

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366 ex. 233

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Summer Hours for Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Folkston, GA... Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge announces that the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center will begin operating under the summer hours. The visitor center, located inside the east entrance of the refuge, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday from July 1 –August 31 and will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. Throughout the summer, visitors will still be able to enjoy the refuge from ½ hour before sunrise to 7:30 p.m. each day. The Longleaf Pine, Canal Diggers, Cane Pole, and Homestead Trails are currently open for hiking. The Swamp Island Drive is open for driving or biking and several boating and canoe trails are open as well. This spring and early summer has been a banner year for fishing, with a rainy spring replenishing the swamp after years of drought conditions.

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 403,119 acres in southeast Georgia. The majority of the refuge is a National Wilderness Area, part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness is defined as “an area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Wilderness areas are special and unique places to come and experience solitude and outdoor recreation.

The 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. 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/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. 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. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.

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