

Florida State Parks

Monthly Newsletter, July 2008

Special Events July 2008

[Evening Dinner
& Cruise at
Edward Ball
Wakulla Springs
State Park](#) near
Tallahassee, Sat.,
July 12, 6 p.m.
dinner, 7:30 p.m.
boat tour

[Family Play Day
at Manatee
Springs State
Park](#) in
Chiefland, Sat.,
July 19, 10 a.m. to
2 p.m.

[Stepping Back
In Time at Lake
Kissimmee State
Park](#), Fri., July 4,
9:30 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.

[Sunset Tram
Tour at Colt
Creek State Park](#)
in Polk County,
Sat., July 5,
8 p.m.

[Children and
Nature Program
at Bill Baggs
Cape Florida
State Park](#) in
Miami, Tues.,
July 15 & Wed.,
July 16, 9 a.m. &
11 a.m.

Parks Celebrate Recreation and Parks Month

Family. Friends. Fun.
Family. Friends. Fun.
Family. Friends. Fun.

Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed July as Recreation and Parks Month.

Florida's state parks will celebrate by kicking-off its children in nature campaign. *Family. Friends. Fun.*, the theme of the campaign, will support a national

initiative to get children back in touch with the natural world. On Sunday, July 13, Florida's state parks will welcome all visitors free of charge.

The children in nature movement began with Richard Louv's book, *The Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*. Louv revealed that children who spend time outdoors are healthier, happier and perform better in school. Studies show that the epidemic of young people between eight and 18 years of age average almost seven hours per day playing inside on computers, video games and watching television. Increased cases of obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder and depression, among other factors, have resulted.

Plan your "Staycation" at a State Park



With rising fuel costs, many Floridians are choosing to vacation closer to home, without depleting their wallets, gas tanks or the environment. Florida's state parks offer many opportunities for renting a cabin, camping under the stars or exploring nature. To find a park within a 100-mile radius of any Florida city and one tank of gas, visit www.floridastateparks.org.

Summertime is perfect camping weather. Cabins are also available in many of Florida's state parks. For camping and cabin reservations, call (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit www.ReserveAmerica.com.

Plant a Tree ... with one click

Odwalla will plant a tree in a state park of your choice. Visit www.parkvisitor.com/odwalla and enter Florida to plant up to five trees. The more who sign on, the more trees Florida's state parks will get. Sign up today.



Let's Go  Outside



Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Events by Region of Florida

- ❖ [Northwest Florida](#)
- ❖ [Northeast and North Central Florida](#)
- ❖ [Central Florida](#)
- ❖ [Southwest Florida](#)
- ❖ [South Florida](#)

Northwest Florida

Cave Flashlight Tours

Florida Caverns State Park

Friday and Saturday nights in July

Florida Caverns State Park is offering several extra family geared activities for park guests during July to celebrate Recreation and Park Month. Beginning July 4th, each Friday and Saturday night, the park will host guided flashlight tours through the cave in the evenings. For more information, call (850) 482-9598.

Ranger Walk

Grayton Beach State Park

Wednesday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Bring a friend and enjoy a nice leisurely-paced walk through the forest led by one of the park rangers. This is a family-oriented, nature-friendly event to learn about the flora and fauna that call the forest home. Participants are encouraged to bring water, insect repellent and appropriate walking/hiking shoes and clothing. The walk will leave from the ranger station and will take approximately 1 hour to 1.5 hours. Park entrance fees apply.

Summer Reading Program

Big Lagoon State Park

Wednesdays, July 9 and 16 at 12:00 p.m.

The whole family is invited to come and enjoy the Summer Reading Program sponsored by The Southwest Branch Library. This will be held at Big Lagoon State Park at the Governors pavilion. Entrance is free. For more information, call (850) 492-1595.

Lake Hall Paddling Cleanup

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Bring the family out for a fun day of paddling to cleanup beautiful Lake Hall. Bring your own kayak, canoe and gear (life jackets and whistles are required). This event is suitable for paddlers of all levels. Trash bags, snacks and drinking water will be provided for participants. Meet at the boat dock in the recreation area. For more information, call (850) 487-4115.

Star Gaze and Meteor Watch

Big Lagoon State Park

Friday, July 11 and Saturday, July 12 at 8:00 p.m.

