

Florida State Parks

Monthly Newsletter, January 2008

Special Events January 2008

[Friends' Nature Adventure Series](#)

at Collier-
Seminole State
Park

1: Canoe
Adventure on the
Wild & Scenic
Side

Each Monday,
Wednesday and
Saturday in
January

2: Guided
Moonlight Canoe
Adventure

January 20 & 21

3: A Florida Night
Hike Adventure
January 7

[Sebastian Inlet Pro Surf Contest](#)

at Sebastian Inlet
State Park,
January 2 to 11

[Hike Oscar Scherer Day](#) at

Oscar Scherer
State Park, January
12

[Fort Foster Rendezvous](#)

at Hillsborough
River State Park,
January 31 to
February 3

Turn Your New Year's Resolutions into Action

Start the new year by setting goals for the future. If your resolutions include fitness, exploring nature or volunteering, then Florida State Parks is the perfect place to start. With 161 award-winning state parks from Pensacola to Key West, you won't have to travel far to find the ideal setting.

Getting Fit

Hiking and bicycling are good aerobic activities. Start the new year by taking a 12-mile **hike** at [Suwannee River State Park](#) on January 1. Go for a 50-mile **bicycle ride** at [San Felasco Hammock State Park](#) on January 12. On January 19, there will be a guided overnight backpacking trip at [Lake Kissimmee State Park](#).



Exploring Nature

Learn about the endangered manatee during **Manatee Awareness Month** at [Manatee Springs State Park](#). Activities continue throughout the month of January.

On Friday, January 25, [Myakka River State Park](#) will host the second in a series called **Moon Over Myakka Owl Prowl**. Go on an evening hike to find owls actively feeding their young. The series continues in February and March.

Volunteering

Volunteers contribute to Florida's state parks by greeting visitors, conducting tours and maintaining the natural beauty of beaches, waterways or trails. To help, inquire at any ranger station. Another way to volunteer is by joining the **Friends of Florida State Parks**, a nonprofit organization of citizens who enhance, protect and promote Florida's parks. This group raises funds, provides counsel, delivers public education projects and helps create awareness. Members receive new publications about state parks, network with other members, participate in special events and receive the *Real Florida Magazine*. Visit www.FloridaStateParks.org/friends.



Let's Go  Outside



Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

- [NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE](#)
[Suwannee River State Park](#)
Date: Tuesday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.
Description: Join us for our 4th Annual 12 Mile Hike, and start the New Year out with a healthy choice. Meet at the parking lot. Please bring water and lunch. Wear comfortable shoes or boots. This event is brought to you by the Friends of Suwannee River State Park.
Fees: The park entrance fee is \$4.00 per vehicle (up to 8 people per vehicle)
Contact: Friends (850) 971-5354, e-mail [Friends of Suwannee River State Park](#) or Suwannee River State Park (386) 362-2746
Directions: Suwannee River State Park is located 13 miles west of Live Oak, off U.S. 90.
- [MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH](#)
[Manatee Springs State Park](#)
Date: All programs run 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dates are listed below.
Description: JANUARY IS MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH AT MANATEE SPRINGS STATE PARK
Don't miss these fascinating programs about manatees.
Saturday, January 5 ... Dorvan Daniels will present the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rescue boat and discuss the agency programs that protect and rescue manatees.
Saturday, January 12 ... Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge personnel will present manatee rescue slides (approximately 30-40 slides) inside their portable dark room. The room will hold about 4 people at a time.
Saturday, January 19 ... Save the Manatee Club will be at the amphitheater with photographs and brochures on manatees and provide information on what this important organization does.
Saturday, January 26 ... Sirenia Project, United States Geological Survey, Florida Integrated Science Center is a federal program whose scientists study the lives and travel patterns of manatees. They will set up their display at the river pavilion at end of the boardwalk. Their program includes a children's game oriented to identifying individual manatees.
Join us for guided canoe trips on Friday mornings to observe manatees close-up.
Fees: These manatee programs are FREE with regular park admission
Contact: (352) 493-6072
Directions: Manatee Springs State Park is located at the end of State Road 320, off U.S. 98, six miles west of Chiefland.
- [FRIENDS' NATURE ADVENTURE SERIES](#)
[Collier-Seminole State Park](#)
Date: Fall 2007 - Winter 2008
Description:
1: Canoe Adventure on the Wild & Scenic Side: Each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in December, January and February.
2: Guided Moonlight Canoe Adventure: January 20 & 21, 2008, February 19 & 20, 2008
3: A Florida Night Hike Adventure: January 7, 2008 and February 4, 2008
Each Adventure is limited to 10 people, so sign up early! Participants may register up to 30 days in advance of the event.
Fees: Park entrance fees waived for participants on the day of event. Collier-Seminole Friends receive a \$5 discount per member on each event. Payment: cash or check only. No credit cards.
Contact: (239) 394-3397
Directions: Going south from Tampa on I-75, take Exit 101 (State Road 951 & State Road 84) and turn right.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Follow State Road 951 to U.S. 41. Turn left on U.S. 41 and the Collier-Seminole State Park will be 8 miles on the right just past County Road 92. Going west from Fort Lauderdale, take Exit 80 (State Road 29), go south to U.S. 41 and turn right. Follow U.S. 41 for about 15 miles, and the Collier-Seminole State Park will be on your left.

