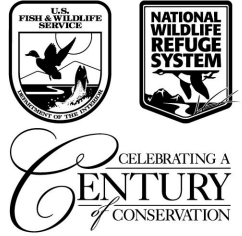


News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



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Saturday October 17 Grand Opening of The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and Everglades Exhibition

**Public is Invited to Free Grand Opening Events Including
Marsh Trail Tours, Canoe Rides and interactive Visitor Center Exhibits**

Sylvia Pelizza, Refuge Manager for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, today announced the October 17th Grand Opening of the Visitors Center and its new \$1-million, state-of-the-art Everglades Exhibition. The unveiling of informative and interactive new exhibits and displays, include the History of the Refuge, Everglades Attitudes, the refuge Management Game, an American alligator “gator hole” diorama and a tribute to Arthur R. Marshall, and the night sounds room.

Starting with a color guard, flag raising and ribbon cutting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, the festive day long Grand Opening events will include:

- The premiere of a memorable new video that will capture the imagination of every visitor.
- Participatory events for the whole family such as Cypress Boardwalk and Marsh Trail tours, canoe rides, static helicopter and Law Enforcement displays, environmental education programs for children, light refreshments and more.

The exciting new Visitors Center exhibits were funded by private donations and governmental grants.

“A wealth of gratitude is expressed to Nancy Marshall, president of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, who championed the fund raising efforts for the exhibits,” said Pelizza. “Without her assistance, we wouldn't have the caliber of exhibits that people can see starting October 17. Nancy's focus and unending desire to teach people about the Refuge and our Everglades Ecosystem enabled her to raise more than a half million dollars for the project”.

“The National Wildlife Refuges are America's promise to its citizens that there will always be places where wildlife and wildlife habitat can survive. The Everglades, known as the 'River of Grass,' is one such treasure,” said **Josette Kaufman**, executive director of the Marshall Foundation.