



PARKS AND RECREATION

**MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
YOURS TO DISCOVER**

Outdoor Times

**It Starts
in Parks**

Volume 44, Issue 1

June 2011

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

Any questions related to this publication can be directed to Leah Hoffman, Administrative Manager, in writing at Marion County Parks and Recreation, 111 SE 25 Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at 352-671-8560 or via email at leah.hoffman@marioncountyfl.org

HOPE BOAT RAMP at SAM PHILLIPS PARK DEDICATED

Leah Hoffman

In 1944, Sam Phillips donated Hope Boat Ramp to Marion County to provide public access to Lake Weir, Marion County's largest lake.

In partnership with the State of Florida who provided a \$135,611 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant, improvements including floating

docks were installed to allow boaters easy access to their boats when the lake levels fluctuate.

On May 21, a grand reopening ceremony and dedication took place to honor the generous gift of Mr. Phillips to the citizens of Marion County, more than 65 years ago. Eleanor Redding, Mr. Phillips daugh-

ter, was in attendance at the event.

The Hope Boat Ramp is available exclusively to Marion County Park Pass holders. To purchase your pass today, please visit our "Online Services" at www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks/Pr_default.aspx.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Leah Hoffman



America's favorite past time is alive and well in Marion County! Eleven tournaments, including eight All-Star Tournaments, are scheduled at the Rotary Sportsplex this summer.

The Sportsplex is also being considered to host two World Series in 2013 due to the overwhelming support of our community when the facility hosted the 2010 Ten Year Old World Series.

This tournament destination is a model partnership between the Rotary Sportsplex Board (comprised of representatives from Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Big Sun Youth Soccer and local Rotary Clubs) who schedule field

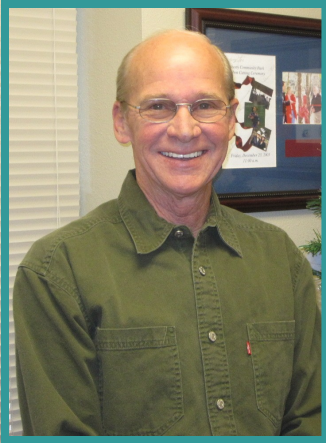
usage and make capital improvements and the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department who provides day-to-day maintenance.

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

League	Tournament	Date(s)
Cal Ripken	County Tournament	May 2 – 13
Cal Ripken	Warm Up Tournament	May 21-22
Cal Ripken	Rookie State Qualifier	June 9-12
Cal Ripken	District Tournament	June 16-19
Babe Ruth	13U, 14U and 15U District Tournament	June 16-19
Cal Ripken	10B and 12B State Tournament	June 23-26
Babe Ruth	15UB State Tournament	June 23-26
Babe Ruth	13U, 14U and 15U State Tournament	July 14-18

PARKS DEPARTMENT ICON RETIRES

Gina Peebles



After 23 years of dedicated service to the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department, Operations Manager Don Hawkins, retired on May 31, 2011.

Don started his career under the umbrella of Facilities Management as a mowing supervisor responsible to maintain the County's seven boat ramps. With the pas-

sage of a \$20 million Penies for Parks bond referendum, he helped to transform the Department into a professional organization, managing 2,015 acres and 41 parks.

Some of Don's most recent accomplishments include the establishment of the Park Ranger Program and the revitalization of Brick City

Adventure Park, the Rotary Sportsplex and the Belleview Sportsplex.

"Don is an icon to the [Parks and Recreation] Department," stated Greg Wiley who was promoted to fill Don's vacancy. "He has a wealth of institutional knowledge that cannot be replaced."

REDDICK "ROCK's" THIS SUMMER

Cathy Norris

It's Recreation Outreach for Community Kids (ROCK) at the Historic Reddick Gymnasium this summer for children in the Reddick area. The ROCK Program provides three different recreation programs, which require pre-registration and completion of emergency contact forms.



SUMMER ROCK DROP-IN PROGRAM will be offered from June 20 - July 29 for 6 -12 year olds. The FREE program will be held Mon-

day through Thursday from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. Games, crafts, special events and field trips will be provided.

ARTS and CRAFTS CAMP will be offered from June 27-30 for 6 -12 year olds. The \$6 / child program will be held Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 11 am. Participants will develop creative skills while working on new projects.

BASKETBALL CAMP will be offered from June 20 - July 29 for 9-15 year olds from 4 to 6 pm. Ages 9-12 will

meet on Mondays and Wednesdays with ages 13-15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This program develops basketball skills through drills and scrimmages. The fee is \$11 / child which includes a t-shirt.

Online registration is available at www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks/Pr_default.aspx and click on the "Online Services" button.

TEACHING KIDS TO FISH

Cathy Norris

Marion County Parks and Recreation Department's popular Fish Camp will again offer two opportunities for 9 - 15 year olds to learn how to fish this summer.

The cost for the program is \$125 / week, which includes all required gear (rod, reel and tackle box) which the participant can keep at the end of camp.



The program, which is limited to 18 participants, will teach bank and boat fishing, boating safety, types of tackle, casting tips, knot tying, fish identification, how to clean and prepare fish, fishing rules and more.

The camp will be offered Monday through Friday from 8 am until 5 pm.

Week One will run from

June 13 - 17 and Week Two will run from August 8 - 12.

To register, visit "Online Services" at www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks/Pr_default.aspx.

For more information on this or any other recreation program, please contact Cathy Norris at 352-671-8562.

POSTER CONTEST - PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Leah Hoffman

Governor Rick Scott recently signed a Proclamation naming July as Parks and Recreation month.

To celebrate, the City of Ocala and Marion County Parks and Recreation Departments are hosting a Poster Contest for 6 - 14 year olds.

Posters, no larger than 36" x 36" should reflect at least one of the eight themes of the "It Starts in Parks" message:

- Achievement,
 - A sense of Community,
 - Conservation of our Natural Treasures,
 - Bestows an Economic Impact,
 - Imparts Good Health,
 - Incorporates Heritage,
 - Respect for Nature,
 - Florida's Future
- Posters can be mailed or hand delivered to the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department or Ocala Recreation and Parks

Department no later than 4 pm on Friday, June 24.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges comprised by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, Ocala Recreation Commission and the Arts Commission. The winners will be recognized at both the Board of County Commissioners and Ocala City Council meeting on July 5. For more information, please call 352-671-8560 or 352-368-5515.

"Achievement,
A sense of Community,
Conservation of our Natural Treasures,
Bestows an Economic Impact,
Imparts Good Health,
Incorporates Heritage,
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Florida's Future... It Starts in Parks."

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
June 4	Kayak Outing (Experienced)	Ocklawaha River (Ray Wayside to Gores)	8:30 am
June 5	Kayak Outing (Experienced)	Silver River (Ray Wayside)	8:30 am
June 7	Kayak Outing	Rainbow River (KP Hole Park)	8:30 am
June 9-12	Rookie State Qualifier	Rotary Sportsplex	
June 11	Kayak 101 (Adult)	Carney Island	9:30 am
	Kayak 101 (ages 10 & up)	Carney Island	12:30 pm
June 13 - 17	Fish Camp (ages 9-15)	Horseshoe Lake	8am - 5pm
June 15	Parks and Recreation Advisory Council	Parks and Recreation Office	3 pm
June 16-19	13U, 14U and 15U District Tournament	Rotary Sportsplex	
June 18	Basic Wild Caving (age 8+)	Brick City Adventure Park	9am
June 20- Aug 5	Firewise Nature Camp (ages 6-12)	Brick City Adventure Park	8 am- 5pm
June 20-July 28	Summer Mini Camp (ages 9-15)	East Marion Elementary	8 am - 2pm
		Greenway Elementary	8 am - 2pm
		Sparr Elementary	8 am - 2pm
June 20 - July 28	Summer "ROCK" Drop-In (ages 6-12)	Reddick Gym	8:30 am-12:30 pm
June 20 - July 28	Basketball Camp (ages 9-12)	Reddick Gym (Mon & Wed)	4 pm - 6pm
	Basketball Camp (ages 13-15)	Reddick Gym (Tues & Thu)	4 pm - 6pm
June 23-26	10B, 12B and 15U B State Tournament	Rotary Sportsplex	
June 25	Kayak Outing (Experienced)	Ocklawaha River (Gores Landing to Eureka)	8:30 am
June 26	Kayak Outing (Experienced)	Juniper Springs Creek	8:30 am
June 27 - 30	Arts and Crafts (ages 6-12)	Reddick Gym	9am - 11am

Pre-registration and payment is required to ensure a spot in each program. Please visit us online at www.marioncountyfl.org/parks and click ONLINE SERVICES or call 352-671-8560 for more information.