- **SEBASTIAN INLET PRO SURF CONTEST**

- **Sebastian Inlet State Park**

- **Date:** January 2 - 11, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- **Description:** Top world class professional surfers compete for \$110,000 in prize money. This is a 5-star event on the World Qualifying Series. Contest dates and times vary according to surf conditions.

- **Fees:** Normal entrance fees apply

- **Contact:** www.sebastianinletpro.com

- **Directions:** From Indian River County: From I-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 I-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.

- **SUWANNEE DULCIMER RETREAT**

- **Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park**

- **Date:** Friday, January 11 & Saturday, January 12

- **Description:** Come enjoy a weekend of music and fun at the Suwannee Dulcimer Retreat in historic White Springs, Florida. The weekend offers workshop sessions taught by foremost mountain & hammer dulcimer and autoharp players from throughout the U.S. There will be concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm that will feature your favorite musicians. This year's Mountain Dulcimer instructors include Karen Mueller, Steve Eulburg, Bing Futch, Joel Paul, Mary Z. Cox, Susan Boyer Haley, Jan Milner, Aaron O'Rourke, Doug Felt and David Beede. Hammered Dulcimer instructors include Steve Eulburg and Ray Belanger. Our autoharp instructors are Karen Mueller and Cheryl Belanger. [Registration Form](#)

- **Fees:** \$85.00 for the weekend package, which includes entrance to both Friday and Saturday concerts and workshops

- **Contact:** (386) 397-4478

- **Directions:** Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to State Road 136** (Milepost Exit 439), travel east on State Road 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.

- **2008 TOUR DE FELASCO**

- **San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park**

- **Date:** Saturday, January 12

- **Description:** Join the Friends of San Felasco CSO for a 50-mile mountain bike tour through one of North Florida's most diverse ecological and geological preserves, San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park. The Tour is NOT a race, but rather a challenging series of trails opened specially for the event that will test your bike skills and endurance with rolling hills, short climbs, sinkholes, hydric hammock and prairie. Participants will face all of the challenges that North Florida riders have come to expect from the San Felasco trails, but on a truly epic proportion. Participants will be able to ride a full 50 miles without crossing a single paved road: approximately 20 miles of singletrack, 15 miles of doubletrack, and 15 miles of horse and hiking trails. Experience areas of the park open to bikes only for the Tour, while supporting the CSO's efforts to improve this magnificent trail system.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

NOTICE: The maximum number of registrations have been received. Registration is closed. You are welcome to come and watch the participants.

[Get more information and the brochure.](#)

Fees: \$40.00 per person

Contact: (352) 538-2658

Directions: To the Hiking Trailhead: Take I-75 to County Road 222 (Milepost Exit 390) and drive west 2.9 miles to County Road 241. Turn right onto County Road 241 and drive 2.0 miles to County Road 232. Turn right onto County Road 232 and drive 2.2 miles. The park entrance is on the right just east of the I-75 overpass. (No interchange at this overpass.) **To the Equestrian and Mountain Bike Trailhead:** Take I-75 to U.S. 441 (Milepost Exit 399) and drive south 2.8 miles (through the city of Alachua). Turn right onto Progress Blvd. Drive 0.7 miles to the park entrance. (Continue past the end of the pavement and onto the grade road.) **Pets, except for horses, are not allowed.**

- [HIKE OSCAR SCHERER DAY](#)

[Oscar Scherer State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, January 12, 7:30 a.m.

