

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: May 9, 2016

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366, ex 233
Supervisory Refuge Ranger

REEL in some FUN at the 16th Annual Youth Fishing Derby at Flatlanders Lake

Lakeland, GA...The 16th annual youth fishing derby will be held on Saturday, June 4th from 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Flatlanders Lake in Lakeland. Children ages 3-15 are invited to join the festivities of fishing, games, crafts, food, and more! Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and fishing will take place from 7:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded for largest fish by weight and most fish to each age group. This event is hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Banks Lake Outdoors, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Valdosta Bassmasters Club, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Lakeland.

In addition to the derby, children and their families will be able to walk to the exhibitor area (adjacent to Flatlanders Lake) and enjoy educational and fun exhibits including games, crafts, knot tying demonstrations, "grunting" for worms, live animal exhibits, and more! Bring a plain white t-shirt to participate in the fish print craft. Refreshments will be provided by Valdosta Bassmasters along with a raffle with prizes that are donated by event supporters. Raffles will begin at 10:30 a.m. All activities will be in accordance with the National Fishing and Boating Week which is being celebrated June 4th-12th. During this week, the public can enjoy time spent boating and fishing during "Georgia Free Fishing Days" June 4th and June 11th. During the "Georgia Free Fishing Days," Georgia residents 16 years and older, do not need a fishing license. All other fishing regulations apply. For more information about this event, please contact the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center located at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge at 912-496-7836 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

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The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. 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 this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366 ex 233, susan_heisey@fws.gov, TTY 800-877-8339 with your request by close of business May 31, 2016.

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, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.