U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge 2700 Suwannee Canal Road Folkston, GA 31537 Phone: (912) 496-7836

Fax: (912) 496-7836 Fax: (912) 496-7991

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee

Information Bulletin





For Immediate ReleaseContact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366, ex 233
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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Okefenokee Partners Announce Launch of New Website

Folkston, GA.....The vast Okefenokee Swamp covers over 438,000 acres in the southeastern corner of the state of Georgia and visitors flock from all over the country (and the world) for an opportunity to explore these iconic lands and waterways. The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with the Okefenokee Swamp Park and Stephen C. Foster State Park, is proud to announce the launch of a new website, VisitTheSwamp.com, that will help the public to plan their next visit to the Okefenokee. "Collaborating in our marketing approach makes all of us more successful in the services we provide to our visitors across the entire Okefenokee region" stated Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Manager Michael Lusk.

The new website, <u>VisitTheSwamp.com</u>, features a search by location and/or activity-type to ensure users are able to successfully navigate to their perfect swamp destination. This collaboration has been years in the making and was partially funded by a Tourism Product Development Grant awarded by the Georgia Department of Economic Development to the town of Folkston, GA. Additional funds for this project were provided by the Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Okefenokee Swamp Park. "We are excited to welcome visitors from around the world to Explore the Okefenokee through each of our Gateway Cities – Fargo, Folkston, and Waycross," said Dr. William Clark, chair of the non-profit Okefenokee Swamp Park Board of Trustees.

We are proud of the efforts by all of the partners and the website designers, Creative Mischief, who made our vision come to life. "It is exciting to see the launch of this website. Now our guests can see all the exciting experiences the Okefenokee Swamp has to offer from one location" says Stephen C. Foster State Park Manager Bryan Gray.

There are three main entrances to the Okefenokee Swamp, each offering a different visitor experience. Whether you have three hours or three days, the Okefenokee Swamp has something for everyone! Go to VisitTheSwamp.com to discover all that the Okefenokee Swamp has to offer for your next outdoor adventure.

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The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is 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/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, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at http://www.youtube.com/usfwssoutheast.