

# Florida State Parks

## Monthly Newsletter, April 2008

### Special Events April 2008

[12th Annual Old Timers Day at Ichetucknee Springs State Park](#), Sat., April 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

[MacArthur Under the Moonlight at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park](#), Sat., April 12, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

[SportsAbility Event at Ochlockonee River State Park](#), Sat., April 19, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

[5th Annual Shark Bite Challenge at Honeymoon Island State Park](#), Sat., April 19, 8:30 a.m. registration

[STAR PARTY at Sebastian Inlet State Park](#), Sat., April 26, 8:30 p.m. to ...

### Gardens in Spring

Springtime has arrived and the flowers are in bloom. Azaleas are blooming across the state. Visit [Eden Gardens](#) near Panama City, [Alfred B. Maclay Gardens](#) in Tallahassee, Ravine Gardens in Palatka, and [Washington Oaks Gardens](#) in Palm Coast. Other state parks with notable flowers include [Rainbow Springs](#) in Dunnellon and [DeLeon Springs](#) north of Orlando.



### Earth Day

Earth Day is observed worldwide on April 22 to draw attention to the environmental health of our planet. Events will be held at many state parks.

On April 12, [Bahia Honda State Park](#) in the Florida Keys will celebrate Earth Day with live music, food, face painting, puppet shows and more.

On April 19, four parks will celebrate Earth Day. [Hillsborough River State Park](#) north of Tampa will hold a Great American Cleanup for volunteers to pick up litter along the river and in the park. [Honeymoon Island State Park](#) in Dunedin will host Island Earthdays highlighting the parks, birds, animals and environment that make barrier islands special. A 5K Trail Run will start the day at [Highlands Hammock State Park](#) west of Sebring. The day will continue an exotic removal activity, t-shirt painting and live music. At [Koreshan State Historic Site](#) in Estero, the local chapter of the Sierra Club will bring music, food, demonstrators and exhibitors to celebrate the day.

The [Barnacle Historic State Park](#) in Coconut Grove will celebrate with a festival on April 27 with music, fun and exhibits.

### Changes to Camping Reservations

In an effort to better serve you, our camping and cabin reservation system is receiving an upgrade. To complete this transition, reservations will **not** be taken from Wednesday, April 2 through Tuesday, April 15, 2008. During this time, we have taken the opportunity to update several of our overnight accommodation policies to more effectively provide you with the high quality of service you have come to expect. For more information, please visit the [Park Information](#) page at [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org).



Let's Go  Outside



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# Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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## DISCOVER NATURE WITH A RANGER

### Fort George Island Cultural State Park

**Date:** Monday, March 31 through Friday, April 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Description:** Join a park ranger to discover “All the Small Things” in this five day microbiology program series for kids 6 to 12 years of age. The programs will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island and parents must accompany children at all times. Children and parents should bring bug spray, water and closed toes shoes. Space is limited and reservations are required.

**Fees:** This program is free.

**Contact:** Reservations, (904) 251-2320.

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

## CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT

### Fanning Springs State Park

**Date:** Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Description:** The Fanning Springs Community Church will hold their 3rd Annual Contemporary Christian Music Concert at the park.

**Fees:** The fee, including admission to the park, is \$5.00 per person.

**Contact:** Chuck Scott or David Jones, (352) 463-2602.

**Directions:** Fanning Springs State Park is located on U.S. Hwy. 19/98 in the town of Fanning Springs.

## 6TH ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

### Forest Capital Museum State Park

**Date:** Thursday, April 3 through Saturday, April 5.

**Description:** Enjoy three days of the finest bluegrass music in the country plus arts, crafts and food vendors. Bring you lawn chair and dress for seasonal temperatures. No pets please, except for service animals. Download our flyer:

[6th Annual Florida State Bluegrass Festival](#).

**Fees:** \$10.00 for the weekend pass.

**Contact:** For more information and performance times go to [Florida State Bluegrass Festival](#) or call Dawn Taylor at the Chamber of Commerce at (850) 584-5366 or email [Dawn Taylor](#).

