

Florida State Parks

Monthly Newsletter, May 2008

Special Events May 2008

[Turtle Talk: A
Sea Turtle's
Journey at
Gamble Rogers
Memorial State
Recreation Area
at Flagler Beach,](#)

Fri., May 2,
10 a.m. to 11:30
a.m.

[Forest Capital
Music and Art
Festival at Forest
Capital Museum
State Park,](#)

Sat., May 10.

[Nature
Photography
Workshop at
Savannas
Preserve State
Park,](#) Sat.,
May 17, 1 p.m.

[World War II
Event at Fort
Clinch State
Park,](#) Sat. & Sun,
May 24 & 25,
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 9
a.m. to Noon

Go Outside. Enjoy Nature.

In his book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv defines Nature-deficit Disorder as “the human cost of alienation from nature, among them: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and a higher rate of physical and emotional illnesses.” Louv suggests that interaction with nature is essential to healthy human development.

June is **National Get Outdoors Month** but you don't have to wait until June to enjoy Florida's great outdoors. Go hiking, ride a bike, paddle a canoe, fish, watch birds or read a book under a shade tree. Go to the beach, take a swim at a spring, or cool off lakeside. Just go outside and enjoy Florida's sunshine and warm breeze.



Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

The [Suwannee River Wilderness Trail](#) stretches 170-miles from White Springs to the Gulf of Mexico. Along the famed spring-cooled river, visitors can enjoy paddling, hiking, biking and horseback riding. Take an opportunity to explore the Suwannee's wilderness, its parks, its towns and its historic sites. Sleep under the stars, at a river camp, in a cabin, at a local motel or bed and breakfast.



Four [river camps](#) are located approximately 10 miles from established parks and campgrounds on the river. Each river camp features five screened sleeping platforms with electricity and ceiling fans, restrooms and showers and primitive camping sites for tents. River camps are accessible from the river. Outfitters can work with visitors to deliver gear, coolers and catered food to the river camps.

For more information: (800) 868-9914 or SuwanneeRiver.com.

56th Annual Florida Folk Festival

Join us for the **56th Annual [Florida Folk Festival](#)**, Friday, May 23 through Sunday, May 25 at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs. Since 1953, folk artists have gathered to celebrate Florida's land, people and cultural heritage. The event will feature more than 200 music performances, Florida arts and crafts, a Festival Market Place, delicious foods representing Florida's ethnic cultures, folk art demonstrations, storytelling and living history in the Seminole Family Camp.



Let's Go  Outside



Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

STUDYING THE EVIL WEEVIL - DAVID PICK

Savannas Preserve State Park

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Description: Join David Pick, youth volunteer and scholar, to learn how his studies of this bromeliad pest are taking him to the International Science Fair. Your donation will help David raise the funds necessary to travel to the fair.

Fees: Suggested \$5.00 donation.

Contact: (772) 398-2779.

Directions: The Environmental Education Center is located approximately two miles east of U.S. 1 on Walton Road in Port St. Lucie.

TURTLE TALK: A SEA TURTLE'S JOURNEY

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

Date: Friday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Description: Join a Park Ranger to learn about the life journey of a sea turtle. Sea turtle nesting season begins May 1. Participants will learn how they can enjoy the beach while helping to protect these ancient creatures. Participants will discover the park's role in ensuring the future of sea turtles. Participants will also learn about the different species that frequent Florida beaches, the life cycle of a loggerhead sea turtle and the perils sea turtles face throughout their journey through life.

Fees: Regular Park admission fees apply.

Contact: (386) 517-2086.

Directions: **From I-95:** Exit I-95 at exit 284 (State Road 100). Turn east onto State Road 100 and travel approximately three miles till you reach A1A (and the ocean). At the light, turn right (south) and travel approximately three miles. The ranger station will be on the drive to your right and our day use beach facilities will be on the left. **From Daytona:** Take A1A north to approximately one mile north of the Flagler/Volusia county line (approximately 18 miles). The ranger station will be on the drive to your left and our day use beach facilities will be to your right. **From Ormond Beach:** Take West Granada (40) east, across the Halifax River, to A1A. Turn left (north) on A1A and travel approximately 11 miles (one mile north of the Flagler/Volusia county line). The ranger station will be located on the drive to your left and our day use beach facilities will be to your right. **From Palm Coast:** Take Palm Coast Parkway east across the Intracoastal Waterway (toll bridge) to A1A. Turn left (south) on A1A and travel approximately 11 miles. The park is located on A1A. The ranger station will be on the drive to your right and our day use beach facilities will be to your left. *Avoid the toll:* Take Palm Coast parkway east to Colbert Lane. Turn right (south) on Colbert Lane and travel approximately seven miles to State Road 100. Turn left (east) on State Road 100 and travel approximately 1.5 miles to A1A. Turn right on A1A and travel about three miles. The ranger station will be on the drive to your right and our day use beach facilities will be to your left. **From St. Augustine:** Take A1A south for approximately 32 miles to State Road 100. Continue straight through the light and travel approximately three miles to the park. The ranger station will be located on the drive on your right and our day use beach facilities will be on your left.

ANNUAL TOUR OF GARDENS

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

Date: Friday, May 2, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Description: At 2:00 p.m., Norman Winter, a well known garden writer and television and radio host in Mississippi will speak at the Timberlane Church of Christ. His books will be available for purchase following the lecture.

Saturday, May 3 will start with a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Maclay Gardens State Park along with a plant sale and silent auction. Ticket holders will then proceed to tour the private gardens at their own speed from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Fees: Tickets may be purchased for one of the two days for \$25.00 each or both days of the event for \$40.00 and are available at the Maclay Gardens State Park Ranger Station, Esposito's, Native Nurseries and Tallahassee Nurseries.

Contact: (850) 487-4556.

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

FOREST CAPITAL TRADITIONAL AND FINE ART SHOW

Forest Capital Museum State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3 through Saturday, May 17.

Description: Forest Capital Museum State Park will host a traditional and fine art show as part of the **1st Forest Capital Music and Art Festival**, taking place on May 10. In the museum, showing proudly with our original works of art, will be the exhibit [Inspirations from the Forest](#). This exhibit was produced by the **Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage**, in partnership with the **USDA Forest Service** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**. The 16-panel exhibition illustrates how artists, writers and musicians draw inspiration from the world of nature. "The men and women who work in our forests and rangelands have very special connections to the land," said curator Jim Deutsch of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. "Through this exhibition, we are exploring the ways in which our forests – timberlands, grasslands, mountains and waterways – have inspired artists to create enduring works of art that impress upon us the importance of preserving our natural resources."

The artists featured in the exhibition are:

- Keith Bear, flute maker and storyteller, North Dakota
- Angie Bullets, cradleboard maker, Arizona
- Jim Denney, landscape painter, Oregon
- Terry Evans, photographer, Illinois
- Jack Holcomb, guitar maker, Georgia
- Dorica Jackson, Chilkat weaver, Alaska
- Paula Morin, photographer, Illinois
- Heather Murphy, wildlife painter, Washington state
- Hank Nelson, logger poet, Alaska
- Leona Pooyouma, wicker basket weaver, Arizona

Among the many artists gathering for this event will be our featured artist, Darin Mauldin. His beautiful stained, leaded and etched glass artwork will be center stage in the museum.

Fees: Museum entrance fee is \$1.00

Contact: (850) 584-3227.

Directions: One mile south of Perry on U.S. 19 (South Alternate 27).

RECORD THE RIBBIT!

Savannas Preserve State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 6:00 p.m.

Description: Join us for National Frogwatching Day: a guest biologist first presents a program on our local frogs, then we'll head out into the park at night to see how many species we can identify. Learn why frog populations are declining and why we should be concerned. Music and refreshments to follow (bring an instrument if you have one.)

