

Florida State Parks

Monthly Newsletter, December 2007

Special Events December 2007

- [Dudley Farm Historic State Park](#), Cane Grinding, Sat., December 1, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- [Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park](#), Camellia Christmas and Grand Reopening of Maclay House, Fri., December 7, 6 – 9 p.m.
- [Myakka River State Park](#), Moon Over Myakka Owl Prowl, Thurs., December 20 (1st in a series of 4), 6:30 p.m.
- [The Barnacle Historic State Park](#), Barnacle Under Moonlight Sun., December 23, 6 – 9 p.m.
- [Dade Battlefield Historic State Park](#), Dade Reenactment Weekend, Sat., December 29 and Sun., December 30, reenactment each day at 2 p.m.

Give the Gift that Lasts all Year

Annual Passes allow you to enter any of Florida's 161 award-winning state parks for one year at no additional cost beyond the purchase price. Passes are available for individuals or families at just pennies a day. Explore parks year-round from Key West to Pensacola. Inquire at any ranger station or call (352) 628-1002. To purchase an Annual Pass online, visit www.floridastateparks.org/annualpass/.



Annual Pass

Experience History at Battle Reenactments

Join us Saturday, December 29 and Sunday, December 30 at [Dade Battlefield Historic State Park](#) in Bushnell for the annual reenactment of the battle that started the 2nd Seminole War. Seminole Indian warriors ambushed 108 soldiers at this site in 1835.

Take a stroll down the Old Fort King Road, visit soldiers in their camp, view Native American crafts in the Seminole camp, walk through the Sutler's Row, watch demonstrations of skills such as blacksmithing, or kick back and enjoy the period music that fills the air. The highlight of the weekend is the battle reenactment, which takes place at 2 p.m. each day.

Two Civil War battle reenactments will occur in February and March.

- The [Battle of Olustee](#) will be reenacted on February 15-17.
- The [Battle of Natural Bridge](#) will be reenacted on March 1 & 2.

Go 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. Visit beaches, springs and river parks for swimming, diving and fishing. Hike or horseback ride on natural scenic trails. Battle reenactments and Native American festivals celebrate Florida's history, while art shows, museums and lighthouses offer a window into Florida's cultural heritage. Visit www.ReserveAmerica.com or call (800) 326-3521, (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287.



Let's Go  Outside



Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

- [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, ballads, 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 for \$10.00 each. Registration fees include workshops, concerts, jams, discussion groups and continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.

Download information and registration form: [Registration Form](#)

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

Contact: (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), travel 9 miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

- [LIGNUMVITAE CHRISTMAS](#)
[Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park](#)

Date: Saturday and Sunday, December 1 & 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: As the holidays are approaching, we would like to invite everyone to join us for our annual event 'Lignumvitae Christmas' on December 1 & 2. The historic Matheson House will be decorated in an early 1900s ambiance of the Florida Keys. Visitors will be able to see how caretakers of the past would have adorned the walls of their island abode, sample homemade cookies, cakes & refreshments and decorate their own ornaments. Meet at Robbie's Marina, located at Mile Marker 77.5, bayside. Tour boats will begin shuttling passengers to the island at 9:00 a.m. and stop at 3:00 p.m.

Fees: Special event fee

Contact: (305) 664-2540

Directions: Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park is located one mile west of U.S.1 at Mile Marker 78.5. Access is by private boat or charter boats at nearby marinas.

- [VOLCOM SEACOW SURF CONTEST](#)
[Sebastian Inlet State Park](#)

Date: Saturday and Sunday, December 1 & 2, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Description: Volcom Crustaceous Tour Florida Championship

Fees: Regular park entrance fees apply.

Contact: www.volcom.com

Directions: From Indian River County: From Interstate 95, take the Fellsmere/Sebastian exit and go east (towards Sebastian) on County Road 512. After a short distance, turn right on County Road 510. This road will intersect with U.S. Highway 1. Continue east, over the Indian River, to State Road A1A. Turn left (north) and go 7 miles on State Road A1A; you will have arrived at Sebastian Inlet. From Brevard County: From Interstate 95, take the U.S. 192 exit and go east until you reach State Road A1A in Indialantic. Turn right (south) on State Road A1A and go 18 miles to get to Sebastian Inlet.

