

We have a special treat this year. Last season Mike Owen of Fakahatchee Strand was one of our guest speakers for the Lecture Series. After the lecture, Jim and Ginny Burke took Mike on a tour of our Preserve along the Saylor Trail. Mike enjoyed it so much that he invited the Board Members and Docents to join him on a Swamp Walk on October 29. Great networking, Jim & Ginny! Below are some details about the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve and logistics for the walk. When we see who will be going, perhaps we can meet at strategic locations to carpool, as it is over 55 miles from Barefoot Beach Preserve to the Ranger Station at Fakahatchee Strand. After the walk, plan is to stop somewhere for a late lunch. **This is limited to 15 people, so the first 15 to contact me get to go...well, the first 13 after Jim and Ginny! : )** We will have a waiting list after that, in case someone has to cancel. Call or email me right away to get your name on the list! Email [Struluck@embarqmail.com](mailto:Struluck@embarqmail.com) or call me at 239-262-0029.

### Fakahatchee Strand Swamp Walk!



Join experienced Park Biologist Mike Owen on a journey in to the heart of the world's largest strand swamp. The Fakahatchee Strand is approximately 20 miles long and 3 to 5 miles wide. It is the main drainage slough of the southwestern Big Cypress Swamp; the largest and most unusual of the strands. The cypress & mixed hardwood swamp is a unique feature. The natural values of the Fakahatchee are arguably greater than those of any other comparably-sized area in Florida. It contains the largest stand of royal palms and the largest concentration and variety of orchids in North America, as well as other species of plants that are extremely rare. The wildlife of the Strand is equally rare. Endangered or threatened species include Florida Panther, Black Bear, Everglades Mink, Wood Stork and Bald Eagle.

In order to participate in this program, one:

- Must have the ability to follow verbal and/or visual instructions independently or with the assistance of a companion.
  - Must have the ability to withstand exposure to the outdoors (sun, heat, insects) for a period of 2-4 hours.
- Must have the ability to traverse wet (water depths of up to 4 ft.), muddy, and uneven terrain for up to 2 miles independently or with the assistance of a companion.

When: October 29, 2011 (Be at the Ranger Station by 9:30 a.m. and should finish walk around 2 p.m.)

Where: Fakahatchee Strand Preserve

What: Swamp Walk

Why: To experience the wild side of your nature!

Wear: Long, lightweight pants, shirt, old sneakers and socks, a hat, sunblock, bug spray (optional)

Bring: Change of cloths/shoes (you will get wet), towel, something to drink, and possibly a snack.

Restroom facilities are at the Ranger Station to change afterwards.

Why: To experience the wild side of your nature!

