

Spring 2016 Interpretive Programs March - April - May

'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 19, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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, March 12, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 26, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 9, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop

Join us for an interactive program with guests from the GA DNR to learn about and construct your own rain barrel! Registration and fee (\$25) is required. Space is limited. Contact the Visitor Center for more information or to register.

Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Photography Workshop with John Reed

Join award winning nature photographer, John Reed, for a workshop on nature and wildlife photography. The workshop will include classroom lessons and field shooting. Participants must bring their own equipment. Registration and fee (\$60 in advance) are required. Space is limited. Contact the Visitor Center for more information or to register.

Saturday, March 12, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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, March 26, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 23, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Conservation Film Series

Join us for FREE and educational, family- friendly films. Each showing will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will showcase different films showing the history of the refuge, alligators, birds, and more. Showings will not last more than one hour.

Reservations are available, but walk-ups will be welcome the day of the showing.

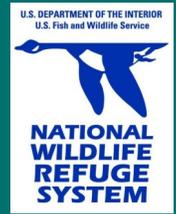
Saturday, March 19, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 16, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 21, 1:00 p.m.



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 main 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 or www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge.



Spring 2016 Special Events March - April - May

Earth Day Litter Pickup

Saturday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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. 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. An event flyer can be found on our website.

International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday, May 14

Beginner Birding for Kids & Families, 10:00 a.m. - 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. Registration required. Limited space available. Contact the Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 to register. Meet at the Visitor Center.

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

Want to learn more about the owls of the Okefenokee? Learn how to identify them by sight and sound and 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, 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

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 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Beginning March 1 - October 31, the refuge will be open 1/2 before sunrise until 7:30 p.m.; Swamp Island Drive closes at 7:00 p.m.

Georgia Free Fishing Day

June 4, June 11, September 24, 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.