Weather and skies permitting, Big Lagoon State Park and The Escambia Amateurs Astronomy Association will hold a public star gaze and meteor watch. The public is invited to this family-oriented, nature-friendly event with the entrance fee being waived. This is a first quarter moon and will be great for viewing some deep sky objects as

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well as Jupiter. Star charts will be provided for the month of July. There will be scopes and binoculars for the public. For more information, call (850) 492-1595.

Evening Dinner & Cruise

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Saturday, July 12, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. boat tour

Top off a day of family fun with delicious dinner in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge followed by an evening trip down the Wakulla River. \$29.00 Adult, \$18.00 Children 12 and under. Reservations suggested. For more information, call (850) 926-0700.

Navy Copper Collar 5K Run

St. Andrews State Park

Saturday, July 12, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Central Time

St. Andrews State Park and the Friends of St. Andrews, Inc. are hosting the Navy Copper Collar 5K Run. The mission of the Copper Collar is to promote physical fitness and competition within the civilian and military communities. The 5K run and park admissions are free to participants. Contact Debra L. Walker at (850) 233-5164 for more information.

Wildlife Puppet Show

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

Saturday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m.

The animals of Topsail Hill Preserve State Park are waiting to inform and entertain you. This program is a great opportunity for kids to expand their knowledge of park wildlife. Everyone is invited to join Kyle the Coyote, Gary the Gopher Tortoise and Freddie the Frog (along with supporting cast) who will teach you the importance of their habitat. Park at the Day-Use area on Hwy 30A and take a short walk with park staff to the clubhouse.

For more information, call (850)267-0299.

Leisurely Paced Walk for Kids and Adults

Tarklin Bayou State Park

Sunday, July 13

Come and enjoy a nice walk at Tarkiln Bayou State Park. You can take a walk on the nature trail and enjoy the view; you can see some of the endangered Picture Plants that grow in the wild. Walk to the end of the board walk which ends at Tarkiln Bayou. Ideal for the whole family! Park entrance fee waived. For more information, call (850) 492-1595.

Florida Reptiles Program

Florida Caverns State Park

Sunday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Ranger Billy Bailey will be hosting an interpretive display of Florida Reptiles. All ages welcome to participate. Park entrance fee waived. For more information, call (850) 482-9598.

Community Appreciation Day

Torreya State Park

Sunday, July 13

Torreya State Park celebrates Recreation and Park Month by offering a Community Appreciation Day. Entry fees

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for the day will be waived, excluding tours of the Gregory House and overnight camping. All ages welcome to participate.

Chipola River Tours
Florida Caverns State Park
Fridays, July 18 and 25

Bring a friend and enjoy a Park Ranger lead tour of the Chipola River. A great opportunity for kids and adults. For more information, call (850) 482-9598.

Snakes: One of Nature's Misunderstood Reptiles
Grayton Beach State Park
Thursday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m.

The whole family is invited to attend an interpretive program with Ranger Stephanie Burton and experience some of the snakes that call the Florida Panhandle home. The program will be held at the big beach pavilion. This program is great for kids and adults. Park entrance fees apply.

Early Boat Tour
Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park
Saturday, July 19, 8:00 a.m.

Enjoy early morning sights and sounds as you cruise the scenic Wakulla River. Breakfast available in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge. \$8.00 Adult, \$6.00 Children. Reservations suggested. For more information, call (850) 926-0700.

Family Bike Day
Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
Saturday, July 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Kids and adults are welcome to come out and learn about bike safety and how to develop good riding skills. Participants will learn to thoroughly inspect bicycles for safe and efficient operation, how to perform routine minor repairs and maintenance, appropriate gear and proper fitting and wearing of helmets for maximum protection. Meet at the Maclay Gardens Visitor Center parking lot. Helmets are required. This event is free with paid park entry (\$4.00 per vehicle). For more information, call (850) 487-4115.

Endangered Beach Mouse
Topsail Hill Preserve State Park
Saturday, July 19 at 9:00 a.m.

It's a new moon within the Topsail Dunes and the Beach Mice are scurrying about. Everyone is invited to come and be apart of this Beach Mouse interpretive program and learn about their habitat and behavior. All ages are welcome to this program. Park at the Day-Use area off of Hwy 30A and take a short hike to the clubhouse. For more information, call (850) 267-0299.

Guided Nature Walk
Grayton Beach State Park
Wednesday, July 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Have you ever wondered what plants and animals call the sand dunes and pine flatwoods home? Everyone is invited to participate in a one hour guided nature walk through the dune and pine flatwoods ecosystems. Park Services Specialist Patrick Hartsfield will leave from the large beach picnic pavilion at 9:00 a.m. Please bring water,

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sunscreen and appropriate walking attire. This will be a family fun and nature friendly event. Park entrance fees apply.

Wild World of Spider

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

Saturday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Join in the fun and discover the world of spiders. Learn which spiders in Florida are poisonous, where they live, what they eat and the benefits they bring to us. This indoor slide program is great for all ages. Park at the Day-Use area off Hwy 30A. Take a short walk to the clubhouse. For more information, call (850)267-0299.

Northeast and North Central Florida

Domestic Skills and Craft Program

Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Wednesdays, July 2, 9, 23, 30 at 9:00 a.m.

This participatory program provides a resource person teaching a variety of traditional domestic skills including quilting, rug braiding, basketry, woodworking, and corn shuck crafts. Regular park admission fees apply.

Low Tide Bike Ride

Anastasia State Park

Friday, July 4, 4:00 p.m.

Florida State Parks promotes *Family. Friends. Fun.* with a Low Tide Bike Ride event to promote physical and healthy lifestyles in the outdoors. This event will give our visitors a great cardiovascular workout on one of the most awesome beaches in Florida. We will meet at Island Joe's pavilion. Bring at least one pint of water, a bike and a healthy snack. This ranger-led event will start with a 3.5 mile low tide bike ride, a short rest and then start the return trip. Riders should be prepared for weather conditions on the beach which could be influenced by temperature, wind and sand. Regular park entrance fees apply. For more information, call (904) 461-2033.

First Saturday Coffeehouse

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Saturday, July 5, 7:00 p.m.

Songs, stories, music or poetry may be performed at this open stage night held in the park auditorium. Coffee and desserts available for sale. This event is free. For more information, call (386) 397-4331.

Florida Sea Turtles

Little Talbot Island State Park

Sunday, July 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger and learn about the lifecycle of the sea turtle and the importance of these creatures. The program will take place at pavilion six on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission. For more information, call (904) 251-2320.

Guided Canoe/Kayak Trips

Rainbow Springs State Park

Wednesday, July 9 10:00 a.m.

Bring a friend and enjoy the beautiful Rainbow River. Meet a park ranger at the canoe dock at the headsprings or

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day use section of the park. The trip is about one mile downriver and back. Round trip takes about 2.5 hours. A \$25.00 deposit with driver's license is required for rental. Rentals are \$10.00 per hour. RSVP is necessary. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, call (352) 465-8555.

Triangle Weaving Workshop

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Saturday, July 12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Workshop participants will learn the techniques of weaving and keep the frame required to learn this project. Upon registration, participants will receive a handout, describing materials to bring and what to expect of the process. This workshop will be taught by Alice Cappa. Cost of the workshop will be \$60.00, which includes park admission, plus the cost of materials, which will be approximately \$20.00. For more information, call (386) 397-1920.

Low Tide Bike Ride

Anastasia State Park

Saturday, July 12, 10:30 a.m.

Florida State Parks promote *Family. Friends. Fun.* with a "Low Tide Bike Ride" event to promote physical and healthy lifestyles in the outdoors. This event will give our visitors a great cardiovascular workout on one of the most awesome beaches in Florida. We will meet at Island Joe's pavilion. Bring at least one pint of water, a bike and a healthy snack. This ranger-led event will start with a 3.5 mile low tide bike ride, a short rest and then start the return trip. Riders should be prepared for weather conditions on the beach which could be influenced by temperature, wind and sand. Regular park entrance fees apply. For more information, call (904) 461-2033.

Shark Teeth

Little Talbot Island State Park

Saturday, July 12 at 11:00 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a discussion on the different types of shark teeth that can be found on the area's beaches. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island Cultural State Park. No reservations are necessary and the program is free. For more information, call (904) 251-2320.

Music on the Grounds

Rainbow Springs State Park

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 p.m. (sunset).

Open mike and coffee house at 8:30 p.m. Bring a chair, a mug, a musical instrument, some poetry or your love of music for an evening with local talented artists. Hosted by the Friends of Rainbow Springs. Tickets for the event are \$2.00 and include all the coffee you can drink. For more information, call (352) 465-8555.

Parks And Recreation Month – Family Play Day

Manatee Springs State Park

Saturday, July 19, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Manatee Springs State Park is hosting an event called Family Play Day. Come join in on the fun of days remembered when families played together outdoors at games such as 3-Legged Race, Sack Hop Race, Horse Shoes and many more. There will be a competitive race for teams of Adult/Child. Events are set up for ALL visitors to safely participate with little or no assistance required. All activities are free with park admission. For more information, call (352) 493-6072.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Guided Bird Walk

Fort Mose Historical State Park

Sunday, July 20, 8:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

Join an experienced birder from the St. Johns County Audubon Society 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. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, call (904) 461-2033.

Beach Walk

Little Talbot Island State Park

Sunday, July 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a walk on the beach as they explain the importance of undeveloped beach habitat, including many interesting facts about sea creatures and common shells found in the area. The program will take place at pavilion six on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission. No reservations are necessary. For more information, call (904) 251-2320.

Wildlife Week In The Park

Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Monday, July 21 to Saturday, July 26, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, graduation on Saturday.

Summer Fun Camp program for children who will be going into 3rd and 4th grades in the fall. Children will learn about various Florida wildlife and their habitats through activities and crafts. Limited space is available so advance registration is required. \$35.00 per child. For more information, call (352) 628-5343.

Wyland Clean Water Mobil Learning Center

Rainbow Springs State Park

Monday, July 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Step inside and become a Clean Water secret agent and be challenged with fun hands-on activities dealing with the health of our nation's water. Presented by the Marion County Stormwater Division. Admission is free. For more information, call (352) 465-8555.

Wagon Tours

Ravine Gardens State Park

Saturday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.

In celebration of Recreation and Parks Month, Ravine Gardens State Park will be offering family-friendly, kid-oriented wagon tours. Relax as a park ranger guides you around the 1.8 mile loop of woodsy terrain. Sit back and enjoy a ride back through history, back to a time when young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps took on the back breaking task of building the beautiful gardens of the ravine. You'll go back even further to a time when the ravine was forming. Be amazed at how large the native trees grow deep within the confines of this geological marvel and learn to identify some of the native and exotic plants that grow here. Bring your camera and binoculars for observing the flora and fauna. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with the family in the park after the tour. Afterward take a leisurely stroll through the gardens. Explore the sloped trails that follow the contours of the ravine. Listen carefully for the sounds of water seeping from the sides of the ravine mixed with beautiful bird songs. Bring the whole family to join us at Ravine Gardens for a day of family fun and experience a piece of ... the Real Florida. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, call (386) 329-3721.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Creative Writing Workshop

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Saturday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will host a creative writing workshop taught by Jeffry Boatright, with special guest Bob Palmer. The workshop is designed to help the participants create and publish their own book and will lead would-be authors through the fundamentals of starting a book, character development, ways to overcome writer's block and methods of publishing the completed book. The workshop is free with regular park admission. For more information, call (386) 397-1920.

Talbot Critters

Little Talbot Island State Park

Saturday, July 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about the species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island Cultural State Park. No reservations are necessary and the program is free. For more information, call (904) 251-2320.

Sifting for Technology

Crystal River Archeological State Park

Available upon request

This Park Ranger or volunteer led program allows the participants the opportunity to learn the disciplines of archaeology while sifting through soil removed from the dredged boat slip at the park. This is a very controlled program which is designed to recover tools and artifacts from the spoil. It is limited to groups of 24 people or less. This program is periodically offered to park visitors and can be arranged by school groups. To request this program or for more information, call the park at (352) 795-3817.

Central Florida

St. Johns River Cruise

Blue Spring State Park

Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

For a family-oriented, nature-friendly event, take a two-hour narrated nature and ecological cruise on the beautiful and historic St. Johns River. Join the fun, pack a picnic lunch and bring the whole family. Everyone is invited to see this fragile ecosystem first-hand. Bring a desire to explore and learn. A Florida Naturalist is on board each cruise to instruct kids and adults of all ages. Regular park entrance fees apply. Tour boat rates are \$20.00 for adults, \$18.00 for seniors and \$14.00 for children ages three to 12. For more information, visit www.sjrivercruises.com.

Stepping Back in Time with Lake Kissimmee State Park

Lake Kissimmee State Park

Friday, July 4, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Family. Friends. Fun. It's the theme of Recreation and Parks Month. Come out to Lake Kissimmee State Park on July 4th to celebrate our nation's birthday with your family and friends, and plan on having a lot of fun! The park will be offering a hay ride around Buster Island, ending at the trail to our re-created 1876 Cow Camp. Take a leisurely 30-45 minute hayride through several different plant and animal communities, keeping your eyes out for white-tailed deer, turkeys and bald eagles; then walk down the short path to an 1876 Cow Camp and see a Cow Hunter in action! A hat and sunscreen are recommended for the hay ride. Regular park entry fees apply. For more

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information, call (862) 696-1112.

Turtle Talk: A Sea Turtle's Journey

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

Friday, July 4, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a special 4th of July journey into the life of a sea turtle. Sea turtle nesting season began May 1st. 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 their future. 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. Regular park entry fees apply. For more information, call (386) 517-2086.

Sunset Tram Tour - A Ride on the Wild Side

Colt Creek State Park

Saturday, July 5, 8:00 p.m.

Join us as we take a slow tram tour through the back country of the park to get a glimpse of the park's wildlife as the sun begins to set. This tour takes approximately 1.5 hours and is suitable for all ages. Keep in mind that the tram can be a little bumpy and dusty depending on road conditions. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, call (863) 815-6791.

Hurley International Surfing Event

Sebastian Inlet State Park

Wednesday, July 9, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hurley's national tour with professional surfers who will give advice and let kids ride their surfboards. Event is free. Regular park entrance fees apply. For more information, visit www.hurley.com.

Guided Beach Walk

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

Friday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants will take a leisurely stroll down the beach and learn significant features of the habitat, including vegetation and the importance of the wrack line. Participants can explore the beach for shells, shorebirds, crabs and even sea turtles. Participants are encouraged to bring a hat and wear sunscreen. For more information, call (386) 517-2086.

Wagon Tours

Ravine Gardens State Park

Saturday, July 12, 10:00 a.m.

In celebration of Recreation and Parks Month, Ravine Gardens State Park will be offering family-friendly, kid-oriented wagon tours. Relax as a park ranger guides you around the 1.8 mile loop of woodsy terrain. Sit back and enjoy a ride back through history, back to a time when young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps took on the back breaking task of building the beautiful gardens of the ravine. You'll go back even further, to a time when the ravine was forming. Be amazed at how large the native trees grow deep within the confines of this geological

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

marvel and learn to identify some of the native and exotic plants that grow here. Bring your camera and binoculars for observing the flora and fauna. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with the family in the park after the tour. Afterward take a leisurely stroll through the gardens. Explore the sloped trails that follow the contours of the ravine. Listen carefully for the sounds of water seeping from the sides of the ravine mixed with beautiful bird songs. . Bring the whole family to join us at Ravine Gardens for a day of family fun and experience a piece of ... the Real Florida. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, call (386) 329-3721.

Hope Equine Rescue Poker Event

Colt Creek State Park

Saturday, July 19, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Join the Hope Equine Rescue Center for their first Equestrian Poker Ride at Colt Creek State Park to help raise money and awareness of Hope Equine Rescue. Lunch will be provided to participants by Hope Staff. All donations received during this event will go to the Hope Equine Rescue Center to fund their efforts. First riders will depart at 8:00 and last at 10:30. Regular park admission fees apply. For more information, email Julia Marshall at

JMarshall@MGGI.com.

Southwest Florida

Firecracker 5K Race

Highlands Hammock State Park

Friday, July 4, 7:30 a.m.

Pop out of bed and get cracking at the annual Fourth of July Firecracker 5K at Highlands Hammock State Park. Race begins promptly at 7:30 a.m. All entry fees benefit the Avon Park High School Cross Country Program. Race day entry fee just \$15 per person and park admission fee is waived for all participants. For more information, call Chet Brojeck, (863) 385-4736.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Koreshan State Historic Site

Saturday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Pack a picnic lunch, and bring the whole family for a reading of the Declaration of Independence. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. with the reading about 11:00 a.m. The historic settlement will be open for self-guided tours along with the nature trail and canoe rentals. For more information or special assistance, call (239) 992-0311. Park entry fee is waived.

Battlefield Tours

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Saturday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Ranger led tour starts at the park's visitor center and follows portions of the Old Fort King Road that Dade and his command traveled on that fateful day of December 28, 1835. For more information, call (352) 793-4781.

A Day at the Park

Hillsborough River State Park

Saturday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m.

After all the celebrating is done this Fourth of July, why not get back outside and enjoy a leisurely day with friends

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

and family. Start the day with coffee and orange juice while relaxing in the garden. At 10:30 a.m., sign-up for the Saturday Walking Tour of Ybor City. This guided tour begins at the museum and continues out into the surrounding National Historic Landmark District. After the tour, pick-up a gallery guide from the Ranger and enjoy the Ybor City Art Walk. The cost for the walking tour is \$6.00 and admission to the museum is \$3.00.

Beginning Birding

Lovers Key State Park

Wednesday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Explore the prime birding areas of the park and learn to identify the species you see. A limited number of binoculars will be provided.

Black Island Kayak Tour

Lovers Key State Park

Friday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a 2.5 mile kayak tour. Learn the history of Black Island and see some Lovers Key wildlife. For more information, call (239) 463-4588.

Lovers Key Fishing Clinic

Lovers Key State Park

Friday, July 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger to learn a variety of tackle and fresh bait rigs, find out the best places to drop a line, and learn the rules and regulations that pertain to game fishing. For more information, call (239) 463-4588.

Beach Walk and Estuary Tour

Lovers Key State Park

Tuesdays, July 22 and 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Take a leisurely one-mile walk through the estuary and along the beach with a Park Naturalist. Find out what washes ashore on the beach during the night and learn about coastal wildlife. For more information, call (239) 463-4588.

Sea Turtle Presentation

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Wednesdays, July 16 and 30 at 9:30 a.m.

Join a Ranger for our sea turtle presentation and learn interesting facts about an ancient visitor to our shores. Updated information about current nests will be provided. For more information, call (239) 597-6196.

Gopher Tortoise

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Friday, July 11

Bring the whole family to join one of our rangers for a discussion about the Gopher Tortoise. Learn how these hard-shelled natives keep cool in the heat of the day, search for food and even help their neighbors during fires. Find out what makes a tortoise not a turtle, and maybe even check out one of resident tortoise's garden. Be prepared for a short walk. We don't guarantee a sighting, but you never know. For more information, call (239) 597-6196.

Florida Frontier Life

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Saturday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

This family-friendly program highlights demonstrations of building tools, natural dyeing techniques and candle making. For more information, call (352) 793-4781.

Native Plant Walk

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Friday, July 18 at 9:30 a.m.

All ages can learn more about the plants that inhabit a Maritime Hammock. Join a Ranger for a native plant walk along the beach, across the dunes and through cool, shaded hammock areas. Be prepared for a short walk. Space is limited, so call ahead for a reservation. For more information, call (239) 597-6196.

Soldier Talk: Campaigns and Camp Life

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Saturday, July 19 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Program highlights Soldier life during the Second Seminole War and the events leading up to Dade's Battle on December 28, 1835. For more information, call (352) 793-4781.

Castnetting

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Friday, July 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Become a more self-sufficient fisherman by catching your own bait. Learn the basic techniques of castnetting from a ranger. Come get your feet wet. Bring sunscreen and a willingness to participate. All ages are welcome to join in, but space is limited, so call ahead. For more information, call (239) 597-6196.

1830s Trader

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

Saturday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

This program highlights the life of an 1830s trader. For more information, call (352) 793-4781.

South Florida

Old-Fashioned 4th of July Picnic

The Barnacle Historic State Park

Friday, July 4, 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy the 'Fourth' at an old-fashioned picnic on the grounds of this 19th century pioneer homesite. Hosted by The Barnacle Society, this event features lawn games, kite-making, knot-tying demonstrations and more. The house and grounds are decorated in traditional July 4th bunting, as when Commodore Munroe's family lived here. The public is invited to join the staff and volunteers by wearing a period costume. Bring a blanket and a picnic lunch and enjoy the day's celebration. The park will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with our holiday event taking place between 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$5.00 - 12 years and older; \$2.00 - ages 6-12; under 6 are free. For more information, call (305) 442-6866.

Fourth of July National Salute

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Friday, July 4, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

Fort Taylor's Civil War re-enactment unit, Battery B, First U.S. Artillery, will host an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration with a 34-gun National Salute to the United States. This was a standard celebration at fortresses such as Fort Taylor in the 1800s. A cannon shot will be fired every 15 minutes for each state admitted to the Union up until 1861. The event begins with the Raising of the National Colors at 8:00 a.m. inside Fort Taylor. The first cannon salvo begins at 9:00 a.m. and the last shot will be fired at 5:30 p.m. Prior to each shot, the re-enactors will announce the state they are honoring. Fort Taylor flies a 34-star U.S. flag, the same type of flag that was flown over the fortress in 1861. Free with park admission. For more information, call (305) 292-6713.

Snakes Alive

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Fridays, July 4, 11, 18, 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us to learn about Florida's native snakes and meet King, a 27-year-old Florida kingsnake. Meet at the Kimbell Center. This program is free with park admission. For more information, call (561) 745-5551.

Dip-Net Discovery

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Saturdays, July 5 and 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us at beautiful Pine Grove Lake and learn about the secret inhabitants of its waters. After finding these incredible critters, we will take a closer look under the microscopes and discover a whole new world. Meet at Pine Grove Lake by Pine Grove Campground. For more information, call (561) 745-5551.

Junior Tracker

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Saturdays, July 12 and 26 at 10:00 a.m.

What kinds of wildlife live in Jonathan Dickinson State Park? Put on your detective hats and see if you can find evidence of our amazing wildlife and what they need to survive. Meet at the Kimbell Center. This program is free with park admission. For more information, call (561) 745-5551.

Family Fitness Weekend

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13

Join us as we host the annual Family Fitness Weekend, sponsored by Publix Supermarkets. There are racing events in all age categories so it's great for both kids and adults. Weekend events will include a triathlon, duathlon, runs, bike and skating races. The Family Fitness Weekend is organized by Exclusive Sports Marketing. For further information and registration information, please visit www.familyfitnessweekend.com.

Sea Turtle Program

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park

Sunday, July 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Bring your family and friends for a free day at the park. Pack a lunch and get ready to learn about some amazing reptiles of the sea. Join us after the program for an activity that will be fun for all ages! Free park entry and program. For more information, call (772) 468-3985.

Children and Nature Program

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

Tuesday, July 15 & Wednesday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

This summer you have an opportunity to learn why the southeast coast of Florida is such a unique natural setting. As part of Recreation and Parks Month, your neighbors at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park are offering four short guided nature walks through the hammock and toward the wetlands at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 16. The tours will last about an hour, and begin at the Youth Camp near No Name Harbor. Rangers at the entrance station will direct you. Park entry fees will apply, but the tours are free. Please remember to bring sunscreen, insect repellent and drinking water. Be prepared to come away with a new appreciation for the environment you live in. So, pry those kids away from the T.V. set and join the new movement toward children and nature. And, learn more at [Children and Nature.org](http://ChildrenandNature.org). Free with park admission. For more information, call (305) 361-5811.

Butterfly Walk

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Saturday, July 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Join a Park Ranger on a walking tour through one of South Florida's last remaining hardwood hammocks. There will be several species of butterflies to identify and observe. Also, learn which plants attract these winged wonders to your backyard. This program is informative and entertaining for children and adults alike. Free with park admission of \$4.00 per carload. For more information and reservations call the Nature Center at (561) 624-6952.

Walk on the Wet Side

Long Key State Park

Thursday, July 24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Join us on July 24 as we celebrate Parks and Recreation Month with a 'Walk on the Wet Side.' Beginning at 9:00 a.m., the park will have displays set up providing visitors with information on sea turtles and sea beans. At 10:00 a.m., park rangers will conduct a tide pool walk (approximately 1 hour) and offer a one-hour, guided canoe trip in the mangrove lagoon. The Friends of the Islamorada Area State Parks will be on hand cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs for sale along with sodas and water. Following lunch at 2:00 p.m., the park will offer a second guided canoe trip. There is no charge, other than park admission, for these activities. Visitors may register for the canoe trips upon arrival at the park. Free with park admission. For more information, call (305) 664-4815.

Kids and Nature Program

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Saturday, July 26, 11:00 a.m.

Rangers will present programs on snorkeling and scuba and take you on a guided walk through our Nature Area. Rangers will also show you the fun side of history with a talk about Zachary Taylor. And, we'll have onsite, a traveling exhibit about shipwrecks. The snorkeling and nature tours will last about an hour. Regular park admission fees apply, but the tours are free. Remember to bring your sunscreen. Enjoy yourself and learn more about the environment you live in. For more information, call (305) 292-6713.

Birding

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Sunday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Bird lovers can join a Ranger led educational walk identifying many species of birds that make their home in the park. Bring the whole family out for a birding adventure. Visitors should bring binoculars or rent them at the Park's Nature Center. Program is free with park admission of \$4.00 per carload. For more information or to make reservations, call the Nature Center at (561) 624-6952.

Upcoming Events in Florida State Parks

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