**Directions:** One mile south of Perry on U.S. 19/South Alt. 27.

## ANTIQUA TRACTOR & ENGINE SHOW

### Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

**Date:** Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Description:** Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will host the 20th Annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show. Antique tractors and farming equipment reflecting 200 years of rural American history will be on display.

Demonstrating the craftsmanship and durability of American farm machinery, the show’s participants will operate working equipment and compete in tractor races. Visitors will be able to watch demonstrations of wheat threshing, shingle milling, corn grinding and unusual engines for everyday purposes. Exhibits will include collections of flywheels, hit and miss engines, water pumps, vintage pedal tractors, antique cars and farm equipment.

Competitions for adults include tractor pulls, barrel races and a blind race. Children can participate in pedal-powered tractor races, an old-fashioned game of needle-in-a-haystack or a rooster-crowing contest.

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Food concessions will include root beer floats, hamburgers and hot dogs, barbecue and kettle corn. On Saturday afternoon, an antique tractor parade will feature everything from customized lawn tractors to restored farm machinery.

**Fees:** Free with paid park admission.

**Contact:** (386) 397-7005.

**Directions:** Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to STATE ROAD 136** (exit 439), travel east on State Road 136 for three miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. **From I-10 to U.S. 41 North** (exit 301), travel nine miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

## 12TH ANNUAL OLD TIMERS DAY

### Ichetucknee Springs State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Description:** If you visited Ichetucknee before 1970, join us for a day of reminiscing. Bring old photos, newspaper clippings and all your favorite stories. Van tours will be running to various points of interest within the park and also to the Education Center located at our south entrance.

**Fees:** Regular park admission. Park fee will be waived for those who visited the park before 1970.

**Contact:** Please RSVP by March 1st, 2008 by calling 386-497-4690 or email [Patty Martin](#).

**Directions:** From the north, take I-75 south to exit 423. Take State Road 47 south, turn on County Road 238 and follow the park signs. From the south, take I-75 north to exit 399. Take U.S. 441 north to the city of High Springs. Take U.S. 27 north to Ft. White, stay on U.S. 27 north approximately four miles to the south park entrance.

## FIRST SATURDAY COFFEEHOUSE

### Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

**Description:** Songs, stories, music or poetry may be performed at this open stage night held in the park auditorium. Coffee and desserts available for sale.

**Fees:** This event is free.

**Contact:** (386)397-4331.

**Directions:** Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. **From I-75 to STATE ROAD 136** (exit 439), travel east on State Road 136 for three miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. **From I-10 to U.S. 41 North** (exit 301), travel nine miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left.

## FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES - AND KIDS FISHING DERBY

### Oscar Scherer State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 5, 8:00 a.m.

**Description:** Sponsored by the Friends of Oscar Scherer, Venice Kiwanis and Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission's Urban Fishing Program. Come join us at the Lake Osprey picnic area for some fun fishing.

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

**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.

## SPRING GARDENING WORKSHOP

### Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Description:** The park's gardening supervisor Marion Knudsen's spring gardening workshop explains how you can

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use low-maintenance native plants and xeriscaping to conserve water resources and enjoy carefree Florida gardening. Reservations required.

**Fees:** Regular park admission.

**Contact:** For reservations, call (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.

## READING WITH ROCKY PROGRAM

### Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Description:** Author Barbara Cairns will read stories, poems and riddles with children in the Children's Education Center. Trivia about Florida's wading birds and wildlife seen in the park will add interest and excitement.

**Fees:** Regular park admission.

**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.

## MACARTHUR UNDER MOONLIGHT

### John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. to 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 on out and bring the whole family. No reservations required.

**Fees:** Admission is \$5.00. Children under age 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.

## 13TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

### Bahia Honda State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Description:** Bahia Honda State Park will be hosting its 13th Annual Earth Day Celebration on April 12, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be live music provided by local musicians. The Moose Lodge from Big Pine Key, with the help of Boy Scout Troop 573, will be cooking up some wonderful hot dogs, Sloppy Joes and fixin's for the event. Admission to the park is free (come early, parking is limited).

Activities will include free prize drawing for children (more than \$1,000 in prizes), face painting, puppet shows, sand sculpture contest and decorate your own free fish print tote bag (while supplies last). The Florida Keys Astronomy Club will set up telescopes with special lenses for viewing the sun.

Save-A-Turtle Organization will co-host the event and have several activities and display booths. They will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for sea turtle research. There will be environmental exhibits and booths, marine life touch tanks and children's activities.

**Fees:** Park admission is free.

**Contact:** Bahia Honda Sand and Sea Nature Center at (305) 872-9807.

**Directions:** Bahia Honda is located 12 miles south of Marathon on U.S. 1 in the Florida Keys.

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## OLD TIME DANCE

### O'Leno State Park

**Date:** Sunday, April 13, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Description:** Learn the steps to Circles, Squares and Contra dances that were all a 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.

## SPRING GARDENING WORKSHOP

### Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

**Date:** Wednesday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Description:** The park's gardening supervisor Marion Knudsen's spring gardening workshop explains how you can use low-maintenance native plants and xeriscaping to conserve water resources and enjoy carefree Florida gardening. Reservations required.

**Fees:** Regular park admission.

**Contact:** For reservations, call (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.

## THE WILD SIDE OF FLORIDA

### Silver River State Park

**Date:** Thursday, April 17, Open House 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

**Program** 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Description:** Still Photography and Videography in the Wilds of Florida. Join us for a Museum Open House and Evening Program on photography in the Wilds of Florida. Mark Emery is our guest speaker and has worked as a filmmaker and photographer around the world. Mr. Emery is an award-winning local filmmaker, musician and photographer who regularly works for National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, PBS and the BBC. He will showcase a recent short film on the Wild Florida and discuss aspects of our state that many never see. Reservations required.

**Fees:** No charge.

**Contact:** [deborah.wilson@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:deborah.wilson@dep.state.fl.us), (352) 236-5401.

**Directions:** Silver River State Park is located east of Ocala, one mile south of State Road 40 on State Road 35. **From I-75**, take exit 352 onto State Road 40 east, about nine miles to State Road 35. **From I-95**, take exit 268 to Route 40 west, about 60 miles to State Road 35.

## EVENING CRUISE & DINNER

### Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

**Description:** Enjoy an evening cruise on the scenic Wakulla River followed by a tasty dinner in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. It's something special – No fooling.

**Fees:** \$28.00 per person. Reservations required.

**Contact:** (850) 224-5950.

**Directions:** **From I-10 eastbound**, take exit 196. Take State Road 263 (Capitol Circle) south 12 miles. Turn right

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(south) onto U.S. 319/State Road 61 (Crawfordville Hwy) for two miles. Bear left onto State Road 61(Wakulla Springs Rd) for six miles. Turn left onto State Road 267 at flashing stop light. Turn right into park entrance. **From westbound I-10**, use exit 203. Take State Road 61 (Thomasville Rd) south. Continue on State Road 61 through Tallahassee for 10 miles. Take U.S. 319/State Road 61 (Crawfordville Hwy) South for two miles. Bear left onto State Road 61(Wakulla Springs Rd) for six miles. Turn left onto State Road 267 at flashing stop light. Turn right into park entrance.

## [SPORTSABILITY EVENT](#)

### [Ochlockonee River State Park](#)

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Description:** Ochlockonee River State Park will be hosting SportsAbility, the premier event of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA). This event is about enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by promoting active living. SportsAbility provides first hand access to resources and demonstrations of activities designed to encourage participation regardless of age or ability level. People who attend SportsAbility learn about the value of recreation and active leisure for everyone, especially people with disabilities. People will discover the latest in equipment, trends and resources. This event provides an opportunity for people to network with individuals with disabilities, resource providers and community organizations.

**Fees:** Park admission and event are free for participants.

**Contact:** (850) 962-2771.

**Directions:** Ochlockonee River State Park is located four miles south of Sopchoppy on U.S. 319.

## [GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP](#)

### [Hillsborough River State Park](#)

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, Check-in 8:30 a.m., cleanup 9:00 a.m. to noon.

**Description:** The Great American Cleanup will be held in conjunction with Earth Day. This event gives community groups the opportunity to show pride and encourages volunteerism by cleaning and beautifying parks, neighborhoods and shorelines. To sign up for the Great American Cleanup or for additional information please log on to Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful. Meet at the Parking Lot #3 river steps next to the Recreation Hall.

**Fees:** Park admission is waived for volunteers.

**Contact:** (813) 987-6771.

**Directions:** Hillsborough River State Park is located nine miles north of Tampa and six miles south of Zephyrhills on U.S. Highway 301. **From I-75 southbound** from Ocala, take the State Road 54 (exit #279) east to Highway 301. Travel south for six miles. 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 nine miles. The park will be the left. **From I-4 westbound**, take exit 10. Go north on County Road 579 to Highway 301. Follow the signs and go north seven miles. The park will be on your left. **From I-4 eastbound**, take exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go north on Highway 301 for 14 miles. The park will be on your left.

## [GUIDED BIRD WALK](#)

### [Fort Mose Historic State Park](#)

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Description:** Join an experienced birder from the Audubon Society of St. Augustine on a guided walk along the boardwalk and grounds at Fort Mose Historic State Park. Enthusiasts will find a variety of herons, egrets, wood storks, hawks and owls. Please bring your binoculars and field guide, if you have one. The event is weather permitting.

**Fees:** This event is \$2.00 per vehicle and \$1.00 for individuals who walk in or for bicyclists.

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**Contact:** (904) 823-2232.

**Directions:** **From downtown St. Augustine**, drive north on A1A. At the carousel (you read it correctly), continue straight north on San Marco. (A1A turns right towards Vilano Beach. Don't go that way.) San Marco merges with Highway 1. Shortly after the merge, look for a bronze statue on the right and a sign for Fort Mose. Turn right on Saratoga. Saratoga dead ends into Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot. **OR From Highway 1 in St. Augustine**, drive north past Highway 16. Look for a bronze statue on the right and a sign for Fort Mose. Turn right on Saratoga. Saratoga dead ends into Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot. **From Jacksonville:** Drive south on Highway 1. Turn left on Saratoga. (If you pass Highway 16, you've missed Saratoga.) Saratoga dead ends into Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot.

## ISLAND EARTHDAYS 2008 - CELEBRATE WITH FRIENDS

### Honeymoon Island State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.,

Sunday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Description:** Please join us to celebrate Honeymoon and Caladesi Island state parks and the wonderful resources they provide the community and visitors. This year's event will highlight the parks, birds, animals and environment that make the island parks special. There will be great live outdoor entertainment, a morning kayak competition, delicious food and much more for the whole family to enjoy. Highlights of this event will include seafood, fine artists, craft and environmental vendors and a bigger-than-ever environmental display in Osprey Village. There will also be guided walks, talks and information on our new Nature Center. The event takes place at the Honeymoon Island State Park Picnic Area. See the event website at [CelebrateWithFriends.com](http://CelebrateWithFriends.com).

**Fees:** FREE entrance to event with paid park admission, \$5.00 per vehicle - up to 8 people per vehicle.

**Contact:** Call the nature center at (727) 738-2903.

**Directions:** Honeymoon Island State Park is located at the extreme west end of State Road 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 (State Road 580). Take State Road 580 west to State Road 586 fork then left. Follow State Road 586 into park. **From I-75 (south of Tampa):** take I-75 north to I-4. Take I-4 to I-275 north. Take I-275 to Hillsborough Ave west (State Road 580). Take State Road 580 west to State Road 586 fork then left. Follow State Road 586 west into park.

## DELTONA WOOD CARVERS

### De Leon Springs State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Description:** These talented artisans demonstrate their skill in wood-carving using everything from pocket knives to power tools to produce a stunning array of bird and animal carvings, spirit faces, etc. Both in round and bas-relief.

**Fees:** Regular park admission fees apply.

**Contact:** (386) 985-4212.

**Directions:** Take U.S. Highway 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.

## PIONEER DAYS

### Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Description:** The second annual Pioneer Days event will feature an authentic Chuck Wagon. There will be campfire cooking, candle making, food preservation demonstrations, cornshuck doll making, games and storytelling.

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**Fees:** Park entrance fee waived for event participants.

**Contact:** (850) 833-9144

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

## EARTH DAY EVENT

### Highlands Hammock State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Description:** 7:30 a.m. 5K Trail Run – Time Prediction Event. A trophy will be presented to the closest predictor of their actual time. The next 14 participants will receive medals. Bring a T-shirt for the T-shirt exchange table.

Minimum entry donation \$10. All proceeds benefit the park's improvement projects. Make checks payable to the Friends of Highlands Hammock. Mail check and predicted time to Chet Brojek, 3310 Par Road, Sebring, FL, 33872. Questions? Email at [cbrojek@comcast.net](mailto:cbrojek@comcast.net) or (863) 385-4736.

9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.- Exotic removal activity with 'Mr. Weedy.' Join others in restoring native communities at the park. Bring a shovel, gloves, drinking water and sunblock. All ages welcome to participate.

5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m.- Earth Day T-shirt activity. Bring a plain T-shirt or kerchief and let your imagination run wild. A variety of paints, presses and adornments will be available for your use.

7:00- 9:00 p.m.-'Music in the Par' w/Groovus. Come enjoy great Jazz and Rock-n-Roll under the stars with this popular group. Admission \$5.00 per person, accompanied kids age 16 & under admitted free of charge. Bring lawn chairs or blankets, bug spray and a flashlight.

**Fees:** Various for portions of event. Free park admission.

**Contact:** (863) 386-6094.

**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.

## GREAT STRIDES WALK FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

### St. Andrews State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Description:** St. Andrews State Park is hosting the Great Strides Walk For Cystic Fibrosis. This event promotes public awareness as well as helps to raise much needed funds for a possible cure some day.

**Fees:** Entrance fees waived for participants of this event.

**Contact:** Debra L. Walker, (850) 233-5164.

**Directions:** **From Highway 98** turn south onto Highway 3031 (Thomas Drive) and follow it straight to Highway 392. Turn left to enter into the gates of St. Andrews State Park. St. Andrews State Park is located approximately three miles east of Highway 392.

## EARTH DAY

### Koreshan State Historic Site

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Description:** Join the Sierra Club, Calusa Chapter in celebrating Earth Day in the historic settlement along with music, food and many demonstrators and exhibitors.

**Fees:** Park entrance fees apply.

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**Contact:** (239) 992-0311.

**Directions:** I-75 Exit 123 Corkscrew Road, head west two miles, cross U.S. 41 and continue on Corkscrew Road approximately 1,000 yards to entrance of park. If traveling U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail), Koreshan is located at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Corkscrew Road at Estero.

## LEAVE NO TRACE PROGRAM/ AWARENESS WORKSHOP

### Hillsborough River State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.

**Description:** This workshop is designed for educators, children, college students, Girl Scouts, outdoor professionals, Boy Scouts, trail crews, hiking club members and others interested in Leave No Trace skills and ethics. Workshop topics include the underlying ethics and seven principles of Leave No Trace: Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave What You Find, Minimize Campfire Impacts, Respect Wildlife and Be Considerate of Other Visitors. The instructor will be a Leave No Trace Master Educator. Meet at the recreation hall at parking lot # 3.

**Fees:** Workshop is free. Park entrance fee: \$4.00 per vehicle.

**Contact:** Janet Herrick [GirlPlanet@aol.com](mailto:GirlPlanet@aol.com), (904) 388-0866.

**Directions:** Hillsborough River State Park is located nine miles north of Tampa and six miles south of Zephyrhills on U.S. Highway 301. **From I-75 southbound** from Ocala, take the State Road 54 (exit #279) east to Highway 301. Travel south for six miles. 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 nine miles. The park will be the left. **From I-4 westbound**, take exit 10. Go north on County Road 579 to Highway 301. Follow the signs and go north seven miles. The park will be on your left. **From I-4 eastbound**, take exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go north on Highway 301 for 14 miles. The park will be on your left.

## GEOLOGY AND SINKHOLE WALK

### Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.

**Description:** A gentle stroll through time, covering about two miles and 24 million years, with a look at how Florida got its funny shape, a glimpse of the official state rock of Florida, a short explanation of how water gets from the sky to your faucet and an outline of why the rocks under our feet are so important to our lives in Florida. Side comments will deal with any wildflowers we find in bloom, other wildlife past and present and the significance of Alachua Sink in English literature.

The trail is soft and sandy in places, so sturdy shoes are a good idea. Long trousers are advised because we will hike through some brushy areas. Clothes should be appropriate for the weather and comfortable for walking. Bring bug repellent, water and sunscreen. If you want to carry them, field guides and binoculars can be useful.

Start at 9:00 AM from the District 2 parking lot at the North Rim Interpretive Center.

[Click here for a map](#). Reservations required. There is a limit of 10 persons. Suitable for children 10 and older.

**Fees:** \$5.00 suggested donation.

**Contact:** (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 County Road 234. Stay on this road 1.4 miles until it intersects with U.S. 441. Turn left onto U.S. 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

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east on County Road 234. Stay on this road 1.4 miles until it intersects with U.S. 441. Turn left onto U.S. 441 and go about 0.6 miles to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (on the right).

## LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINER COURSE/FRONT COUNTRY PROGRAM

### Hillsborough River State Park

**Date:** Saturday & Sunday, April 19 & 20, 1:00 PM (2 Day Training/Primitive Camping Area/Overnight Program)

**Description:** Meet at the recreation hall at parking lot # 3 at 1:00 pm. There will be a 2-mile backpack into the primitive camping area, at which point classes will be held. Participants need to provide their own camping equipment. This is a course designed for adults, 18 and older, who are outdoor educators, youth leaders, agency employees and others who value the land and want to teach others how to protect it. Graduates will receive a Leave No Trace certificate and become registered as Trainers with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)). This course is hands-on and very much a participatory outing. Prerequisites include proficiency in outdoor living skills and preparation with proper outdoor living equipment and food. Through focused activities, hands-on field experience and both formal and informal discussions, you will be introduced to concepts and methods that will advance your knowledge of Leave No Trace issues, expand your repertoire of low-impact skills and increase your effectiveness in teaching these important skills to others. This is a fun course where all participants have a part in demonstrating the choices that can be made to minimize our impact on the land and our resources.

**Fees:** \$20.00 cost for meals/ Park entrance fee: \$4.00 per vehicle.

**Contact:** Janet Herrick, [GirlPlanet@aol.com](mailto:GirlPlanet@aol.com), (904) 388-0866.

**Directions:** Hillsborough River State Park is located nine miles north of Tampa and six miles south of Zephyrhills on U.S. Highway 301. **From I-75 southbound** from Ocala, take the State Road 54 (exit #279) east to Highway 301. Travel south for six miles. 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 nine miles. The park will be the left. **From I-4 westbound**, take exit 10. Go north on County Road 579 to Highway 301. Follow the signs and go north seven miles. The park will be on your left. **From I-4 eastbound**, take exit 7 (be careful of the merges) and go north on Highway 301 for 14 miles. The park will be on your left.

