

Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
IT STARTS IN PARKS

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Memorial Day Tribute



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

This past Memorial Day, more than 2,500 participants honored our fallen service men and women at the Ocala - Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. *Echo Taps* could be heard playing every block from the Square to the Park, kicking off the day's festivities.

All 50 State flags and 130 burial American flags adorned the perimeter of the park. The Ocala Police Department's Honor Guard rendered a 21 Gun Salute and presented our National Colors along with the West Port High School's Color Guard, while the Kingdom of the Sun Band performed live musical tributes throughout the ceremony. The 6th Motor Transport Battalion Company "A"

from Orlando laid a Memorial wreath in honor of our fallen comrades.

"The passing of the torch from a World War II veteran to an active Marine was the most moving part of this special ceremony," stated Commissioner Barbara Fitos. "I am honored that my father was in attendance with me for this wonderful tribute."

County Administrator, Major General Pat Howard, US Marine Corps Retired, gave the welcome address and provided a history of Memorial Day and Lt. Colonel, John Meyer, US Air Force Retired, gave the benediction. "A flyover by the Leeward Air Ranch was an exciting part of the program. The pilots did a tremendous job exhibiting the *missing man* formation which is an aerial salute in memory of a fallen pilot," noted Gen. Howard.

Dangerous Parasite in Fresh-Water Lakes & Ponds

Naegleria is a parasite found in freshwater bodies such as ponds and lakes. This parasite causes an infection that develops when it enters the body through the nose, making its way to the brain.

This infection causes a rare and life threatening disease called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM).

Symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck. As the disease moves into the brain, it causes confusion, lack of attention, loss of balance, seizure and hallucinations. This disease can result in death within 3 to 7 days.

To prevent infection, do not swim in standing water such as lakes, ponds, poorly

maintained swimming pools, storm water holding areas or "No Swimming" areas when the water becomes warm. Close your nostrils when your face is underwater and do not dig or stir up the sand and silt. Visit www.myfloridaEH.com for more information or call the Marion County Health Department at 352-622-7744.

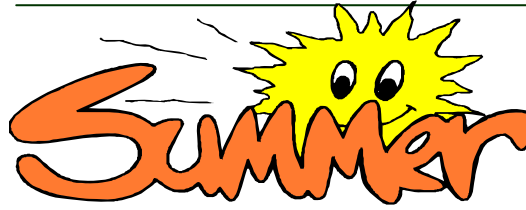
Outdoor Times is a monthly newsletter provided as a public service to park visitors and guests.

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

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Second Annual



Recreation Program

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a six week summer recreation program at five area sites for youth in grades K-8. Program content includes a wide variety of activities such as arts and crafts, sport games, outdoor recreation, special theme events, guest programs and more for the 384 registered participants.

The program started June 16 and runs from Monday

through Thursday each week until July 24.

"I am so excited about the response we have received for the program," stated Recreation Manager, Cathy Norris. "To date, the program has seen a 59 percent increase in participation from last year," added Norris.

The Marion County School Board lent their support by offering Anthony, East

Marion, Ft. McCoy and Greenway Elementary for the six week program. They also agreed to provide breakfast and lunch to all participants.

"The positive response from the community has reinforced my commitment to recreation programs throughout the County," stated Commissioner Jim Payton.

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Lake Weir Youth Sailing Camp Offered

The Ocala Sailing Club, in partnership with the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department and Lake Weir Kiwanis Club, will be offering a Youth Sailing Camp for youngsters, ages 10-16, on Lake Weir. Eleven youngsters partici-

pated in the first session. On-the-water sailing instruction, from beginner to advanced, will be taught. On-shore activities will also be offered to compliment the sailing instruction. Head Instructors are U.S. Sailing and CPR / First Aid certi-

fied. Participants must be able to swim and tread water for one minute and have a Type III USCG approved life jacket. The next program will be offered on July 21 – July 25 from noon - 5 p.m. at the Lake Weir Kiwanis Club, located at

15380 SE 140th Avenue Road in Weirsdale. The cost for the camp is \$130. For more information, or to register, please contact Ken Dalbeck with the Ocala Sailing Club at 352-307-2093 or by e-mail at Ken-dalbeck@embarqmail.com.

Belleview Bulldogs Bring Collegiate Baseball to the Rotary Sportsplex

The Rotary Sportsplex is home to the Belleview Bulldogs, who began their inaugural Florida Collegiate Summer League (FCSL) season on June 5.

The Parks Department's Operations Staff converted a Babe Ruth field to accommodate the team, which is drawing hundreds of spectators to the Sportsplex during each game.

"It is exciting that Marion

County can host the Belleview Bulldogs at the Rotary Sportsplex," stated Commissioner Stan McClain. "These players are really amazing to watch," added McClain.

The Bulldogs players come from colleges across the nation for a two-month season, with hopes of being signed to the major leagues by recruiting scouts.

Spectators can still watch

the action at the Sportsplex on July 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 29 for only \$5 for a bleacher seat or bring your own outfield seating for no charge.

The Rotary Sportsplex is located at 5220 SE Maricamp Road in Ocala.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please go to belleviewbulldogs.com or call 352-245-0341.

Wrigley Fields Invitational

The inaugural Wrigley Fields Invitational was played the opening weekend of June. This round-robin tournament was unique because there were teams representing both Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken leagues. The players ranged in age from nine to twelve years. Large crowds of enthusiastic fans enjoyed the three days of baseball.

The tournament format allowed for a minimum of three games to be played by all competitors. There were two groupings that

consisted of four teams each. Pool play ensured that each team would get to play everyone in their bracket. "There were various compliments pertaining to the fantastic field conditions and cleanliness of the park facilities" stated Park Ranger and Assistant Coach Jeremy Harris.

The following areas were represented and have already expressed interest in returning next year: Belleview, Inverness / Dunnellon, Rotary Sportsplex, Tavares, and Wrigley.

The Wrigley Fields Baseball Association (pictured below) hosted the event.



Jim's Corner: Blue Run Stormwater Management Project



The City of Dunnellon officials plant an oak tree to celebrate the acquisition of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park on June 13.

The City of Dunnellon has partnered with Marion County to acquire a 33-acre parcel of land adjacent to

the Rain- b o w River. T h e property will be used to develop a community park which will include retrofit-

ing an existing parking area and stormwater management system, improving the existing tuber / kayak

exit, and interpretative / educational exhibits.

The existing impervious parking areas will be improved by incorporating Low Impact Design (LID) technology. The existing stormwater management system provides little to no treatment before discharging run-off directly to the Rainbow River.

The project will also involve the construction of a river access boardwalk that will alleviate erosion associated with the tuber / kayak exit.

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board funded \$100,000 at their meeting last month for this project. Marion County will be doing the design in-house.

Commissioner Andy Kesselring noted, "the project will result in water quality benefits to the Rainbow River through the incorporation of LID technology. The project also includes an educational component which will result in heightened public awareness regarding water resource issues throughout the District."

Idle-Speed / No Wake Zones Established

Lake Weir and Lake Kerr are scenic and recreationally active bodies of water with an increasing amount of watercraft, fisherman and swimmers. As the populations increases, the popularity and use of both Lakes

have increased, creating concerns for safety in on the water. During peak times and events, congested areas become hazardous and navigability is limited.

At their May 20 Board

meeting, the Commission created an Idle-Speed / No Wake Zone in designated areas on the Lakes to reduce the risk of personal injury and damage to personal property by restricting vessels and vessel speeds.

"The Board agreed that it was necessary to create these zones to protect the public, personal property and natural areas by restricting the speed and wake of watercraft," stated Commissioner Charlie Stone.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
July 4	God & Country Day—5k Run	Veterans Memorial Park	7:30 a.m.
July 5	Quarterly Memorial Service	Veterans Memorial Park	10 a.m.
July 11	Youth Outdoors: Bike/Disc Golf	Baseline Road Trailhead	8 a.m.—3 p.m.
July 12	Quarterly Memorial Program	Veterans Memorial Park	10 a.m.
July 18	Summer Reading Program	Horseshoe Lake Park & Retreat	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
July 21	Youth Sailing Camp	Lake Weir Kiwanis Club	12 noon—5 p.m.
July 25	Youth Outdoors: Canoe/Kayak	Carney Island	9 a.m.—2 p.m.
July 28	Horseshoe Lake Summer Camp	Horseshoe Lake	8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
August 1	Summer Reading Program	Carney Island	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
August 4	Horseshoe Lake Summer Camp	Horseshoe Lake	8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
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	Horseshoe Lake Park & Retreat	10 a.m.—3 p.m.

July is Recreation and Parks Month

Hendon Appointed to Advisory Council

When Shirley Little announced her intent to move to New Mexico, Commissioner Barbara Fitos knew she needed to find an appointee to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council (PRAC). Florida native and community activist, Marge Hendon, was the perfect choice.

Marge attended Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University, for her undergraduate degree, and Nova Southern, for her master's degree in education. After thirty-two years

of teaching, she retired in 2005.

She and her husband of 35 years, Duane, Executive Director of the Florida Bandmasters' Association, moved to the area in 1989. As an entrepreneur, she started Llama Treks of Florida LLC, putting to use some of her 110 llamas, which she co-owns with her sister Lisa Dreggors.

Marge has two daughters, Laura Perdomo who teaches American History at MTI, and Susan Morden who

is a band director in Flagler County.

Marge enjoys being a member of the Legacy Society at Central Florida Community College, Ocala Camellia Society, African Violet Club of Ocala, Pioneer Garden Club's Morning Glory Circle, and St. Joseph of the Forest Church's choir.

"I am looking forward to being an active member of the PRAC and working with Commissioner Fitos on a number of issues affecting our quality of life," stated Hendon.