Fees: Donations accepted.

Contact: (772) 398-2779.

Directions: The Environmental Education Center is located approximately two miles east of U.S. 1 on Walton Road in Port St. Lucie.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

EARLY BOAT TOUR

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.

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

Fees: \$8 Adults, \$6 Children. Reservations suggested.

Contact: (850) 926-0700.

Directions: From east on I-10 to Exit 196. Take State Road 263 (Capitol Circle) south 12 miles. Turn right (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 West 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.

MARCH FOR BABIES WALKAMERICA/MARCH OF DIMES EVENT

Highlands Hammock State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.

Description: Come support the efforts to raise money to fight birth defects. Enjoy a leisurely 2 mile walk around the park's Loop Drive.

Fees: Park admission fees are waived for all participants.

Contact: Erica Lavelly, (863) 385-3198, ELavelly@marchofdimes.com.

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.

THE MIRACLE OF MIGRATION

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m.

Description: This program is geared toward people who are interested in experiencing spring migration in progress at the gardens. Park Ranger Joe Woodbury will explain techniques used to identify spring migrants, their habitat and behavior. A limited number of binoculars will be provided; however, we encourage you to bring your own. The walk will depart from the Visitors Center at 8:30 a.m. Participants are also encouraged to bring drinking water and field guides.

Fees: Regular park entrance fees apply.

Contact: (386) 446-6780.

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

2ND ANNUAL KID'S FISHING CLINIC

Lake Griffin State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Description: A great opportunity for kids ages 4-14 to learn fishing techniques, ethics and conservation to help preserve and maintain our waters for future generations. Participants will receive a free hot dog lunch and rod/reel combination. Pre-registration is required and begins on Friday, April 11. Please share our [Flyer](#) with your friends.

Fees: Entrance fees waived for clinic participants.

Contact: kadie.ogden@dep.state.fl.us, (352) 360-6760.

Directions: Lake Griffin State Park is located two miles north of Leesburg and 30 miles south of Ocala. The park is within an hour of central Florida's major attractions.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

UNION SPECIAL SPRING ENCAMPMENT

Fort Clinch State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Description: Living historians re-create life at Fort Clinch during the War Between the States. Activities may include artillery demonstrations, medical demonstrations and soldier drills. Soldiers and civilians also take up duty in the laundry, infirmary, kitchen, barracks, quartermaster and carpenter shop. Candlelight viewing on Saturday evening.

Fees: Park entrance fee plus \$2.00 per person Fort admission.

Contact: (904) 277-7274.

Directions: Take I-95 to the Fernandina Beach/Callahan exit (Exit 373), and stay to the right. You will then be traveling east on A1A. (This road becomes 8th Street within the town limits of Fernandina.) Stay on A1A for 16 miles until you come to the intersection of 8th Street and Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Atlantic Avenue and go about two miles, Fort Clinch State Park will be on the left.

FIRST SATURDAY COFFEEHOUSE

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Date: Saturday, May 3, 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 will be 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.

FOREST CAPITAL MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

Forest Capital Museum State Park

Date: Saturday, May 10.

Description: Musical performances and display of artwork will be enjoyed throughout the Forest Capital Complex. From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the outdoor stage area there will be ongoing music and performances. Wayne Martin, the 2005 Florida Folk Heritage winner will headline the stage. Folks say, "Wayne's fiddle is so hot you can weld with it!" Mr. Martin is being sponsored in the festival as an accompanying artist with the exhibit [Inspirations from the Forest](#) which was produced by the **Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage**, in partnership with the **USDA Forest Service** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**. This exhibit will be in the art show in the museum from May 3 to May 17. The Taylor County High School marching, drum and jazz bands will perform on stage and create a beautiful day of concert music in the park. TCHS drama class will also be performing. Youth performers, Anna and Luke Kallschmidt with Taylor Chassin will perform folk music in fiddle, banjo and bass guitar. Other school districts are being invited to participate. At the Forest Capital Hall there will be youth (K-12) art work shown with drawings, paintings, ceramics and much more for all to enjoy. School youth groups will be selling food and drinks as project fund raisers. If it rains, all outdoor activities will be moved into Forest Capital Hall.

