

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Everglades Day Festival

Come join in the family activities and learn about the Everglades at the Second Annual Everglades Day Festival, Saturday, February 10, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival will be held at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, FL. The entrance is two miles south of Boynton Beach Blvd. off of State Road 441. Parking will be at Monte's Packaging, one-half mile south of the refuge on 441. PalmTran will be providing a free shuttle service to the refuge. The daylong event of free activities includes presentations and exhibits by local organizations and celebrities. John Lopinot, chief photographer of The Palm Beach Post, David Hitzig, director of the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Tim Brown, Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital, and Willie Howard, Palm Beach Post columnist, will give special presentations; Claudine Laabs, noted Everglades photographer, will give a slide presentation. The Eagle Pipe Dancers will perform Native American dances, and there will be live bat, snake, and alligator presentations. Theresa Woody, with the Army Corps of Engineers, will present a lively program on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan or "CERP", and there will be a discussion about Water Quality for the Layman presented by Jennifer Jorge and Randy Bushey from the South Florida Water Management District.

Exhibitors will include the South Florida Water Management District, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, National

Audubon Society, Seminole Indians, Loxahatchee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association, Palm Beach Pack and Paddle Club, Loxahatchee Chapter of Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, Gumbo Limbo and Okeeheelee Nature Centers. The refuge's "Friends" group, the Loxahatchee Natural History Association, will have a special tent celebrating the refuge's 50th Anniversary. The children's tent will have Pine Jog Environmental Center leading Project WILD children games and the Girl Scouts offering face painting. The Jupiter High School Environmental Academy and Forest Hill Academy will be selling food and drinks. Coordinated by the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, there will be a cypress tree planting event during the festival. This event is the beginning of reforestation of cypress trees adjacent to the Everglades as addressed in the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The trees will be planted near the shop area during two shifts. The first shift is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and the second shift is from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information on volunteering for the tree planting, please contact the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation at (561) 833-4425.

Everglades Day is being co-sponsored by the Audubon Society of the Everglades and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Palm Beach County PalmTran and The Palm Beach Post are also supporting this event.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades (ASE) is a non-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society that supports local conservation and environmental education. The Audubon Society of the Everglades is the "Audubon Refuge Keeper" (ARK) for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. ARK is a program through National Audubon promoting chapters to enhance their local national wildlife refuges through programs and financial support. ASE has their general meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club in Dreher Park. The public is invited. The refuge is located off U.S. 441/SR 7, two miles south of SR 804 (Boynton Beach Boulevard) and three miles north of SR 806 (Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue). The refuge is currently open from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven days a week. Refuge hours change seasonally and are posted at each entrance. The Visitor Center hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The Visitor Center is closed on Christmas Day. An entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per pedestrian is normally charged. A variety of annual passes, including a \$12.00 refuge specific annual pass, are available. For more information call the refuge at (561) 732-3684 or visit our web site at <http://Loxahatchee.fws.gov/>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of 531 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.