



Thursday, April 20, 2017

| Time | Event | Check-in Location |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
| 7:00a-9:30a | Jericho Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | JD |
| 7:00a-9:30a | Washington Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | WD |
| 7:00a-10:00a | Cypress Marsh and Interior/West Guided birding(by bus to) | HQ |
| 10:30a-1:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 11:00a-12:30p | Wildlife Drive guided bus tour | HQ |
| 1:30p-4:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 2:00p-3:00p | Washington Ditch guided nature walk | WD |
| 2:00p-3:00p | GDSNWR -No alligators here! | HQ |
| 7:00p-8:30p | Night Prowl | HQ |

Friday, April 21, 2017

| | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| 7:00a-9:30a | Jericho Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | JD |
| 7:00a-9:30a | Washington Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | WD |
| 7:00a-10:00a | Cypress Marsh and Interior/West Guided birding(by bus to) | HQ |
| 9:00a-11:30a | Dismal Swamp Canal South canoe birding | Ballahack Rd Boat Ramp |
| 9:00a-11:30a | Birding Basics Workshop & Field Session | HQ |
| 10:30a-1:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 11:00a-12:30p | Wildlife Drive guided bus tour | HQ |
| 1:30p-2:30p | Return of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker to the GDS | HQ |
| 1:30p-4:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 2:00p-3:00p | Washington Ditch guided nature walk | WD |

Saturday, April 22, 2017

| | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| 7:00a-9:30a | Jericho Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | JD |
| 7:00a-9:30a | Washington Ditch Guided bird Walk (adults) | WD |
| 7:00a-10:00a | Cypress Marsh and Interior/West Guided birding(by bus to) | HQ |
| 8:00a-10:30 | Dismal Swamp Canal South guided bird walk | Ballahack Rd Boat Ramp |
| 9:00a-11:30a | Dismal Swamp Canal South canoe birding | Ballahack Rd Boat Ramp |
| 10:00a-12:00p | Nature Photography Workshop & Field Session | HQ |
| 10:30a-1:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 11:00a-12:30p | Wildlife Drive guided bus tour | HQ |
| 1:30p-4:00p | Lake Drummond motorized boat tour | HQ |
| 2:00p-3:00p | Washington Ditch guided nature walk | WD |
| 2:00p-3:00p | Kid's Nature Walk | HQ |

2017 Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival

Activity Descriptions and Locations

Important: Carefully read the activity description to determine the location of your activities' check-in.

Headquarters (HQ) - 3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA

Washington Ditch entrance (WD) - Enter at 3076 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA. Continue on gravel road until you reach the parking area.

Jericho Lane entrance (JD) - Enter at 1330 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA. Continue on gravel road until you reach the parking area.

Dismal Swamp Canal South (Ballahack Rd Boat Ramp) - meet at the Ballahack Road boat ramp, Chesapeake, VA

Activities

Dismal Swamp Canal South Canoe Birding - Explore the Dismal Swamp Canal with an expert bird guide. Meet at the Ballahack Road Boat Ramp, Chesapeake. Ages: 18 and older. Reservations required.

Guided Bird Walks (adults) - Expert bird guides will lead your group to find many of the neo-tropical migratory birds that are traveling through or searching for nesting territories in the swamp. Travel is on dirt roads. Distance range from ½ to 2 miles. Various meeting locations as noted on schedule. Ages: adults and youth ages 16 and up. Reservations required.

- Jericho Ditch Guided bird walk meet at parking area in the Jericho Lane entrance.
- Washington Ditch guided bird walk - meet at the parking area in the Washington Ditch entrance.
- Cypress Marsh and Interior Ditch guided bird walk - meet at the refuge headquarters.
- Dismal Swamp Canal South guided bird walk - meet at Ballahack Road Boat Ramp, Chesapeake, VA.

Kids (of all ages) Nature Crafts - Build a blue bird house, get your face painted or paint a keepsake. Visit our nature craft area to make a take home gift. Refuge headquarters. Saturday only.