Fees: Admission to the hall and festival are free. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the day. Admission to the art show in the Forest Capital Museum including entrance to the 1863 Cracker Homestead and the "Inspirations from the Forest" exhibit is \$1.00.

Contact: (850) 584-3227.

Directions: One mile south of Perry on U.S. 19 (South Alternate 27).

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

READING WITH ROCKY PROGRAM

Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Date: Saturday, May 10, 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.

MARZUQ SHRINERS 5K RUN

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

Date: Saturday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Description: Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park will host the Marzuq Shriners 5K run to benefit the Marzuq Shrine Center.

Fees: Park admission fee waived for participants.

Contact: Event coordinator Mike Lampla, (850) 576-9300.

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

OLD TIME DANCE

O'Leno State Park

Date: Sunday, May 11, 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.

MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Date: Sunday, May 11, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Description: Treat Mom to our sumptuous lunch at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. Our Mother's Day Buffet has been a tradition for more than 25 years.

Fees: Call for reservations and prices.

Contact: (850) 926-0700.

Directions: **From east on I-10** to Exit 196. Take State Road 263 (Capitol Circle) south 12 miles. Turn right (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 West 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.

BLUEGRASS IN THE PARK

Silver River State Park

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Date: Friday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.

Description: Come enjoy an evening of live Bluegrass picking and singing. Sweetwater Bluegrass, Backwater Bluegrass and Amanda & Scott Anderson will be providing live entertainment. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ranger Station after April 1. Bring a lawn chair.

Fees: \$10.00 per person; park entry fee waived. Children under 16 are free.

Contact: deborah.wilson@dep.state.fl.us, (352) 236-7148.

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.

[GUIDED BIRD WALK](#)

[Fort Mose Historic State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 17, 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. The event is weather permitting.

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

Contact: (904) 461-2033.

Directions: **From 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 Hwy. 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 the Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot. **OR From Hwy. 1 in St. Augustine,** drive north past Hwy. 16. Look for a bronze statue on the right and a sign for Fort Mose. Turn right on Saratoga. Saratoga dead ends into the Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot. **From Jacksonville:** Drive south on Hwy. 1. Turn left on Saratoga. (If you pass Hwy. 16 you've missed Saratoga.) Saratoga dead ends into the Fort Mose picnic area and parking lot.

[RUN FOR WAKULLA SPRINGS](#)

[Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Description: Wakulla Springs State Park will be the site of a 5K run benefiting The Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, Inc. The event is designed to encourage a heart healthy activity while enjoying Florida's natural resources.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Fees will vary.

Fees: Normal park entrance fee required.

Contact: (850) 561-7286.

Directions: **From east on I-10** to Exit 196. Take State Road 263 (Capitol Circle) south 12 miles. Turn right (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 West 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.

[MACARTHUR UNDER MOONLIGHT](#)

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

Date: Saturday, May 17, 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 Saturday night nearest the full moon featuring a different band every month. Come on out and bring the whole

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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.

[NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP - IRV FRIEDMAN](#)

[Savannas Preserve State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 17, 1:00 p.m.

Description: Nature Photography class with award-winning photographer Irv Friedman. Come get outside and learn from a master photographer what makes a good picture!

Fees: \$10 per person.

Contact: (772) 398-2779.

Directions: The Environmental Education Center is located approximately two miles east of U.S. 1 on Walton Road in Port St. Lucie.

[LAKE LOUISA STATE PARK'S 5TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY](#)

[Lake Louisa State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Description: Most activities and exhibitions take place on the park's beautiful beach at Lake Louisa. This field day is a family oriented and nature friendly event, designed to create awareness about Florida's natural and cultural heritage. A ceremony will be held to re-dedicate our World War II Gilmore monument. Exhibitors from all over Central Florida will provide information, demonstrations and activities concerning environmental issues, outdoor recreation, wildlife, native plants and much more.

Fees: Regular park admission fees apply.

Contact: (352) 394-3969.

Directions: Lake Louisa State Park is located on U.S. 27, seven miles south of State Road 50 in Clermont.

[3RD ANNUAL "TURTLE TROT" 5K RACE](#)

[Lovers Key State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 17, **Registration:** 7:00 a.m., **Race Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Description: Race is open to competitive runners, first time race participants and walkers. For registration, course map, or more information visit www.friendsoflovkey.com

Fees: \$20 pre-registration (received prior to May 10), \$25 week-of/day-of race registration.

Contact: (239) 463-4588.

Directions: Lovers Key is located at 8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. The park boundaries are Big Carlos Pass and New Pass. We are 10.5 miles west of I-75 on exit 116.

[BARNACLE UNDER MOONLIGHT - DEBLOIS](#)

[The Barnacle Historic State Park](#)

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Description: Enjoy a concert on the lawn of The Barnacle Historic State Park. Bring a picnic and blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the moonrise over Biscayne Bay as Deblois plays her brand of music on the grounds of The Barnacle, built in 1891 by Commodore Ralph Munroe. Learn more about Deblois and hear her music at www.debloismusic.com.

No pets.

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

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Contact: (305) 442-6866.

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

[FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL](#)

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

Date: Friday, May 23 through Sunday, May 25, gates open at 8:00 a.m.

Description: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks is pleased to announce the 56th Annual Florida Folk Festival. Since 1953, folk artists have come together for one of the oldest state folk festivals in America. The Florida Folk Festival, Florida's premier heritage event, continues a grand tradition of celebrating Florida's land, people and diverse cultural heritage with more than 200 performances each day by Florida's greatest folk and roots artists—a river of talent.

The Florida Folk Festival has remained one of the Sunshine State's most popular heritage events because of the wide variety of entertainment and activities available at the three-day festival. Performers include national recording artists, award winning songwriters and musicians from the areas of swing, folk, blues, gospel, country, Latin, jazz, bluegrass, Caribbean and zydeco.

Kicking off on Friday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. with opening ceremonies on the banks of the Suwannee River, the Florida Folk Festival celebrates Florida's people and heritage. Performances continue throughout each day and evening with concerts featuring folk, bluegrass, country music artists and evening dancing on the outdoor dance floor under the stars.

Daily features at the Florida Folk Festival include: Florida arts and crafts, a Festival Market Place, delicious foods representing Florida's ethnic cultures, folk arts demonstrations, storytelling and living history in the Seminole Family Camp. The Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park is located on the banks of the beautiful Suwannee River in historic White Springs.

Fees: Fee schedule to be announced.

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

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.

[BIRD WALK ON PEPPER CREEK TRAIL](#)

[Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 24, 8:00 a.m. to 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. 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.

[WORLD WAR II EVENT](#)

[Fort Clinch State Park](#)

Date: Saturday, May 24, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Description: Memorial Day weekend program in honor of men and women who served during WWII. Military displays and memorabilia of the Allies, Axis and Home Front will be featured.

Fees: Park entrance fee plus \$2.00 per person Fort admission.

Contact: (904) 277-7274.

Directions: Take I-95 to the Fernandina Beach/Callahan exit (Exit 373), and stay to the right. You will then be traveling east on A1A. (This road becomes 8th Street within the town limits of Fernandina.) Stay on A1A for 16 miles until you come to the intersection of 8th Street and Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Atlantic Avenue and go about two miles, Fort Clinch State Park will be on the left.

OLD TIME DANCE

The Barnacle Historic State Park

Date: Saturday, May 31, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Description: Kick up your heels to traditional American music 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.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks
