postmarked after October 29.

Contact: (850)833-9144 or Laura Reigle (850) 897-9622

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Directions: From the west: take I-10 east to Hwy 85 south until you reach Hwy 20. Go east on Hwy 20. Park will be approximately 5 miles on the left. From the east: take I-10 west to Hwy 331 south until you reach Hwy 20. Go west on Hwy 20 approximately 25 miles until you see signs for park on right.

- **RURAL FOLKLIFE DAYS**

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Thursday & Friday, November 8 & 9, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Description: Florida's rural past continues with quilting, cane grinding, syrup making, lye soap making, handplaited cow whips and other farm traditions that remain part of family and community life. Experience rural farm traditions and taste homemade jellies at this family event. School groups welcome. *School groups should call 386-397-7005 to register and receive educator's handbook.*

Fees: \$5.00 per person.

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

Directions: Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to S.R. 136** (Milepost Exit 439), travel east on S.R. 136 for 3 miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. **From I-10 to U.S. 41 North** (Milepost Exit 301), travel 9 miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

- **FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL**

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 9, 10 & 11. Gates open at 8:00 a.m.

Description: Enjoy the diversity of Florida's culture and history when its residents share their food, music and dance, stories, crafts and work life. Visit Seminole family camp, watch the state fiddling contest and savor ethnic food and church supper favorites. Pets are not allowed.

For advance tickets, call 1-877-635-3655 or visit [Florida Folk Festival](#).

Fees: Fee schedule to follow.

Contact: For updated information call 1-877-635-3655.

Directions: Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to S.R. 136** (Milepost Exit 439), travel east on S.R. 136 for 3 miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. **From I-10 to U.S. 41 North** (Milepost Exit 301), travel 9 miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

- **ALAFIA FAT TIRE FESTIVAL**

Alafia River State Park

Date: November 9 - 11

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 include guided rides for all skill levels, beverage and snacks 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.

Contact: Log on to www.swampclub.org or call (813) 689-5109

Directions: **From the South** - Take I-75 north to exit #240. At exit #240, turn right (east) onto SR 674. Keep straight on SR 674 for approximately 15 miles. Turn left (north) at flashing light, onto CR 39 for approximately 5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right side. **From the north** - Take I-75 south to exit #246. At exit #246, turn right (east) onto Big Bend Road. Keep straight on Big Bend Road for approximately 1 mile. Turn right (south) onto U.S. 301. Keep straight on U.S. 301 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left (east) onto CR 672. Follow CR 672 for approximately 12 miles. Turn left (north) onto CR 39. Keep straight on CR 39 for approximately 1.5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right side. **From the east** - Take I-4 West to exit #22. Turn left onto Park Road.

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Follow Park Road for approximately 2.5 miles. Bear right onto 39B. Turn left onto SR 39 (James Redman Parkway). Continue on SR/CR 39 for approximately 15.2 miles. The main park entrance will be on the left side.

- **MAD HATTER ARTS FESTIVAL**

- **The Barnacle Historic State Park**

- **Date: November 10 & 11, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Park opens at 9:00 a.m.)**

- **Description:** Music and Art at The Barnacle and throughout Coconut Grove.

- **Fees:** Park entrance fee - \$1.00, ages 6 and over; under 6 are free.

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

- **Directions:** The Barnacle is located in Coconut Grove (Miami) at 3485 Main Highway.

- **OCALI COUNTRY DAYS**

- **Silver River State Park**

- **Date: November 10 & 11, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

- **Description:** Ocali Country Days is one of Ocala's favorite fall festivals. Put on by the Marion County School Board. It is the main fundraiser to keep the Silver River Museum operating to educate the county's 4th and 7th graders about beautiful Central Florida ecosystems and cultural history. Vendors, displays and presentations let you step back in time. Held in the Cracker Village, there will be sugar cane syrup making, butter churning, quilting and flint napping demonstrations. Approximately 2,000 people come to this two-day event each day. It's a great family day with storytelling, food and fun.

- **Fees:** \$4.00 per person; park entry fee waived.

- **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 I-75, take exit 352 onto SR 40 east, about 9 miles to SR 35. From I-95, take exit 268 to Route 40 west, about 60 miles to SR 35.

