

Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
IT STARTS IN PARKS

Volume 18, Issue 1

May 2009

Summer Mini Camp

A Summer Mini Camp will be offered Monday through Thursday, June 15 - July 16. Fun summer activities will include wacky theme days, games, sports, arts & crafts, field trips, special guest presenters and more fun all summer long.

Breakfast and lunch are provided courtesy of the school lunch program

The five-week program will be held at:

Grades K - 5

Bellevue Elementary

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

5556 SE Hwy 484

East Marion Elementary

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

14550 NE 14 Street Road

Reddick-Collier Elementary

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

4595 W Hwy 316

Grades K - 8

Wrigley Fields

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

405 E Hwy 316

The cost is only \$15 per child. Registration begins Friday, May 1 at the Parks and Recreation Department Office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala or you can call us at 352-671-8560.

Special on-site registration is available at:

Bellevue Elementary

2 - 4 p.m.

Mondays, May 4 and 11

East Marion Elementary

2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesdays, May 5 and 12

Reddick-Collier Elementary

2 - 4 p.m.

Thursdays, May 7 and 14

Wrigley Fields

5 - 7 p.m.

Thursdays, May 7 and 14



Tikes on Trikes - Preschool

The Marion Parks and Recreation Department, Marion County Health Department and Marion County Sheriff's Department are pleased to offer a "Tikes on Trikes" tricycle rodeo for 3-5 year olds on Thursday, May 14 at Brick City Adventure Park. Starting at 10 a.m., children with their "big wheels," tricycles and bicycles (with or without training wheels) will master safety skills and participate in a skills and obstacle course. An arts and crafts



for adults are only \$3 per person.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The park is located at 1211 SE 22 Rd in Ocala. For more information, or to pre-register, 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.

activity with pizza lunch is included with the \$5 registration fee. Extra lunches

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, Acting Director, 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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Outdoor Times

Fallen Officer Memorial



Each year, Americans nation-wide honor the memory of our fallen officers on May 15th, designated in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. Marion County's *Fallen Officer Memorial* is a tribute to our 12 local heroes killed in the line of duty.

The site was originally located on the east side of the Judicial Center in downtown Ocala. When construction commenced, Ocala Police Department Major, George Robinson was assigned the task of the relocation of the monument for the 2007 ceremony. Working with County staff, a permanent place of honor located at the McPherson Governmental Complex was found.

The committee, comprised of Sheriff's Department, Ocala Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol staff met with Parks Designer, Jim Couillard to turn their vision into a reality. The design includes a digni-

fied permanent home for the monument, serpentine brick walls, memorial paver bricks, and Florida-Friendly landscaping.

Local businessman, Mike Ethridge of Ethridge Construction, not only donated labor and materials but also coordinated the donation of other trades from dozens of local companies. The estimated cost of the project was over \$80,000.

The memorial service and ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for May 15, 2009 at 10 a.m.

Commemorative paver bricks are available for \$60 each and can be inscribed according to the buyer's wishes. The proceeds from brick sales will be used for the maintenance of the Memorial. To purchase a brick, or to make a monetary donation, please contact Becky Jayne with Marion County Procurement Services at 352-671-8444.

Mirage Kayak Outing a Success

Twenty-three people participated in the *Mirage Kayak Outing* on Saturday, March 28. Together, they learned much of the history of the Silver River, as well as how it relates to the book *Mirage*, this year's One Book, One Community selection. Ellie Falbo, Wa-

tershet Action Volunteers (WAV) Coordinator led the discussion prior to the three-hour round trip paddle.

After the trip, the group met for a brown bag lunch at the Ray Wayside Park pavilion and continued their book review.

"It was a popular event and I am looking forward to partnering with the Library on future One Book, One Community events," stated Recreation Manager Cathy Norris.



Jim's Corner: Invasive Plants are Coming to an Ecosystem Near You

Invasive exotic plants are defined as “an exotic (plant) that not only has naturalized but is expanding on its own in Florida plant communities” while native plants are defined as “a species whose natural range included Florida at the time of European contact (1500 AD).” I believe a lot of people who live in this area are familiar with some of the “basic” native plants commonly found in this region. Live Oak trees, Saw Palmetto, Bald Cypress, Slash Pine, Wiregrass and Beautyberry all come into mind quite easily when visualizing common native trees and plants. But what most people tend to not realize is the effect that invasive exotic plants are having on our native ecosystems.

