



## Spring 2015 Activities March - April - May

### Scheduled Programs

#### 'Oke' Archery Days

Join a certified instructor to learn the basics of archery. The program is geared towards children ages 5-15, but is also open to adults. Participants will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, and gain improvement in their marksmanship abilities. Registration is required, and parents/guardians must be present with their child for the duration of the program. Limited space available. Contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center.

*Saturday, March 28, 10:00 - 11:30 am*  
*Saturday, April 4, 10:00 - 11:30 am*  
*Saturday, May 2, 10:00 - 11:30 am*

#### Owl Prowl

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

*Saturday, April 4, 5:00 - 7:30 pm*  
*Saturday, April 11, 5:00 - 7:30 pm*  
*Saturday, April 25, 5:30 - 8:00 pm*  
*Saturday, May 9, 5:30 - 8:00 pm*

#### Gator Talk

Without alligators, the Okefenokee Swamp wouldn't be the same. Come and learn some interesting facts about the Swamp's most sought after resident. Meet at the Visitor Center.

*Saturday, March 28,  
2:00 - 2:30 pm*



#### Chesser Island Homestead Demonstrations

Join volunteers at the historic Chesser Island Homestead to learn more about the true "swampers" who once lived there. Participate in a tour through the home, and then watch demonstrations on how to make old time soaps and candles. Sponsored by Okefenokee Wildlife League; handmade soaps and candles will be available for purchase. Meet at the Chesser Island Homestead.

*Saturday, March 28, 11:00 - 2:00 pm*  
*Saturday, April 11, 11:00 - 2:00 pm*  
*Saturday, April 18, 11:00 - 2:00 pm*

#### Beginner Birding Hike

Join refuge birders for a guided birding hike along the Chesser Island Boardwalk. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to attend, especially beginners. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring binoculars and a field guide. The Visitor Center does have a loaner binocular program, but availability will be limited. Other suggested items to bring are snacks and water, as well as a camera. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Chesser Island Boardwalk parking lot.

*Saturday, April 25, 10:00 - 11:00 am*

#### Spring Plants of the Okefenokee

Interested in learning more about the plants found at the refuge during spring time? Come and learn more about the carnivorous plants, orchids, and others that grow in the Okefenokee. Bring a camera and dress for the weather. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center to caravan along the Swamp Island Drive.

*Saturday, May 2, 9:30 - 11:00 am*

Reservations are required for **ALL** programs. **Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register.**

Please dress for the weather. Programs may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather and are subject to staff availability.

**All activities start inside the east entrance of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA, off the Okefenokee Parkway South (GA 121/23). For more information contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836, or visit us online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee) or [www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge](http://www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge).**



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### Refuge Special Events

#### **Earth Day Litter Pickup, Saturday, April 18, 8:00 - 10:00 am**

Come and support the local community and the refuge in honor of Earth Day! Make a difference by participating in the refuge litter pickup. Meet at Highway 121, mile marker 30, at Prospect Church. Participants need to bring gloves and water. After the cleanup, all litter pickup participants will be offered free refuge entrance and a hotdog cookout - located at the picnic pavilion near the Visitor Center. For more information or to participate, contact Gracie Gooch at 912-496-7836.

#### **Earth Day Celebration, Saturday, April 18, 10:00 - 2:00 pm**

Come and celebrate Earth Day by visiting Okefenokee NWR! Participate in family friendly activities, programs, and crafts. Explore the Swamp Island Drive to learn more about the refuge and experience the Okefenokee Swamp. Activities will be on-going and located at the Visitor Center, along Swamp Island Drive, and the Chesser Island Homestead. Boat tours and rentals will be available with Okefenokee Adventures. For more information or to inquire about celebration details, contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836.

#### **International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 9**

##### ***Beginner Birding for Kids & Families, 10:00-11:30 am***

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. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center.

##### ***Bird Activities and Crafts, On-going from 10:00-2:00 pm***

Stop by the Visitor Center to create make-and-take bird crafts. Create your own bird anti-collision ornament, pine cone bird feeder, bird hand puppets, and more! Join a ranger to test your wingspan and compare it to birds like the bald eagle, great blue heron, or California Condor! Learn and listen to bird calls. Touch table and games will be on-going, along with storytelling, and more! Activities are located in the Visitor Center.

#### **Owls of the Okefenokee, 1:00-2:00 pm**

Want to learn more about the owls of the Okefenokee? Learn how to identify them by sight and sound, then join a ranger to dissect owl pellets! This is a hands-on, "down and dirty" program centered on owls. Learn about the general biology of these amazing animals, including where they live, what they eat, and how they use their senses and other physical attributes to hunt their prey. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center.

#### **Owl Prowl, 5:30-8:00 pm**

Join refuge rangers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of 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.

### Refuge News

#### **Visitor Center/Refuge Spring Hours of Operation**

Beginning March 1 - May 31, the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center will resume daily operation, 9:00 - 4:00 pm. Beginning March 1 - October 31, the refuge will be open 1/2 before sunrise until 7:30 pm; Swamp Island Drive closes at 7:00 pm.

#### **Georgia Free Fishing Day**

##### ***June 7, June 14, September 26, all day***

In accordance with the Georgia DNR, these days are designated as a 'Free Fishing Day'. Georgia residents 16 and over can fish without a license. All other fishing regulations apply.

#### **Interested in reserving group programming?**

Rangers are available most Saturdays, as well as during the week to provide programming options to school groups, scout groups, and other organized groups visiting the refuge!

Programs available for all ages. Trips should be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. Contact the refuge Visitor Center to inquire about program reservations at (912)-496-7836.