- [17TH ANNUAL CANE GRINDING](#)
[Dudley Farm Historic State Park](#)

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Date: Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: This annual event commemorates donor Miss Myrtle Dudley's birthday and continues the farm family tradition of grinding sugar cane and boiling cane syrup. Grinding cane with a mule, utilizing heart pine for the fire, and bottling the syrup, all at the original cane syrup complex, makes this an old-time community gathering. Visitors may tour the farm and see other traditional activities and craft demonstrations. Cane syrup, cornmeal, grits, craft and farm products will be for sale. Food and drinks will be available.

Fees: The event on December 1 is free with park admission.

Contact: For more information, call (352) 472-1142.

Directions: Dudley Farm Historic State Park is located 4 miles east of Newberry on SR 26.

- [SEASONAL STORIES](#)

- [Ravine Gardens State Park](#)

- **Date:** Sunday, December 2, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- **Description:** The Friends of Ravine Gardens, Inc. are please to host this years' Seasonal Stories. The Tale Tellers of Saint Augustine will present a day of old fashion fun through the art of ancient story telling. Sit back and let your imagination float back to a time before TV or radio, a time when people would gather around to listen to the story teller talk about times past and about the future to come; stories that would delight all ages. The Tale Tellers of Saint Augustine are a professional guild of storytellers, founded in 1993. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

- **Fees:** \$5.00 per person

- **Contact:** (386) 329-3721

- **Directions:** Ravine Gardens State Park is located in Palatka, FL. From US17/SR100, turn south onto Moseley Avenue, then turn east onto Twigg Street.

- [CAMELLIA CHRISTMAS 2007](#)

- [Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park](#)

- **Date:** Friday, December 7, 6:00 - 9 p.m.

- **Description:** This wonderful, old fashion holiday kick off is an annual event at Maclay Gardens. The event is free to the public with donations suggested to help defray costs. The community is invited to come out for a candlelight stroll through the gardens and enjoy the music of local performers along with hot apple cider and cookies served by the park staff and volunteers. The event will feature the Grand Reopening of the historic Maclay House, which will be open and decorated for the holidays. There will be a silent auction on wonderful items donated by local merchants.

- **Fees:** Park entrance fees waived for participants.

- **Contact:** (850) 487-4115

- **Directions:** Maclay Gardens State Park is located one half mile north of I-10 on U.S. 319.

- [NIGHTS OF LIGHTS](#)

- [Fort Cooper State Park](#)

- **Date:** Friday, December 7 through Thursday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- **Description:** December 7 and 8: Lights, Luminaries, Entertainment and Refreshments. Special Guest Santa Claus. December 9 through December 13: Lights and Luminaries. Park admission is the donation of non-perishable foods or new unwrapped toys. Beneficiary: Citrus United Basket. Nights of Lights is sponsored by *Citrus County Chronicle*.

- [Download your Nights of Lights flyer here!](#)

- **Fees:** Park admission is the donation of non-perishable foods or new unwrapped toys.

- **Contact:** (352) 726-0315

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Directions: Fort Cooper State Park is located just off US 41, on South Old Floral City Road, two miles south of Inverness.

