

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

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**

Date: June 15, 2015

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

## **Okefenokee Schedules Closure of Chesser Island Boardwalk for Tower Repairs**

Folkston, GA....The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has planned for necessary maintenance repairs to be conducted on one of the popular visitor facilities located at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, 11 miles southwest of Folkston. The Owl's Roost Tower, located at the terminus of the Chesser Island Boardwalk, is in need of repairs which will require for a complete closure of the Chesser Island Boardwalk for the duration of the project. The repairs will include the installation of new cross beams, the replacement of the stairs, and a fresh coat of paint for the tower. This project is scheduled to begin on July 6, 2015 and is scheduled to last through September 30, 2015. All other refuge facilities will maintain a regular schedule during the boardwalk closure, including the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center, the Swamp Island Drive, and Okefenokee Adventures. The Suwannee Canal Recreation Area remains open daily from ½ hour before sunrise to 7:30 p.m., with the Swamp Island Drive and boating trails open until 6:00 p.m.

The refuge scheduled this project in consideration for the visiting public, in an attempt to impact the least number of visitors possible. If you have a scheduled visit during this time period, you may call the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at 912-496-7836, Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. to inquire about areas open to the public and visitor opportunities.

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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](http://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](mailto: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](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)*