## 5TH ANNUAL SHARK BITE CHALLENGE

### Honeymoon Island State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. registration, 9:45 a.m. mandatory race meeting, 10:00 a.m. race begins.

**Description:** Formerly the Caladesi Kayak Challenge. The event takes place on the south end of Honeymoon Island State Park. One personal flotation device per paddle is REQUIRED. Online registration coming soon: [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

**Fees:** \$20 per paddler if postmarked by 3/25/08, \$25 per paddler 3/26/08 through race day.

**Contact:** (727) 469-5943.

**Directions:** Honeymoon Island State Park is located at the extreme west end of State Road 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 (State Road 580). Take State Road 580 west to State Road 586 fork then left. Follow State Road 586 into park. **From I-75 (south of Tampa):** take I-75 north to I-4. Take I-4 to I-275 north. Take I-275 to Hillsborough Ave west (State Road 580). Take State Road 580 west to State Road 586 fork then left. Follow State Road 586 west into park.

## BARNACLE UNDER MOONLIGHT - LENNY BATISTA

### The Barnacle Historic State Park

**Date:** Sunday, April 20, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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# Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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**Description:** Bring a picnic, bring your friends and come enjoy a lovely evening under the moonlight at The Barnacle as Lenny Batista serenades with your old favorites. No pets.

**Fees:** \$7.00 - 10 years and older; \$3.00 - ages 6-9.

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

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

## COMMODORE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

### The Barnacle Historic State Park

**Date:** Sunday, April 20, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Description:** Commemorate the 157th birthday of Ralph Munroe, Coconut Grove pioneer and founder of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. A delicious meal will be provided on the grounds of The Barnacle, Commodore Munroe's homestead.

**Fees:** Admission charged and reservation required.

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

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

## TALON ADVENTURE RACE

### Alafia River State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 26

**Description:** 8-12 hour adventure race. The first adventure Race in Tampa is coming back for a 5th year. Challenges will include mountain biking, trail running, paddling, navigation and few surprise challenges.

**Fees:** Please contact [TampaRaces.com](http://TampaRaces.com) for more information.

**Contact:** [www.TampaRaces.com](http://www.TampaRaces.com).

**Directions:** **From the south:** Take I-75 north to exit #240. Turn right (east) onto State Road 674. Keep straight for approximately 15 miles. Turn left (north) at flashing light, onto County Road 39, for approximately five miles. The main park entrance is on the right side. **From the north:** Take I-75 south to exit #246. Turn right (east) onto Big Bend Road. Keep straight on Big Bend Road for approximately one 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.

## STAR PARTY

### Sebastian Inlet State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 8:30 p.m. to ...

**Description:** Join the Indian River Astronomy Society for a [Star Party](#). Telescopes provided or bring your own.

**Fees:** Free.

**Contact:** (321) 984-4582.

**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 seven 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 Indian River. Turn right (south) on State Road A1A and go 18 miles to get to Sebastian Inlet.

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# Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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## BIRD WALK ON PEPPER CREEK TRAIL

### Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**Description:** Novice and experienced birders are invited to take a guided bird walk on Pepper Creek Trail. Meet at 7:45 a.m. 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.

## WALK FOR LIFE

### Highlands Hammock State Park

**Date:** Saturday April 26, 7:00 a.m.

**Description:** Join in the major fund-raising event of the year for the Orange Blossom Pregnancy Care Center. The registration begins at 7:00 a.m., and the walk starts at 8:00 a.m. Pledge forms for donations can be obtained by calling Carolyn Trucano at (863) 453-0307 or online at [www.obpcc.org](http://www.obpcc.org).

**Fees:** Park admission fees are waived for all participants.

**Contact:** (863) 386-6094.

**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.

## EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

### The Barnacle Historic State Park

**Date:** Sunday, April 27, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Description:** Join us for the 2nd annual Earth Day Festival at The Barnacle with music, fun and exhibits.

**Fees:** Free with park admission.

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

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

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# Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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