Kids Nature Walk - Pines Trail - Take a guided nature walk through the Pine forest around the headquarters complex. You never know what we may find! Meet at the refuge headquarters. Saturday only.

Lake Drummond motorized boat tours- *This is not a birding cruise.* Take a cruise on our pontoon boat around the lake. Your guide will take you to the giant cypress trees that everyone wants to see but are hard to get to. While cruising keep on the lookout for our active Eagle families. Group departs by bus from the refuge headquarters. Reservation required. Special note: For children less than 5 years of age, you must supply your own approved life safety vest.

Night Prowl - As darkness settles over the swamp, the night creatures take reign! Frogs sing, Bobcats roam, and the owls get busy searching for their evening meals. Join us on this adventure to find some of our visitor's favorite residents. Walking distance approximately ¼ mile. Meet at

the refuge headquarters' parking area and you will be bused to the walk site. Reservations required.

Washington Ditch guided nature walk - *This is not a guided bird walk.* Let our local guide lead your walk around the Washington Ditch Boardwalk Trail. Learn about the swamp's connection to our first president, as well as, this special place known as the Great Dismal Swamp. Travel distance about 1 mile, most on a boardwalk trail. Meet at the Washington Ditch parking area. Reservations suggested.

Wildlife Drive guided bus tour- *This is not a birding tour.* Travel the route to Lake Drummond and back in one of our refuge buses. Your guide will be a local expert and will offer a broad overview of the wildlife, habitat, and history of the Great Dismal Swamp. Stops will include the Underground Railroad Pavilion, the West Ditch Boardwalk, and of course, Lake Drummond. Bus departs from the refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

Presentations and Workshops

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge- No Alligators Here! - Learn about what we do as management of this important National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

Birding Basics Workshop & Field Session- Do you enjoy watching the birds in your backyard, but wish you knew what they were? Then this class is for you! This workshop will introduce you to the pastime of birding and will cover all of the basics: how to identify birds, tips for finding birds, and the materials and equipment you need to get started. There will be an indoor presentation, followed by an outdoor nature walk to practice your new birding skills! A limited supply of binoculars will be available for loan during the class, but if you have your own, it is recommended to bring them. Recommended for new birders Ages: adults and youth ages 12 and up with an adult. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

Nature Photography Workshop & Field Session - Tracey Mershon and G. Michael Brown will discuss creating quality natural light images using digital cameras. Tracey, a Canon shooter, and Michael, a Nikon shooter, will cover the basics of camera operation, exposure, image composition, and the photo opportunities available at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. After an hour lecture they will led participants in a "hands-on" photography walk along the Washington Ditch. Bring your cameras! You can see some of their images at www.traceymershon.com and www.gmbrownphotos.com Ages: adults and youth under age 16 with an adult. Meet at the refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

Update on the Red Cockaded Woodpecker Re-introduction project - Refuge biologist, Jen Wright, will provide an update on the re-introduction process for this endangered woodpecker, a program that has brought the woodpecker back into the swamp for the first time in 60 years. Ages: adults and youth ages 12 and up with an adult. Meet at refuge headquarters. Reservations required.

Also look for...

- The music of Bobby Plough at the refuge headquarters on Saturday, 11:00a - 2:00p.
- Lite lunch available at the refuge headquarters each day, 11:00a- 1:30p.
- Coffee and tea available at the refuge headquarters each day, 8:30a - 3:00p.
- Exhibits at the refuge headquarters (10:30a-2:00p)

