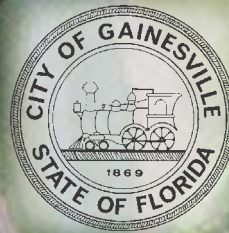


Nature Ops News

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Created by Nature Operations Division Staff

Hairy Laurel, *Kalmia hirsuta*
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator



October 2004

A Monthly Publication of
Nature Operations Division,
Recreation and Parks Department,
City of Gainesville

What's Fun In Your Nature Parks?

Barnyard Buddies- FREE

Join us every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm to meet and greet the farm animals. After the animal introductions, help with afternoon feeding. Toddlers and preschoolers will love learning about our Living History Farm barnyard buddies. Meet at the barn at 3pm at Morningside.

Jean Dorney Memorial Fall Wildflower Walks- FREE

Join us every Saturday in October at Morningside Nature Center at 10am for Fall Wildflower Walks. You will meet many of the fall wildflowers and learn enough basic botany to help you use guides for future finds. Meet at the Morningside education office, 3540 E. University Ave.

Discover and Do- “Fall Harvest Fun” Materials fee \$3

Hey Kids! Bring your favorite adult along for a fun activity and make a cool craft to take home! Please RSVP to 334-3327. In October we will meet at Morningside to explore the farm and create a ‘gourdeous’ harvest craft. Meet at 2pm at the farm cabin at 3540 E. University Ave.

Nature Walk and Talk- “Following Timucua Footprints”-

A free naturalist guided walk is on the last Saturday morning every month at 9am. The walk is 1-1.5 hours, wear comfortable walking shoes. In October we’ll walk in the footprints of Florida’s first people and learn how they lived off the land. Meet at the Morningside education office, 3540 E. University Ave.

By the Light of the Moon- “Ghost Walk”- FREE

By the light of the silvery moon with the owls and frogs we’ll croon... and we hope you’ll join us each Saturday nearest the full moon at one of our nature parks! Come with family and friends for a lively variety of talks, songs, hikes, fires, and fun! In October we will venture to our Living History Farm by moonlight and meet who we may along the way. Meet at 7pm at the Morningside education office, 3540 E. University Ave.

For more information, call us at 334-2170 or visit www.natureoperations.org



Duroc-Berkshire Piglets, born with Hurricane Charley
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

Living History Days Re-opening!

The Living History Farm is re-opening on October 30th for Living History Days every Saturday from 9am-5pm. Interpreters in period dress will bring alive 1870’s farm life for you and your family. Sample biscuits hot from the woodstove with homemade butter and cane syrup grown and made on the farm. Come and see the two new litters of piglets and let the kids help with feeding at 9am or 4pm. Many other hands-on opportunities are available. For more information please contact us at (352)334-3326 or visit www.natureoperations.org for ongoing calendar of events.



Duroc-Hampshire Piglets, born with Hurricane Frances
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">October 2004</h1>					1	2 Fall Wildflower Walk Morningside Office 10am
3	4	5	6 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	7	8	9 Fall Wildflower Walk Morningside Office 10am
10	11	12	13 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	14	15	16 Fall Wildflower Walk Morningside Office 10am
17 Discover and Do Morningside Farm 2pm	18	19	20 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	21	22	23 Fall Wildflower Walk MNC 10am By the Light of the Moon- MNC 7pm
24	25	26	27 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	28	29	30 Fall Wildflower Walk MNC 10am Nature Walk and Talk 9am MNC
31 Halloween Daylight Savings Time Ends						<p>For more information on the Better Parks and Better Roads Initiatives and the specific projects funded visit www.betterparksbetterroads.org Vote November 2nd.</p>



Hurricane Frances' damage to Burn Shed at Morningside.
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

Better Parks Better Roads Initiatives Could Bring Improvements to Your Parks!

The Better Parks Better Roads initiatives have some exciting prospects for your nature parks. The projects selected by the Recreation Coordinating Committee are guaranteed if the initiative passes and include a trust fund of 20% of the funds generated set aside for ongoing maintenance of facilities. The benefits to your nature parks include: \$1,560,000 for Morningside Nature Center renovations, including an environmental facility, farm improvements, fencing, multi-purpose pavilion, trail improvements, road improvements, and signage.

\$750,000 for Cofrin Nature Park new construction including signage, trails and building renovations that will open this as a nature center for the west side of Gainesville.

\$1,305,000 for Bivens Arm Nature Park for renovations including boardwalk improvements, a nature facility with restrooms, parking lot improvements, and signage.

Many other Nature Parks and facilities improvements are included on the reserve projects list that can be done if leftover funds are available.

A visit to any of your nature parks will show just how badly these renovations and improvements are needed. These projects will not be possible without this funding source. This funding will allow us to apply for grants that require a match enabling us to get more power out of every penny. Visit www.betterparksbetterroads.org for project listings.



Over 80 trees were lost to Hurricane Frances at Morningside.
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

Hurricane Impacts in Parks

The recent hurricanes led to many cancelled programs and park closures. Downed trees have blocked trails and roads in the parks. Minor damage occurred to the roof on two maintenance area buildings. Damage to the boardwalk at Bivens Arm will lead to that park being closed for some time. After lots of hard work, nearly all the parks were re-opened to the public by the week before Jeanne. Now we are in the process again as Jeanne toppled trees from the roots out of the soggy ground.

For information on park re-openings visit www.natureoperations.org



Trail view after Hurricane Frances at Ring Park
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator