

Letters to the Editor

# Do not allow Twin Pines to wreak havoc on Okefenokee

**Dear Editor,**  
In response to, and support of, Christian Hunt's article "Twin Pines Should Not Be Given the Keys to the Okefenokee", I offer the following thoughts. I am not a scientist, nor reporter of any sort, or agency representative, I am simply a citizen who prizes the world around me. One

part of that world is the Okefenokee Swamp, its environs, flora and fauna. The proposal by Twin Pines won't impact me in the near term, but it very well may be the end of the Okefenokee Swamp as we all know it. Will this generation really set in motion a process by which my grandchildren,

great-grandchildren and beyond will never be able to experience the rich diversity of the Okefenokee? Just imagine driving up to an entrance to the swamp and seeing nothing but a barren, parched, and arid dead zone. Simply that is what is at stake. I implore those folks that live, work, and love

the swamp to think long and hard against the devastation that is on the horizon for one of this land's jewels. People of Charlton County and Southeast Georgia **STAND UP**, be counted, and don't allow Twin Pines to wreak this havoc.

**Robert L. Nutter,**  
St. Marys

# We the Peapatch Folks

**Dear Editor,**  
Our Creator has, reluctantly I believe, passed down to the human race the responsibility and privilege of choosing and establishing the kind of government that they wish to live under. There was a time when so few people occupied this planet that each person "did what was right in his own eyes" as it is written! "Government" as we know today did not exist; however, when folks began to make their homes closer and closer to each other, there had to be some agreements made between neighbors. For instance, there had to be an agreement concerning property rights. Each neighbor must agree to keep his cow out of the other's pea patch. But as it did happen, there arose a lot of neighbors with cows and pea patch-

es that resulted in wars. Governments rose and failed attempting to keep cows out of pea patches. In 1776, a republic was formed in the Colonies. Fortunately for us, there were enough peapatch folks with some degree of good sense to say, "We need a body of men to enforce the agreements that we peapatch folks have made between ourselves." So acting on this wonderful idea, they did establish the office of "Peace Keepers of the Peapatch" --- we refer to them today as the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branch. Now the peapatch folks also said, "We will provide these folks that we have commissioned as "Peace Keepers of the Peapatch" with a symbol of Authority. We will arm them with a Musket, powder, and lead. Being so armed, they can enforce

the rules that we ourselves have made to keep cows out of pea patches." The peapatch folks farther said, "Just to let you know that in case you let power run to your head to cause you to began to believe that you are supreme over 'We the Peapatch folks' and start to make up your own rules to the detriment of us peapatch folks, we too, will keep our muskets, power and lead." So they wrote the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights - The Right to Bear Arms. This was a clear message to these "Peace Keepers of the Peapatch." They were in affect, saying, "You derive your power from the consent of us peapatch folks who are giving you your job of keeping the peace, and we want it to be perfectly clear; we can take your job away because we will forever

keep our muskets, powder, and lead!" Now, just because a rare few peapatch folks become possessed by evil and have caused unspeakable horror with their muskets, don't get the idea that you will collect our muskets, powder, and lead from us law abiding peapatch folks. We are the true protectors of liberty with our muskets, powder and lead just as our fathers were some two hundred years ago. We are not the enemy, but only simple folks that just want the cows out of our pea patches!  
The day "We the People" give up our Right to Bear Arms for safety, will be the day when we will discovery that we have neither Liberty nor Safety and "We the people" will be no more.  
**Jim Steeley,**  
formerly of Folkston.