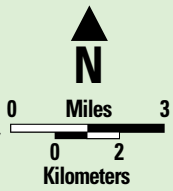
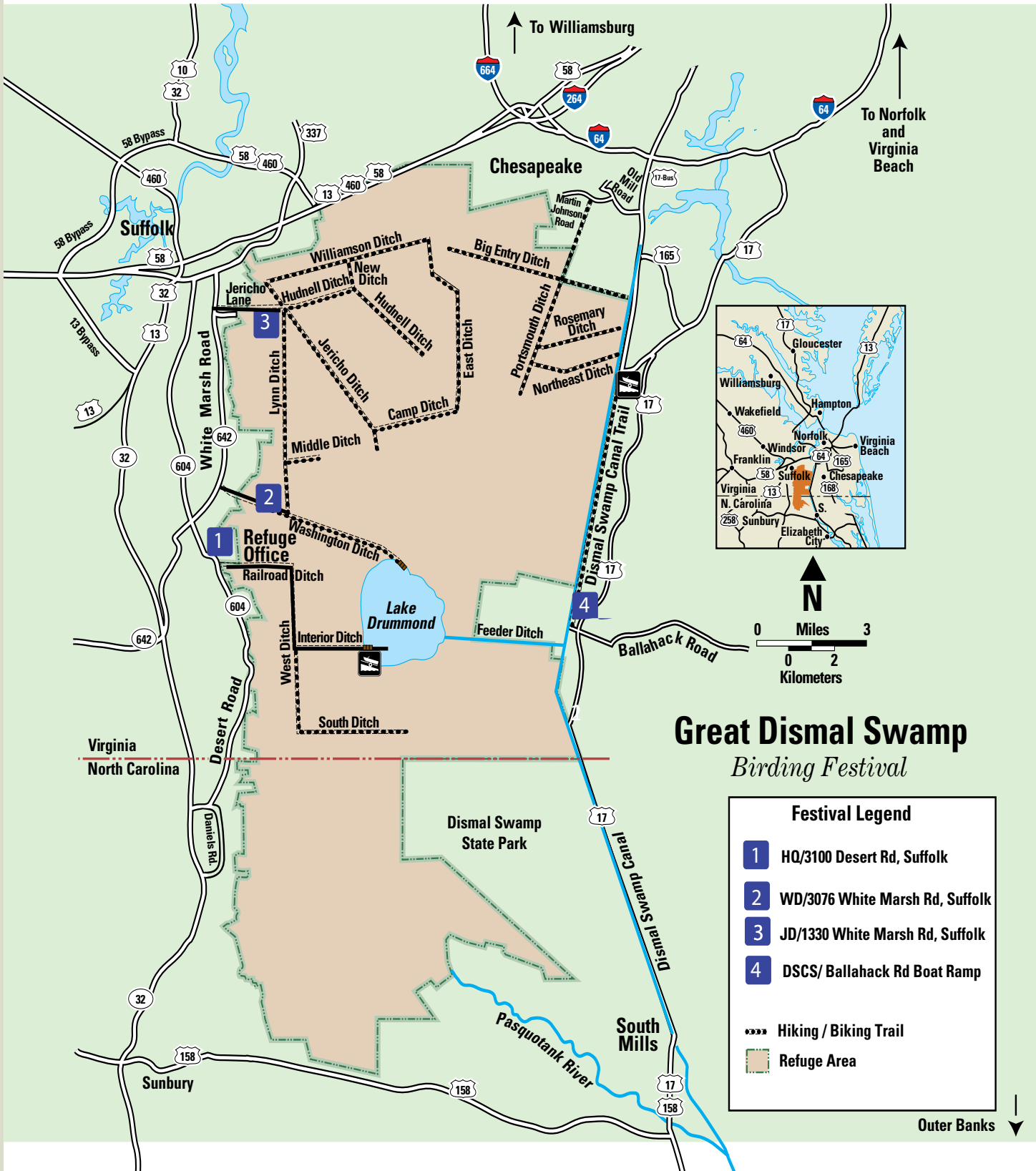
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries -Sat

The Butterfly Society - Fri

Wildbirds Unlimited, Chesapeake - Sat

Friends of the Great Dismal Swamp - gifts, books, etc. - Thur, Fri, Sat

Festival Meeting Locations



Great Dismal Swamp *Birding Festival*

| Festival Legend | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | HQ/3100 Desert Rd, Suffolk |
| 2 | WD/3076 White Marsh Rd, Suffolk |
| 3 | JD/1330 White Marsh Rd, Suffolk |
| 4 | DSCS/ Ballahack Rd Boat Ramp |
| | Hiking / Biking Trail |
| | Refuge Area |

Outer Banks