Take a quick look around town. Most of us already know about the popular invasive exotic plants in our communities: Cogon Grass, Kudzu. And in our rivers and lakes, Hydrilla and Water-hyacinth.

Now, take a look at this list which was compiled from

Common Name	Botanical Name	Category
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	I
Coral Ardisia	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	I
Asparagus Fern	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>	I
Paper Mulberry	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	II
Camphor Tree	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	I
Wild Taro	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	I
Dwarf Papyrus	<i>Cyperus prolifer</i>	II
Air-potato	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	I
Silverthorn	<i>Eleagnus pungens</i>	II
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	I
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	I
Chinese Privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	I
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	II
Nandina; Heavenly Bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	I
Torpedo Grass	<i>Panicum repens</i>	I
Mexican Petunia	<i>Ruellia tweediana</i>	I
Chinese Tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	I
Wedelia	<i>Wedelia trilobata</i>	II
Chinese Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	II
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	I
Water-hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	I
Cogon Grass	<i>Imperata cylindrical</i>	I
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria Montana</i>	I

UF/IFAS and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Did you know?

Nandina, a very commonly used accent plant is a Category I invasive exotic plant, the same category as Cogon Grass.

Mimosa (Silk Mimosa) Tree, not the Sunshine Mimosa

(*Mimosa strigillosa*) native groundcover, Asparagus Fern, Camphor Tree, Chinese Privet, Mexican Petunia, Chinese Wisteria are all classified as Category I invasive exotic. These plant species are readily available at your local big-box nursery, so please consider not buying them. Instead, look for native plants that

are known to be “Florida-friendly.” Your local native plant communities will thank you!

UF/IFAS

www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
www.fleppc.org

Category I: Invasive exotics that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. *This definition does not rely on the economic severity of geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused.*

Category II: Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency by have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. *These species may become ranked Category I if ecological damage is demonstrated.*

Source: FLEPP.org

Adult Kayak Programs Available

Adult paddling trips for beginner and intermediate kayakers will be offered May 7 and 21 through our popular *Kayak & Koffee* program on the Silver and Rainbow Rivers. Most outings are three hours or less. Both morning and afternoon

programs are offered to fit one’s busy schedule. The fee is \$5 per person, which includes a kayak and refreshments. Park admission is not included.

Kayak Clinics are also scheduled at Carney Island on May 11 and 15. Partici-

pants will learn the correct way to hold a paddle, paddle strokes, how to get in and out of a kayak and more. This is a great opportunity to see if kayaking is for you. The fee is \$15 per person for the three hour program which in-

cludes lesson time, paddling time and the park entry fee.

Both programs require pre-registration. For more information, or to register, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
May 2	Birding and Nature Walk	Carney Island	9:30 a.m.
May 6	Home School Physical Ed Prgm	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Arts & Crafts Club	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
May 7	Kayak & Koffee	KP Hole Park	10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
May 9	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.
	Art Van-Go	Liberty Community Park	12 noon
	Art Van-Go	Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.
May 11	Adult Kayak Clinic	Carney Island	10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
May 13	Home School Physical Ed Prgm	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Arts & Crafts Club	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
May 14	Tikes on Trikes	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m.
May 15	Fallen Officer Memorial	McPherson Governmental Complex	10 a.m.
	Adult Kayak Clinic	Carney Island	10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
May 20	Home School Physical Ed Prgm	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Arts & Crafts Club	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
May 21	Kayak & Koffee	Ray Wayside Park	10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
May 27	Home School Physical Ed Prgm	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Arts & Crafts Club	Coehadjoe Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Park Pass Offers Year Round Family Fun

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department sells annual park passes for affordable year round family fun.

Your pass is valid for day use at:

- Carney Island
- Hampton Beach
- Hope Boat Ramp
- Horseshoe Lake Park & Retreat
- Gores Landing

- Moss Bluff North & South

- Ray Wayside Park (Ocala Boat Basin)

Your pass is valid for your vehicle, your boat and up to eight people. For each additional person, there is an extra charge. Passes are transferable between vehicles, but may only be used by one vehicle at a time. Passes must be hung on the rear view mirror of your vehicle or clearly displayed through the vehicle

windshield at all times while utilizing any of the parks.

KP Hole Park offers individual and family passes to Marion County residents, sold exclusively at the park.

To purchase your pass today, please complete and mail the Park Pass Application on-line by visiting us at www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks/docs/parkpassapplication.pdf, complete the application found in the Parks brochure, or call the Department at 352-671-8560.