Description: Sponsored by the Friends of Oscar Scherer. Come join us for a hike in the park. Open the following link for more information and registration form: [Hike Information and Registration](#) The event starts at the Lake Osprey Picnic Area.

Fees: \$10.00 - Under 16 Free

Contact: (941) 483-5956

Directions: Oscar Scherer State Park is located on U.S. 41, six miles south of Sarasota. Heading south on I-75 take exit 200. Heading north on I-75 take exit 195.

- [TOMOKA REMEMBERS](#)

[Tomoka State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: Each month, discover a different piece of the past, from Seminoles to Civil War. Visitors can talk to and learn from living historians. Our 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) 676-4050 before your arrival. Accessible parking and walkways are provided in the event area. East Central Florida history comes to life!

Fees: Regular park entry fee, \$4.00 per car

Contact: (386) 676-4050

Directions: Tomoka State Park is located three miles north of Ormond Beach on North Beach Street.

- [2008 CARRIAGE MOBSTACLE](#)

[Alafia River State Park](#)

Date: Sunday, January 13, Registration at 9:00 a.m.

Description: This horse and carriage event consists of man made and natural obstacles, testing your ability to correctly navigate a mapped course while communicating with your animal. Outriders are welcome to ride along with the carriages, but prizes will be limited to horse and cart participants. Participants must supply their own horse and current negative coggins.

Fees: Park admission fees apply

Contact: (813) 672-5320

Directions: From the South - Take I-75 North to exit 240. At exit 240, turn right (east) onto State Road 674. Keep straight on State Road 674 for approximately 15 miles. Turn left (north) at flashing light, onto County Road 39 for approximately 5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right. From the North - Take I-75 South to exit 246.

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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 County Road 672. Follow County Road 672 for approximately 12 miles. Turn left (north) onto County Road 39. Keep straight on County Road 39 for approximately 1.5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right. 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 State Rod 39 (James Redman Parkway). Continue on State Road/County Road 39 for approximately 15.2 miles. The main park entrance will be on the left.

- [OLD TIME DANCE](#)

- [O'Leno State Park](#)

- **Date:** Sunday, January 13, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- **Description:** Come out and join the fun. Learn the steps to Circles, Squares and Contra dances that were all the rage in the mid-1800s when the town of Leno thrived! Dance to live music by the *Flying Turtles String Band* in the 1930s recreation hall on the banks of the Santa Fe River in O'Leno State Park.

- **Fees:** Regular park admission plus Tickets: \$5.00/adults, \$3.00/child

- **Contact:** (386) 454-1853

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

- [MACARTHUR UNDER MOONLIGHT](#)

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

- **Date:** Saturday, January 19, 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 Friday or Saturday night nearest the full moon featuring a different band every month. Come 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.

- [GUIDED OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP](#)

- [Lake Kissimmee State Park](#)

- **Date:** Saturday, January 19

- **Description:** Join a park ranger at Lake Kissimmee State Park for an exciting guided overnight backpacking trip. The trip is approximately 7 miles long, and will pass through several diverse plant and animal communities. On Saturday, the group departs in the early afternoon and will hike about three and a half miles to the primitive campsite on either Buster Island or Fallen Oak. Sunday's hike will also be about three and a half miles long, ending late in the morning. The trail is level and might be wet in places. The overall trip is considered easy to moderate in difficulty for the experienced hiker. Reservations are required for the trip.

- **Fees:** \$4.00 +tax per person

- **Contact:** Kiersten.L.Wilson@dep.state.fl.us, (863) 696-1112

- **Directions:** Lake Kissimmee State Park is located off State Road 60, 15 miles east of Lake Wales.

- [FULL MOON CANOE/KAYAK GUIDED TRIP](#)

- [Manatee Springs State Park](#)

- **Date:** Sunday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. promptly

- **Description:** Venture with others as night crawls in and the full moon rises on a guided canoe/kayak trip.

