

# The Happy Paddler

Paddle Florida's Monthly eNewsletter

[www.paddleflorida.org](http://www.paddleflorida.org)

August 2009



## Paddle Florida hosting Winter event on the Peace River

Paddle Florida is pleased to announce that it will be forging new partnerships with Polk County, the City of Fort Meade, Hardee County and the Florida Park Service, as we stage an event on the Peace River over the Martin Luther King weekend in January, 2010. We will be staying in Ft. Meade on Friday night, Paynes Creek State Historic Site on Saturday night and Pioneer Park in Hardee County on Sunday night before finishing this beautiful 42-mile stretch of the Peace River on Monday, January 18th.

Detailed registration information will be posted on the Paddle Florida website in the coming days and weeks, as we finalize our meals and entertainment for the trip. Please stay tuned!



**Fall Paddle Florida deadline for registration is October 1st**

***Please click on the link below to view our short monthly video***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaUG2ujC9Yg>

## Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival follows Paddle Florida in October



When Paddle Florida ends in October, don't stow your kayak or dry off your paddle too quickly. Continue south and join in the fourth annual Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival along the Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Florida.

The 10-day festival kicks off Friday, Oct. 23, and offers a buffet of speakers and instruction, cultural and eco festivals, competitive races and tournaments, paddlers' get-togethers and green activities. Events are at public parks and archeological sites as well as resorts and campgrounds along the Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail, a 190-mile

Our Fall Paddle Florida event is being planned to be the best yet. In previous newsletters we have reported about some old and new entertainment favorites. We have recently added another old favorite, Katherine Archer. She will be performing at Lafayette Blue Springs State Park on the 17th of October. Please visit [www.paddleflorida.org](http://www.paddleflorida.org) in order to register for this trip. You won't be disappointed.



Remember, you can subscribe to this eNewsletter on the homepage of our website at [www.paddleflorida.org](http://www.paddleflorida.org)



marked-and-meandering saltwater trail on SouthwestFlorida's Gulf Coast.

Meet the man who circumnavigated Florida's coast, kayaking from Alabama to Georgia along the Sunshine State, including segments of the Great Calusa Blueway. Stay in hotels that offer special packages to travelers with paddlecraft, including ready-at-sunrise box lunches and access to ice machines and hoses. Book yourself into a campground right along the trail at a site that includes a guided tour with the Florida Paddling Trail Association to historic Mound Key, an island once inhabited by the Calusa king. Attend the Calusa Costume Ball dressed as a conquistador or sea wench, and then hear ghost stories on a moonlight hike.

Festival attendees also can get competitive. A photo contest, two canoe/kayak races and a catch-and-release fishing tournament are planned; some have cash prizes. Visitors can give back to the community by joining in a countywide waterwaymarine debris cleanup called Monofilament Madness. Buy a Blueway Wristband and enjoy extra value at many of Southwest Florida's attractions, restaurants, galleries and marine/outfitter locations.

The festival features daily activities, with emphasis on the Oct. 23-25 and Oct.30-Nov. 1 weekends. Many activities are free.

Festival details are available at <http://www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com/>. Trail details are at <http://www.calusablueway.com/>. Or call (239) 433-3855 (239) 433-3855

### ***Paddle Florida alumnus shows leadership in bringing Paddle Florida to the Peace River***

For those of you who enjoy watching the Paddle Florida videos each month, you have Tom McLaulin to thank. A Paddle Florida alum, Tom took it upon himself to create these videos for our eNewsletter. Tom also is the driving force behind Paddle Florida's new experiment on the Peace River. Without his outstanding leadership, this new event

would not be possible. Tom McLaulin, we salute you!



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