

# Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
YOURS TO DISCOVER

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## Get Outdoors Florida!

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Get Outdoors Florida! Is working to reverse the "...unprecedented rise in health problems related to obesity and our nation's trend toward urbanization ...," say Bob Wattendorf, chair of the coalition. The group works to "help shape [our] society which once again considers it to be normal and healthy for children and adults to be recreating outside and enjoying nature."

Gov. Charlie Crist recently signed the Get Outdoors Florida! Resolution and the Children's Bill of Rights. Both documents proclaim a child's right to enjoy nature-based activities, such as swimming in a healthy lake, climbing a tree, catching a fish, or camping out under the stars.

"Spending time outdoors is especially beneficial to our children, allowing them an enjoyable way to get physical exercise, enhance mental and social development and gain an appreciation for Florida's natural areas and diverse wildlife," said Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Bronson.

National research confirms that a lack of time spent outdoors contributes to obesity, poor classroom performance, attention deficit disorder and much more. In contrast, recent studies show that children who spend time outdoors perform better academically, play more creatively, have lower stress levels, develop stronger immune systems and have greater respect for themselves, others and the environment.

- *By 2015, 24 percent of US children will be overweight or obese*
- *Less than one-third of high school students meet the recommended level of physical activity*
- *The electronic generation spends an average of six hours a day watching some kind of media display monitor and only four minutes a day outdoors in unstructured play*
- *Each hour of TV watched by kids per day increases their likelihood of being diagnosed with ADHD by age 7 by 10 percent*
- *Children today can identify over 1,000 corporate logos, but fewer than 10 plants and animals native to their own backyard.*

Friday's events will take place at the City of Ocala's ED Croskey Center, Hampton Aquatic Center, and Saturday's event will be held at Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area.

For more information, please contact Diane Leaf, Ocala Recreation & Parks, at (352) 401-3916.

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, Director, in writing at Marion County Parks and Recreation, 111 SE 25 Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at (352) 671-8560 or via e-mail at [gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org)



Marion County, the Florida Disabled Outdoor Association and the City of Ocala will host the first annual SportsAbility event in central Florida on Friday and Saturday, 10/2 – 10/3 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The free event will educate individuals on the value of rec-

reation and active leisure for everyone – especially people with disabilities. Events will include wheelchair basketball and tennis, adaptive golf, bocce, laser target shooting, an interactive fishing simulator, kayaking, water skiing, pontoon boat rides and much more.

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## Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway

SR 40 and SR 19 were designated in February 2008 as the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway by the Florida Scenic Highways Program. Designation of the Byway was a cooperative effort between Marion, Lake, Putnam and Volusia County governments, state and federal government agencies, business and land owners and local citizens on the corridor.

The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway mission is to enhance, encourage and promote the preservation and protection

*of the outstanding natural, ecological, cultural and historical resources of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway for its residents, inhabitants, visitors and future generations.*

The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway is the 21<sup>st</sup> scenic highway to be designated in the state and extends approximately 60 miles along SR 40 from Silver Springs in Marion County east through the Ocala National Forest to I-95 at the City of Ormond Beach in Volusia County. The designation also includes portions of SR 19 North from Putnam County to South SR 19 in Lake County.

The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity's (CME), a community based volunteer group, plans include incorporation as a 501(c)3 organization, installation of wildlife crossings, construction of informational kiosks and interpretative areas



and has applied for status as a National Scenic Highway. The group's goals include protecting wildlife and people by reducing wildlife/vehicle collisions, improving habitat connectivity; building and maintaining community support; promoting and encouraging sustainable economic development and providing economic opportunities for local and regional residents; while supporting the community plans within the corridor.

The Byway traverses some of Florida's most pristine ecosystems. Included within the corridor are many public lands such as Juniper

Springs Wilderness Area, Silver River State Park, the Cross Florida Greenway, Florida National Scenic Trail and the Tiger Bay State Forest. The route also crosses several waterways, which have received special designations including the St. Johns River, an American

Heritage River and the Ocklawaha River, an Outstanding Florida Water Way and Aquatic Preserve.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the

CME meetings and perhaps become a member. You will be a part of preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing the intrinsic resources of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway while creating and maintaining a safe Scenic Byway for all users.

