

Hidden Coast Paddle Event 2011

EXPERIENCE THE SERENITY AND DIVERSITY IN AND AROUND SUWANNEE

September 30 - October 1, 2011

The famous Suwannee River rises in the Okefenokee Swamp in south Georgia and cuts southwest through the upper third of Florida to meet the Gulf of Mexico. The river estuary is protected by the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and offers almost unlimited paddling options. At the heart of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, on the famous river and just a few water miles from the Gulf of Mexico, lies the tiny waterfront community of Suwannee. Suwannee is a paddler's paradise. From marked freshwater paddling trails on the refuge to backwater creeks and nearby white sand beaches on untouched islands, it offers paddlers diversity, serenity and beauty.

***Friday, September 30, 2011: Suwannee to Odlund Island/Cat Island paddle**

10 AM - Guided paddle to Odlund Island (the original settler's home and family cemetery) sharing historical information by Russ McCallister of Suwannee Guides and Outfitters. If the weather is good, the paddlers will continue to Cat Island, one of the barrier Islands of Suwannee, and the site of a pre-Columbian Indian settlement and burial ground. The entire trip takes approx. 3hrs; moderate skill level needed. This event will cancel if winds are above 15 mph. Space is limited to 8-10 boats, so reserve your place early by emailing info@hiddencoast.net. Meet at the ramp next to Anderson Landing River Camp at 9:30 AM, with parking available at the Camp. This event is free, but you must provide or rent your own equipment. (For boat rentals, see below.)

***Friday, September 30, 2011: Paddle the marked trail on the Refuge**

3:00 PM - Meet at Anderson Landing River Camp in Suwannee and paddle 1.5-2 hrs on the marked loop trail from Demory Creek to Lock Creek and back to Suwannee via the river. (This is a guided paddle.) Winding its way along the river and several brackish and freshwater creeks, the trail provides an up-close view of pristine marshes and tidally flooded hardwood and cypress forests. Reserve your place early by emailing info@hiddencoast.net. No experience needed unless

wind is above 10 mph, then moderate skills are needed. The paddle will cancel if winds are above 15 mph. This event is free, but you must provide or rent your own equipment. (For boat rentals, see above.) *This paddle will be repeated on Saturday morning.*



Coastal beaches and islands: A short paddle can take you a world away such as Big Pine Island near Shired Island beach. Photo: Debbie Deweese

***Friday, September 30, 2011: Dinner Event**

6:00 PM - Join us at the Suwannee Community Center for a "down home" Suwannee River Chamber dinner, featuring Liz Sparks, Recreation Planner for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and writer Doug Alderson (*Waters Less Travelled*) who will speak about the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail. Doug and Liz will entertain with 'Tales from the Trail.' Laugh at their adventures and misadventures as they developed the map guide for the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail in 2003. With true stories about local characters, threatening storms, and the legendary 'black drum of Butler Island' this event will be highly entertaining. Please email Info@hiddencoast.net to reserve your seat. All welcome. (A \$5 donation to the Chamber for the Dixie Education Foundation will be requested at the door.)

The Great Suwannee Nautical Swap Meet

Saturday, October 1st 2011 9 AM - 2 PM

Hwy 349, Suwannee

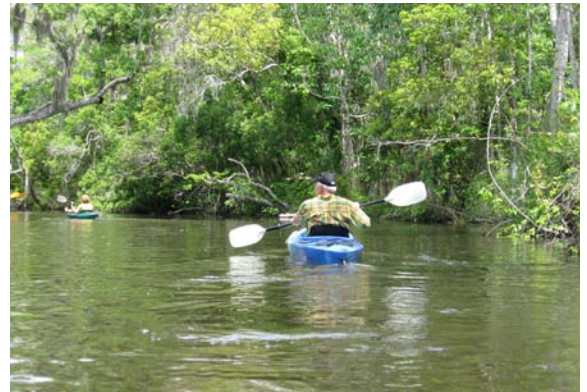
Looking for used boating equipment at great prices?
Boats, Jet skis, kayaks, canoes, fishing equipment, arts & crafts, food and more...

Wildlife Cruises - \$10 person (\$5 for kids under 16) - **YARD & BAKE SALE - KID'S FISHING TOURNAMENT**

KAYAK DEMOS! GET IN A KAYAK AND TRY IT OUT!

Saturday, October 1, 2011: *Paddle the marked trail on the Refuge

9:00 AM - Meet at Anderson Landing River Camp in Suwannee and paddle 1.5-2 hrs on the marked loop trail from Demory Creek to Lock Creek and back to Suwannee via the river, guided by Mark Gluckman. Winding its way along the river and several brackish and freshwater creeks, the trail provides an up-close view of pristine marshes and tidally flooded hardwood and cypress forests. Mark will lead 6 boats maximum, so reserve your place early by emailing info@hiddencoast.net. No experience needed unless wind is above 10 mph, then moderate skills are needed. The paddle will cancel if winds are above 15 mph. This event is free, but you must provide or rent your own equipment. (For boat rentals, see above.)



Paddling fresh & brackish creeks: Traverse creeks through a diversity of natural environments. Photo: Jane H. Connors

Saturday, October 1, 2011: *Self-Guided Sunset Paddles

With high tide at 6 PM and sunset at 7:19 PM, what a perfect evening for a sunset paddle!

Suggested Paddles:

- Leave from any convenient point in Salt Creek and paddle towards the Gulf to watch the sunset, then return for dinner at Salt Creek Restaurant.
- Drive the Dixie Mainline trail to Shired Island Beach campground and paddle from the beach into the open Gulf -- or walk the beach and enjoy the sunset. (Big Pine Island beach is only a 1/2-hr paddle from Shired Island beach and a great place for a picnic if there is no wind.)
- Put in at Anderson Landing River Camp and paddle into the river or towards the Gulf to view the sunset.



Paddling the Suwannee River. Photo: Suwannee Guides & Outfitters

These are just a few possibilities. Maps will be available. Bring bug spray and be sure to have all your safety gear aboard, including PFDs, whistles and flashlight. Inexperienced paddlers should not paddle alone! Watch this spot for updates as we may add a guided sunset paddle!

PLEASE NOTE: All trip times and destination are subject to change due to weather. All paddlers in these events must sign a release before paddling. Additional paddles may be added, so please check this space for updates before October 1.

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