

Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
IT STARTS IN PARKS

Volume 14, Issue 1

December 2008

Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp

There will be two three-day session youth Outdoor Adventure Camps for youngsters 7-12 years of age, scheduled for December 22-24 and 29-31 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The camp program includes canoe/kayaking, fishing, outdoor nature crafts, guided nature walks, and environmental education.



Campers should bring a non-perishable lunch daily. Fruit juice drinks and water will be provided.

Participants should wear old clothes and sneakers.

The weekly fee is \$35 per child which includes transportation to the program from the Marion County Parks and Recreation Office located at the McPherson Governmental Complex in Ocala. Pre-registration is required.

Pre-School Brunch with the Elves



Santa's Elves are very busy, but not too busy to take time for a "pre-school brunch in the park."

Santa's Elves will be visiting Liberty Community Park on Tuesday, December 9th,

Wrigley Fields on Thursday, December 11th and the Baseline Road Trailhead on Tuesday, December 16th. Each program will run from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

Children ages 2 – 5 will decorate cookies, make a craft, play holiday games and eat brunch with the Elves. The program fee is \$10 which includes one parent and one child. Each additional child is \$3.

With the donation of four

canned goods, participants can register for only \$5 for one parent and one child. These canned goods will be donated to the community food drive for the holiday season.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to register, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala, or call (352) 671-8560.

New Park Ranger on Staff

The Department is happy to welcome new Park Ranger, Jason Maurer to our Parks and Recreation family.

With 12 years of park administration, maintenance, resource management and supervisory experience, Ranger Maurer will be re-

sponsible for the Central area parks including KP Hole, Ray Wayside and the Veterans Memorial Park, to name a few.

"Florida Caverns State Park and KP Hole Park have much in common. Both parks see more than 80,000 visi-

tors annually..." stated Maurer. "My wife and I are looking forward to making Marion County our home," added Maurer.

Jason began his new career with the Department on Monday, November 10.

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

Inside this issue:

ANATOMY OF A BURN PLAN	2
FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL	3
"HERO" UNVEILED	3
YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL AT WRIGLEY FIELDS	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
VOLUNTEER COACHES WANTED	4

Outdoor Times

Anatomy of a Burn Plan

In October, we wrote about using prescribed fire as a management tool and some of the reasons we use it to become better stewards of the land in which we have been entrusted. Trying to use other methods to accomplish these goals would not be cost effective and in many cases, simply would not work. Today we are going to look at some of the factors that go into writing a successful burn plan.

A good burn plan should start with listing the landowner of the property, the address or location of the property, including the section/township/range (part of the legal description), a contact phone number of the person responsible for the burn and the number of acres to burn. The previous burn date should also be included to help you keep up with the burn rotations.

A listing of the stand description, over-story type and understory type, along with the fuel description should also be included.

Next the burn objectives should be clearly stated. The purpose of the burn will help determine which firing techniques are used. Some of these techniques may include a Backing fire, Flanking fire, Strip fire, Spot fire or Head fire. Each of these techniques will determine the intensity of the fire and sometimes more than one method will be used to accomplish your objectives. For example if

your objective is hazard removal in a stand of young pines, you may use the Backing or Flank firing technique to keep from getting too much heat on your stand of trees. If your objective is hardwood removal in a stand of mature pines, you might use Strip fires or a combination Spot/Strip firing to accomplish your goal. For complete eradi-



cation of fuels within a burn block, you might use a Head Fire or Ring firing technique.

A listing of personnel and equipment needed should also be included in the plan. When burning lands close to subdivisions or major roadways, extra personnel may be needed to monitor smoke manage-

ment. Possible smoke-sensitive areas should also be listed, along with the precautions you are taking to mitigate the possible smoke problems. Some of these precautions would include things like wind direction, dispersion indexes, (day and night), minimum mixing height, transport wind speed and LVORI (Low Visibility Occurrence

Risk Index).

If your burn is located close to a smoke-sensitive area, you might have to burn with certain wind direction predictions to blow the smoke away from the sensitive areas. Some of these might include things such as hospitals, schools, subdivisions and roadways. The Dispersion Indexes are an indica-

tion of atmospheric stability. A low stable atmosphere will not allow the smoke to rise rapidly and may cause smoke management problems. A high unstable atmosphere will allow the smoke to disperse quickly but may lead to control problems. The range needed to successfully lift the smoke and not present control problems is 30-70 in the daytime and above six at night. The minimum mixing height should be 1500' or above and the transport wind speed around 8-9 mph. The LVORI is an index used to predict the probability of a low visibility occurrence. On a scale of 1-10, a low number would predict great visibility, while a higher number would predict the possibility of visibility problems.

Other things to include should be minimum relative humidity, fine fuel moisture, rate of spread, starting time and flame length. It is also a good idea to notify neighboring landowners, along with cooperating agencies.