- **SANTA'S GARDEN CELEBRATION**
Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

Date: Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Description: Washington Oaks Gardens State Park will waive the park entrance fee for our 1st annual "Santa's Garden Celebration." In lieu of regular park entrance fees, donations of toys and non-perishable food items will be collected at the gate. Children may share their holiday wish list with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Gardens. For a nominal charge, the Friends of Washington Oaks will offer a souvenir photo with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. "Santa's Playground" will include activities for children, such as holiday stories and a sing-a-long by Shirley Dunwoody, an outdoor movie screen playing children's favorite holiday movies, and a hands-on arts and crafts and game section. Starbucks Coffee will be giving out complementary hot chocolates and peppermint white hot chocolates; pizza by the slice will also be available for purchase. There will also be a Gingerbread house contest for all ages. Drop your Gingerbread house at the park between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on December 8. It will remain on display until 4 p.m. Prizes will be given including a "Mrs. Claus's Choice" award. To register please call Cristy Leonard at (386) 446-6783 or cristy.leonard@dep.state.fl.us. Other activities include the Friends 2nd Saturday plant sale, food vendors, programs including wreath & ornament making, fresh Christmas trees and wreaths for sale and live entertainment throughout the day including Tim Rippey.

Fees: One toy or can good item per car

Contact: (386) 446-6783

Directions: Washington Oaks Gardens State Park is located two miles south of Marineland, off A1A.

- **CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Description: Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park invites the public to join the fun at Craft Square during the Christmas Festival of Lights at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park on December 8. Demonstrations will include corn grinding, weaving, woodworking, aromatherapy, pottery and jewelry making, calligraphy, stain glass, gourd art, dream catchers, walking sticks and pysanka. A make-and-take Christmas ornament for those visitors who wish to participate will be done by Nancy Traver. Everyone is invited to enjoy the selection of candles, toys, jewelry, books, food, music and wonderful crafts by Florida artists. Visitors are also encouraged to take advantage of the extended hours at Cousin Thelma Bolton's Gift Shop, which will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fees: Regular park admission of \$4.00 per vehicle (limit 8 people per vehicle) until 5:00 p.m. After 5:00 p.m. admission is the donation of canned goods or unwrapped new toys.

Contact: (386) 397-1920.

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.

- **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Saturday, December 8, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Description: Celebrate the holiday with an evening concert bonfire and festive lighting of the park as part of White Springs' Annual Christmas Parade. Donations of canned goods or toys required as park admission are distributed to local charity.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Fees: Donations of canned goods or toys required as park admission.

Contact: (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.

- [FRIENDS OF MYAKKA ANNUAL PICNIC](#)

[Myakka River State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, December 8, 4:30 p.m.

Description: The picnic starts at 4:30 at the south pavilion down by the river. Those attending will enjoy a savory southern dinner and great blue grass music by 'The Manatee River Bluegrass Band'. Wine, beer, water and ice tea will be provided along with traditional and unusual lawn games. There are other surprises and updates about the park so be there if you can. Questions answered and reservations made through Kim Anderson, at the Myakka Friends Gallery and Gift Shop.

Fees: Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be sold ahead of time and reservations must be made by December 2, 2007.

Contact: (941) 316-8139

Directions: Myakka River State Park is located 9 miles east of I-75 in Sarasota on S.R. 72.

- [CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SHOW](#)

[Three Rivers State Park](#)

Date: Friday & Saturday, December 14 & 15 and 21 & 22, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Description: The park invites you to join us for a scenic drive through the park to enjoy all the beautiful light displays.

Fees: Entrance fees waived for participants

Contact: (850) 482-9006

Directions: Three Rivers State Park is located at 7908 Three Rivers Park Road, Sneads, FL 32460. Three River SP is easily reached via I-10. Take Exit 158 and travel north into the town of Sneads. At Sneads, turn left (west) onto Hwy 90. Turn right (north) onto River Road at the flashing yellow light. Park is located two miles north of Sneads.

- [CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS](#)

[Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park](#)

Date: December 20 - December 24, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Description: The Friends present their annual Christmas Celebration of Lights over five evenings. The park is illuminated with thousands of lights and holiday decorations and a variety of entertainment is featured on different evenings. Refreshments are also available.

Fees: Suggested donation: Adults \$2.00 and Children 5 - 12, \$1.00

Contact: (352) 628-5343

Directions: Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park is located in Homosassa Springs, 75 miles north of Tampa on U.S. 19 and 90 miles northwest of Orlando.

- [MOON OVER MYAKKA OWL PROWL](#)

[Myakka River State Park](#)

Date: Thursday, December 20, 6:30- p.m. - The owls are nesting at this time of year

Friday, January 25, 6:30 p.m. - Owls will be actively feeding their young

Friday, February 22, 6:30 p.m. - Young owls will be making their debuts

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Friday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. - Young owls will be learning to hunt

Description: Take this opportunity to come and meet up close those most mysterious creatures of the night: Owls. Join Park Ranger Lisa Rhodin for a brief discussion of the natural history of owls at the Log Pavilion, meet some actual live owls and hear their stories and then prepare to prowl as we attempt to locate wild owls in the park.

Fees: \$25.00 per person/\$20.00 if a member of the Friends of Myakka

Contact: (941) 924-0273 or tlclisaf@verizon.net

Directions: Myakka River State Park is located 9 miles east of I-75 in Sarasota on S.R. 72.

- [**MACARTHUR UNDER MOONLIGHT - LOOSE ENDS**](#)

[**John D. MacArthur Beach State Park**](#)

Date: Saturday, December 22, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Description: Join us under the full moon for a magical night of music. This concert series is held every month on the night of the full moon featuring a different band every month. This month's featured artist is 'Loose Ends.' The four-member band will be playing your favorite rock songs from the '60s and '70s. Come on out and bring the whole family! No reservations required.

Fees: Admission is \$5.00. Children under 10 are free.

Contact: (561) 624-6952

Directions: John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is located 2.8 miles south of the intersection of U.S.1 and PGA Blvd. on A1A in North Palm Beach.

- [**BARNACLE UNDER MOONLIGHT - TRACY SANDS**](#)

[**The Barnacle Historic State Park**](#)

Date: Sunday, December 23, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Description: Bring a picnic and your friends. Come enjoy a lovely evening under the moonlight at The Barnacle. Tracy Sands is a traditional Irish singer and contemporary Irish vocalist. Her album 'Voice on the Line' is a collaboration of well-known Irish songs, praised for its 'contemporary kick,' as described by Charles Passey of the *Palm Beach Post*. Her second album, 'Enchanted,' is filled with beautiful vocals on Irish ballads and contemporary songs that "warm your soul." No Pets. www.tracysands.com

Fees: \$5.00 - 10 years and older

Contact: (305) 442-6866

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

- [**27TH ANNUAL DADE REENACTMENT WEEKEND**](#)

[**Dade Battlefield Historic State Park**](#)

Date: Saturday, December 29 and Sunday, December 30

Description: Step back in time with the staff and volunteers of Dade Battlefield, during a weekend of activities and events for all of the family to enjoy. Take a stroll down the Old Fort King Road, visit soldiers in their camp, view Native American crafts in the Seminole camp, walk through the Sutler's Row, watch demonstrations of skills such as blacksmithing, or kick back and enjoy the period music that fills the air. The highlight of the weekend is the battle reenactment, which takes place at 2 p.m. each day.

Fees: Fees for the reenactment are \$6.00 adults, \$2.00 children 6-12, and under 6 - free

Contact: (352) 793-4781

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

- [**NEW YEARS EVE NIGHT DIVE**](#)

[**Peacock Springs State Park**](#)

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Date: Monday, December 31, 11:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Description: The dive starts at 11:00 p.m. and ends at 1:00 a.m.

Fees: \$10.00 per diver.

Contact: (386) 776-2194

Directions: From Live Oak, take S.R. 51 south approximately 17 miles to Luraville. Turn left on 180th Street, go approximately 2 miles. Park entrance is on your right. From Mayo, take S.R. 51 north approximately 7 miles to Luraville. Turn right on 180th Street and go approximately 2 miles. Park entrance is on the right.

- [PEACE AT LAST](#)

- [Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park](#)

Date: Monday, December 31, 1:00 p.m.

Description: Celebrate the New Year with a peaceful gathering among friends for a carillon concert and poetry readings on the banks of the Suwannee River.

Fees: Free with paid park admission.

Contact: (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.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks
