

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

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to Host Earth Day Celebration

Folkston, GA..... Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge will celebrate Earth Day with a day of family-friendly fun at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area on Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Events begin with a refuge litter pick-up, starting at Prospect United Methodist Church on GA Route 121/23 (Okefenokee Parkway) southwest of Folkston from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., as well as a community clean-up in Folkston. Show your support for protecting the environment by participating in a service project along the Okefenokee Parkway or in the community. Participants are asked to bring their own gloves and water. The litter pick-up is sponsored by Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Okefenokee Wildlife League, and Keep Charlton Beautiful. Contact Gracie Gooch at 912-496-7836 or MeLisa Phillips at 912-496-2553 for more information. Following the cleanup, all participants will be offered free refuge entrance for the day to further enjoy the Earth Day festivities, as well as a hotdog cookout located at the picnic pavilion near the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Earth Day Celebration will continue at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area with family-friendly activities, educational programs and booths, crafts, live music, a bike inspection station, and more! Activities will be on-going and located at the Visitor Center, along Swamp Island Drive, and the Chesser Island Homestead from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring their bicycle and enjoy a day of exploring the refuge.

In addition to these activities, Okefenokee Adventures will be offering a two-hour sunset boat tour into Chesser Prairie beginning at 6:30 p.m. Prices for the sunset boat tour are \$27.50 per adult (age 12 and up) and \$18.00 per child (age 5-11). Contact Okefenokee Adventures at (912) 496-7156 to make reservations.

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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