These are some of the many factors looked at when writing a burn plan. There are many things to consider in order to mitigate potential smoke problems and still execute a successful prescribed burn. It must start with a plan, "for failing to plan is planning to fail."

Fallen Officer Memorial



The ground breaking ceremony for the Fallen Officer Memorial was held on October 30. More than 100 people gathered to witness the start of the memorial's construction which honors the lives of our fallen officers killed in the line of duty.

The Memorial will be located at the McPherson Governmental Complex, near the military flag display fronting SE 25 Avenue.

Scheduled improvements include a permanent memorial site, seating and contemplative areas and spaces for commemorative bricks. Ethridge Construction agreed to donate the labor and materials.

"The officers and deputies who sacrificed their lives for the safety of our families and community should be memorialized," stated Mike Ethridge, President and Owner of Ethridge Construction. "Putting together the team and the means to get this done is our way of remembering those fallen officers and expressing our appreciation for their service. We are honored to be involved," added Ethridge.

Funding for this project was provided by Ethridge

Construction and memorial brick sales, which are available for \$60, which help to offset the maintenance costs incurred by the memorial. The design for the memorial was supplied by Jim Couillard, Parks Designer.

To purchase a memorial brick, please contact Becky Jayne, Assistant Purchasing Director, at 352-671-8444. The memorial brick order form may also be accessed at www.marioncountyfl.org.

"Hero" Unveiled

"Hero," the Patriotic Horse donated to the Ocala-Marion County Veteran's Memorial Park by Chris Spears, and family, of Prestige Auto Sales, was unveiled on October 31.

"The Park is a tribute to Veterans, and we hope that this horse is a positive enhancement for all to enjoy," stated Spears.

Kim Samson, artist of the original *Old Glory* horse from the Painted Ponies

series was commissioned to paint the artwork for this magnificent depiction of actual Marion County veterans.

The horse is permanently displayed at the Park, located on the corner of Ft. King Street and NE 25th Avenue in Ocala. Labor and materials for the horse's installation was partially donated by Moss & Associates and by brick and bench sales. The design for

the monument was provided by Parks Designer, Jim Couillard.

Chris Spears, Congressman Cliff Stearns, Mayor Randy Ewers, Commissioners Charlie Stone and Stan McClain and General Pat Howard made special remarks. It was Spears'

eldest daughter, Savannah, who named the horse, that stole the show.

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Askew, Veterans Services Director at 352-671-8422.



Youth Flag Football at Wrigley Fields

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department will offer a youth flag football program at Wrigley Fields this winter. The program will provide children, ages 6-12, with a safe environment to learn the basic skills and strategies of the sport. Concepts such as teamwork, fair play and

recreation as a form of fitness will be promoted.

Participants who register by December 6 will receive the discounted rate of only \$15 per player. After December 6, participants will pay the full registration fee of \$25 per player.

Pre-registration is available at the Marion County Parks

& Recreation Department located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala, or by calling (352) 671-8560.

On-site registration will be held at Wrigley Fields on Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. The park is located at 405 E Hwy 316 in Citra.



Outdoor Times

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
December 4	Canoe / Kayak & Coffee	Carney Island	10 a.m.—1 p.m.
December 6	Birding & Nature Walk	Ocklawaha Visitors Ctr	9:30 a.m.
	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.—11 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon—1 p.m.
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.—3 p.m.
	Youth Flag Football Sign Ups	Wrigley Fields	9 a.m.—11 a.m.
December 9	Brunch w/Elves in the Park	Liberty Community Park	10 a.m.—12 noon
December 11	Brunch w/Elves in the Park	Wrigley Fields	10 a.m.—12 noon
December 13	Baseball/Softball Sign Ups	Wrigley Fields	10 a.m.—1 p.m.
December 16	Brunch w/Elves in the Park	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.—12 noon
December 18	Canoe / Kayak & Coffee	Ray Wayside Park (Silver River)	10 a.m.—1 p.m.
December 22 - 24	Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp	Horseshoe Lake	8 a.m.—5 p.m.
December 29 - 31	Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp	Horseshoe Lake	8 a.m.—5 p.m.
January 3	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.—11 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon—1 p.m.
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.—3 p.m.
February 14	Birding & Nature Walk	Sunnyhill (Moss Bluff)	9:30 a.m.
March 7	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.—11 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon—1 p.m.
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.—3 p.m.
March 14	Birding & Nature Walk	Silver Springs Shores Park	9:30 a.m.

Volunteer Coaches Wanted

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department will offer a youth flag football program at Wrigley Fields this winter. Volunteer coaches are needed to teach participants the fundamentals of the game, while promoting teamwork, fair play and recreation as a form of fitness.

Interested persons must successfully complete a background check, physical and drug screen.

For more information, please contact Dan Burleigh, Recreation Specialist at (352) 671-8560 or by e - m a i l a t daniel.burleigh@marioncountyfl.org