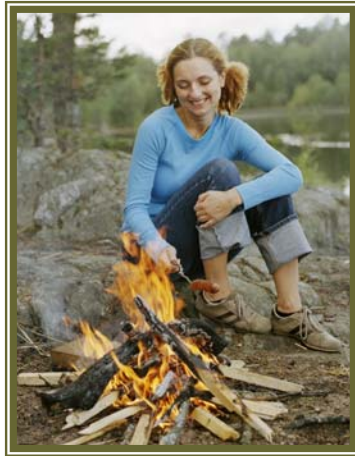
For more information, meeting dates and locations; please visit the Byway website at [www.flbbb.org](http://www.flbbb.org) or contact Greg Wiley, Marion County Parks and Natural Resource Manager at (352) 671-8560 or [greg.wiley@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:greg.wiley@marioncountyfl.org).

## Family Camp-out at Carney Island

An overnight camp-out for families is planned for November 7 - 8 at Carney Island, 13275 SE 115 Avenue in Ocklawaha.

Activities include nature hikes, kayaking, storytelling, nature crafts, a cook-out dinner and breakfast on the grill. Children must be at least eight years old.

The cost is \$30 for a family of two and \$10 for each additional family member



which includes activities, tents, camping equipment, meals and snacks (excluding sleeping bags).

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

## Outing to Lubee Bat Conservancy

Join us for the Fifth Annual Bat Festival on Saturday, October 10 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. This one day educational event will allow participants to meet the gentle giants of the bat world. Lubee Bat Conservancy is

open to the public only one day a year, providing a rare experience to see the animals up close and learn about their critical role to our environment. The trip is for ages 8 and up. The cost is \$15 per person plus a

donation to the Conservancy. Space is limited so register early by contacting the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at (352) 671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

## Owl-Ween



Celebrate Halloween with our nocturnal friends as we learn about owls and other raptor type birds. This wildlife education program will take place at Carney Island, 13275 SE 115 Avenue in Ocklawaha, on Saturday, October 24 at 4 p.m.

The fee is \$5 per adult and \$3 per child (ages 8-17), which does not include the

\$5 per car park fee. Annual park pass holders can enter for free.

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

## Friday Fun Night - Parents Night Out

On Friday evenings from 6 – 9:30 p.m., Brick City Adventure Park, 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala, provides a “Friday Fun Night - Parents Night Out” program where kids ages 6 - 12 can have a safe and entertaining evening so parents can en-

joy up to three hours of free time.

A typical night will include supervised games, crafts, music and other fun activities.

The program dates are: October 2, 16, 30; Novem-

ber 13; December 4 and 18.

The fee is \$5 per child per night with pre-registration required.





# Outdoor Times

## Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
October 2	Friday Fun Night	Brick City Adventure Park	6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
October 3	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.
	Bird & Nature Walk	Marshall Swamp Trailhead	9:30 a.m.
October 7	Pre-School PE	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
October 8	Kayak & Koffee	Rainbow River	10 a.m.
October 10	Outing to Lubee Bat Conservancy	Gainesville	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
October 14	Pre-School PE	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
October 16	Adult Kayak Outing	Silver River	9:30 a.m.
	Friday Fun Night	Brick City Adventure Park	6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
October 21	Pre-School PE	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
October 22	Kayak & Koffee	Silver River	10 a.m.
October 24	Owl-Ween	Carney Island	4 p.m.
October 28	Pre-School PE	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
	HPER	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
October 30	Park Explorers for Tweens/Teens	TBD	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Friday Fun Night	Brick City Adventure Park	6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
October 31	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River ( <i>Waiting List only</i> )	9:30 a.m.
	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 12 noon