# What's happening at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge?

**By SUSIE HEISEY, ONWR**  
Wildlife sightings include red-shouldered hawks, black bears, wood storks, brown-headed nuthatches, wild turkeys, coral snakes, and white-tailed deer. Fall/Winter hours are in effect beginning November 1. Refuge Hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 5:30 p.m. Pioneer Demonstrations at the Chesser Island Homestead will be Sunday, November 10. There will be a Rag Rug demonstration and Sunday, November 17 will be candlemaking. The demonstrations will take place each day from 10:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to drop in at any point during the time frame and stay for as long as you like. Swamp Movie Day will be Sunday, November 10. The movie will be "Walking with Dinosaurs". In

a time when dinosaurs rule the Earth, a playful Pachyrhinosaurus named Patchi must find his courage to become the leader of the herd - and a hero for the ages. Join us at 2:00 p.m. in the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center for

a movie the whole family will enjoy. Rated PG; running Time: 87 minutes. Due to recent rains across the Okefenokee, water levels have come up slightly, but are still below average. Boat tours have resumed at the Okefenokee Swamp Park, in Waycross and Stephen C. Foster State Park, in Fargo. The burn ban has been lifted at the campground at Stephen C. Foster. Refuge Entrance Fees are waived on Monday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. The refuge thanks all military veterans for their service to our country.



# ONWR to hold nature photography workshop

Local award winning and widely published photographer, John Reed, is leading the second photography workshop of the year at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The Fall Nature Photography Workshop will take place on November 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 7:00 a.m. Beginner, intermediate and advanced photographers are welcome to the class, and are sure to enjoy an informative day

with the widely published nature photographer and longtime workshop leader. The day begins with a "bootcamp" on camera handling and controls and continues with "hands-on" photo shooting around the refuge with lessons and individual help. Lunch is spent with classroom instruction on digital photography fundamentals and how to use your camera more effectively. The afternoon includes more opportunities for outside

photo shoots and hands on instruction. The cost of the workshop is \$65 in advance, or \$70 for walk-ins as space allows. The single day workshop is limited to 30 registrants and pre-registration guarantees a spot. The \$5 per vehicle admission into the refuge is not included in the workshop fee. To register, call the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at (912) 496-7836 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This photogra-

phy-filled day is sure to be a good time.

# Cowboy Wisdom of the Week

By Chi Meeker

Deeds, not statues, are the true monuments to men.

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**NOTICE TO CHARLTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ACCORDANCE WITH HOUSE OF BILL 304**  
The Charlton County Board of Assessors will be conducting reviews of residential and commercial properties, and verifying property returns. This will include the inspection of the land, buildings, and mobile homes. Appraisers will be asking questions, checking measurements, and taking pictures. The appraisers will have photo identification. We ask that you please be cooperative and understanding as this is imperative to ensure taxpayers are being assessed in a fair and equitable manner. If you have any questions, please contact the Charlton County Assessors office at 1-912-496-7437

**Volunteers Needed**  
Charlton County Fire Rescue is currently recruiting volunteers to help keep our communities safe!  
**APPLICANTS MUST:**  
• PASS BACKGROUND CHECK  
• A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION  
• PASS STATE TRAINING  
• OBTAIN STATE TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS  
Contact Chief Lewis  
(912) 390-9658 (cell)  
(912) 496-3111 (station)  
clewis@charltoncountyga.gov

Charlton County, Georgia  
Davis Field Airport  
Airport Consulting Services

The Charlton county Board of Commissioners requests "Statements of Qualifications" from qualified firms to engage in services of a consulting firm for planning, design, and construction administration services in connection with the Airport Capital Improvement Plan at the Davis Field Airport. Notices of Requests for Statements of Qualifications will only be provided to qualified consulting firms that are currently GDOT approved in Area Classes 1.08 Airport Master Planning and 2.09 Aviation. The required format and details for submitting the Statements of Qualifications may be obtained by a phone request to Hampton Raulerson, County Administrator at 912-496-2549 or email request at hraulerson@charltoncountyga.gov. This is NOT a request for a priced proposal. Statements must be sealed, delivered via mail or in person, and marked "Airport Consulting Engineering Services" on the outside of the envelope. Statements of Qualifications must be received at the Board of Commissioners Office; 68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B, Folkston, Georgia 31537 by no later than 3:00 P.M. on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at which time the Statement of Qualifications will be opened.