

# Outdoor Times

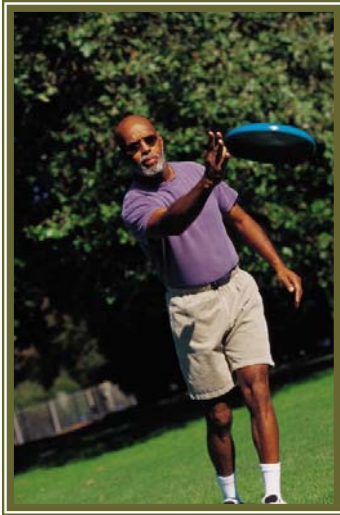


MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
IT STARTS IN PARKS

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## Coehadjoe Disc Golf



The Coehadjoe Disc Golf Course (CDGC) is an 18-hole disc golf course, which presents an exciting challenge to professional and amateur players alike. Being installed at beautifully wooded Coehadjoe Park, the course is designed to offer two completely different experiences: one for the

Pro's and one for amateur players. For the Pro's, the front nine plays 3,451 feet, while the back nine plays 4,730 feet. For the amateurs, the front nine plays 2,264 feet, while the back nine plays 2,694 feet.

As a growing recreational game and sport, a number of amateur, advanced and professional disc golf players reside near Ocala.

"Many thanks are due to the Marion County Parks and Recreation staff for their enthusiastic support of disc golf..." stated Daniel Pfister, President of the Coehadjoe Disc Golf Club. "The work required to grow our sport is both challenging and rewarding, and is reflective of the individuals who play this great game," added Pfister. The Club's future plans are to intro-

duce the CDGC in late 2008, with another course in the Ocala area sometime next year.

The Greenway Disc Golf Course, located at the 64th Avenue Trailhead, hosts handicaps every Saturday at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. The Tuesday league is a full-time 'glow' event in the fall and winter; lights are available through the person in charge. You need three rounds to establish a handicap score in these leagues.

For more information on how to become a member, please contact Daniel Pfister at (352) 229-4339 or via e-mail at [pfconcepts@yahoo.com](mailto:pfconcepts@yahoo.com).

Outdoor Times is a monthly newsletter provided as a public service to park visitors and guests.

Any questions related to this publication may be directed to Gina Peebles, Administrative Manager, in writing at Marion County Parks & Recreation, 111 SE 25 Ave, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at 352-671-8560 or via e-mail at [gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org)

## Ocala Jaycees Donate Money for Plaque

On July 4, 2008 the Ocala Jaycees, through the Ocala Runners Club, donated \$2,800 to the Ocala - Marion County Veterans Memorial Park, after their *God and Country Day 5-k Run* fundraiser.

Thanks to their generosity, a Declaration of Independence plaque will be purchased and installed at the park.

"The Jaycees continue to be a long-time supporter of the park, donating thousands of dollars for improvements.

Jeffrey Askew, Veterans Services Director commends Greg Miller who has been the Race Director for the past five years for his compassion toward the Veterans Park. His kindness will always be remembered.

For more information on the *God and Country Day 5-k Run*, please contact Gregg Miller, Race Director, at (352) 629-9682.



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# Outdoor Times

## S'More Summer Fun at Wrigley Fields



August 6<sup>th</sup> with a “Last Day Cook-out Party” planned for Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sign-up early for “S’more Summer Fun” as program participation is

limited.

New participants must complete a Registration and Child Emergency Form, which are available at current program sites.

For more information, or to register, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at (352) 671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Ocala.

Due to popular demand, the Summer Recreation Program at Wrigley Fields will be extended for two more weeks. The program times are Monday - Thursday, July 28—August 7, from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The registration fee is \$10 per child.

Activities will include sports games, arts & craft activities and special theme days. Breakfast and lunch will be provided until Au-

### SUMMER RECREATION TESTIMONIALS

“We are extremely impressed with the summer program...each and everyone seem to be happy...I am sorry we did not take advantage of this program last year.”

- A. Kimmins

“This program was awesome. It gave me a piece of mind...and the price...you can’t beat it.”

- L. Campbell

“We thank the County [Commission] for this!”

- W. Paxton

“This program is a blessing for parents who can’t afford the crazy prices of these other programs out here.”

- T. Glover

“[The program] helps teach important fundamentals of life. Thank you for having this program.”

- A. Bacon

## Wrigley Fields Celebrates Inaugural Year

Celebrate the one-year anniversary of Wrigley Fields with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council on August 13 at 3 p.m. An ice-cream social will be held at the park to commemorate its successful first year.

During the event, *Oak-ala*, a painted horse purchased in honor of Misdee Wrigley-Miller’s generous donation



of Wrigley Fields will be unveiled. The Board purchased *Oak-ala*, formerly located at the Headquarters

Library, from the Marion Cultural Alliance.

Additionally, a memorial plaque donated by the North Central Park Organization will be unveiled.

The plaque commemorates the partnership between the Commission and Misdee Wrigley-Miller in making the park a reality.

Children’s activities will be offered under the picnic pavilions near the playground. Shuffleboard, volleyball and horseshoes will also be available to interested participants.

## A Great Public / Private Partnership

By Harvey Vandeven as submitted as a Special to the *Star Banner*



On behalf of the Rotary Sportsplex Board, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Marion County Board of County Commissioners for all they have done for Marion County's youth. The Board has admirably exhibited the way government should work.

