

HIDDEN COAST PADDLE 2011- STEINHATCHEE



Come visit Steinhatchee, "The Best kept secret in Florida." The Steinhatchee River and its upstream rapids, as well as the maze of wetlands and nature-filled coastline of the gulf present a wonderful paddling experience. Deadman's Bay offers many secluded creeks that habitat a variety of species.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday October 8th- Guided Paddle of Dallus Creek

Join Liz Sparks from FWC on a short 5-mile loop paddle at beautiful Dallus Creek, a stop on the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail in the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. We will meet at 9:30 am at River Haven Marina and car pool to the creek. Please call Liz at 850-922-6160 to pre-register. Participants must wear a life jacket with a whistle and be able to paddle 5 miles at a leisurely pace. Stay after the paddling trip and enjoy a short hike on a nature trail bordering the upper bank of Dallus Creek. Bring binoculars to enjoy the area wildlife.

Liz Sparks will have a table set up with interpretive products, birding maps, paddling guides, etc. She will be available before and after the trip.

Sunday October 9th- Fun Day on the River

Let's have a day of fun and relaxation with a poker paddle on the Steinhatchee River. The poker paddle is based on a 5-card poker game, where the best hand wins. We will meet at River Haven Marina about 9:00 am to register, purchase your \$5 hand(s), go over the rules and address any questions. We will car pool and/or make shuttles to the Steinhatchee Falls about 9:30. The winning hand will receive a \$100.00 cash prize. All hands must be turned in by 2:30 pm.

The first card will be picked up at the launch site, Steinhatchee Falls with 3 stops along the way. These stops will be announced on the day of the poker paddle. The last card will be picked up at River Haven Marina when you finish your paddle.

Saturday and Sunday- Self-guided Trips

For those who want to venture out by themselves. We will have driving maps available for these trips at River Haven Marina 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. We suggest that you start your paddle at about 10:00 am due to the times of the tides for these days. Make sure you have bug spray, sunscreen and all of your safety gear. Safety gear includes your PFD, whistle, a flashlight, water and whatever else you feel is necessary for yourself. Here are a few places you may want to check out:

- Hagan's Cove: This is a state owned management area with picnic pavilions and bathrooms. The area offers hiking trails and an easy access to the gulf. The shallow water makes homes for the various types of wildlife that live in that area.
- Rocky Creek and Cow Creek: These are two creeks that lead out to the Gulf directly. Both creeks have a dirt ramps for small boats and air boats that make for an easy launch of kayaks and/or canoes. Each creek is secluded and offers great scenes for pictures, relaxation and paddling.
- If you wish to paddle the river, but do not want to participate in the Poker paddle, you are more than welcome to. From the Steinhatchee Falls to River Haven Marina is about 6 miles and usually takes between 3 and 4 hours depending on your pace.



For more information please contact River Haven Marina at 352-498-0709 or riverhaven@bellsouth.net.
To pre-register for the guided trip please contact Liz Sparks at 850-922-6160.
For accommodations and other interests please visit www.steinhatcheeriverchamber.org
For kayak rentals please contact River Haven Marina