



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Timucuan Ecological and
Historic Preserve

11676 Palmetto Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32226

Kingsley Plantation

904 251-3537 phone
904 251-3577 fax

Timucuan Preserve/Kingsley Plantation News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2008

Contact: Carol Clark, Park Ranger, carol_s_clark@nps.gov

National Park Service Offers Free Activities for JaxParks: Get Out There!

Want to explore Jacksonville's National Park? *JaxParks: Get Out There!* is a great way to learn more about the parks with your family and friends. Special activities will be offered at the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve on Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30, 2008. These events are free and open to the public.

This is the third year that *JaxParks: Get Out There!* has been offered to the public. This event offers boat tours, ranger talks, and demonstrations on fly fishing, kayaking, and riding segways. The event programs are a part of "Explore the Timucuan" activities and highlight Fort George Island parks such as Kingsley Plantation and Ribault Club, the Talbot Islands State Parks, and the waterways surrounding the islands.

These programs are a great example of what parks can offer people when we work together. According to Timucuan Preserve Superintendent Barbara Goodman, "We are very excited to offer north Florida residents an opportunity to see the parks from a variety of perspectives. At the event, you can take a free boat tour and experience the richness of our natural environment. Learn from experts about birding, fishing, and kayaking. It is a fun, free day to get out and explore Jacksonville parks." The schedule includes boat rides, ranger talks, and demonstrations.

Schedule (subject to change):

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Children's Nature Programs at the Theodore Roosevelt Area, Fort Caroline National Memorial, and Kingsley Plantation (all programs are free!)

10:00 a.m. – Making Special Connections: A Hike on the Willie Browne Trail
Meet at Fort Caroline, then caravan (1 mile) to the Theodore Roosevelt Area

Join Ranger Ashleigh for a walk on the wild side. This program takes you on a walk of guided exploration to find the plants, animals, and habitats that make the Theodore Roosevelt Area unique. There are hands-on activities for children of all ages!

12:00 p.m. – Milkweed Madness!
Fort Caroline National Memorial

Join Ranger Sara and learn the differences between native, exotic, and invasive plants that are common in the Jacksonville area. In a hands-on activity, children will plant a milkweed seed to take home with them and learn how milkweed is important to our local wildlife.

2:00 p.m. – Creepy Crawly Caterpillars and Beautiful Butterflies
Kingsley Plantation

Discover the life cycle of a butterfly with Ranger Cicely. Children will learn by reading, discussing and coloring! Each child will receive a "Creepy Crawly Caterpillars and Beautiful Butterflies" workbook to color and record their butterfly discoveries. For a final project, the children will decorate a butterfly bookmark with the ranger.

Sunday, March 30, 2008

Explore the Timucuan – Boat Trips and Ranger Programs – Kingsley Plantation and Ribault Club

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to explore the Timucuan Preserve by boat! This free activity is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are available at the Ribault Club, and the boats depart from Kingsley Plantation.

-- Continued on page 2 --

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Boat Tour Schedule:

11:30 a.m. – Tickets available for Tour 1 at Ribault Club
12:30 p.m. – Boat departs from Kingsley Plantation for Tour 1
12:30 p.m. – Tickets available for Tour 2 at Ribault Club
1:30 p.m. – Boat departs from Kingsley Plantation for Tour 2
1:30 p.m. – Tickets available for Tour 3 at Ribault Club
2:30 p.m. – Boat departs from Kingsley Plantation for Tour 3

Ranger Program Schedule

Bird Watching at Kingsley Plantation and Fort George Island

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Kingsley Plantation – Reservations Required!

Join Park Ranger and birding expert Roger Clark for a guided bird walk. At the end of March early spring migrants are flying in. We will be treated to both Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers as the males vigorously defend their territories. Other early nesters include Red-eyed Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Summer Tanager. Migrants, such as Eastern Kingbird and Barn Swallow, are often seen on Fort George Island as they head for their northern breeding grounds. A wide variety of water birds are found along the Fort George River and the surrounding marshes in front of the plantation house. Wood Stork, Little Blue Heron, and Spotted Sandpiper are just a few of the species we will be looking for. We will keep a watchful eye to the sky for a passing falcon or Bald Eagle.

The walk will begin from the Kingsley Plantation parking lot at 0800 sharp, and will be limited to 35 people, ages 10 and above. A reservation is required. Call Kingsley Plantation at 251-3537 for more information and to sign up. The walk will last to approximately 11:00 A.M. Walking distances will be short and easy. Participants should bring binoculars and a field guide if they have one. The leader will be National Park Service Ranger Roger Clark.

Fly Fishing the Timucuan Preserve

10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

Ribault Club

Join Ranger Craig Morris for a demonstration on fly fishing. Topics to be covered include: Timucuan Preserve fishing access points, basic fly casting techniques, flies for salt water fish and ideas on how to being the sport of fly fishing. Some fly rods will be available for public use, however, if you own one please bring it!

Members of the First Coast Fly Fishers (FCFF) will help Ranger Craig introduce visitors to the exciting world of fly fishing. The FCFF is a family-oriented fly fishing club dedicated to promoting the sport of fly fishing, fly fishing education, and resource awareness.

Beginners Birding Program Featuring a Screech Owl from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

2:00 p.m.

Kingsley Plantation

Join Park Ranger and birding expert Roger Clark for a beginning bird watching program. Learn tips for how to identify birds in your area. Ranger Roger will be joined by a representative from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, who will bring a screech owl to show park visitors. Program goers will learn more about this amazing bird of prey that lives in our area!

There are many other programs occurring over the *JaxParks: Get Out There!* weekend. Visit <http://www.coj.net> and type in keyword "jaxparks" for more information about programs at Jacksonville area state and city parks, or call the Ribault Club at 904.251.2802.

The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is Jacksonville's National Park. With many sites to choose from, you can find a great place to relax or learn. Visitor centers are located at Fort Caroline National Memorial, Kingsley Plantation, and the Ribault Club. There are many places to explore. For more ideas call 904.641.7155 or visit our National Park Service website at <http://www.nps.gov/timu>

Addresses for the programs listed on this release are:

Fort Caroline National Memorial, 12713 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32225, 904.641.7155

Kingsley Plantation, 11676 Palmetto Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32226, 904.251.3537

Ribault Club, 11241 Fort George Road, Fort George Island (Jacksonville), Florida 32226, 904.251.2802

###

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.