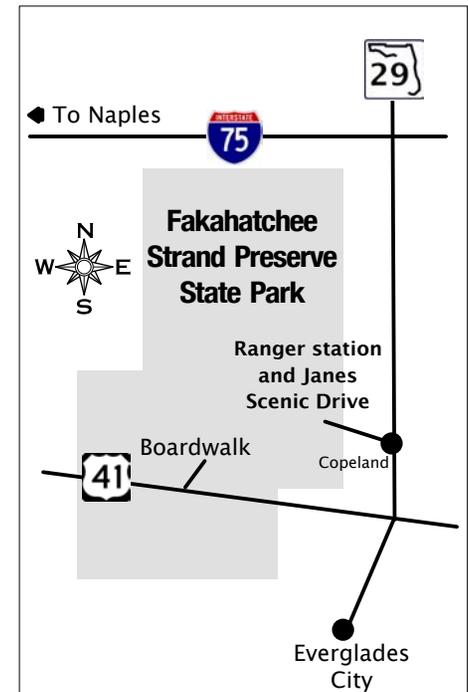




OrchidSwamp.org

Friends of Fakahatchee

GUIDE TO: Swamp Walks Coastal Cruises Tram Tours Boardwalk



© 2013, Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc.

The Friends of Fakahatchee

The Friends of Fakahatchee is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit Citizen Support Organization founded in 1998. It provides financial and volunteer support to preserve the unique ecology and cultural heritage of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and to educate the public about its importance.

At more than 85,000 acres, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is Florida's largest state park. More native orchid species, including the famous ghost orchid, grow in this wilderness than anywhere else in the United States.

The park's wildlife is as diverse as its flora. Rare species such as the American crocodile and the West Indian manatee live in the waterways to the south, while Florida black bears, Everglades mink and Florida panthers inhabit other regions of the park.

The Friends work closely with the park service to fund critical park needs not covered by the state. Friends greet visitors at the boardwalk, clear park trails and perform maintenance, and organize the Fakahatchee adventures that are described in this brochure.

Members also enjoy several educational evening programs each season and an annual picnic. Activities are publicized in a members newsletter, *The Ghost Writer*, and online at the FOF website: www.orchidswamp.org



Large Print

Alternate format available upon request at this Florida State Park

Friends of Fakahatchee Membership

Please make check payable to "FOF" and send to: FOF Membership, P.O. Box 35, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Supporter (\$50) Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)

Lifetime Categories: Individual (\$1000) Family (\$1500) Protector (\$2500) Preserver (\$5000)

Business Patron (\$200) Business Benefactor (\$500) Extra Donation (\$)

NAME STREET / P.O. BOX: CITY STATE ZIP PHONE CITY STATE ZIP PHONE EMAIL ALTERNATE ADDRESS

date

CITY STATE ZIP PHONE MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS: JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

2/13

You can discover the real Florida on a Friends of Fakahatchee adventure

The Friends of Fakahatchee volunteers offer several exciting ways to experience the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and its environs.

The Friends sponsor **coastal cruises** through the dolphin-rich waters of the Ten Thousand Islands to Fakahatchee Island, once home to Florida pioneers and their families. On the island, a naturalist brings its history to life and describes the lush plant life.

For those who say "you bet!" to a chance to get wet, the Friends sponsor official **swamp walks** through the waters of the Fakahatchee Strand. These walks offer a chance to get up close and personal with the fabulous array of orchids and bromeliads that call the Fakahatchee home.

But if you want to take in the sights without bringing a change of dry clothes, there's the new **Ghost Rider tram tour** that leaves from park headquarters. Named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park, the naturalist-led tram ride makes several stops at points of interest during its 2 1/2-hour tour.



Reservations are required for all Friends of Fakahatchee Adventures
For pricing and reservations visit:

www.orchidswamp.org



Big Cypress Bend boardwalk: window into the Fakahatchee

The 2300-foot-long Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk on the north side of US 41 is seven miles west of SR-29 and 19 miles east of the CR 951/US 41 intersection.

The boardwalk is sheltered by bald cypress trees, many of them hundreds of years old. Smaller trees, such as pop ash and pond apple, have multiple trunks and rough bark that support a profusion of ferns and bromeliads.

A beautiful pond is located at the end of the boardwalk and is usually home to several adult and juvenile alligators basking in the sun along its banks.

The importance of the swamp goes far beyond its role as an interesting place to visit. The Fakahatchee swamp recharges groundwater supplies, moderates the climate and provides food and habitat for native wildlife.

EAGLE EYE -- The bald eagle's nest along the boardwalk is a major attraction for visitors. Eagles return to the same nest year after year to raise their young. (Photo by Donna Tarmey)