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Under the silvery light of the moon, your guides will share secrets of the Suwannee River as you paddle through the nocturnal world. Participation is limited and based upon first-come, first-served so arrive early. Only 10 boats are allowed and the estimated paddling time is 2 hours, followed by refreshments and a fire-side program provided by our Citizen Support Organization, Friends of Manatee Springs Parks, Inc. Don't forget to bring flash light, whistle and life jacket. For boat rentals in advance, call (352) 490-9797.

Fees: These trips are free with regular paid camping fees. Day use visitors will need to pay regular day use fee and advise the guide that they will need assistance with the entrance gate upon departure.

Contact: (352) 493-6072

Directions: Manatee Springs State Park is located at the end of State Road 320, off U.S. 98, six miles west of Chiefland.

- **[MOON OVER MYAKKA CONCERTS](#)**

[Myakka River State Park](#)

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Description: The Friends of Myakka River are working hard to combine for you a natural and cultural experience that is both beautiful and rare. Here is what is coming your way...

Tuesday, January 22 - Arvel Bird, lord of the strings. Arvel is a Southern Paiute/Scottish fiddle player that is nationally known and the winner of the 2006 Native American Music Awards. [ArvelBird.com](#)

Thursday, February 21 - Vicki Genfan, one of the top female guitarists in the world, known for her fiercely original contemporary jazz and funk singing and playing style. [VickiGenfan.com](#)

Thursday, March 20 - Kraig Kenning, national slide guitar champion comes armed with his Dobro guitar and some very potent blues and root rock lyrics honed on the back roads of America. [KraigKenning.com](#)

Fees: Tickets sold day of concert. Cost \$8.00 per person. Friends members are \$6.00 per person. Park entrance fee is waived and all proceeds go to resource management projects at the park.

Contact: Contact Lisa Bramlage, (941) 373-7839

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

- **[GOOFY UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY PARTY](#)**

[Highlands Hammock State Park](#)

Date: Friday, January 25 – Sunday, January 27

Description: Florida Geocachers will be hosting the 'Goofy Unhappy Birthday Party' at Highlands Hammock State Park. A variety of geocaching activities are planned. Anyone wanting to participate **must** log onto [GeoCaching.com](#) to register for the activities in which they wish to participate. Participants must also furnish their own GPS device(s). For camping information and reservations log onto [www.ReserveAmerica.com](#). For event information, visit [GeoCache Event Poster](#).

Fees: Regular park admission of \$4 per vehicle applies

Contact: (941) 456-1233

Directions: Highlands Hammock State Park is located off U.S. 27 on State Road 634 (also known as Hammock Road), four miles west of Sebring.

- **[MOON OVER MYAKKA OWL PROWL](#)**

[Myakka River State Park](#)

Date: Dates as follows:

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

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 -

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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 prowls as we attempt to locate wild owls in the park. Contact Lisa Rhodin for reservations and more information.

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

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

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

- **PARTY IN THE PARK**

- **Fort Pierce Inlet State Park**

Date: Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: Ft. Pierce Inlet will host the annual 'Party in the Park' with the Conservation Alliance, Harbor Branch, the Florida Oceanographic Center, and many other environmental and educational organizations. There will be plenty to do with ongoing programs, food, games, and a wonderful day at the beach!

Fees: Free with park admission

Contact: (772) 468-3985

Directions: Fort Pierce Inlet State Park is located four miles east of Fort Pierce, via North Causeway.

- **BLUE SPRING MANATEE FESTIVAL**

- **Blue Spring State Park**

Date: Saturday, January 26 and Sunday, January 27, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Description: Festival is held at Valentine Park. Fundraiser for the Orange City Community. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Friends of Blue Spring State Park, educational scholarships and other greater Orange City organizations. www.themanateefestival.com

Fees: If you are not attending the Festival at Valentine Park, regular park admission applies

Contact: info@themanateefestival.com

Directions: Take exit 114 off I-4 and follow the signs. Go south on U.S. 17/92 to Orange City, about 2.5 miles. Make a right onto West French Avenue.

- **STARGAZING AT THE PRAIRIE**

- **Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park**

Date: Saturday, January 26 at Hickory Ranch. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Description: The Friends of Paynes Prairie invite you to an evening of observing the night sky. Come learn more about the stars and the planets thanks to the [Alachua Astronomy Club](#), who will supply the telescopes. [Hamhock and Slide](#) will perform LIVE Cracker Blues. Campfire, hayrides, hot chocolate and smores! **RSVP** - Planning to attend? Please send an [send us an email](#) and let us know how many are in your group. This way we know how much hot cocoa to stir up.