In 1997, the Office of Greenways and Trails entered into a 50 year sub-lease agreement with the County to offer active recreation facilities. Subsequently, the County partnered with the Rotary Sportsplex of Marion County to build the infrastructure to accommodate the various leagues utilizing

the facilities. Not quite two years ago, the County took over the maintenance and operational support of the 80 acre Rotary Sportsplex, while the Sportsplex Board continues to schedule fields and focus efforts on capital improvements and fundraising. The partnership formed has been a win-win for our youth and for Marion County's taxpayers with more than \$3 million in capital improvements and in-kind services made to the facility by many organizations to date, and cash contributions by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

The Rotary Sportsplex attracts thousands of participants and spectators to its tournaments and park facili-

ties and is a treasure to our community. The Parks Department's Operations staff has helped improve our looks including converting a Babe Ruth field to accommodate the Collegiate Summer League team, which is drawing hundreds of spectators to the Sportsplex during each game. The Sportsplex also hosted two State Tournaments, bringing over 1,000 of Florida's top players and their families to Marion County. Teams from the panhandle to Miami attend these tournaments. These spectators eat at our restaurants and stay in our hotels adding to the economic vitality of our greater Marion County community. We are constantly told what a great facility we have. Because of the quality facilities offered at the park, we have hosted the State Rookie Qualifier (40+ teams) for four years in a row and State Championships as well, which gives many of our players who may not have been able to experience the excitement at other locations. It is with the help of our volunteers and Marion County that the

regular season and these all-star events are so successful.

In a letter to the Commission earlier this year, Dean Blowers, Treasurer stated that, "last year Marion County took over the field maintenance at our baseball park. The results have been fantastic. The grass is green, the fields manicured and many other improvements have been made to enhance the overall experience of our players and our teams. For this we are truly grateful...As a non-profit organization, we are committed to bettering our park. With the help of the Commission, we have been able to improve while keeping our program costs down for the kids involved. From all the players, parents, coaches and volunteers we thank you for all you do."

The citizens of Marion County should be very impressed with this facility and applaud their Commissioner for giving them something to be proud of...we are.

## Owl-Ween at Carney Island

Celebrate Halloween with our nocturnal friends as we learn about owls and other raptor type birds on Saturday, October 18. A Wildlife Education Program will be presented by the Avian Reconditioning Center. Other program activities will

include a nature walk, an arts & crafts activity, s'more snacks and an owl and other birds of prey book display pre-



sented by the Marion County Public Library.

Participants must pre-register for a program time. The fee is \$4 per adult and \$2 for children six to 18 years old. The fee includes park admission. Program

times are 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 111 SE 25th Ave in Ocala, or call (352) 671-8560 to register or for more information.



# Outdoor Times

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
July 28-August 7	S'more Summer Fun	Wrigley Fields	8 a.m.—3 p.m.
August 1	Summer Reading Program	Carney Island	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
August 1-15	Mobile Recreation	Ralph Russell Park	9 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
August 4-7	Adventure Camp	Horseshoe Lake Park & Retreat	8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
August 13	One Year Anniversary	Wrigley Fields	3 p.m.
September 20	Marion County Springs Festival	Silver River State Park	10 a.m.—4 p.m.
September 21	Free Admission w/Coupon	KP Hole, Horseshoe Lake, Carney Island and Ray Wayside	
October 4	Family Adventure Day	Horseshoe Lake Park & Retreat	10 a.m.—3 p.m.
October 18	Owl-Ween	Carney Island	4 p.m.—7 p.m.
November 22	Family Adventure Day	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.—3 p.m.

## Horseshoe Lake Adventure Camp

A new and exciting outdoor experience for youngsters ages 7-12 years of age will be held at Horseshoe Lake Park and Retreat, located in Orange Springs. Canoeing / kayaking, trail hikes, outdoor living skills, environmental education, nature crafts and much more will be offered.

Campers should bring a non-perishable lunch each day. Fruit juice drinks and

water will be provided at lunch time. Participants should wear old clothes and sneakers as they will be getting down and dirty each day, in addition to a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.

The program will run from August 4-7 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The cost for the program will be \$85 for the week.

Early transportation is available for an additional \$35 per week. Pick up/drop off will be offered at the Parks and Recreation Department at the McPherson Governmental Complex, Wrigley Fields in Citra and Cougar Park in Ft. McCoy.

Register early as participation is limited. To sign up, please contact Cathy Norris or Dan Burleigh at (352) 671-8560.

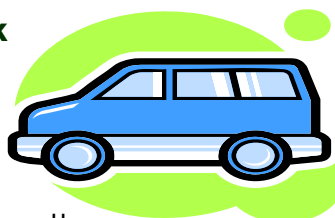
## Mobile Recreation at Ralph Russell Park

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department will offer an outdoor Friday Mobile Recreation Program at Ralph Russell Park (weather permitting) through August 15 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The park is located at 1690 Pine Road in Silver Springs

Shores. Program activities will include a variety of games, sports activities and crafts for children ages 7—12.

A Liability Waiver and Child Emergency Form is required for all participants. Registration is available on-site. For information, please



call the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at (352) 671-8560.