- **3rd ANNUAL ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER PRESERVE POKER RIDE (ON HORSEBACK)**

- **St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park**

- **Date: Saturday, November 10 (First hand out at 10:00 a.m./Last hand out at 11:00 a.m.)**

- **Description:** Join us for another beautiful ride in the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. Due to popular request, we will be riding and camping on the SE side of the Preserve. The main trail will be 10 - 12 miles long with options to make it longer or shorter, without compromising the integrity of the poker game. A delicious lunch and tons of door prizes will be included in the price of your 'hand.' Additional lunch tickets can be purchased for non-riders at \$5 per meal. There will also be opportunities to participate in a 50/50.

- **Fees:** \$20.00 per hand (lunch and door prizes included).

- **Contact:** Patti Fuchs (772) 473-5025

- **Directions:** The north entrance for the visitor center and Manatee Vista is off Babcock Street (County Road 507) just north of the C-54 Canal. Exit I-95 at County Road 514 to reach County Road 507. The south entrance is off Fellsmere Road (County Road 512) 1.8 miles east of I-95.

- **10th ANNUAL DISCOVER THE ISLAND**

- **Egmont Key State Park**

- **Date: Saturday, November 10 & Sunday, November 11, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

- **Description:** This fundraiser, sponsored by the Egmont Key Alliance and Hubbard's Sea Adventures includes a 10 stop walking tour, historians in costume and kids' pirate games. Don't miss this chance to learn about the natural and cultural history of the island!

- **Fees:** \$15.00 (group discount available), Children 12 and under free. Round trip boat transportation leaving from Fort Desoto Park from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. included (last boat returns from Egmont Key at 5:00 p.m.).

- **Contact:** For more information visit: www.egmontkey.info

- **Directions:** Egmont Key is located at the mouth of Tampa Bay, southwest of Fort DeSoto Beach. Access by

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private boat only.

- **FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - SERIES #6**

- **Oleta River State Park**

Date: November 11

Description: Series #6, of the 2007 Florida State Championship for mountain bike racing, will be held on Oleta River State Park's challenging off-road trails.

Fees: Park admission fee

Contact: (305) 919-1846 or visit www.goneriding.com

Directions: Oleta River State Park is located at 3400 N.E. 163rd St, off I-95 in Miami.

- **8th ANNUAL MATLACHA PASS ESTUARY DAY PADDLE**

- **Charlotte Harbor**

Date: Sunday, November 18. The paddle begins on Sunday morning between 8:30 a.m. returning by 12:00 p.m. (Alternate date in the event of bad weather is Sunday, December 2.)

Description: **THE BIG PADDLE:** Join the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves, Inc. on their 8th annual canoe/kayak paddle event for the greater Charlotte Harbor community. Trails meander through tidal creeks and the mangrove forests of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve. Paddlers may glimpse a ray gliding by their kayak, dolphins emerging above the waves and mullet leaping. Osprey, ibis, herons, egrets and roseate spoonbills may be seen in secluded areas. For information and a complete list of National Estuaries Day events being held throughout the Charlotte Harbor watershed sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, visit www.CharlotteHarborNEP.org or call (239) 338-2556, extension 240.

Fees: The cost for Friends members who bring their own kayaks is \$5. The cost is \$15 for Friends members and \$20 for nonmembers who need kayaks provided for them. CHILDREN UNDER 16 ARE FREE. CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT IN A DOUBLE KAYAK. The fee includes maps, refreshments and kayak instructions for novices. Paddling options include easy, intermediate, and advanced routes. Advance registration is required. A \$5.00 late fee will be added to registrations received after November 12. Call DEP at (941) 575- 5861 for registration forms and details.

Contact: For more information call (941) 575-5861

Directions: The administrative, resource management and facilities maintenance offices are located on Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda approximately 3 miles south of US 41/Tamiami Trail. Other access points to the park are available in Cape Coral, Cape Haze, El Jobean, Little Pine Island and Rotonda.

- **TAMPA'S CIGAR HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

- **Ybor City Museum State Park**

Date: Saturday - November 17

Description: Tampa's premier cigar event comes back to Ybor City and Ybor City Museum State Park for 2007. Enjoy fine cigars, cigar lifestyle vendors, authentic food, traditional Ybor City pastimes like dominoe playing, cooking demonstrations, dancing and live music. Witness the World's Longest Cigar presented by Cigar City Magazine. Exclusive 'Night Before' smoker - Cigars & Stars II, presented by Cigar City Magazine. Space available for cigar lifestyle vendors. Corporate sponsorships available. Proceeds benefit the Ybor City Museum Society.

Fees:

Contact: Call the Museum Society at (813) 247.1434

Directions: From I-4 - Take exit 1 and turn South onto 21st Street (it's one-way) turn right onto Palm Avenue, then take the second left onto 19th Street and the very next right which is 9th Avenue. The museum is the second building on the right, a large building with a yellow brick front. From I-275 - Take it North or South to I-4 and follow the above directions. **Parking** - Parking is available on the street at the parking meters (quarters only) or at one of the metered lots located off of 8th Avenue or one of the Parking Garages. One Parking Garage is located on 9th Avenue between 13th Street and Nick Nuccio Parkway, 6 blocks west of the Museum. Another Parking Garage

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is located at 15th Street and 5th Avenue and is 6 blocks diagonally from the Museum. Two Hour Free Parking is available on 7th Avenue during the day but it fills up fast.

- **THE X-COUNTRY MARATHON**

Alafia River State Park

Date: Sunday – November 18, 7:45 a.m.

Description: Enjoy the rolling hills and tall grasses of Alafia River State Park as you race on the wide open paths. This 2nd annual off-road race comes just before the Florida marathon season. Try the full marathon or sample the Half-Marathon or 5K courses. Either way, come run with us.

Fees: For registration fees, please log on to www.tamparaces.com. Park admission fees still apply.

Contact: Contact the park at (813) 672-5320.

Directions: From the South - Take I-75 North to exit #240. At exit #240, turn Right (East) onto SR 674. Keep straight on SR 674 for approximately 15 miles. Turn Left (North) at flashing light, onto CR 39 for approximately 5 miles. The main park entrance is on the Right side. From the North - Take I-75 South to exit #246. At exit #246, turn Right (East) onto Big Bend Road. Keep straight on Big Bend Road for approximately 1 mile. Turn Right (South) onto U.S. 301. Keep straight on U.S. 301 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn Left (East) onto CR 672. Follow CR 672 for approximately 12 miles. Turn Left (North) onto CR 39. Keep straight on CR 39 for approximately 1.5 miles. The main park entrance is on the Right side. From the East - Take I-4 West to exit #22. Turn Left onto Park Road. Follow Park Road for approximately 2.5 miles. Bear right onto 39B. Turn Left onto SR 39 (James Redman Parkway). Continue on SR/CR 39 for approximately 15.2 miles. The main park entrance will be on the Left side.

- **SUWANNEE OLD-TIME MUSIC WEEKEND**

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 30, December 1 & 2.

Description: Spend the weekend picking up old-time music techniques from the masters of the fiddle, banjo, guitar and voice. The weekend features the Rhythm Rats - whose wild and beautiful old fiddle tunes, driving dance music, balads, banjo songs, and mountain blues are sung with ability, spirit, and authenticity. Our homegrown talents include Fay Baird, Tammy Murray, and Chuck Levy. Evening Instructors Showcase and a Florida Masters Concert featuring Tommy Bledsoe, and the string band Upsala will be open to the public. Download information and registration form: [Registration Form](#)

Fees: Fee: \$150.00 includes all Workshops, Concerts, Jams, Seminars and Discussion Groups. Saturday Evening Concert: \$10.00

Contact: For more information, call (386) 397-4478.

Directions: Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to S.R. 136** (Milepost Exit 439), travel east on S.R. 136 for 3 miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. **From I-10 to U.S. 41 North** (Milepost Exit 301 - Old Exit 43), travel 9 miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

- **OLD TIME DANCE**

The Barnacle Historic State Park

Date: November 30, 6 - 10:00 p.m.

Description: Kick up your heels to traditional American music played by the Flying Kick and Mudhole Control and caller Rae Newoman while learning traditional American folk dance steps. Dances such as circles, squares, contras and waltzes were all the rage in the 1800s, so come dance like it's 1891.

Fees: \$8.00 - 10 years and older

Contact: (305) 442-6866

Directions: The Barnacle is located in Coconut Grove (Miami) at 3485 Main Highway.