

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



For Immediate Release
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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Lakeland Youth Fishing Derby Flatlanders Lake

Lakeland, GA... The 19th annual youth fishing derby will be held at Flatlanders Lake in Lakeland, GA on Saturday, June 1st from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Children ages 3-15 are welcome to participate in this fun, family-friendly event. Registration is from 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. and fishing will be from 7:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. An awards ceremony will conclude the event with first, second, and third place trophies awarded for the longest fish and most fish. The event will also include a raffle, activities, and snacks for families attending. “This family-friendly event that provides kids with a great opportunity to get hooked on fishing,” says Jim Page, Fisheries Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. “I encourage parents and guardians alike to bring kids out and let them enjoy some time outdoors while trying to catch a stringer full of fish.”

There is a limited number of rods, bait and stringers available to participants on a first come, first serve basis. Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing gear and bait to be ready to fish. This event is held in conjunction with the Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and hosted with collaborative efforts by the following partners; Friends of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Lakeland-Lanier Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lakeland, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Bring the whole family to join in on the fun at Flatlanders Lake, located off Highway 221 in downtown Lakeland.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to our events for all participants. Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in our events should contact Susan Heisey at (912) 496-7366 ext. 233 or Susan_Heisey@fws.gov. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please contact us for assistance at least five business days before the event.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast