

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: April 16, 2015

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Banks Lake Outdoors Grand Opening Announced

Folkston, GA.....The Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge is proud to announce the official Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting of the concession operation, Banks Lake Outdoors, on May 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The Banks Lake Outdoors provides a sales operation with all your fishing needs, souvenirs, snacks/drinks, and even canoe/kayak and small boat rentals. Banks Lake Outdoors is open every day, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The refuge offers a great recreational opportunity for visitors and residents of Lanier County to enjoy the outdoor through fishing, wildlife observation, and boating opportunities.

“We are excited and proud of the Banks Lake Outdoors staff who have jumped right in to get the operation going after being closed for nearly a year” says refuge manager Michael Lusk. Join us on May 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m as we celebrate this new partnership and the valuable visitor services they provide. Banks Lake Outdoors is a partnership between Lanier County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This event will take place at the Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, off Highway 122, 2 miles west of Lakeland. For more information on the Banks Lake Outdoors, please contact 229-569-0147.

The Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge is administrated by the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, headquartered in Folkston, GA. For questions, please contact 912-496-7836.

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The Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (East Entrance) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is the primary entrance managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. Entrance fees are \$5 per vehicle/\$1 per bicycle for a daily pass (good for 7 days). Annual passes are also available. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

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