Fees: \$5.00 donation is appreciated

Contact: (352) 466-4100

Directions: Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is located 10 miles south of Gainesville, in Micanopy, on the east side of U.S. 441 or 3 miles from exit 374 of I-75. Both highways have signs to direct you to the park. Do not enter at the Main Entrance/Ranger Station. Please proceed to Hickory Ranch at 9300 S.E. County Road 234.

- **CRAFT RENDEZVOUS**

- **Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park**

Date: Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Description: Visit with Florida's artists as they spend the day demonstrating their skills at handcrafts and studio arts. Blacksmithing, pottery, stained glass, basket making, weaving and painting will be among the

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creative arts showcased.

Fees: Free with paid park admission

Contact: (386) 397-1920 or visit online at [Stephen Foster CSO](#)

Directions: Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to S.R. 136** (Milepost Exit 439), travel east on State Road 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.

- [BIRD WALK ON PEPPER CREEK TRAIL](#)

[Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, January 26, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (Meet at 7:45 a.m.)

Description: Novice and experienced birders are invited to take a guided bird walk on Pepper Creek Trail. Bring binoculars and field guide if you have them. This leisurely-paced walk is on an accessible paved trail winding through a hydric hammock along Pepper Creek.

Fees: This event is FREE

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.

- [FLORIDA CHALLENGE TRAIL RUN](#)

[Alafia River State Park](#)

Date: Sunday, January 27, 8:00 a.m.

Description: Half Marathon & 5K Trail Run. Alafia River State Park has some of the state's best single track trails. The trails are tough but great fun. Come run with us and see for yourself. For additional fee information please log on to [TampaRaces.com](#)

Fees: Park entry fees still apply

Contact: TampaRaces.com

Directions: From the South - Take I-75 North to exit 240. At exit 240, turn right (east) onto State Road 674. Keep straight on State Road 674 for approximately 15 miles. Turn left (north) at flashing light, onto County Road 39 for approximately 5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right. 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 County Road 672. Follow County Road 672 for approximately 12 miles. Turn left (north) onto County Road 39. Keep straight on County Road 39 for approximately 1.5 miles. The main park entrance is on the right. 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 State Road 39 (James Redman Parkway). Continue on State Road/County Road 39 for approximately 15.2 miles. The main park entrance will be on the left.

- [FORT FOSTER RENDEZVOUS](#)

[Hillsborough River State Park](#)

Date: Thursday, January 31 to Sunday, February 3, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Description: Hillsborough River State Park will present its Annual Rendezvous at the Fort Foster State Historic Site. This event is a living history reenactment featuring military, Seminole and civilian re-enactors, sutlers, traders and craft demonstrations. Registration forms are available at the park or by calling (813) 987-6771. The public is welcome on January 31 and February 1, but no battles will be fought on these days. On February 2 and 3 there will be skirmishes, as the re-enactor Seminoles try to burn the bridge and the re-enactor soldiers defend it. Refreshments will be available for visitors' enjoyment. The Fort Foster State Historic Site is located adjacent to Hillsborough River State Park on U.S. 301 North, 9 miles north of Fowler Avenue and 6 miles south of

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Zephyrhills.

Fees: School Days: Admission is a \$2.00 donation per student, scholarships may be available for home school students and for classes of students from area schools. Teachers/Chaperones are free. Public admission for this event is a \$5 donation per person, ages 13 and over; 12 years and under free

Contact: (813) 987-6771

Directions: Hillsborough River State Park is located 9 miles north of Tampa and 6 miles south of Zephyrhills on U.S. Highway 301. From I-75, Southbound from Ocala take the State Road 54. Exit 279 east to Hwy 301, travel south for 6 miles, and the park will be on the right. From I-75, Northbound from Tampa take the Fowler Ave. Exit 265 east to Highway 301, travel north for 9 miles. The park will be on the left. From I-4, West bound take Exit 10 go north on County Road 579 to U.S. 301. Follow the signs and go north 7 miles. The park will be on the left. From I-4, East bound take Exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go north on U.S. 301 for 14 miles. The park will be on the left.