

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

# Information Bulletin



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Okefenokee Announces Winner of Nature Photography Contest Winning Photo to be featured on the 2021 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 we are excited to announce the winning photo of a frog by Stephen Weiss from Atlanta, GA. “This year’s photo contest had over 80 beautiful entries of a variety of wildlife and beautiful landscapes from around the Okefenokee. But we could not imagine anything more fitting that featuring a frog on our 2021 entrance pass since the Okefenokee is the rumored birthplace of Kermit the Frog!” states Refuge Manager Michael Lusk. “Be sure to purchase the refuge-specific pass after January 1, 2021 to be able to visit the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for a year for only \$15,” says Lusk.

Mr. Weiss and his wife were looking for a way to enjoy the outdoors safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. “I was happy to learn the Okefenokee Swamp Park was still open during COVID and had excellent precautions in place to make visiting safe,” states Weiss. “My wife, Phyllis, and I went on the boat tour and were excited to see gators, turtles and frogs,” he recalled. The wildlife cooperated enough for Weiss to capture a great photo to be featured on our 2021 Annual Pass. “This frog posed for us and seemed like he was the king of the swamp, surveying his realm,” states Weiss.

And if you are interested in photography, don’t miss out on the Fall Nature Photography Workshop with John Reed, Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This full day workshop provides classroom and hands on learning opportunities for participants of all skill levels. Registration must be done in advance; cost of the workshop is \$60/person. Please email [Okefenokee@fws.gov](mailto:Okefenokee@fws.gov) for more information or to sign up.

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. Questions? Call the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 or visit [www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee/](http://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 7 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 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](http://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](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge](https://www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge) or [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](https://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast)*