

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
Phone: (912) 496-7836
Fax: (912) 496-7991
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

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

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

Folkston, GA....Join us as we celebrate the 23rd annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, May 9, 2015. IMBD is the only international education program that highlights and celebrates the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in Latin America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Each year, IMBD explores a different aspect of migratory birds and their conservation, with this year's focus being on the importance of habitat. Join staff and volunteers for FREE fun for families including crafts, hikes, and more to celebrate and learn more about our migratory birds. Activities will be on-going throughout the day and located near the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center located at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area. Scheduled activities will include:

Beginner Birding for Kids & Families, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Interested in learning more about bird watching, and how to make it a fun, family activity? Join a ranger for an introduction to the basics of beginner birding, and learn that it's not hard at all to get started. Meet at the Visitor Center. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register.

Bird Activities and Crafts, On-going from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Create your own pine cone bird feeder, bird hand puppets, and more! Test your wingspan and compare it to birds like the bald eagle, great blue heron, or California Condor! Learn and listen to bird calls. Activities will be on-going throughout the day and will be located near the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center.

Owls of the Okefenokee, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Want to learn more about the owls of the Okefenokee? Learn how to identify them by sight and sound, the general biology of these amazing animals, including where they live, what they eat, how they use their senses and other physical attributes to hunt their prey. Limited space available. Registration required. Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Owl Prowl, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join refuge staff and volunteers for stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an evening in the Okefenokee. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures that live in the swamp. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.

All activities take place inside the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (East Entrance) of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. For more information, please call the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at (912) 496- 7836 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

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