

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



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Okefenokee Announces Winner of Nature Photography Contest Winning Photo to be featured on the 2020 Refuge-Specific Annual Pass

Folkston, GA.... Nature photography is unmatched at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) with beautiful landscapes, abundant wildlife, and unique flowering plants. This fall, Okefenokee NWR hosted a photography contest for non-professional photographers, allowing visitors of the refuge to enter up to three photos taken of landscapes and wildlife of the Okefenokee. The judging was conducted by refuge staff and the refuge is excited to announce the winning photo of an American alligator by Hugh Peacock from Americus, GA. “There is not a more iconic species that represents the Okefenokee than an alligator” states Refuge Manager Michael Lusk. “Visitors come to the refuge from around the world to see these prehistoric residents of the Okefenokee – and now they will have a beautiful photo of one featured on the 2020 refuge-specific pass.” Don’t miss out on the opportunity to purchase the refuge-specific pass after January 1, 2020 to be able to visit the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for a full year for only \$15!

Mr. Peacock and his wife visited the refuge in 2012 and have been hooked ever since. “Since 2012, I’ve made many day trips to kayak with my camera, exploring the trails on both sides of the swamp” states Peacock. “No matter the season, the weather or the water levels, I’ve never been disappointed.” Mr. Peacock saw a black bear on his last visit, but he wasn’t able to get a good photo of it, but has decided that is a great excuse to plan a return trip soon! “I am so honored that one of my shots was chosen in this year’s contest” states Mr. Peacock.

To purchase a refuge-specific annual pass for only \$15, visit Okefenokee Adventures at the Main Entrance near Folkston or the Stephen C. Foster State Park near Fargo. For questions or more information about the refuge, call the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee/.

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The Suwannee Canal Recreation Area is the main entrance to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge 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 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